

Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi is called the father of India. He helped the people of India to **gain** freedom from Great Britain.

Gandhi was born in Porbandar, India, on October 2, 1869. At age 13, he married Kasturbai, age 12. Their parents **arranged** the marriage. Gandhi and his wife had four sons.

Gandhi went to London to study law. In 1891, he returned to India, but he did not do well as a lawyer. That same year, he was offered a job in South Africa, and he and his family moved there.

At that time, Great Britain **ruled** South Africa and Indian people who lived there had few rights. Gandhi stayed for 20 years to help gain equal rights for Indian people. During this time, he decided that those who truly believed in the cause could use peaceful ways to win freedom and equal rights for all people. People could do things like **refuse** to eat, go on **strike**, or not **obey** laws. He used these ideas when he returned to India.

Gandhi went back to India in 1915. He traveled many places to tell people about his ideas for peaceful **protests**. He became the leader of the **movement** to get the British to leave India. The British treated him and his followers badly. Gandhi was put in jail many times for refusing to do what the British told him to, for leading strikes, or for breaking laws. But Gandhi never used **violence**.

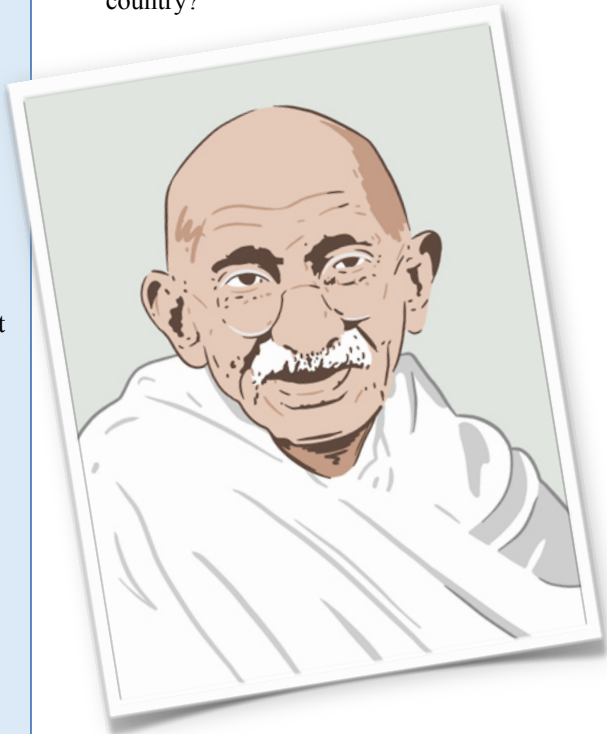
Gandhi worked for India's freedom for 30 years. Finally, in 1945, the British said they would leave. In 1946, Gandhi's friend, Jawaharlal Nehru, became prime minister of India.

But India still had problems. Gandhi wanted Indian Muslims and Hindus to live together in peace. Instead, they were afraid of what would happen when the British left and started killing each other. To protest the killings, Gandhi, who was now an old man, began a **fast**. After 5 days, they said they would stop the killing.

Just 12 days later, on January 30, 1948, a Hindu man killed Gandhi at a prayer meeting.

Pre-Reading Warm Up Questions ☀

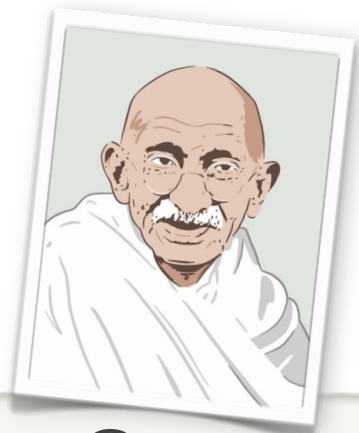
1. Do you know the meaning of “non-violent protest”?
2. Can you think of several different peaceful ways people can protest?
3. Why do you think Gandhi is called the father of India?
4. Do you know when India became an independent country?



COMPREHENSION ✍

A. True or False. Read the statements below. If the statement is true, write T beside the sentence. If it is false, write F. If it is false, correct the information.

1. Gandhi was married at a very young age.
2. Gandhi was a lawyer.
3. Gandhi used violent protests against the British.
4. Gandhi is called the father of South Africa.
5. Gandhi became the first prime minister of India.



B. Practice asking and answering the following questions with your partner. Then write the answers in complete sentences.

1. Why is Gandhi called the father of India?
2. Why did Gandhi move to South Africa?
3. Why did he stay in South Africa for twenty years?
4. Why was Gandhi put in jail many times?
5. When did the British agree to leave India?
6. What kind of problems did India face when the country first became independent?
7. What peaceful methods did Gandhi use in his lifetime to achieve change? (name three)
8. How did Gandhi die?

VOCABULARY REVIEW 

A. Match the words on the left with the correct meaning on the right.

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| _____ 1. gain | a. govern, control |
| _____ 2. arrange | b. not eat, go without food |
| _____ 3. rule | c. follow instructions, do what you're told to do |
| _____ 4. movement | d. get, receive |
| _____ 5. refuse | e. great force, non-peaceful action |
| _____ 6. strike | f. plan |
| _____ 7. obey | g. say "no" to something |
| _____ 8. protest | h. group actions for a special purpose, cause |
| _____ 9. violence | i. demonstrate against something, oppose |
| _____ 10. fast | j. stop working in order to protest |

DISCUSS 

Discuss the meaning of the following Gandhi quotations with your classmates. You may need to use your dictionaries to find the meanings of some of the words.

1. "An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind".
2. "I am prepared to die, but there is no cause for which I am prepared to kill."
3. "If we wish to create a lasting peace, we must begin with the children."
4. "The best way to find yourself is in the service of others."
5. "When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love has always won. There have been tyrants and murderers and for a time they seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall -- think of it, ALWAYS."

B. Choose the correct word(s) from the left column above to complete the following sentences.

1. Sometimes it is necessary to _____ for 12 hours before a blood test.
2. In the army, a soldier must _____ his officers.
3. When the bus drivers went on _____, many people had trouble getting to work.
4. Gandhi did not believe in using _____ to gain freedom.
5. She doesn't love him. She is going to _____ his marriage proposal.
6. He will _____ a lot of experience in his new job.

ANSWER KEY

Please note:

The reading for this topic is also available in full-page format at the end of the lesson (page 4).

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1 - 4. individual answers

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

A. True or False

1. T 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. F

B. Written Answers

1. Gandhi is called the father of India because he helped India to gain independence from Great Britain.
2. Gandhi went to South Africa because he was not doing well as a lawyer in India.
3. Gandhi stayed in South Africa for 20 years because he wanted to help the Indian people there to gain equal rights.
4. Gandhi was put in jail because he refused to do what the British told him to do, he led strikes, and he broke laws.
5. The British agreed to leave India in 1945.
6. When India first became independent, there was a lot of fighting between the Muslims and Hindus.
7. He refused to eat; he went on strike; he disobeyed laws.
8. He was killed by a man while at a prayer meeting.

VOCABULARY REVIEW

A. Matching

1. d 2. f 3. a 4. h 5. g 6. j 7. c 8. i
9. e 10. b

B. Choose the correct word

1. fast 2. obey 3. strike 4. violence 5. refuse
6. gain

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