



ASSEMBLY IDEAS

1

PASSIVE RESISTANCE AND GANDHI

Gandhi was an important influence on the early ANC leaders (he had been a lawyer in South Africa for a time). The ANC at first followed a policy of non-violent 'passive resistance'. Gandhi had used this effectively during the struggle for Indian independence.

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Compare the lives/experience of Gandhi and Mandela.

2

CIVIL RIGHTS

What are the rights for which Mandela and others fought so long and hard?

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Explore the often discussed areas – freedom of speech, freedom to communicate ideas through media such as the press, freedom to worship, to own property, to receive fair and equal treatment.

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Civil rights and civil liberties. Are they the same?

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Do civil rights have limits in democratic countries?
What if someone uses the freedom of speech to call for the overthrow of a democratically elected government?



3

BLACK LEADERS

Suggest/invite examples of other civil rights campaigners, black leaders or high profile figures of modern times:

Rosa Parks; Martin Luther King; Malcolm X; Barack Obama; Kofi Annan;
Robert Mugabe.

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Extend this to Black Britons. Some names to consider might be:
Bernie Grant; Diane Abbott; Bill Morris; Lenny Henry; Ashley Cole;
Martin Offiah.

4

DISCRIMINATION

What forms can discrimination take?

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Explore the issues of race and discrimination which Mandela encountered in South Africa as a young man.

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Mandela was a member of a majority community, oppressed by a ruling minority. Discuss the ways in which the minority maintained control.

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Invite people to role-play within an 'apartheid' context.
For example, 'People wearing non-white shirts are not allowed on those seats'.
How does this make pupils feel?

5

MONUMENTS

Mandela was honoured by statues around the world. Discuss why people have statues erected in their memory.

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Are statues still a good way to remember people for their lives and achievements?

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What other forms of 'commemoration' can pupils think of?

6

DIRECT ACTION

Mandela was called a 'freedom fighter' by his supporters, but a 'terrorist' by his opponents. Can someone be both?

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Discuss what limits, if any, apply to political action. Take the example of Guy Fawkes and ask if he could have been justified in trying to blow up Parliament.

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Extend to modern terrorism issues.

7

PEACE AND CONFLICT

Talk about world conflicts and compare to South Africa. (Burma might be one example. Pro-democracy leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, emerged from years in prison/house arrest because of her opposition to the ruling regime.)

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Explore what is meant by 'reconciliation'. How did it work in Northern Ireland to help resolve conflicts?

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Collect news items/media downloads about current conflict areas and discuss how they might be resolved.



REMEMBERING NELSON MANDELA

What kept Mandela going through 27 years in prison?

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What can we learn from his example?

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Does 'truth and reconciliation' offer real hope of resolving disputes and bitterness between people?

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What is Nelson Mandela's lasting legacy to the world?