

# Gandhi

Rachel Bladon

## The story step by step

1

Countries	Nationalities	Languages	Religious groups
India	British	Hindustani	Christians
Britain	Portuguese	English	Hindus
Portugal	Dutch	Marathi	Muslims
Netherlands	Indian	Bengali	Parsis
England			Buddhists
			Sikhs

2 Porbandar, where Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born, was a quiet seaside town on the north-west coast of India, and the Gandhi family lived in a large old house on the edge of the town. They were a cultured Hindu family – they had books in their home and Mohandas played music when he was young. The Gandhis were part of the Vaishya caste. It was not a high caste, but the Gandhis had more money than a lot of Indian families. By the late nineteenth century, people's jobs were not always decided by their caste and Mohandas' father, Karamchand, was an important man. He was a diwan – or first minister – of the princely state of Porbandar, so he helped to rule the state. He was brave, generous and honest, but easily got angry. Mohandas' mother, Putlibai, was an intelligent, sensible woman and Mohandas loved her very much. She was very religious. She prayed before every meal and went to the temple every day. Like many Hindus, she also often fasted – she ate and drank nothing for several days.

Mohandas was the youngest of four children. He started school in Porbandar, but when he was seven years old, Karamchand got a new job in the city of Rajkot, 120 miles east of Porbandar, so the Gandhis moved.

At his primary school in Rajkot, Mohandas was not one of the best students, but he always arrived early. If breakfast was not ready in the morning, he ate food from the day before so he would not be late. He was a shy boy and he was very frightened of ghosts, robbers and snakes. He had to have a light on in his bedroom at night and he did not like to go anywhere in the dark.

After primary school, Mohandas went to Rajkot's Alfred High School, where his lessons were all in English. In his first year there, Mohandas showed that he already had a very honest nature.

- 3
- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| a Because | e Then  |
| b When    | f While |
| c and     | g After |
| d But     | h So    |

4

/ə/	/ei/	/æ/
<u>arr</u> ived	M <u>ay</u>	<u>Afr</u> ica
<u>a</u> lone	C <u>ap</u> e	l <u>an</u> d
serv <u>an</u> ts	St <u>at</u> e	Tr <u>an</u> svaal
w <u>as</u>	<u>As</u> ians	l <u>an</u> guages

5 In 1896, Gandhi decided to return home to India for six months. While he was there, he spent a lot of time writing and talking at meetings about the way Indians were treated in South Africa. When he arrived back in Natal, bringing his family with him, another boat from India arrived by chance at the same time. There were eight hundred free Indians on the two boats. South African whites, who had read in newspapers about Gandhi's meetings in India, were furious. They believed that Gandhi was trying to fill Natal and the Transvaal with Indian people.

When Gandhi got off the boat, white people threw stones and eggs at him. Men kicked him and hit him. Gandhi was only saved when the wife of an important Durban policeman saw him. She knew Gandhi and she stood between him and the white men, keeping him safe. Gandhi was badly hurt, but he chose not to bring a law case against his attackers. It was not their fault, he said. It was the fault of the Natal government.

Because Gandhi decided not to bring a law case against his attackers, the difficult relationship between whites and Indians in Natal improved a little. A new law also helped. It gave the vote to anyone from the British Empire, including Indians, who could pass a special school test. So free Indians from Natal could vote once more.

Gandhi moved back into his house in Durban with Kasturbai, their two sons and a nephew they had brought with them from India. Gandhi made a lot of money from his work, but he also enjoyed helping people when they were ill. He had always wanted to be a doctor, and now he often helped at a dispensary where he met many indentured workers.

- 6
- a When Gandhi's ship arrived in Bombay in January 1915, many people came to welcome him home. ✓
  - c Gandhi began to travel around the country by train, meeting lots of people and talking about his ideas of 'swaraj', or independence for India. ✓
  - f When Gandhi had left South Africa, he was still wearing European clothes, but he now began dressing in simple Indian clothes. ✓
  - i Gandhi told India's politicians that they had to go out among the people in the villages and speak to them in local languages, not English. ✓
  - j More than eighty per cent of Indian people were peasants, who had little money and had often not been to school. ✓
  - k Gandhi did not just want to free India from British rule. He also wanted to free India's peasants from their poor and uneducated lives. ✓
  - m Slowly, Gandhi's words began to touch India, and people started to see that their country could be strong and proud once more. ✓

7 1 H; 2 F; 3 K; 4 J; 5 G; 6 C; 7 D; 8 A; 9 B; 10 E; 11 I

- 8
- a to disagree
  - b to go
  - c to improve
  - d to continue
  - e to release
  - f to stay
  - g to follow
  - h to fight
  - i to enter

9

Campaign	8
Law	5
Right	6
Salt	16

- 10
- a *For the second Round Table Conference.*
  - b On 12th September.
  - c He stayed in a community centre in the East End.
  - d Because he wanted to live among poor people.
  - e He wore his usual loincloth with more cloths around him to keep him warm.
  - f Charlie Chaplin.
  - g He met textile workers.
  - h 'I came looking for peace, but I am going back afraid of war.'
  - i About seventy-five thousand.
- 11
- 1 c; 2 b; 3 c; 4 b; 5 b; 6 c; 7 c; 8 b; 9 a; 10 a; 11 c; 12 a
- 12
- a *That night Gandhi and many other Congress leaders were arrested.*
  - b The next morning, the Congress was banned.
  - c Post offices, police stations and government buildings were burnt down.
  - d Some Raj officials were killed.
  - e Telephone wires were cut and bridges were blown up.
  - f More than one hundred thousand Indian nationalists were arrested by the police.

13

warned that there would be war between Hindus and Muslims if India was not partitioned	J
wanted Pakistan to include all of the Punjab and Bengal.	J
could see the inclusion of all the Punjab and Bengal in Pakistan was impossible.	M
did not want any kind of partition.	G
told India that the people of Bengal, Punjab and Assam would vote on partition.	M
wanted to show people that Hindus and Muslims could live in peace and that India did not need partition.	G
believed if peace began to come back to the villages, then it would soon come in the cities and across the country.	G

14 a 10; b 7; c 1; d 8; e 3; f 5; g 6; h 4; i 2; j 12; k 11; l 9