

Film Questions - Gandhi

WHG2 - Rev. 8/15/02

Name _____

Discussion is fine, but please do not copy answers from another student.

1. What was Gandhi's response to unjust laws?
2. Why did Gandhi like to have the news media present during his public demonstrations?
3. Provide two examples of racism against "coloreds" in South Africa experienced by Gandhi.
4. What was the purpose of the national day of fasting and prayer?
5. What does Mahatma mean?
6. When the British couldn't control Gandhi, what did they usually do with him?
7. Why did millions of Indians no longer have work? What did Gandhi do about it?
8. Why did Gandhi walk to the sea?
9. When India gained its independence from Britain, who started fighting with each other?
10. What tactic did Gandhi use to stop violence among the people of India?
11. What two countries did India become after the British left? What are the major religions of each of these countries?
12. How does this film relate to the concept of imperialism?
13. How does this film relate to the concept of nationalism?
14. How does this film relate to the concept of ethnic violence?

Gandhi

Overview of the film

Gandhi was born in India during the reign of Queen Victoria when Great Britain was the strongest power in the world, and it controlled a vast overseas empire that included India, South Africa, Australia, Canada and other countries. Overcoming his painful shyness as a young man, Gandhi grew to become an inspiring leader and one of the most respected men in world history. After many years of struggle, he led India to independence from Great Britain in 1947. Gandhi never resorted to violence in his quest for India's freedom; throughout his life he taught peace and the ideals of Hinduism, Islam and Christianity.

Cast of Major Characters

(in order of appearance)

Mohandas K. Gandhi - Later called, Mahatma Gandhi, he was an attorney born in India. Gandhi was a Hindu, a man of peace, and the leader of the Indian independence movement. He gained the respect of the world by using non-violent means to gain India's independence from Great Britain. We meet Gandhi as a young attorney living in the British colony of South Africa.

Kinnoch - An Indian, a Muslim, and a wealthy businessman, Kinnoch supported Gandhi's efforts to gain greater equality for Indians living in South Africa.

Charlie Andrews - An Englishman and a Christian minister, Charlie supported Gandhi in South Africa and later in India.

Walker - An American reporter for the New York Times, Walker wrote stories about Gandhi's work in South Africa and later in India.

Kasturba Gandhi - This was Gandhi's wife and life-long companion; they were married at the age of 13. Although "Ba" supported her husband's work, she didn't like to clean latrines.

Pandit Nehru - He was a friend of Gandhi's and an important leader of the independence movement in India. He became the first prime minister of India after independence.

Mohamed Al Jinnah - As the leader of the Muslims in India, Jinnah joined with Gandhi in supporting "home rule," or independence from Great Britain. Although most Indians were Hindus, the Muslims were a large religious minority group of India. Jinnah became the first president of Pakistan.

Mirabhen - As a young British woman, she came to India to join Gandhi's movement. She became like a daughter to Gandhi.

Margaret Bourke-White - A famous American photographer who met Gandhi during World War II, she documented Gandhi's later life in photographs.