



MANDELA

THE OFFICIAL EXHIBITION

STUDENT GUIDE

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Mandela: The Official Exhibition is produced by Round Room Live in partnership with The Royal House of Mandela (RHoM) and RHoM Investments.

MANDELA: THE OFFICIAL EXHIBITION

GET FOCUSED

In this exhibit, you will learn about Nelson Mandela, a global icon in the struggle against oppression. Learning about Mandela's story can be a challenging experience and may bring on strong emotions. Emotions are a natural part of life and can help us identify issues that we care about.

As you go through this exhibit, please:

Be kind to yourself.



- It is OK if you feel sad, angry, frustrated, or scared. It is also OK if you feel numb or empty. There is no wrong or right way to feel.
- It is OK if your feelings seem different from those of others in your group. You are you, and you will respond to this exhibit in your own way.
- Take a break if needed. The Reflection Room is usually available as a quiet space.

Be kind to others.



- Different people experience and express emotions in different ways. Be respectful of others who might be expressing their emotions in a different way than you.
- Respect the serious nature of this exhibit. Save silliness for another time.

Each section of the exhibit explores a different period in Mandela's life. This guide highlights things that you can see, discover, and discuss with your group in each section. If you have questions, feel free to approach a staff member.

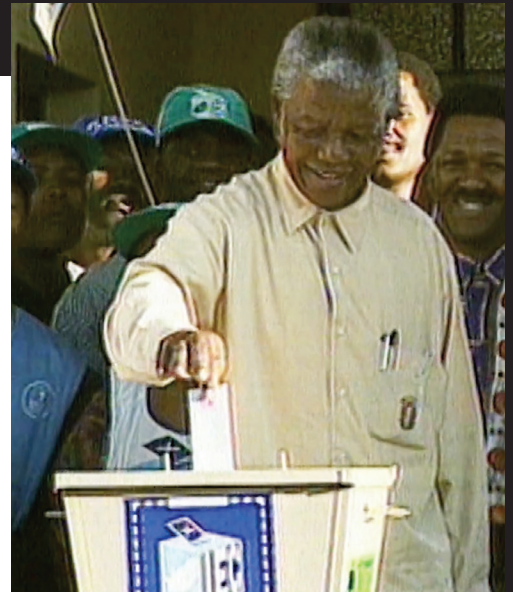
MEETING MANDELA

Start your journey by watching a three-minute video about Mandela's life.

Discuss these questions:

- What image, fact, or quote from this video stood out to you? Why?
- What part of Mandela's story are you most interested in learning about?

Note: This video includes images of violence.



Video highlight: Mandela casts his vote

THE EARLY YEARS

Mandela was born in the rural Transkei region of South Africa in 1918. In this section of the exhibit, you will see objects used in daily life during his youth. Be on the lookout for objects used by Mandela himself.

Choose an object that is interesting to you. What do you notice about it? What story does it tell? Read the object label to learn more.

Find the sign titled "White is Right" to learn how Mandela was given the name Nelson. What power dynamics are expressed in this story?

Find the sign titled "A Deeper Education." How did Mandela's early life prepare him for leadership?



Object highlight: Objects used in Mandela's daily life

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“THE STRUGGLE IS MY LIFE”

Here you will learn about apartheid, a system of racial segregation in South Africa. As a young man, Mandela dedicated his life to the struggle to end apartheid. When the government marked him as a political outlaw, he continued his activism in hiding. Eventually, he was captured, tried, and sent to prison.

Read the sign titled “The Architecture of Apartheid.” Consider how apartheid compares to Jim Crow laws in the U.S. and to other forms of racial discrimination today. What is the same? What is different?

Find the bench labeled “Europeans Only.” Listen to the testimonies about life under apartheid. Which story moves you the most? Why?

Choose a photograph and look at it closely. What story does it tell?

Note: This section of the exhibit contains images of violence.



Object highlight: Original apartheid-era street signs

THE PRISON YEARS

Mandela spent 18 years in Robben Island Prison, plus several more years in other prisons on the mainland. In this section, you will see objects used in South African prisons during apartheid and learn about Mandela's experience as a political prisoner. Be on the lookout for objects used by Mandela himself.

Mandela was in prison for 27 years, almost one-third of his life. Take a moment to reflect on how long 27 years is.

- Ask the adults in your group what they were doing 27 years ago.
- How old will you be in 27 years? What do you hope to be doing then?

Pause and think: How did Mandela continue the struggle to end apartheid while in prison? Consider his response to prison conditions as well as his relationship with the prison guards.

To learn more about these topics, work as a team to read the signs listed below. Decide who will read which sign, then share what you learned with each other.

- "The Struggle Inside"
- "Education: The Greatest Weapon"
- "Hard Labour"
- "From Jailer to Friend"



Object highlight: Blanket and bed mat from Robben Island Prison

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FREEDOM

In 1990, Mandela was finally released from prison. With South Africa on the brink of civil war, Mandela worked as a leader in the nation's peace process. He also had to adjust to global media attention and reconnect with a family he barely knew. After much negotiation, Mandela helped South Africa reach a major milestone: The country's first democratic election would take place in 1994.

Find the display of newspapers. While Mandela was in prison, the government banned publication of his image, hoping that he would be forgotten. When he was released, he suddenly became one of the most recognizable people on Earth. Discuss these questions:

- What role do photos play in social activism?
- What role does censorship play in systems of power and control?

Find the sign titled "The Peacemakers" to read what Mandela said about jointly accepting the Nobel Peace Prize with his political enemy, F.W. de Klerk. What leadership skills did Mandela use in this situation?



Object highlight:
Replicas of the Nobel Peace Prize medals and certificates awarded to Mandela and de Klerk

HEALING A NATION

In 1994, Mandela became South Africa's first democratically elected president. During his presidency, he worked to unify the divided country and rebuild its economy. After he left office, he continued to be a global leader in peace and humanitarian causes.

Find the sign titled "Confronting the Past" to learn about the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

- What are some potential benefits to this approach?
- What might be some drawbacks?

Look for one of Mandela's iconic "Madiba shirts." This style of colorful shirt became a famous part of Mandela's public persona. Madiba, Mandela's Xhosa clan name, is a term of respect.

Pause and think: How do you express your identity through the clothes you wear?

Object highlight: A hand-printed batik garment known as a Madiba shirt



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THE MEANING OF MANDELA

Mandela passed away in 2013 at the age of 95. As you go through this section of the exhibit, reflect on the impact he made on South Africa and the world.

Find the white lion skin that was draped over Mandela's funeral casket. This object was used as a symbol of respect. What other ways do you know to show respect for someone who has died?

Watch the three-minute video about Mandela's legacy. Discuss these questions:

- What is the video's message? What do you think about this message?
- What can you do to carry on Mandela's legacy?"

