

Early Life

Mohandas Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar. His father was the dewan, chief minister. His mother was dedicated to living a simple life, and she was a very religious person. At 19, Gandhi left India to go to law school in London. He started a law practice in Bombay, but it was not successful.

A Lawyer in South Africa

In the early 1900s, he worked for a law firm that sent him to South Africa. He lived there for 20 years with his wife and children. Gandhi was an Indian immigrant living in South Africa, and he experienced discrimination. After he was beaten and thrown in jail, he began a movement to protest discrimination. In 1906, he negotiated a compromise with a South African leader.

A Leader for Independence

After Gandhi returned to India, he supported Great Britain during WWI. By 1920, he became a leader in India's struggle for independence. Along with independence, Gandhi believed India needed economic independence from Great Britain. He wanted people to manufacture khaddar, a homespun cloth. This would limit the need for importing British goods. Then, Indians could use their raw materials to produce textiles.

During the fight for independence, Gandhi was imprisoned several times. He promoted noncooperation or a nonviolent approach to protesting the government. He used hunger strikes, boycotts of British goods, and peaceful protests.

Hope for a Peaceful Transition

In 1947, Great Britain divided, or partitioned, India into two separate countries - Pakistan and India. Pakistan was for Muslims, and India was for Hindus. This did not bring peace to the area. Many Muslims lived in India. Gandhi wanted Hindus and Muslims to get along in India. However, some had extreme views and felt that Gandhi was wrong to tolerate Muslims in India. On January 30, 1948, Gandhi was assassinated at Birla House in New Delhi, India.

Gandhi's Legacy

Gandhi was known as Mahatma or "great soul" for his beliefs. The idea of social change, or treating others with fairness and equality, was at the heart of his fight for India. This knowledge would inspire other civil rights movements around the world.



"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

"The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong."

"An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind."

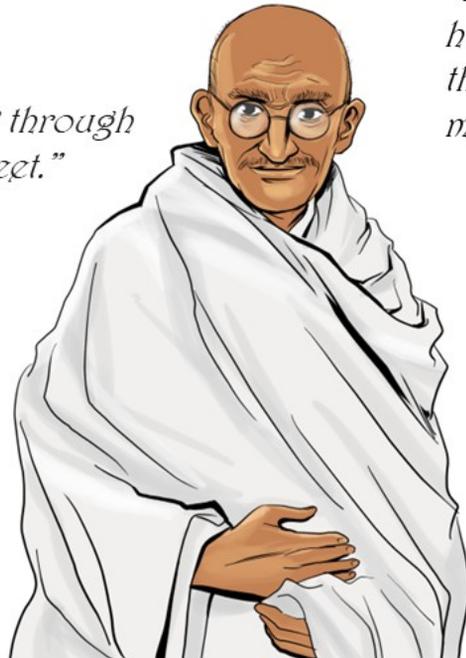
"Happiness is when what you think, what you say, and what you do are in harmony."

"Where there is love there is life."

"When I despair, I remember that all through history the way of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants and murderers, and for a time, they can seem invincible, but in the end, they always fall. Think of it-- always."

"Nobody can hurt me without my permission."

"I will not let anyone walk through my mind with their dirty feet."



"Freedom is not worth having if it does not include the freedom to make mistakes."

"You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is like an ocean; if a few drops of the ocean are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty."