

Malcolm X

Malcolm X was an African-American man, who worked for equal rights for black and white people in America. His ideas helped with the black power movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

Early Years

When he was born in 1925 in Nebraska, he was named Malcolm Little. He had five brothers and two sisters as well as two half-sisters and a half-brother. His mother, Louise, had to look after the children and protect them from racist attacks.

His father was called Earl Little and he was a Baptist minister and a supporter of an organisation called **The Black Nationalists**.

However, supporting The Black Nationalists made some people angry and they sent him death threats. The family moved away to Michigan to try and get away from the trouble, but in 1929 their house was set on fire. Two years later, his father was killed when he was run over by a streetcar. Many people believed at the time that he was murdered by members of the **Black Legion** for being a member of the Black Nationalists. To this day, no one knows for sure.



The Black Nationalists - A political group whose aim was to promote black communities and were proud of their black ancestry.

Black Legion - A white supremacist terrorist group who killed many people.

Prison

After his father's death, Malcolm's mother could not cope, so Malcolm and his brothers and sisters went into care. When he was older, Malcolm moved back to Boston but he was arrested for burglary and put in prison for seven years. Whilst Malcolm was in prison, he tried to learn as much as possible about the Muslim religion and a group called the Nation of Islam (NOI), that supported African-Americans working to have the same rights as white Americans.

The Next Step

When Malcolm left prison in 1952, he was an important speaker for the NOI. He changed his name to Malcolm X saying that his other name 'Little' was his slave name and that 'X' stood for what his real, African name should have been.

He was very popular in the NOI and helped them grow to be a very big group with lots of supporters. However, as he was getting more popular, the government noticed and they started to watch and follow him as they saw him as a threat. In 1964, he left the NOI and he set up his own organisation, The Muslim Mosque Inc.

Family

In 1958, he married a nurse, Betty Shabazz (also known as Betty X), and they went on to have six daughters. However, family life was not easy because of Malcolm's fame and lots of different people tried to kill him. On 14th February 1965, their home in New York was fire-bombed but luckily no one was hurt.

Death

On 21st February 1965, a week after their house was bombed, Malcolm was shot and killed by three men as he spoke to a crowd of people in New York. He was only 39 years old. Over 1,500 people came to his funeral. Later that year, his twin daughters were born and were named Malikah and Mallaak after him. Even though he died in 1965, his memory and work lives on through books, the Internet and films and his quotes are still as important as ever:

“Without education, you're not going anywhere in this world.”
Malcolm X

Malcolm X Questions

1. Where was Malcolm X born?

2. What were his mother and father called? Tick **one**.

- Louise and Malcolm
- Betty and Earl
- Louise and Earl
- Malcolm and Betty

3. When he was young, how many people were in Malcolm's family?

4. What did Malcolm do while he was in prison?

5. How many people went to Malcolm X's funeral? Tick **one**.

- 1,500
- More than 1,500
- Less than 1,500
- 15,000

6. In the **Prison** paragraph, the author puts (NOI) in brackets, why is this?

7. After reading the story of Malcolm X and how famous he became, do you think **not** being famous might have saved his life? If so, why do you think that he chose not to lead a quiet life?

8. Do you agree with the final quote?

Malcolm X Answers

1. Where was Malcolm X born?

Malcolm X was born in Nebraska

2. What were his mother and father called? Tick **one**.

- Louise and Malcolm
- Betty and Earl
- Louise and Earl**
- Malcolm and Betty

3. When he was young, how many people were in Malcolm's family?

There were thirteen people in Malcolm's family: his mother, father, himself, 5 brothers, 2 sisters, 2 half-sisters and 1 half-brother.

4. What did Malcolm do while he was in prison?

While he was in prison, Malcolm began to educate himself/learn more about religion/join the NOI.

5. How many people went to Malcolm X's funeral? Tick **one**.

- 1,500
- More than 1,500**
- Less than 1,500
- 15,000

6. In the **Prison** paragraph, the author puts (NOI) in brackets, why is this?

The author puts (NOI) in brackets to show that 'Nation of Islam' can be shortened to this and then the author only needs to write NOI from now on as the reader will know what the initials stand for.

7. After reading the story of Malcolm X and how famous he became, do you think **not** being famous might have saved his life? If so, why do you think that he chose not to lead a quiet life?

Pupil's own response, such as: I think that not being famous probably would have stopped him being killed in this way but I believe he chose not to lead a quiet life because to him, the fight for civil rights was a much greater cause for many, many people.

8. Do you agree with the final quote?

Pupil's own response.

Malcolm X

Malcolm X was one of the most famous civil rights activists from America. His ideas helped support the black power movement of the 1960s and 1970s.

Early Years

He was born on the 19th May 1925, as Malcolm Little, in Nebraska, USA. His mother, Louise, looked after Malcolm and his siblings, sometimes having to protect them from being attacked. This was largely because his father, Earl Little, was a Baptist minister and supporter of an organisation called **The Black Nationalists**. Belonging to this group angered some people, who sent him death threats. After living with this trouble for many years, the family moved

to Michigan. However, in 1929, their house was burned to the ground and two years later, his father was killed when he was run over by a streetcar. Many people believed at the time that he was murdered by members of the **Black Legion** for being a member of the Black Nationalists. To this day, no one knows for sure.



The Black Nationalists - A political group whose aim was to promote black communities and were proud of their black ancestry.

Black Legion - A white supremacist terrorist group who killed many people.

Prison

Malcolm's family split up after his father's death as his mother could not cope. Malcolm, his brothers and his sisters ended up in care. Eventually, Malcolm and a friend moved back to Boston but Malcolm was arrested for burglary and given a ten-year prison sentence, seven of which he served. During his time in prison, he spent time learning as much as he could. Visits from his brother inspired him to learn more about the Muslim religion and an organisation called the Nation of Islam (NOI), that supported African-American people working to have equal rights within America.

The Next Step

By the time Malcolm left prison in 1952, he was a spokesperson for the NOI. He changed his name to Malcolm X saying that his other name 'Little' was his slave name and that 'X' stood for what his real, African name should have been.

He was very popular in the NOI and helped their membership rise from 500 to 30,000 people in one year. However, as he was getting more popular, the government noticed and they started to watch and follow him as they saw him as a threat. In 1964, he left the NOI after some disagreement and he set up his own organisation, The Muslim Mosque Inc.

Family

In 1958, he married a nurse, Betty Shabazz (also known as Betty X), and they went on to have six daughters. However, family life was not easy due to Malcolm's fame and there were a number of attempts to kill him. On 14th February 1965, their home in New York was fire-bombed but luckily no one was harmed.

Death

On 21st February 1965, just a week after the incident at their house, Malcolm was shot and killed by three men as he spoke to a crowd of people in Manhattan. He was just 39 years-old. Over 1,500 people came to his funeral in Harlem. Later that year, his twin girls Malaak and Malikah were born and were named after him. Even though he died in 1965, his memory and work lives on through books, the Internet and films and his words are still as important as ever:

“Without education, you're not going anywhere in this world.”

Malcolm X

Malcolm X Questions

1. On what date was Malcolm X born?

2. Which group did his father belong to? Tick **one**.

- Black Legion
- Black Nationalists
- NOI
- The Muslim Mosque Inc

3. How do you think the events in Malcolm's childhood affected his adult life?

4. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
Malcolm was arrested for burglary.		
He changed his name because he thought X sounded better.		
He married Betty Shabazz in 1957.		
Malcolm was shot and killed by three men.		

5. What did Malcolm's brother visiting him in prison inspire him to do?

6. Was Malcolm a popular member of the NOI? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

7. After reading the story of Malcolm X and how famous he became, do you think not being famous might have saved his life? If so, why do you think that he chose not to lead a quiet life?

8. What did the 'X' in his name stand for?

9. What do you think the final quote means and do you agree? Explain your answer.

Malcolm X Answers

1. On what date was Malcolm X born?

19th May 1925

2. Which group did his father belong to? Tick **one**.

- Black Legion
- Black Nationalists**
- NOI
- The Muslim Mosque Inc

3. How do you think the events in Malcolm's childhood affected his adult life?

Pupil's own response, such as: I believe that his father's political beliefs and his death will have inspired Malcolm X to also be a political figure and fight for the rights of black people. Also, all of the trouble his family dealt with as a result of his father's political beliefs may have further inspired him to make a change and fight for equal rights.

4. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
Malcolm was arrested for burglary.	✓	
He changed his name because he thought X sounded better.		✓
He married Betty Shabazz in 1957.		✓
Malcolm was shot and killed by three men.	✓	

5. What did Malcolm's brother visiting him in prison inspire him to do?

Malcolm's brother inspired him to join the NOI.

6. Was Malcolm a popular member of the NOI? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: Malcolm was a popular member of the NOI, as he helped their membership rise from 500 to 30,000 people. In addition, the government began watching him, which means he must have been very influential.

7. After reading the story of Malcolm X and how famous he became, do you think not being famous might have saved his life? If so, why do you think that he chose not to lead a quiet life?

Pupil's own response, such as: I believe that a quiet life probably would have stopped him being killed as he wouldn't have been such a prominent figure at the time. However, I believe he chose to fight for civil rights as he knew it was a much greater cause for many, many people.

8. What did the 'X' in his name stand for?

The 'X' in Malcolm 'X' stands for what he believed his real, African name should have been.

9. What do you think the final quote means and do you agree? Explain your answer.

Pupil's own response.

Malcolm X

Malcolm X was one of the most famous civil rights activists from America; his ideas laid the foundations for the black power movement of the late 1960s and 1970s.

Early Years

He was born on the 19th May 1925, as Malcolm Little, in Omaha, Nebraska. His mother, Louise, was mother to eight children, whom she protected from racist attacks. His father, Earl Little, was a Baptist minister and a supporter of **The Black Nationalists** civil rights group for which he received death threats. In 1929, after they had moved to Lansing in Michigan due to these threats, their house was burned to the ground and two years later, his father was



killed when he was run over by a streetcar. Many people believed at the time that he was murdered by members of the **Black Legion** for being a member of the Black Nationalists. To this day, no one knows for sure.

The Black Nationalists - A political group whose aim was to promote black communities and were proud of their black ancestry.

Black Legion - A white supremacist terrorist group who killed many people.

Prison

Malcolm's family fell apart after his father's death as his mother could not cope. Malcolm and his siblings ended up in care. Eventually, Malcolm and a friend moved back to Boston but he was arrested for burglary and given a ten-year prison sentence, of which he served seven years. During his time in prison, he spent time furthering his education and visits from his brother inspired him to learn about the Muslim religion and the Nation of Islam (NOI), an organisation that supported African-Americans working to have equal rights within America.

The Next Step

By the time Malcolm left prison in 1952, he was a spokesperson for the NOI. He changed his name to Malcolm X saying that 'Little' was his slave name and that 'X' signified what his real, tribal name should be.

He was very successful in the NOI and helped their membership rise from 500 to 30,000 people in just one year. However, as he became more popular, he gained attention from the government and they started to survey him as they saw him as a threat. In 1964, he left the NOI after some disagreement and he set up his own organisation, The Muslim Mosque Inc.

Family

By 1958, he married a nurse, Betty Shabazz (AKA as Betty X), and they went on to have six daughters. However, family life was not easy due to Malcolm's high profile - there were several attempts on his life. On 14th February 1965, their home in New York was fire-bombed but thankfully no one was harmed.

Death

On 21st February 1965, just a week after their house was bombed, Malcolm was assassinated by three men as he spoke to a crowd of people in Manhattan. He was just 39 years-old. Over 1,500 people came to his funeral in Harlem where friends even took over to dig his grave. Later that year, his twin girls Malaak and Malikah were born and were named after him. Even though he died in 1965, his memory and work lives on through books, the Internet and films and his words are still as important as ever:

“Without education, you're not going anywhere in this world.”

Malcolm X

Malcolm X Questions

1. What was Malcolm's birth name?

2. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
Malcolm X's father was a Baptist Minister.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
After his father died, Malcolm ended up in care.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Malcolm was arrested for burglary in Michigan.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
In 1965, he set up the organisation the Muslim Mosque Inc.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How did Malcolm's brother inspire him?

4. How do you think the events in Malcolm's childhood affected his adult life?

5. Explain, in your own words, how prison changed Malcolm X?

6. In the **Family** paragraph, the author writes that Malcolm had a **high profile**, what does this mean?

7. What are the names of his twin daughters? Tick **one**.

- Malaak and Betty
- Betty and Malukah
- Malukah and Malaak
- Malaak and Louise

8. Do you think Malcolm X was an influential person? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

9. After reading the story of Malcolm X and how famous he became, do you think **not** being famous might have saved his life? If so, why do you think that he chose to be an activist?

10. What do you think the final quote means and do you agree? Explain your answer.

Malcolm X Answers

1. What was Malcolm's birth name?

Malcolm Little

2. Tick the boxes to say whether the statements below are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
Malcolm X's father was a Baptist Minister.	✓	
After his father died, Malcolm ended up in care.		✓
Malcolm was arrested for burglary in Michigan.		✓
In 1965, he set up the organisation the Muslim Mosque Inc.		✓

3. How did Malcolm's brother inspire him?

His brother inspired him by teaching him about the Muslim religion.

4. How do you think the events in Malcolm's childhood affected his adult life?

Pupil's own response, such as: I believe that his father's political beliefs and his death will have inspired Malcolm X to also be a political figure and fight for the rights of black people. In addition, all of the trouble his family dealt with as a result of his father's political beliefs may have further inspired him to make a change and fight for equal rights.

5. Explain, in your own words, how prison changed Malcolm X?

Pupil's own response, such as: Prison changed Malcolm X as before he went into prison he was a criminal and afterwards he was a law abiding citizen. In addition, while in prison, he spent his time learning and became a member of the NOI and, as such, became a very famous activist and created his own organisation, (The Muslim Mosque Inc.)

6. In the **Family** paragraph, the author writes that Malcolm had a **high profile**, what does this mean?

High profile means when someone is in a position where they get a lot of attention and fame.

7. Which group did his father belong to? Tick **one**.

- Malaak and Betty
- Betty and Malukah
- Malukah and Malaak**
- Malaak and Louise

8. Do you think Malcolm X was an influential person? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept responses that refer to one or more of the following:

- **Helping the NOI gain members (Going from 500 to 30,000 people)**
- **the government watching him**
- **Being threatened by people who did not support his cause.**
- **His house being fire-bombed**
- **Being shot and killed**
- **1,500 people attending his funeral**
- **His memory and works lives on through books, the internet and films.**

9. After reading the story of Malcolm X and how famous he became, do you think **not** being famous might have saved his life? If so, why do you think that he chose to be an activist?

Pupil's own response, such as: I believe that a quiet life probably would have prevented him being killed as he wouldn't have been such a prominent figure at the time. However, I believe he chose to be an activist and fight for civil rights as he knew it was a much greater cause and would benefit many, many people.

10. What do you think the final quote means and do you agree? Explain your answer.

Pupil's own response.