

Reading comprehension

GANDHI

Gandhi is one of the most famous leaders and champions of justice in the world. His belief in *non-violence* influenced a lot of people in the world.

He was born in India, in 1869. He came from an upper class family. His parents arranged a marriage for him at the age of 13. The arranged marriages (*matrimoni combinati*) are very common in India.

Gandhi's parents wanted him to become a lawyer, so he moved to England and started studying law at the University of London. Three years later he returned to India and started to work as a lawyer. Unfortunately, he didn't have success, so he moved to South Africa to work for the South African law office. There, Gandhi was the victim of racial prejudice against Indians.

Once back in India, Gandhi *led* (*condusse*) the fight for Indian independence from the British Empire. He organized some non-violent campaigns against the government.

Gandhi was put in prison several times for organizing these protest. He often refused to eat while he was* in prison. Indian people started to love him. He was an hero, because of his fight against the British occupation of India. So, the British government had to let him free.

The most successful protest was called the *Salt March* (*Marcia del Sale*). When Britain put a tax (*tassa*) on salt, Gandhi decided to walk 241 [two hundred and forty-one] miles to the sea to take the salt himself. It was a symbolical action. Thousands of Indians *joined him* (*si unirono a lui*) in his march.

A terrorist killed him in 1948, while he was praying.

Nowadays, his birthday is a national holiday in India.

***Pay attention!** → *while he was in prison*
Dopo *while* qui non usiamo il *Past Continuous* perché il verbo **be** raramente viene coniugato a questa forma verbale se non in forma passiva (for example: *The house was being bought*).

1) Questions - Domande

1. In what country was Gandhi born?

2. What did Gandhi study at university?

3. Where did Gandhi *attend* (*frequentare*) university?

4. In what African country did Gandhi work as a lawyer?

5. Did they treat him well in Africa?

6. Gandhi fought for the independence of India from... what government?

7. What type of protests did Gandhi organize?

8. Why did Gandhi march 241 miles to the sea?

- To protest attacks by the British Navy
- To protest World war I
- To protest the salt tax
- To protest nuclear arms
- To protest a new bread tax

2) Complete the text about Gandhi using the words in the box.

Completa il testo su Gandhi utilizzando le parole nel riquadro.

was Indians London protests returned South Africa India assassinated

Gandhi was a freedom fighter. He _____ born in _____. When he was 19 years old, he went to study law at the University of _____. He _____ to India and then he went to _____ to work where he was the victim of racial prejudice against _____. He organized several _____ against the British rule: in the past India was a British colony. He was _____ by a terrorist.

3) Mark the countries mentioned in Gandhi's biography on the world map.

Segna sulla cartina i Paesi citati nella biografia di Gandhi.

Yellow → Where was he born?

Red → Where did he went to study?

Green → Where was he the victim of racial discrimination?

4) Translate the following words into English.

Traduci le seguenti parole in inglese.

protesta	→
matrimonio	→
vittima	→
avvocato	→
eroe	→
marcia	→
tassa	→

SOLUZIONI

1) Questions

1. He was born in India.
2. He studied Law at university.
3. He studied at the University of London.
4. He worked as a lawyer in South Africa.
5. No, he was the victim of racial prejudice against Indians.
6. He fought for the independence of India from the British government.
7. He organized non-violent protests.
8. To protest the salt tax.

2) Complete the text about Gandhi using the words in the box.

Gandhi was a freedom fighter. He was born in India. When he was 19 years old, he went to study law at the University of London. He returned to India and then he went to South Africa to work, where he was the victim of racial prejudice against Indians. He organized several protest against the British rule: in the past India was a British colony. He was killed by a terrorist.

3) Mark the countries mentioned in Gandhi's biography on the world map.

Yellow → Where was he born? **INDIA**

Red → Where did he went to study? **ENGLAND**

Green → Where was he the victim of racial discrimination? **SOUTH AFRICA**

4) Translate the following words into English.

protesta	→ protest
matrimonio	→ marriage
vittima	→ victim
avvocato	→ lawyer
eroe	→ hero
marcia	→ march
tassa	→ tax