


Gandhi

Rachel Bladon

A Before Reading

- 1 The picture below is of Gandhi. What do you know about him? Complete the table with your ideas.

Full name:	
Nationality:	
When he lived:	
His religion:	
His job/work:	

Check your answers as you read.

- 2 The picture below shows India during the nineteenth century at the time of the Raj. What was the Raj? What are the nationalities of the people in the picture? How do you think life was different for different nationalities in India? (Pages 7–10).



- 3 The following are all connected to the history, geography or culture of India. Do you know what they are and how they are connected to India?

Bombay (Mumbai)	Pakistan
Calcutta	1947
Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras	Marathi, Bengali, Hindustani
Hindus, Muslims	The Ganges

Bombay (Mumbai): Western India's biggest city.

Check your ideas as you read.

B While Reading

- 4 a Gandhi was influenced by many writers, books and stories through his life. As you read, keep a note of which ones had an influence on him.
- b How important are books and stories in your life? Write a list of any writers, books or stories which have had an influence on you. Then choose one and write a paragraph explaining how and why it has influenced you.
- 5 a There are many examples in the book of Gandhi fasting in protest. As you read, keep a note of each time he fasted, the reason for his fast and the result.

When?	Why?	Result? (if any given)
September 1924	Violence between Muslims and Hindus in Kohat	It did not stop the Muslim/Hindu disagreements

- b The pictures below show three forms of protest mentioned in the book. What forms of protest do they show and what are the people in the pictures protesting against?



- c Are any other forms of protest mentioned in the book?

- 6 Gandhi planned to return to India after he finished his work for the Pretoria law firm. But when he heard the government's plan to introduce a law taking away the Indians' vote in Natal (page 19), he decided to stay an extra month. Imagine you are Gandhi. Write a letter to your wife and explain the political situation in South Africa. Say what you have done to help Indians there and explain why you need to stay longer.

May 1893

My dear Kasturbai,

C After Reading

- 7 Imagine you are an international journalist writing an article for international readers on the day Gandhi was shot. Include in your article:
- information about how Gandhi died
 - the reaction of Indians to Gandhi's death
 - a short summary of Gandhi's life and why he was so important in the history of India and the world.

INDIA IN SHOCK AS GANDHI SHOT DEAD

