

SOCIAL STUDIES · GRADES 5–6

Famous Leaders

Eight people, eight different kinds of leadership

Eight leaders at a glance

Leader	When	Country	Famous for
Cleopatra VII	69–30 BCE	Egypt	Last pharaoh; allied with Rome to keep Egypt independent
Mahatma Gandhi	1869–1948	India	Led non-violent fight for India's independence from Britain
Abraham Lincoln	1809–1865	USA	President during civil war; ended legal slavery
Winston Churchill	1874–1965	UK	PM through WWII; led Britain through bombing
Nelson Mandela	1918–2013	South Africa	Ended apartheid; first Black president after 27 years in prison
Eleanor Roosevelt	1884–1962	USA	First Lady; led drafting of UN Declaration of Human Rights
Wangari Maathai	1940–2011	Kenya	Founded the Green Belt Movement; planted 50M trees; Nobel Peace Prize
Martin Luther King Jr.	1929–1968	USA	Led non-violent civil rights movement



Discuss

1. What does it MEAN to be a 'great leader'?
2. Three of these leaders led NON-violent change. What is non-violence? Why is it powerful?
3. Pick one. Find out one more thing they did.
4. Are there great leaders today? Who, and why?

