

## Worksheet 2: Reading

### It Is In Your Hands Now

Nelson Mandela was South Africa's first black President. He was born on 18 July 1918 and at age 26 joined the ANC, a political group fighting for black people's rights. He began a campaign against the government called the Defiance Campaign. In 1960 there was a big demonstration against the apartheid system in a town called Sharpeville. Black protesters went to the police station and the police shot at them. 69 people were killed and 180 were injured. After this demonstration, the ANC was banned. In 1962 Mandela was arrested for his work for the ANC and sentenced to life imprisonment. He was imprisoned for 28 years and released in 1990. Three years later he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and in the following year he became the first democratically elected president in South Africa's first multiracial elections. He died in 2013 aged 95.

Mandela Day is held on Mandela's birthday, 18 July, every year. On this day people remember Mandela's words, 'It is in your hands now.' People take 67 minutes of their time to do something for other people. This is because Mandela spent 67 years of his life in public service. These are some things people have done:

- ❖ School children knitted 67 blankets for refugees
- ❖ Volunteers from New Zealand Australia and South Africa built 67 houses for people in need
- ❖ Volunteers each gave 67 minutes of their time to clear rubbish from a beach.
- ❖ Volunteers raised money by cycling 67 kilometres.

What could you do on Mandela Day?