Indian Independence Movement – Mohandas Gandhi

**Target:** I can explain the major events of the Indian Independence Movement and Mohandas Gandhi.

**Directions:** Read the document below. Highlight important life or world events (i.e., major life changes, appointment to positions, elections, protests, riots, assassinations, etc).

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi (1869-1948), known as Mahatma ("Great Soul"), was the great political leader and social reformer who founded India's nonviolent movement against British colonial rule. Born the son of a state minister in Gujarat in 1869, Gandhi moved to South Africa after studying law in London. While practicing law in South Africa, between 1893 and 1914, he became a social reformer and mobilized diverse South African communities to protest British laws, such as the poll tax, that discriminated against Indians. While in Africa, he developed the practice of satyagraha, or nonviolent protest, based on the ethical ideal of ahimsa ("no-harm" or non-violence) a precept deeply rooted in the three faiths that originated in India—Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. In 1909, he wrote his landmark work, Hind Swaraj, or Freedom of India, that discussed nonviolent non-cooperation as a means to end British colonial rule.

After returning to India in 1915, Gandhi organized satyagrahas against poverty and unfair taxes, championing boycotts and peaceful strikes. In the 1920s, Gandhi reorganized the Indian National Congress and wrote its constitution that prioritized Congressional representation for rural India and created a permanent committee to agitate for independence. He also adopted a simpler way of life, eschewing European clothes for the traditional Indian dhoti and shawl, which he spun on a charkha; adhering to a strictly vegetarian diet; and undertaking fasts that he also employed in social protest.

From 1920 to 1948, Gandhi organized a series of campaigns that successfully mobilized Indians across the country against British rule. A non-cooperation movement in the early 1920s that urged citizens to boycott civic services and withhold tax revenues led to thousands of arrests and a government ban on public meetings. In 1930, he led a satyagraha against the British salt tax, marching 240 miles from his Sabarmati ashram to Dandi beach, in Gujarat. After picking up a lump of sea salt on the beach, Gandhi was arrested for breaking the law and 60,000 to 90,000 others would be arrested over the next few months. Before Gandhi could organize a "Quit India" campaign against British rule in 1942, he was arrested and detained in jail for the duration of World War II.

On January 30, 1948, Gandhi was assassinated in Delhi by a radical Hindu nationalist, Naturam Godse. India's first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru famously said after Gandhi's assassination: "The light has gone out of our lives." His methods of nonviolence would influence civil rights movements around the world and figures including Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela.

**5 major events to highlight**

*Source: Story of India, PBS.org*
**Indian Independence Movement – Jawaharlal Nehru**

**Target:** I can explain the major events of the Indian Independence Movement and Mohandas Gandhi.

**Directions:** Read the document below. Highlight important life or world events (i.e., major life changes, appointment to positions, elections, protests, riots, assassinations, etc).

Jawaharlal Nehru (Panditji or Pandit Nehru), India's first prime minister, was a committed social reformer, skilled orator and Mahatma Gandhi's political heir. Born into a wealthy family and educated at Trinity College, Cambridge (England), Nehru succeeded his father, Motilal Nehru, as leader of the Indian National Congress in 1929. Imprisoned nine times by the British for his nationalist campaigns during the 1930s and 1940s, Nehru wrote his first book, The Discovery of India, a history of India, during a prison term.

Nehru served as prime minister from 1947 to 1964, and the first two decades of India's independence might be called the Age of Nehru. Social reforms during this period included land redistribution, removal of barriers to inter-caste marriage, and women gaining the right to sue for divorce. To advance his economic ideals, Nehru formed and headed a National Planning Commission that developed three five-year economic plans focused on state-directed rural development, agriculture, and industry.

In foreign policy, Nehru advocated nonalignment, taking the side of neither capitalism nor communism in the Cold War. Noninterference and peaceful coexistence were his goals with countries in the region, including China. However, that stance was untenable after China invaded Tibet in 1959, after which India gave the Dalai Lama asylum. Although still controversial, Nehru's legacy is one of faith in democracy, constitutional authority, and secularism. His daughter, Indira Gandhi, served as prime minister of India from 1966 to 1984.

**5 major events to highlight**

*Source: Story of India, PBS.org*
Indian Independence Movement – Mohammad Jinnah

Target: I can explain the major events of the Indian Independence Movement and Mohandas Gandhi.

Directions: Read the document below. Highlight important life or world events (ie major life changes, appointment to positions, elections, protests, riots, assassinations, etc).

Mohammad Ali Jinnah was Pakistan’s first governor-general following the partition of Britain's South Asian colony into India and Pakistan in 1947. In 1896, Jinnah joined the Indian National Congress but by 1913 he had left the Congress and joined India’s Muslim League, the leading organization for Muslims. Jinnah became popular for winning both Indian National Congress and League support for the Lucknow Pact, a proposal that called for Britain to give India dominion status at the end of World War I.

Disillusioned with politics, disunity in the Muslim League, and the Congress under Mahatma Gandhi, Jinnah left political life in 1931. He returned to the League in 1934 and became its head in 1937. A charismatic and eloquent politician, Jinnah was elected the League’s permanent president and given the title Qaid-e-Azam, or "great leader," by his followers. In subsequent years, Jinnah would increasingly lose faith in the Congress’s ability to represent Muslim interests and distanced himself from the idea of a united Hindu-Muslim independent state of India.

In 1940, the League adopted a Muslim homeland resolution calling for the establishment of Pakistan (an acronym for the proposed territories in the provinces of Punjab, Afghanistan, Kashmir, Sind, and Baluchistan). In 1946, the British, the League, and Congress came to an agreement that divided the territory united under British rule into India and Pakistan. The partition led to a mass migration of Muslims to Pakistan and Hindus and Sikhs to India, which was accompanied by unprecedented communal violence that led to the deaths of between 500,000 and 1 million people. It was also the source of the territorial disputes that characterized the relationship between the two countries for decades.

Jinnah was a proponent of parliamentary democracy and was against the idea of Pakistan as a theocracy. Considered the father of the nation, Jinnah led the independent nation of Pakistan for just over a year before dying in 1948.

6 events to highlight
Source: Story of India, PBS.org
Indian Independence Movement – Indira Gandhi

**Target**: I can explain the major events of the Indian Independence Movement and Mohandas Gandhi.

**Directions**: Read the document below. **Highlight** important life or world events (ie major life changes, appointment to positions, elections, protests, riots, assassinations, etc).

A year after Nehru’s death, his daughter, Indira Gandhi (no relation to Mohandas Gandhi), became Prime Minister during a period of monumental change for India. The Green Revolution created high yield seeds which helped India’s agricultural production, but large landowners who could afford the necessary irrigation and fertilization fared better than small farmers.

Indira Gandhi nationalized India’s largest banks and, later, its insurance companies and coal mines. The country’s economy stagnated and corruption sapped the government’s strength to deal with economic concerns. In spite of these problems, India tested its first nuclear device in 1974.

Indira Gandhi early on broke with the party bosses of Congress who thought they could control her. She formed the Congress Party and won reelection in 1971. That year India supported Bengali rebels who split Pakistan in two by creating the nation of Bangladesh.

In 1975, a court decision declared Gandhi’s 1971 election victory had been illegally managed by a government employee. In response, she declared a state of emergency, suspended civil liberties, and jailed thousands of opponents. Indira Gandhi lost the general election of 1977, but was victorious in 1980.

In 1984, Sikh extremists, who wanted a separate state, took over the holiest Sikh shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar (Punjab). Gandhi used massive military force to expel these extremists. In retaliation, two of Gandhi’s own Sikh bodyguards gunned her down.

9 events to highlight

*Source: Choices.edu, Brown University*
Indian Independence Movement – Rajiv Gandhi

**Target:** I can explain the major events of the Indian Independence Movement and Mohandas Gandhi.

**Directions:** Read the document below. **Highlight** important life or world events (ie major life changes, appointment to positions, elections, protests, riots, assassinations, etc).

Indira Gandhi’s son Rajiv led the Congress Party to victory in 1985 and became prime minister (he served until 1989). Influenced by capitalism, Rajiv supported the growth of private enterprise. Bureaucratic regulations and taxes were reduced.

Rajiv also had to deal with political extremists, in this case Hindu Tamils and Buddhist Sinalese on the neighboring island of Sri Lanka. He had attempted to impose a peace settlement there in 1987. While campaigning during the 1991 elections, he was assassinated by a Tamil terrorist.

In 1989, at least five hundred people died from communal violence. Three years later, Hindu militants destroyed the Babri Masjid mosque in Ayodhya. Nearly six hundred Muslims and three hundred Hindus were murdered. Much of this communal violence was a result of economic insecurity.

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4 events to highlight

*Source: Choices.edu, Brown University*
Indian Independence Movement – Pakistan

Target: I can explain the major events of the Indian Independence Movement and Mohandas Gandhi.

Directions: Read the document below. Highlight important life or world events (ie major life changes, appointment to positions, elections, protests, riots, assassinations, etc).

The Muslim League, which had fought so hard for the creation of Pakistan, had spent little time preparing to govern a nation. Jinnah, the first Governor-General of Pakistan, died in September 1948, too soon for him to influence his nation’s political framework. Shortly after independence, he called for a Pakistan that would protect all of its citizens, no matter what religion. Liaquat Ali Khan, Jinnah’s close associate and their country’s first Prime Minister, advocated a constitutional parliamentary democracy, like Great Britain’s. His attempts to create such a political system failed. He was assassinated in 1951. Rather than democracy, leaders who followed Jinnah and Ali Khan often used repressive measures. In 1953, Governor-General Ghulam Mohammad dismissed the Prime Minister and the Constituent Assembly and set the precedent of bringing in the military to help rule. Later, several generals ruled directly—General Ayub Khan (1958-69), General Yahya Khan (1969-71), and General Zia ul-Haq (1977-88). It was common for them to use martial law and imprison their political opponents. Two civilian prime ministers, Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto in the 1970s and his daughter Benazir Bhutto in the 1990s, relied on their personal power, often engaging in patronage and nepotism.

Since the inception of Pakistan, many Bengalis in the East felt that the West (dominated by Punjabis) had too much power and did not share the nation’s resources fairly. In the 1970 elections, the Awami League of East Pakistan ran on a platform calling for a federal and parliamentary structure on the national level with more local autonomy for each “wing” of Pakistan—including its own currency, fiscal accounts, earnings from foreign exchange, and militia.

Although the Awami League won a majority of seats in the National Assembly, Yahya Khan, Pakistan’s ruler, postponed indefinitely convening the Assembly. This led to a revolt in East Pakistan (1971). Members of the Awami League set up a government-in-exile in India, which helped the rebels. After border shelling between the two nations, India invaded East Pakistan and defeated Pakistani troops. Bangladesh became independent, and Pakistan lost its eastern wing.

8 events to highlight (group the president-generals and the Bhutto family events together)

Source: Choices.edu, Brown University