Nelson Mandela led the African National Congress, a black liberation group that opposed South Africa’s white minority government and apartheid. Mandela was initially opposed to violence, but after a massacre of unarmed black South Africans in 1962, he began advocating acts of sabotage against the government.

In 1962, Mandela began a twenty-seven-year stay in prison. Most of his confinement was spent doing hard labor at the notorious Robben Island maximum-security prison.

During his imprisonment, Mandela became a symbol of the anti-apartheid movement among South Africa’s black population and among the international community that opposed apartheid. Mandela rejected several government offers to allow him to leave prison on the condition that he renounce violence. By the end of the 1980s, Nelson Mandela’s name was famous around the world though he had not been in public for twenty-seven years. Escalating violence and international pressure led the South African government to release Mandela from prison in 1990.

Mandela shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 with F.W. deKlerk, South Africa’s last white president. Their combined efforts ended apartheid and brought about a peaceful transition to nonracial democracy in South Africa.

Three years after his release, South Africans of all races were allowed to vote for the first time in a national election. They selected Mandela as their president, giving him 62% of the vote. The same person who was once was a symbol of black resistance in South Africa later eventually because the nation’s first black president.

Many people praised Mandela’s government for its treatment of South Africa’s white minorities. Crime increased during his term, but the violent war between the races ended.

Mandela married for the third time on his 80th birthday in 1998. A year later he retired from the presidency. When Mandela died in 2013 at 95, representatives of more than 90 nations attended his funeral. The 400-year-old prison on Robben Island is now a museum.

**Answer in Complete Sentences**

1. Why did Nelson Mandela stop advocating non-violence in 1962?

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2. South Africa’s white minority government offered to release Nelson Mandela several times if he renounced violence. Why do you think the South African government wanted to release Mandela from prison?

   *

*This is a higher order learning question. Any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.*

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Fill in the Blanks

Nelson Mandela was the leader of the A____________ National C______________, an organization of b________ South Africans that v________________ opposed a_______________. The w________ minority government of S__________ A____________ sent M__d___ to p__________ in 19____ for plotting the v____________ overthrow of South Africa’s white m________________ government. Mandela soon became a s__________ of the resistance movement against a__a_t___e_d among both South Africa’s b________ population and many people around the *w__________. Many nations around the globe joined black South Africans in calling for M____________’s release from p__________. The South African government offered to r____________ Mandela if he agreed to renounce v______________, but the jailed resistance leader r__f__s__d the g__v__r__n__’s offers.

Mandela was released from prison in 1990, shortly after the white m___________ government of S__________ A___________ yielded to i____________ pressure and internal v______________ by repealing their a______________ laws. In 1993, Mandela shared the N__________ Peace P________ with F.W. d____________ for their combined e____________ to end a_______________. In 1994, nearly *t____ thirds of all South Africans voted for M____________ in the first *d__m__c__i__c presidential election in S__________ A___________’s history. Mandela’s g______________ was p____________ for its treatment of white m__n__r__t__es in S__________ A___________, but many critics contended that c________ increased during his tenure.

Mandela r____________ from the South African presidency in 19____. A year after, on his *e________________ birthday, Mandela m__r__i__d the widow of the former president of Mozambique. Thabo Mbeki became the new p________________ of South Africa as the *pr__s__o__er turned *p__e__i__c__e__t left South Africa’s political stage.

Answer in Complete Sentences

*3. Nelson Mandela did not respect the laws of the white minority government of South Africa. What would you do to change a law that you believed was wrong?

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__________________________________________________________________________

*4. Why do you think the former prison off the coast of South Africa on Robben Island is now a museum?

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