

1. Mahatma Gandhi

The subject of this week's lesson is Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948), the foremost political and spiritual leader of the Indian independence movement during the last years of British colonial rule in India. He is perhaps best known for advocating 'non-violent resistance'. He was assassinated on 30th January 1948, not long after India had finally achieved independence.

Level

Upper Intermediate and above (equivalent to CEF level B2 and above)

How to use the lesson

1. Brainstorm what your students know about Mahatma Gandhi. You could perhaps widen the discussion to talk about famous leaders of other national independence movements.
2. Divide the students into pairs and give them five to ten minutes to read through the text on Worksheet A, encouraging them to look up new vocabulary. Tell them they are going to have to fill the gaps with appropriate words. You could perhaps suggest that they guess what those words might be.
3. When the time is up, hand out Worksheet B and give the students another five to ten minutes to fill the gaps using the correct words from the box. Make it clear that (a) there is only one possible word to fill each gap, and (b) there are sixteen words in the box but only twelve gaps in the text, meaning that four of the words should not be used.
4. When the time is up, check answers in open class. Then, keeping the students in their pairs, give them at least five minutes to try the second exercise on Worksheet B, in which they have to guess the missing words from the five quotations. Obviously you could help by giving them the first letter of each word, revealing how many letters the words contain, or providing other clues.
5. Check answers in open class, and be sure to give positive feedback for wrong guesses that are nevertheless intelligent or imaginative!

Answers

Part A (gap-fill)

independent
resistance
strikes
ideas
barrister
dislike
discrimination
owning
encouraged
compromised
cause
reality

(Words that should not be used: *bombs, elections, mistake, poor*)

Part B (complete the quotes)

1. kill
2. love
3. civilization
4. greed
5. mind

2. Related Websites

Send your students to these websites, or just take a look yourself.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/gandhi_mohandas.shtml

Gandhi biography from the BBC website. Upper-intermediate level.

<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0083987/>

Review of *Gandhi*, Richard Attenborough's 1982 Oscar-winning film starring Ben Kingsley. Upper-intermediate level.

http://news.bbc.co.uk/cbbcnews/hi/chat/your_comments/newsid_2839000/2839973.stm

Gandhi gets a mention among the responses to this BBC *Newsround* survey in which British teenagers were asked to name their 'heroes from history.' Accessible to intermediate-level students.