

London landmarks

London has a close relationship with Nelson Mandela and the Anti-Apartheid Movement. Students can use this map to explore some of the places, people and events that made London the epicentre for the Freedom Struggle outside South Africa and source of the global call to 'Free Nelson Mandela'.

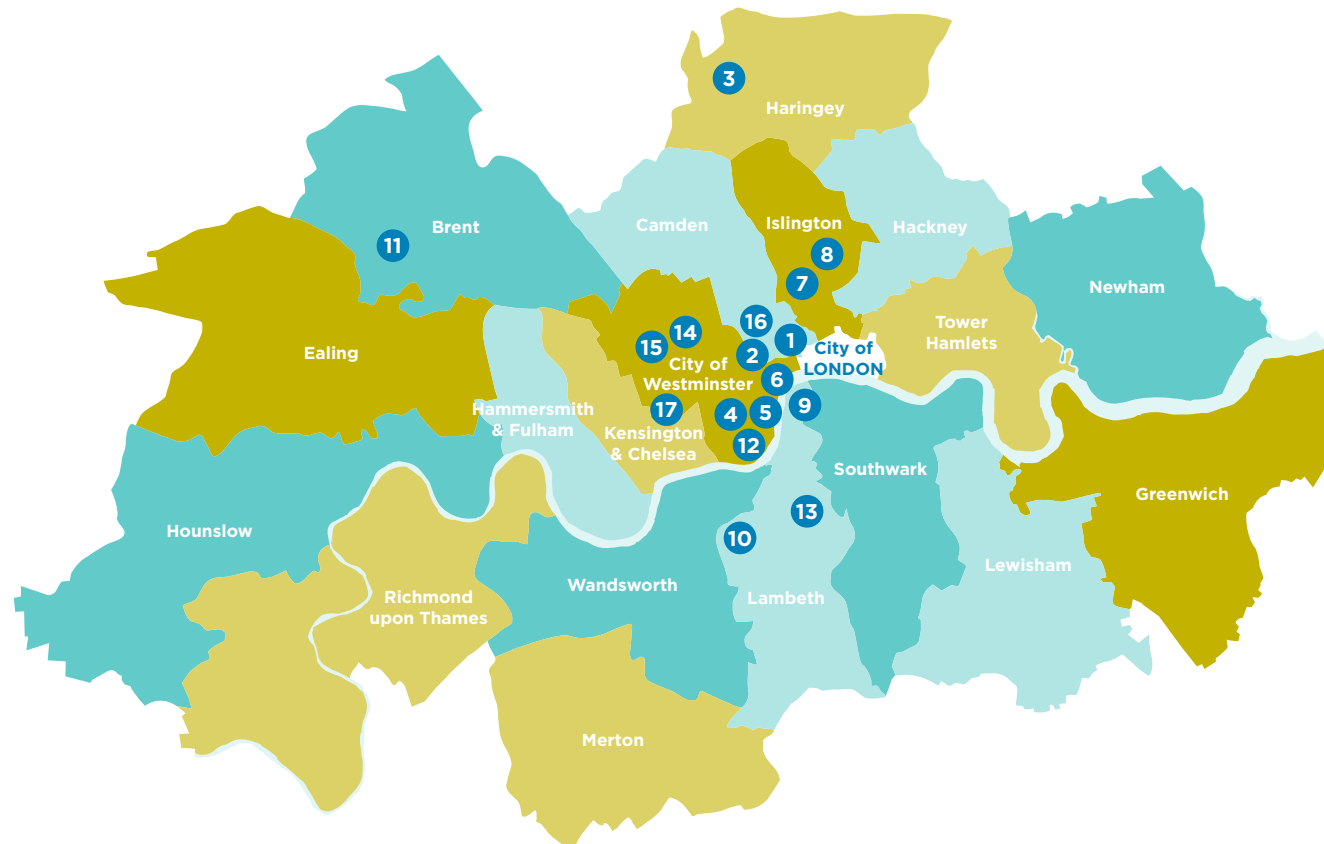
Students can visit landmarks close to their local area, and others near to Leake Street, the location of *Nelson Mandela: The Official Exhibition*, such as Ian Walters' bronze bust of Nelson Mandela outside the Royal Festival Hall.

Hundreds of buildings, streets and landmarks across the UK have been named after Nelson Mandela – more streets are named after him in the UK than anywhere else outside of South Africa. Students can research these in their local area. How many references can they find to Nelson Mandela and other key figures and events in the Struggle?

Further resources (images, audio and video) about many of these landmarks as well as the anti-apartheid activities of hundreds of thousands of British people can be found at the Anti Apartheid Movement Archives (see Further Resources).



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1 Holborn Hall

193–197 High Holborn WC1V 7BD

A 500-strong group of South African exiles and their supporters meet here in June 1959 to call for a boycott of fruit, cigarettes and other goods imported from South Africa. This marks the start of what soon becomes the Anti-Apartheid Movement, growing into an international campaign against the apartheid regime.

2 South Africa House

Trafalgar Square WC2N 5DP

Between the 1950s and 1990s, SA House is a focal spot for anti-apartheid action. For example, 15,000 demonstrators gathered outside in February 1960 following the Boycott March. The pavement directly outside becomes the central location for the Non-Stop Picket, a continuous day and night protest organised by the City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, held between 1986–1990, calling for the release of Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners.

3 Oliver Tambo's Home / Bust of Oliver Tambo

51 Alexandra Park Road Muswell Hill
N10 2DG / Albert Road Recreation
Ground N22

In 1960, the African National Congress (ANC) president Oliver Tambo and his wife Adelaide flee South Africa and settle in London with their young family. They remain there in exile until the ANC ban is lifted in 1990. Their home in Muswell Hill becomes the epicentre of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

In 2007, a bust of Oliver Tambo by Ian Walters and a plaque at his former house in Muswell Hill are unveiled in lasting tribute to his role in the anti-apartheid struggle.

4 Statue of Nelson Mandela

Parliament Square Westminster SW1P 3BD

Outlawed and hunted by the South African authorities, Mandela travels to London in 1962 for the first time. He visits Westminster Abbey and Parliament Square, where he jokes with Oliver Tambo about one day having their statues erected in London.

In 2007, thousands attend the unveiling of the bronze statue of Nelson Mandela, by Ian Walters, in Parliament Square.

5 Palace of Westminster

Houses of Parliament SW1A 0AA

In 1996, Nelson Mandela addresses members of both the House of Commons and the House of Lords in the Palace of Westminster. A brass plaque marks this historic occasion.

6 Westminster Abbey

20 Dean's Yard SW1P 3PA

In 2018, a memorial stone for Nelson Mandela is unveiled in Westminster Abbey. The inscription in the centre of the stone reads: Nelson Mandela 1918–2013. In a circle around this are the words: Forgiveness Reconciliation.

7 ANC Headquarters

28 Penton Street Islington N1

The London headquarters of the exiled African National Congress from 1978–1994. It is bombed in 1982. Nine South African security police officers later admitted to the attack and were granted amnesty by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1999.

The South African Communist party also sets up a headquarters in London.

8 Wessex Studios
Highbury N5 2DW

Jerry Dammers' The Special AKA record global awareness-raising hit single (*Free Nelson Mandela*) here in 1984. The legendary recording studio is eventually redeveloped as apartments in 2003.

9 Bust of Nelson Mandela
Royal Festival Hall Southbank SE1 8XX

In 1985 Oliver Tambo unveils a bust of Nelson Mandela, by artist Ian Walters, outside the Royal Festival Hall. It is destroyed by vandals but later recast by Walters in bronze, in 1988.

10 Clapham Common
SW4

In 1986, Artists Against Apartheid hosts a landmark outdoor festival on the Common to protest against apartheid. The free concert is initiated by Jerry Dammers and fellow musicians, and follows a mass march through central London. It is the inspiration for the larger-scale Wembley concert held two years later.

11 Wembley Stadium
HA9 0WS

Wembley Stadium hosts the Free Nelson Mandela 70th Birthday Tribute on 11 June 1988. It is broadcast to 67 countries and a global audience of over 600 million.

A second concert is held at Wembley in April 1990 to keep the pressure on South Africa to abolish apartheid. A newly-liberated Nelson Mandela attends and is met with huge applause when he addresses the crowd.

12 Downing Street
SW1A 2AA

Mandela returns to London just weeks after his release in 1990. Later in the same year he meets then-Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher at 10 Downing Street, a significant step as the ANC had previously been classified as an outlaw terrorist organization by the Conservative UK government.

13 Brixton
SW2

Nelson Mandela makes a memorable walkabout in Brixton with HRH Prince of Wales during the 1996 state visit, where he draws huge crowds of well-wishers.

14 St James' Park
SW1A 2BJ

Mandela plants a commemorative London Plane tree, in 1996, as a symbol of growth and strength, and quips: "*I wish I had the resources to come and water it every week.*"

15 Buckingham Palace
SW1A 1AA

A state banquet is held here in 1996 in honour of President Mandela.

16 The British Museum
Bloomsbury WC1B 3DG

Mandela inaugurates the British Museum's Great Court lecture theatre in 2000.

17 Hyde Park
WC2

Tens of thousands of demonstrators throng here in July 1988 for the Nelson Mandela Freedom Rally, the culmination of the 590 miles Freedom March from Glasgow to London.

Twenty years later, the '46664 concert' (named after Mandela's prisoner number) is held here as part of the celebrations organised in honour of his 90th birthday in 2008. Here he makes his famous "*It is time for new hands to lift the burden, it is in your hands now*" speech.