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Mohandas K. Gandhi

When you've faced a conflict in your life, what strategies do you use to resolve the problem? Mohandas Gandhi faced an enormous conflict. He helped free India from British control by using a unique method of nonviolent resistance. Use this webquest to learn more about this extraordinary man!

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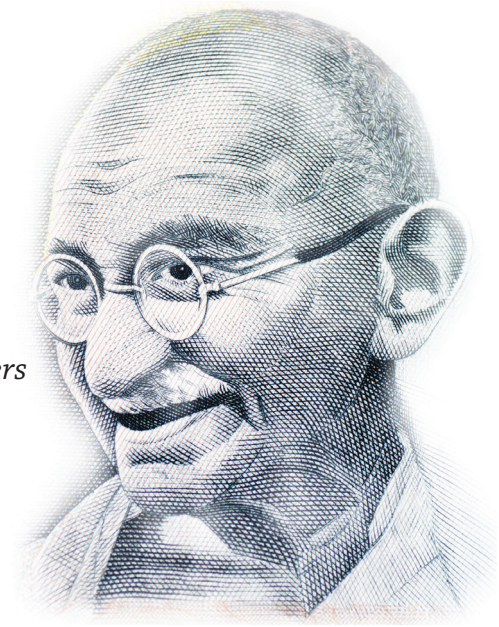

Find It!

In order to understand why Gandhi's program of nonviolent resistance was so noteworthy, it's helpful to begin by examining the history of Indian resistance to British rule. Use the World Book search tool to find the answers to the questions below. It is recommended you start by searching the key words ***"India, history of."*** *Write the answer below each question.*

1. In 1600, Queen Elizabeth I of England granted a charter for the formation of a company to open trade with India and East Asia. What was this company's name?

2. What 1757 event do most historians regard as the starting point of the British Empire in India?

3. What widespread uprising from 1857 to 1859 saw Hindus and Muslims unite against the British?

4. What term is often applied to the direct British rule of India (instituted in 1858)?

5. What were some reasons that many Indians did not feel content about British rule?

6. True or false? When the Indian National Congress was formed in 1885, only Hindus were allowed to join.

***Users of the *Advanced* database can find extension activities at the end of this webquest.**

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7. In 1906, Muslim leaders founded what organization in order to give Muslims a voice in political affairs?

8. How did the Rowlatt Acts try to control protests in India?

9. True or false? Gandhi changed the Indian National Congress from a small party of educated men to a mass party with millions of followers.

10. In 1931, Gandhi agreed to give up his campaign of civil disobedience. In return, the British agreed to _____.

11. In 1935, India gained a new constitution that increased the representation of Indians in all branches of government. However, the government never approved many of the important changes that Indians wanted. Explain why.

12. During World War II, the British promised independence for India once the war ended, but the Indian National Congress refused to support the war effort. Explain why.

13. What was the Quit India Movement?

14. How did the British respond to the Quit India Movement?

15. In 1946, the British declared that they would grant India independence if Indian political leaders could agree among themselves on a form of government. However, _____could not settle their differences.

16. Why did Indian and British leaders agree to partition (divide) the country into India and Pakistan in 1947?

17. Which close associate of Gandhi became India's first prime minister?

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(Hint: The answers to the remaining questions can be found in the article "Gandhi, Mohandas Karamchand.")

18. Gandhi was known to his followers as the Mahatma, which means _____.

19. Gandhi believed truth could only be known through _____ and _____ for others.

20. What was the title of Gandhi's autobiography?

21. What was the name of Gandhi's nonviolent approach to direct social action through civil disobedience?

22. True or false: Gandhi believed that what people achieved was more important than the way they behave.

23. Before he began working for Indian rights in his home country, Gandhi began fighting against anti-Indian discrimination in another country. Which one?

24. Although he was known for opposing the British rule, Gandhi worked with the British when he felt justice was on their side. He served as a paramedic during which two wars?

25. In 1919, Gandhi led a nonviolent campaign that succeeded in blocking a bill that would have made it unlawful to _____.

26. What violent event in April 1919 cemented Gandhi's determination to win independence through nonviolent resistance?

27. In 1920, Gandhi began a program of hand spinning and weaving. What were his aims?

28. Altogether, how much prison time did Gandhi serve?

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29. In 1947, India and Pakistan were created as independent Hindu and Muslim nations, respectively. Why was Gandhi disappointed in this development?

30. What Gandhi's final attempt to end the bloodshed among Hindu, Muslim, and other groups?

31. Who killed Gandhi, and why?

Watch It!

Within the World Book article Gandhi, Mohandas Karamchand, you will find the video ***"Dandi march."*** *Watch the video and answer the following questions.*

32. Why did Gandhi make a 200-mile walk from town to town in India?

33. How did the people respond to Gandhi when he walked through each town?

34. Why was making salt from seawater a crime?

35. Why did Gandhi believe it should not be a crime?

Extension activity 1:

Consider the following question and write a one-page response.

Gandhi believed that it is honorable to go to jail for a good cause. Would you be willing to go to prison as part of a political protest? What issues would motivate you to make such a sacrifice? In what ways would going to jail be effective and ineffective for your cause?

Extension activity 2:

Gandhi's peaceful protests are considered acts of civil disobedience. Research other historical or modern day acts of civil disobedience. What rights were being fought for? What strategies did those involved use to demonstrate disobedience? Where his or her efforts successful?

Hint: You may start by reading the World Book article "Civil Disobedience" when searching for a topic.

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