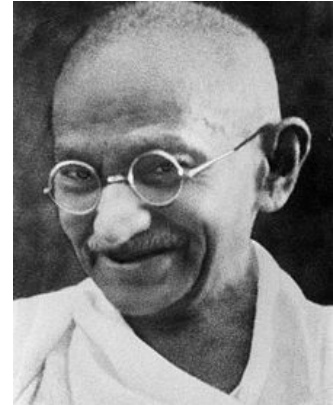


Mahatma Gandhi

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 very religious. She worshipped the God Vishnu, but also believed Jain teachings, which taught people about not causing injury to living things. Gandhi had a good education.



The Young Man

He began studying at a college in the University of Bombay. Gandhi was not very happy at college, so when he was given the chance to study law in London, he took it. He worked hard and began to study all religions. When he returned to India, he found it hard to find work, so he took a job in South Africa for a year.

Gandhi was upset at the way people that were not white were treated. Once, Gandhi was told to get off a train even though he had a ticket because he was not white. Another time, he was asked to take off his turban in court. He refused and left the courtroom. Situations like this were part of apartheid.



Did you know?

Apartheid is an Afrikaans word that means “status of being apart”. 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 knew he needed to do something about the unfairness of apartheid. He believed in non-violent 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 would encourage people to protest in a peaceful, safe way. He did not want people to get hurt, he just



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wanted the authorities to take notice of how unfair life was for people who were not white.

He returned to India and was horrified to find how badly treated 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. The people were grateful somebody was trying to help them and he became known as Mahatma – Great Soul.

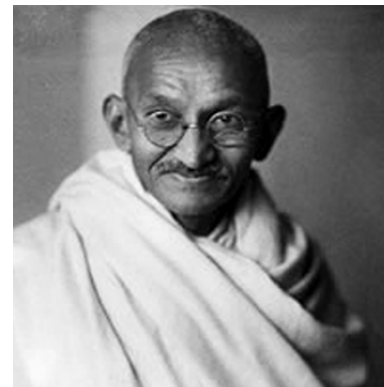
Famous Gandhi

Gandhi became famous. 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 him being arrested, 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.

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 did not agree with him though and they 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.



Mahatma Gandhi Questions

1. When was Gandhi born?

2. Which god did Gandhi's mother worship?

3. How would you describe apartheid?

4. Why was Gandhi told to leave a train?

5. What sort of protests did Gandhi believe in?

6. Why was Gandhi put in prison in March 1922?

7. Why did the British decide to help improve the lives of the poorer people?

8. Explain what type of person Gandhi was and your reasons for your explanation.

Mahatma Gandhi Answers

1. When was Gandhi born?

Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1869.

2. Which god did Gandhi's mother worship?

Gandhi's mother worshipped the God Vishnu.

3. How would you describe apartheid?

Apartheid means that people who were not white were not treated fairly. They weren't allowed in some shops. Accept similar answers.

4. Why was Gandhi told to leave a train?

Gandhi was told to leave a train because he was Indian /not white.

5. What sort of protests did Gandhi believe in?

Gandhi believed in non-violent peaceful protests.

6. Why was Gandhi put in prison in March 1922?

Gandhi was put in prison because he was telling Indian people not to buy British things.

7. Why did the British decide to help improve the lives of the poorer people?

The British decided they would help improve the lives of the poorer people because they were afraid there could be a war. Accept similar answers.

8. Explain what type of person Gandhi was and your reasons for your explanation.

Accept reasonable answers: I think Gandhi was a good person because he tried to help people who were not white when they were being treated so unfairly by the British masters / he stood up for what he believed in / he did not want anyone to get hurt.