

Mohandas “Mahatma” Gandhi

‘Nonviolence is the first article of my faith. It is also the last article of my creed’

Mohandas Gandhi was India’s most important political and spiritual leader. The Indian people called Gandhi 'Mahatma', meaning Great Soul. He is honored in India as Father of the Nation. His non-violent protests led to independence for India from the British. His beliefs and actions have inspired civil rights movements all over the world. He developed a method of action based upon the principles of courage, nonviolence and truth called Satyagraha. He is an icon of world peace. His birthday, 2nd October, is commemorated worldwide as the International Day of Non-Violence.

LIFE - Gandhi was born in Gujarat, Western India, in 1869. He grew up surrounded by religious traditions of compassion, vegetarianism, and tolerance for all people. He got married at the age of 13. When he was 19, he went to London to study law. He returned to India to practice as a lawyer and then he accepted a job in South Africa. In South Africa, Gandhi faced discrimination and hardship wherever he went. He was treated as a third-class citizen by white people. As a consequence, he reflected upon social justice and the role of the British in India. He returned to India in 1915, ready to put to work the concept of passive resistance he developed in South Africa.

HIS WORK - Between 1916 and 1945, Gandhi campaigned tirelessly to set India free from British rule. He started by leading protests against British taxes and landlords, and walked across India encouraging non-cooperation with the British. He was arrested and imprisoned for creating unrest. Gandhi's fame spread all over the nation. He was assassinated in 1948. Two years later, India became an independent republic.

A1. Match the words from the article on the left with their synonyms on the right.

1. Protests	a. Acceptance
2. Icon	b. Remembered
3. Commemorated	c. Demonstrations
4. Compassion	d. Symbol
5. Tolerance	e. Care
6. Hardship	f. Dealt with
7. Treated	g. Enthusiastically
8. Tirelessly	h. Killed
9. Unrest	i. Suffering
10. Assassinated	j. Disorder

A2. Gandhi**T F**

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| A) was from India | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B) was considered as Father of India | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C) was a violent person | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D) was a symbol of peace | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A3. The term 'Mahatma' means

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| A) Great Sun | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B) Great Man | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C) Great Soul | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D) Great Movement | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A4. Why is Gandhi so important?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| A) because India was independent from the British | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B) because he was Father of the Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C) because he was a politician | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D) because with him India became an independent republic | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A5. The term 'Satyagraha' refers to

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| A) an act of courage | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B) a religion of truth | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C) a philosophy and a practice | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D) a violent method of action | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A6. Why did Gandhi go to London?

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| A) Because he was 19 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B) Because he was born in Gujarat | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C) Because he wanted to become a lawyer | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D) Because he got married at the age of 13 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A7. He went to London in

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| A) 1869 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| B) 1845 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| C) 1888 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| D) 1915 | <input type="checkbox"/> |

A8. Gandhi wanted India to be independent because ...

- A) he returned to India
- B) he was a third-class citizen
- C) he believed in violent resistance
- D) he believed that people were socially discriminated

A9. Gandhi's method of action

T F

- A) encouraged non-cooperation with the colonizers
- B) was very violent
- C) led him to being arrested
- D) was successful

A10. Gandhi in 1948

T F

- A) was born
- B) was killed
- C) was arrested
- D) died

A11. Who was Gandhi?

A12. What does 'Mahatma' mean?

A13. Why was Gandhi so important?

A14. What is "Satyagraha"?

A15. When and where was Gandhi born?

A16. When did he get married?

A17. When did he go to London?

A18. What was his job in London?

A19. What did he do in South Africa?

A20. When did he return to India?

A21. When did he die?

What about you?

1. Do you like Gandhi?
2. Why?
3. Would you like to meet Mahatma Gandhi?
4. What would you tell him?
5. What would you ask him?
6. What would you do if you were Gandhi?