

MAHATMA GANDHI



KEY VOCABULARY

Ethos	The basic underlying attitudes and beliefs of a group, movement, or culture, which give it its character.
Legacy	Anything that is passed down from ancestors or someone who came before.
Respectful	Having or showing respect; being polite.
Devotion	Strong affection or loyalty.
Colony	A place where a group of people come to settle which is under the control of their home country.
Independence	Freedom from outside control.
Violence	A strong force that can harm or damage.

INSPIRATION – YEAR 6

THE BIG QUESTION

To fight or not to fight: does religion make war or peace?

STICKY KNOWLEDGE – MAHATMA GANDHI

In 1893 Gandhi took a job in a British colony in South Africa. There he saw Europeans mistreating Indian settlers. He got into politics to fight for Indian rights.

Gandhi first used his method of nonviolent protest in 1906. He told Indians that they should not obey British laws that they thought were wrong. He also said they should stay peaceful no matter how they were punished for their actions. This new method of protest became known as satyagraha, or “devotion to truth.”

Gandhi returned to India in 1915. Within a few years he became India’s most powerful political leader. Gandhi was sometimes jailed for his actions.

India finally won its independence in 1947. It was a great victory for Gandhi. But he was disappointed because India’s land was divided into two new countries: India and Pakistan. Before and after India’s division, the country was torn by clashes between Hindus and Muslims. Gandhi tried to make peace. On January 30, 1948, in the city of Delhi, he was shot and killed by a Hindu man.

Gandhi was one of the greatest political and social leaders in the 20th century. His use of nonviolent protest eventually led to his country’s independence. Within his country, he supported the rights of both Hindus and Muslims. He also sought better treatment for groups everyone else looked down upon.

Gandhi was admired by many influential people of his day and beyond. Many others who have fought for equality and justice were inspired to follow the path forged by Gandhi. Martin Luther King, Jr., learned about Gandhi’s philosophy of nonviolence and used it to win victories for the civil rights movement in the United States.