

Freedom Day Worksheet

Read the passage below about Freedom Day and answer the questions that follow.

Name: _____

Date: _____



Freedom Day is celebrated in South Africa every year. It is the commemoration of the first democratic elections held after Apartheid, on the 27th of April 1994. The word 'democracy' describes a type of government where the people have a say in how the government is run. Before 1994 and during Apartheid, non-white people (blacks, Indians and coloureds) were not allowed to vote. The word 'Apartheid' is an Afrikaans word meaning apartness or the state of being apart. Apartheid was a system that separated people based on their race. Apartheid became law after the National Party won the election in 1948. Certain areas were declared as 'whites only' and other areas as 'black only'. In 1994, Nelson Mandela won the elections that allowed every South African citizen to vote and became the first black democratically elected South African president. Today we celebrate Freedom Day and democracy where everyone is treated equally regardless of skin colour and or race.

Answer the following questions:

What is a democracy?

Who was the first president of a democratic South Africa?

In which year was the first democratic election held?

How was this election different from other elections?

Why couldn't non-white people vote before?

How do you and your family celebrate Freedom Day?

Answers:
A type of government where the people have a say in how the government is run, Nelson Mandela, 1994,
This was the first election where everyone could vote, Non-white people couldn't vote before because of the Apartheid laws