PARK EAST HIGH SCHOOL
Purpose, Preparation, Pride

Name: _____ Date: _____

South Africa

Apartheid. Unlike most African nations after independence, South Africa was ruled by a white minority. Until 1994, its government put severe economic and political restrictions on the black majority through a policy called *apartheid.* Apartheid is the Afrikaans word for "apartness." The policy maintained strict separation of the races. Laws required all blacks to carry passes, prevented them from voting, and made them subject to arrest at any time. South Africa's Asian population also suffered from discrimination. Great tensions developed between whites and blacks. In the 1980s, moderate groups in South Africa tried to find an acceptable and peaceful way to let blacks participate fully in the government. Protest demonstrations became common in black areas. Desmond Tutu, a black archbishop in the South African Anglican church, led many of these protests. Following the teachings of Mohandas Gandhi, Tutu urged his followers to use nonviolent tactics. He was awarded the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize for his work.

Sanctions. The white South African government responded harshly to black African resistance. Many Western nations became indignant at its disregard of the black Africans' human rights. To discourage this abuse of human rights, several countries imposed trade *sanctions* on South Africa. (Sanctions are laws prohibiting a nation's businesses from buying or selling goods to a country that violates international law.) As poverty in South Africa increased, violence between blacks and whites became more frequent. Foreign businesspeople lost confidence in South Africa's economy and withdrew their investments.

By 1990, a more moderate leadership began to respond to foreign pressure and the demands of black leaders by reducing the level of discrimination in South Africa. Then, in 1992, a majority of white South Africans voted to end apartheid and minority rule. Following the writing of a new constitution, multiracial elections were held for the first time in April 1994.

The ANC. The struggle by the black majority to achieve equality and political power was led by the *African National Congress (ANC).* The South African government of President F. W. de KIerk recognized the ANC in 1990 and cooperated with its leader, Nelson Mandela. De KIerk released Mandela from prison. Since 1962, Mandela had been serving a life sentence for sabotage. However, violent clashes between rival black groups and attacks on blacks by white extremists made reform difficult.

Mandela. As a result of the 1994 elections, Nelson Mandela became president. De KIerk became one of two vice presidents in this new multiracial government. The new government's primary concern was to improve the lives of black South Africans without losing the support of other groups. One of the government's first steps in stabilizing South Africa was to repair its damaged economy. Mandela promised to preserve its system of free enterprise. With the ending of economic sanctions, trade with other African nations resumed, and the economy soon improved.

Many other problems remained, however. Unemployment among black South Africans was high. Housing was inadequate. Crime was common. Experts predicted that it would take many years to repair the damage that apartheid and violence had done to South Africa.

APARTHEID IN SOUTH AFRICA

Directions: Read pages 698-699 – South Africa and answer the following questions.

1. Define: Apartheid: _____
   _____
2. Explain two policies of apartheid as practiced by the South African government.
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
3. Who is Desmond Tutu? _____
   _____
4. Who's teachings did Desmond Tutu follow? _____
5. Define Sanctions: _____
   _____
   _____
6. How did Western nations react to the South African governments response to black African resistance? _____
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7. What happened in South Africa in 1992? _____
   _____
8. What role did Nelson Mandela play in ending the policy of apartheid in South Africa?
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9. Who is F.W. deKlerk? _____
   _____
10. Why do many students of African history regard Nelson Mandela and F.W. deKlerk as heroes? _____
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