Nelson Mandela  
   
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Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela (born Rolihlahla Mandela; 18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013) was a South  
African anti-apartheid activist and politician who served as the first president of South Africa from 1994  
to 1999. He was the country's first black head of state and the first elected in a fully representative  
democratic election. His government focused on dismantling the legacy of apartheid by fostering racial  
reconciliation. Ideologically an African nationalist and s