Name: _____ Date: _____

Indian Independence

GANDHI

VOCABULARY

1. *Disobey*
2. *Unjust*
3 *Assassinated*
4 *Ironic*

Mohandas Gandhi, more than any person, was responsible for the independence of India. He led the movement against the British, which resulted in Indian independence in 1947

Gandhi's philosophy was based on civil disobedience and passive resistance. By civil disobedience, Gandhi believed that Indians should **DISOBEY** British laws and if necessary, go to jail. Passive resistance means that the fight against the British must always be peaceful. Violence had no place in Gandhi's program. A perfect example of how Gandhi's philosophy worked was the Great Salt March, which took place in 1930. Gandhi led a 24-day march to the sea where tens of thousands of Indians took salt from -seawater. This was specifically against British law, which required Indians to purchase their salt from England. Gandhi purposely broke what he believed to be an **UNJUST** law. When British troops arrived on the scene and beat and arrested Indians, the native population never used violence. As a result, 60,000 people were jailed and worldwide reaction was very anti-British and pro-Indian.

When World War II broke out over two million Indian soldiers fought bravely in the British army. However, when the war ended, India was still a colony. This caused Gandhi to once again use passive resistance and civil disobedience against the British. Finally, in 1947 the British Government collapsed and India was given her independence. However, as we shall see, within India many problems existed between Hindus and Muslims that were just becoming worse.

Less than one year after India received its independence from England; Mahatma Gandhi was **ASSASSINATED** by a Hindu who believed that Gandhi (who was a Hindu) gave too much power to the Muslims. It is **IRONIC** that this man of peace died by violence.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following question based on the reading and your knowledge of Social Studies. Use complete sentences.

1. Define "civil disobedience"

2. Define "passive resistance"

3. Why didn't Gandhi believe in the use of force to overthrow the British?

4. Why is the Great Salt March an example of both civil disobedience and passive resistance?

5. Great Britain was one of the most powerful countries in the world in 1947. Why did they give India its independence and lose a valuable colony?

6. Indian people call Gandhi "Mahatma" which means "Great Soul." Why do you believe they gave him this title?

7 Why is it ironic that Gandhi was assassinated?

Name: _____ Date: _____

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Why Did England Grant India Independence?

The following scene is based upon the life of Matatma Gandhi, a leader in India's struggle for independence from British rule. The scene begins in 1930 at Gandhi's "March to the Sea".
The British had a monopoly on India's salt industry and were able to charge whatever prices they wanted. Gandhi marched with thousands of followers to the ocean. They intended to take salt water and let it evaporate, leaving the salt behind. The British rulers did not want to allow Gandhi to do this. Here Gandhi faces off with a British Army officer, Major Owens.

- *Gandhi*- WE ARE INDIANS. ARE WE NOT ENTITLED TO USE OUR VERY OWN INDIAN NATURAL RESOURCES, SUCH AS SALT?
- *Major Owens*- YOU ARE UNDER BRITISH RULE AND THE LAW CLEARLY STATES THAT YOU MUST BUY SALT ONLY FROM BRITISH SALT SUPPLIERS.
- *Gandhi*- IS THIS A JUST AND MORAL LAW? TO REFUSE INDIANS ACCESS TO THEIR OWN NATURAL RESOURCES?
- *Major Owens*- THAT IS UNIMPORTANT. WHAT IS IMPORTANT IS THAT YOU OBEY THE LAW, NO MATTER WHAT'.!!!!!
- *Gandhi*- IT IS AN IMMORAL AND UNJUST LAW AND MY FOLLOWERS AND I REFUSE TO OBEY UNJUST LAWS.
- *Major Owens*- THE LAW IS THE LAW. OBEY THE LAW OR YOU WILL BE PUNISHED!!!!!!
- *Gandhi*- MY FOLLOWERS AND I PRACTICE CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE. WE REFUSE TO FOLLOW UNJUST LAWS. WE WILL PEACEFULLY MARCH IN PROTEST. WE WILL GO ON HUNGER STRIKES. WE WILL HAVE SIT-INS. WE WELL REFUSE TO OBEY THIS LAW UNTIL. THE INJUSTICE OF BRITISH RULE IS REMOVED. INDIA MUST BE FREE. WE CAN NO LONGER REMAIN A COLONY OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE
- *Major Owens*- THEN YOU WILL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
- *Gandhi*- OUR PHILOSOPHY OF PASSIVE RESISTANCE REQUIRES US TO WILLINGLY ACCEPT THE RESULTS OF OUR ACTIONS. WE REFUSE TO OBEY UNJUST LAWS BUT WE WILL NOT RESORT TO VIOLENCE OF ANY KIND.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following question on the conversation between Matatma Gandhi and Major Owens. Use complete sentences.

1. Write a definition for the following terms using your OWN WORDS.
   a) civil disobedience _____
   _____
   _____
   b) passive resistance _____
   _____
   _____

2. What was Gandhi's ultimate goal? _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

3. According to Gandhi, why did Indian people have the right to break the law? _____
   _____
   _____

4. What famous American followed the philosophy of Gandhi?
   _____

5. If you were on the jury, would you find Gandhi innocent or guilty of breaking the law? Why? _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

6. Was Gandhi a hero or a coward for using passive resistance?
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

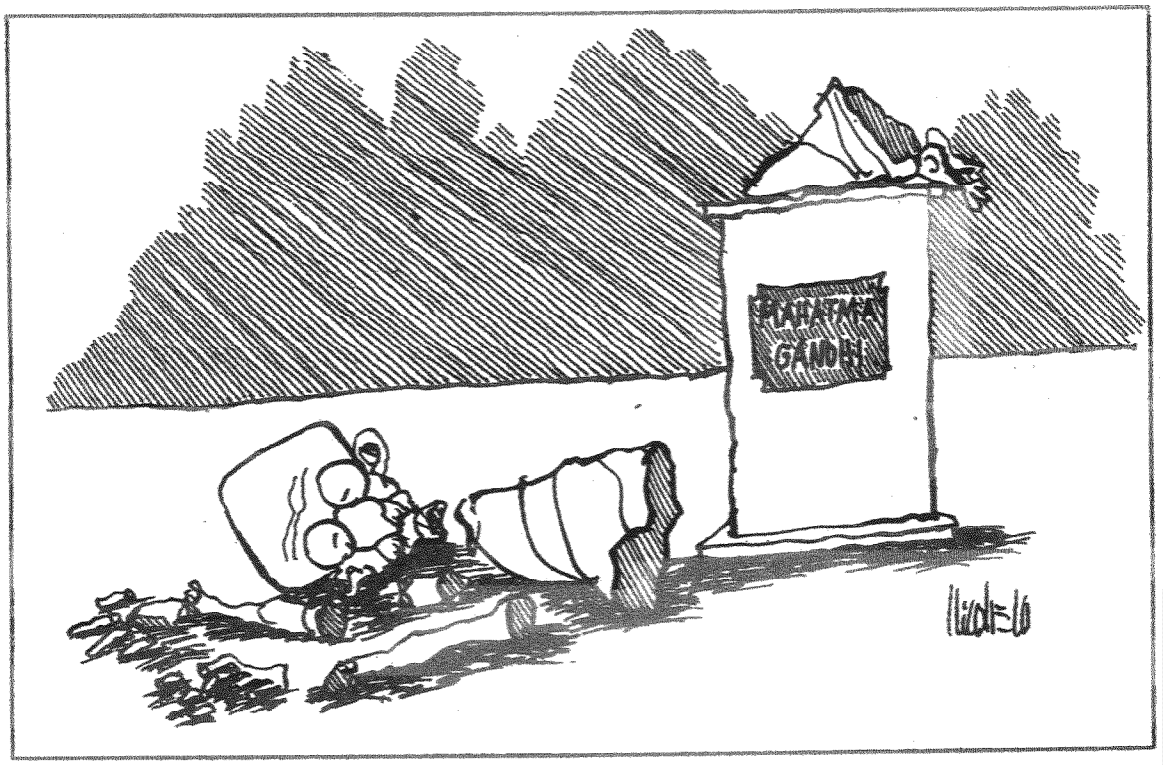
Name: _____ Date: _____

Indian Independence

Analyzing a Political Cartoon

SKILL PRACTICE

Political cartoons rely on pictures and a few words to convey an opinion about recent events. In the cartoon below, the artist uses only two words to make a point about recent events in India. The cartoon appeared in a Brazilian newspaper. Study the cartoon. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, write the answers to the questions that follow.



Source: Nicolielo, 1992 Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate

1. (a) Who is the person represented in the cartoon? (b) What was his importance to the people of India?
2. In political cartoons, a person can be used to symbolize an idea. What ideas did the person in the statue stand for?
3. (a) What has happened in the cartoon? (b) What do you think the artist meant by showing this?
4. (a) What events might have inspired the artist to draw this cartoon? (b) How do you think he felt about these events?
5. Suggest a title for this cartoon.

India's Struggle for Independence

I. Mohandas Gandhi
- A. Background
  - 1. Educated in England
    - a) trained as a lawyer
  - 2. Opposed British rule and control of India

- B. Methods
  - 1. Believed in the use of **"passive resistance"**
    - a) non-violence refusal to follow unjust laws
  - 2. Civil-disobedience
    - a) willingly broke laws to protest injustices in society
    - b) Gandhi and followers were jailed and beaten many times

- C. Major Events
  - 1. March to the Sea (1930)
    - a) Gandhi organized and led a lengthy march to protest British economic and political rule of India
  - 2. India's Independence (1947)
    - a) Gandhi negotiates Indian independence from Great Britain
  - 3. Assassination of Gandhi (1948)
    - a) killed by a religious fanatic who opposed Gandhi's tolerance for other religions in India