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Reading Comprehension on Mahatma Gandhi.

Gandhi was born on 2 October, 1869 in Porbandar, Gujarat. His father's name was Karamchand Gandhi and his mother's name was Putlibai. At the age of 13, Mahatma Gandhi was married to Kasturba. They had four sons namely Harilal, Manilal, Ramdas and Devdas.

Gandhi's father was Dewan or Chief Minister of Porbandar, the capital of a small principality in Western British India (Now Gujarat State). Mahatma Gandhi was the son of his father's fourth wife Putlibai, who belonged to an affluent Vaishnava family. In his earlier days, he was deeply influenced by the stories of Shravana and Harishchandra as they reflected the importance of truth.

When Gandhi was 9 years old he went to a local school at Rajkot and studied the basics of arithmetic, history, geography, and languages. At the age of 11, he went to a high school in Rajkot.. He joined Samaldas college in Bhavnagar in 1888 at Gujarat. Gandhiji was not satisfied with his studies at Samaldas College and so he became excited by the London proposal and managed to convince his mother and wife that he will not touch non-veg, wine, or women.

In the year 1888, Mahatma Gandhi left for London to study law. In London, he was introduced to Bhagavad Gita by some of his vegetarian friends. Later, Bhagavad Gita set an impression and influenced his life

In May 1893 he went to South Africa to work as a lawyer. There he had a first-hand experience of racial discrimination when he was thrown out of the first-class apartment of the train despite holding

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the first-class ticket because it was reserved for white people only and no Indian or black was allowed to travel in the first class. This incident had a serious effect on him and he decided to protest against racial discrimination.

Tirukkural ancient Indian literature, originally written in Tamil and later translated into various languages. Gandhiji was also influenced by this ancient book. He was influenced by the idea of Satyagraha which is a devotion to truth. He returned to India in 1915, after spending 21 years of his life in South Africa, and no doubt, there he fought for civil rights and at this time he was transformed into a new person.

In 1915, Gandhiji returned to India permanently and joined the Indian National Congress with Gopal Krishna Gokhale as his mentor. Gandhi's first major achievement was in 1918 when he led the Champaran and Kheda agitations of Bihar and Gujarat. He also led Non-Cooperation Movement, Civil Disobedience Movement, Swaraj, and Quit-India movement against the British government.

Gandhi identified his overall method of non-violent action as Satyagraha. Gandhiji's Satyagraha influenced eminent personalities such as Nelson Mandela and Martin Luther in their struggle for freedom, equality, and social justice. Mahatma Gandhi's Satyagraha was based on true principles and non-violence.

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Mahatma Gandhi: Literary works

Gandhi was a prolific writer. Some of his literary works are as follows:

- Hind Swaraj, published in Gujarati in 1909.
- He edited several newspapers which included Harijan in Gujarati, in Hindi and the English language; Indian Opinion, Young India, in English, and Navajivan, a Gujarati monthly.
- Gandhi also wrote his autobiography, The Story of My Experiments with Truth.
- His other autobiographies included: Satyagraha in South Africa, Hind Swaraj or Indian Home Rule.

Mahatma Gandhi: Awards

- In 1930, Gandhi was named the Man of the Year by Time Magazine.
- In 2011, Time magazine named Gandhi as one of the top 25 political icons of all time.
- He did not receive the Nobel Peace Prize despite being nominated five times between 1937 and 1948.
- The Government of India institutionalized the annual Gandhi Peace Prize to distinguished social workers, world leaders, and citizens. Nelson Mandela, the leader of South Africa's struggle against apartheid was a recipient of the award.

Therefore, Mahatma Gandhi will be remembered forever as he spread the message of non-violence, truth, and faith in God, and also he fought for India's Independence. His methods inspired various leaders, and youth not only in India but also outside of India. In Indian history, he is considered the most prominent personality and as the simplest person who wears a dhoti. He spread the message of swaraj and taught Indians how to become independent.

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Read the above passage and answer the following questions

1. At what age Gandhi got married and to whom?

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2. What are Gandhi's children names?

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3. In this early days Gandhi was deeply influenced by the stories ofand..... that reflected the importance of truth.

4. How did Gandhi convince his mother and wife for his London proposal?

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5. Describe about the racial discrimination faced by Gandhi at South Africa.

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6. Gandhi was influenced by which ancient Indian literature book?

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7. Name some personalities who got influenced by Gandhi's non-violence and satyagraha movements.

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8. What are some of the movements led by Gandhi against the British government in India?

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9. What is the title of Gandhi's autobiography?

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10. Was Gandhi awarded Noble Peace Prize? Yes/No

11. Famous personality Nelson Mandela, the leader of South Africa's struggle against apartheid was a recipient of which award from the Indian government.

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“An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.”



Happy Gandhi Jayanthi

