

Nelson Mandela wasn't always called Nelson. When he was born in Mvezo, he was named Rolihlahla.

Did you know?

Rolihlahla means 'pulling the branch of a tree', though is more commonly translated as 'troublemaker'.

Mvezo was a small, quiet place with many hills and open spaces around. Nelson was used to freedom and a simple life in the countryside. He played in the hills and swam in the nearby streams.

He also had chores to do to help his family. Nelson was a herd boy at just age five, looking after the family's goats and sheep.

"I learned how to knock birds out of the sky with a slingshot, to gather wild honey and fruits and edible roots, to drink warm, sweet milk straight from the udder of a cow..."



1. What name was Nelson Mandela given when he was born?

2. What does the name **Rolihlahla** mean?

3. Number the events 1-4 to show the order that they happen in the text.

He had chores to do to help his family.

He looked after the family's goats and sheep.

Nelson was a herd boy.

Nelson Mandela was born in Mvezo.

4. What don't we know about Nelson Mandela's early life from this text?

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Answers

1. What name was Nelson Mandela given when he was born?

When Nelson Mandela was born, he was named Rolihlahla.

2. What does the name **Rolihlahla** mean?

The name Rolihlahla means 'pulling the branch of a tree'.

3. Number the events 1-4 to show the order that they happen in the text.

2 He had chores to do to help his family.

4 He looked after the family's goats and sheep.

3 Nelson was a herd boy.

1 Nelson Mandela was born in Mvezo.

4. What don't we know about Nelson Mandela's early life from this text?

Pupils' own responses, such as: We don't know about Nelson Mandela's parents or whether he had any brothers or sisters.