

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Global Studies

**GANDHI**



Mohandas Gandhi, more than any person, was responsible for the independence of India. He led the movement against the British, which resulted in Indian independence in 1947.

Gandhi's philosophy was based on civil disobedience and passive resistance. By **civil disobedience**, Gandhi believed that Indians should disobey British laws and, if necessary, go to jail. **Passive resistance** means that the fight against the British must always be peaceful. Violence had no place in Gandhi's program. A perfect example of how Gandhi's philosophy worked was the Great Salt March, which took place in 1930. Gandhi led a 24-day march to the sea where tens of thousands of Indians took salt from seawater. This was specifically against British law, which required Indians to purchase salt from England. Gandhi purposely broke what he believed to be an unjust law. When British troops arrived on the scene and beat and arrested Indians, the native population never used violence. As a result, 60,000 people were jailed and worldwide reaction was very anti-British and pro-Indian.

When World War II broke out, over 2 million Indian soldiers fought bravely in the British army. However, when the war ended, India was still a colony. This caused Gandhi to once again use passive resistance and civil disobedience against the British. Finally, in 1947, the British government collapsed and India was given her independence. However, as we shall see, within India many problems existed between Hindus and Muslims that were becoming worse.

Less than one year after India received its independence from England, Mohandas Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu who believed that Gandhi (who was a Hindu) gave too much power to the Muslims. It is ironic that this man of peace died by violence.

**DIRECTIONS:** Answer the following questions based on the reading and your knowledge of Social Studies. Answer in complete sentences.

1. Define '*civil disobedience*' \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Define '*passive resistance*' \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Why didn't Gandhi believe in the use of force to overthrow the British? \_\_\_\_\_  
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4. Why is the Great Salt March an example of both civil disobedience and passive resistance? \_\_\_\_\_  
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5. Great Britain was one of the most powerful countries in the world in 1947. Why did they give India its independence and lose a valuable colony? \_\_\_\_\_  
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6. Indian people called Gandhi 'Mahatma,' which means 'great soul.' Why do you think they gave him this title? \_\_\_\_\_  
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7. Why was Gandhi assassinated? \_\_\_\_\_  
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