Ahimsa - Non-Violence

S2 – Hinduism Kilsyth Academy J Gordon



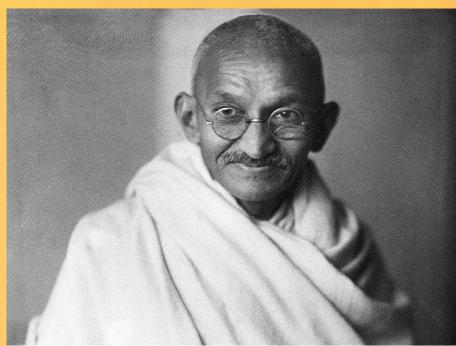
<u>Learning Intentions</u>

- To understand the Hindu belief of ahimsa non-violence.
- To reflect on how this belief led to action for Gandhi and others.



Gandhi and ahimsa.

- Gandhi was a famous Hindu who believed strongly in non-violence.
- His belief in ahimsa meant he never used violence, even if it was used against him.
- By using non-violent protest, he eventually got independence from Britain for India.



Gandhi's Life

- Born into a high caste family on 2nd October 1869.
- Full name: Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.
- Honour Title: Mahatma (high-souled, first used to apply to him in 1914).
- Studied law in England, then went to Bombay (now Mumbai) in India.
- Travelled to South Africa lived there for 21 years.
- Began to campaign for equal rights for
 - black people while in South Africa.

- Gandhi followed the Hindu idea of ahimsa not killing any living thing.
- He believed you could only show real love when you could meet violence with non-violence.
- You did not let evil things happen, but you did not fight them with physical violence.

NONVIOLENCE IS A WEAPON OF THE STRONG.



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Mahatma Gandhi Indian Political Leader (1869-1948)

- Gandhi returned to India in 1914.
- The Amritsar Massacre of 1919 had a profound effect on Gandhi.
- British troops had opened fire on many Indian people, including women and children.
- They were protesting about the high taxes and forced conscription into the army.
- At least 370 people died some figures say as many as 1000.



- Gandhi had originally supported the British government, but after this he was convinced India needed to be totally independent from British rule.
- Protested against the British government using non-violent methods.
- Organised a day of prayer which meant all work stopped. Caused disruption to the country, and the government was not happy.





- Around the same time, the British government had stopped allowing Indian people to make salt from sea water.
- They needed this for their diet, and to preserve food.
- Government only gave certain people a license to produce salt.







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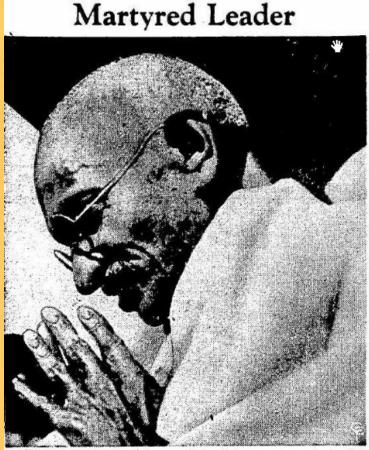
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- Gandhi organised a 'salt march' all the way to Bombay where some of the salt was processed.
- He and his followers marched to the factory, demanding the right to make salt without having to pay tax on it.
- They were not armed and did not defend themselves against the local policemen.



- India gained independence from Britain in August 1947.
- Gandhi was assassinated by a Hindu fanatic on 30th January 1948.
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This excellent prayerful pose of the Mahatma was made in 1931, when Gandhi had determined to passively fight England "to the finish." Be the change you want to see in the world -Mahatma Gandhi