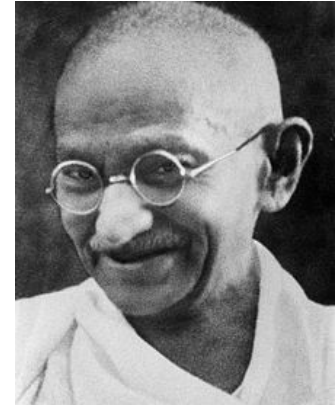


Mahatma Gandhi

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1869. He was born in Porbander, Gujarat, North West India. His father was the Chief Minister of Porbander and his mother was highly religious. She worshipped the God Vishnu, but also believed Jain teachings, which taught people about not causing injury to living things. Gandhi was part of the privileged caste and he received a good education.



The Young Man

He began studying at a college in the University of Bombay however Gandhi was not very happy at college, so when he was offered the chance to study law in London, he took it. He worked hard and began to study all religions. Until this time, he had never really been interested in religion. When he returned to India, he found it hard to find work, so eventually took a job in South Africa for a year.

Gandhi was horrified at the way people that were not white were treated. On one occasion, Gandhi was removed from a train even though he held a valid ticket because he was not white. Another time, he was asked to remove his turban by a European magistrate in court. He refused and left the courtroom. This was called apartheid.



Did you know?

Apartheid is an Afrikaans word that means "status of being apart". In real life terms, it meant that white people were treated a lot better than black or Asian people. There were even shops that "non-whites" weren't allowed to go in!

Gandhi and the People

Gandhi started a political movement called the Natal Indian Congress. He believed in non-violent political protests. A protest is when someone stands up against something they do not agree with and brings attention to it so that others might get involved. This meant that he



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would encourage protesting in a peaceful, safe way. He did not want people to get hurt, he just wanted the authorities to take notice of what life was like for people who were not white.

He returned to India in 1916 and was horrified to find how oppressed the Indian people of Bihar were, by the white British masters. He began to encourage people to stand up for themselves and their rights in peaceful protests and strikes. The people were grateful somebody was interested in their situation and he became known as Mahatma – Great Soul.

Famous Gandhi

Gandhi's fame began to spread. Indian people saw him as their voice for freedom and fairness. He started a boycott of buying British goods. This meant he encouraged people not to buy British goods. This led to his first arrest, and on 2nd March 1922, he was put into prison for two years. Gandhi went on many hunger strikes to bring attention to the unfair treatment of people at the hands of the British. When he was released, he began a campaign to end the British rule over Indian people.

The British began to realise that a lot of people agreed with Gandhi and they were worried there could be a war, so they agreed to make some changes and improve the lives of some of the poorer people.

Gandhi was arrested a number of times because he encouraged people to stand up to the government. Some people also tried to kill him. One man in particular tried and eventually succeeded: Nathuram Godse.

Gandhi died on his way to a prayer meeting on 30th January 1948. He was shot three times in the chest.

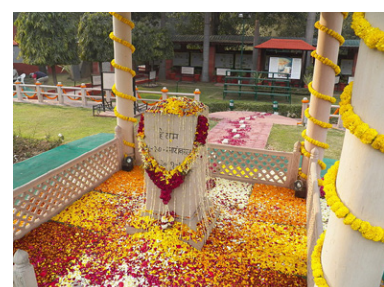
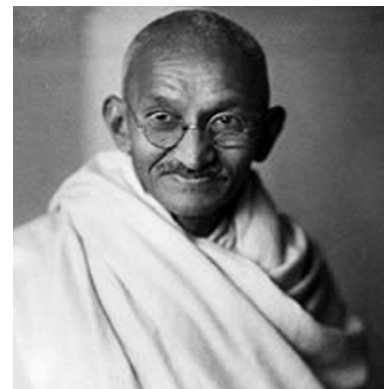


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Mahatma Gandhi Questions

1. What did the Jain teachings tell people about how they should treat living things?

2. When did Gandhi become interested in religion?

3. Explain in your own words what **apartheid** was.

4. Why do you think Gandhi was upset by apartheid?

5. What sort of protests did Gandhi encourage people to carry out?

6. Explain why you think the British masters disliked Gandhi.

7. What did the Indian people think of Gandhi?

8. What changes did the British masters make because of Gandhi's protests?

Mahatma Gandhi Answers

1. What did the Jain teachings tell people about how they should treat living things?
Jain teachings taught people not to cause injury to living things.
2. When did Gandhi become interested in religion?
Gandhi first became interested in religion when he was studying in London.
3. Explain in your own words what **apartheid** was.
Accept reasonable answers e.g. Apartheid was when white people were treated better than non- white people. Apartheid was when non- white people were not allowed to do things or go to some places that white people could.
4. Why do you think Gandhi was upset by apartheid?
Accept reasonable answers e.g. I think Gandhi was upset by apartheid because he was Indian and was being treated differently. I think Gandhi was upset by apartheid because he knew it was so unfair that people were treated differently just because of the colour of their skin.
5. What sort of protests did Gandhi encourage people to carry out?
Gandhi encouraged people to carry out non- violent political protests.
6. Explain why you think the British masters disliked Gandhi.
Accept reasonable answers e.g. I think the British masters disliked Gandhi because he was encouraging people to stand up for themselves and this caused problems for them. I think the British masters disliked Gandhi because so many people agreed with him and they were worried it might start a war.
7. What did the Indian people think of Gandhi?
The Indian people liked Gandhi and saw him as their voice for freedom and fairness.
8. What changes did the British masters make because of Gandhi's protests?
The British masters made some changes and improved the lives of some of the poorer people.