

# Mahatma Gandhi

## • Reading Comprehension •

### Activity **1** Stop and Think

Read the paragraphs.  
Stop and think as you read.

Good readers are active readers.

Good readers stop and think about what they are reading. Active reading helps readers understand the ideas.

Hindus are born into different castes or social groups. The lowest caste is called the untouchables. They do not have any rights.

**Stop and think:** What are the different classes, or social groups, in North America?

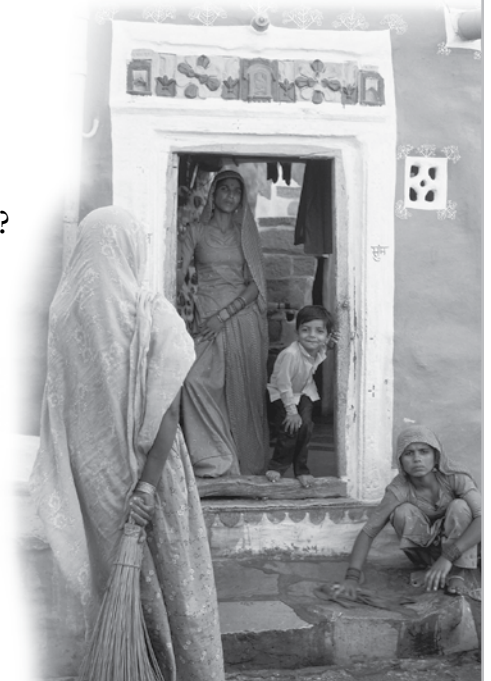
Gandhi believes India’s caste system is a problem. Gandhi tells Indians to treat the untouchables as equals.

**Stop and think:** Imagine you live in India. You have grown up in the highest caste.

How do you feel about treating the untouchables as equals? Why?

Gandhi gives the untouchables a new name: Harijan. This means “The Children of God.”

**Stop and think:** Why do you think Gandhi gives the untouchables this new name?



## Activity 2 Main Idea and Details



Good readers can find the main idea and details.

The main idea is the important idea. The details support the main idea.

The details help you understand and remember the main idea.

Check the details that support each main idea.

The first one is an example.

Main idea	Details
White people in South Africa pass racist laws against Indians.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Indian people cannot own property. Indian people join the Natal Indian Congress.</li> <li>✓ Indian people pay higher taxes than white people.</li> </ul>
1. Gandhi begins to live a simple life.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a)___ Gandhi changes his life.</li> <li>(b)___ Gandhi gives up his home.</li> <li>(c)___ Gandhi gives up his fine clothes.</li> </ul>
2. Gandhi protests British rule in India.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a)___ Gandhi boycotts British goods.</li> <li>(b)___ Gandhi fights British salt laws.</li> <li>(c)___ Gandhi believes in truth and non-violence.</li> </ul>

## Activity 3 Invisible Messages



Writers do not always explain everything.

Sometimes, writers expect readers to read between the lines. Writers expect readers to figure out the invisible messages.

Read the writer's words.

Figure out the invisible message.

The writer's words	The invisible message
Gandhi and Kasturbai are married for 62 years.	<i>Gandhi and Kasturbai love each other very much. They are committed to each other. They do not believe in divorce.</i>
1. People give Gandhi the name Mahatma, which means "Great Soul."	
2. Gandhi spends 2,338 days of his life in jail.	

## Activity 4 Fact and Opinion



Read the sentences.

Write (F) for fact or (O) for opinion.

- British people are racist. \_\_\_\_  
The British rule India from 1858 to 1947. \_\_\_\_
- Gandhi gets married at the age of 13. \_\_\_\_  
Gandhi gets married too young. \_\_\_\_
- Gandhi makes life better for the Indian people of South Africa. \_\_\_\_  
Gandhi makes the world a better place. \_\_\_\_

Good readers know the difference between facts and opinions.

Facts can be proven.

Opinions are ideas or beliefs.

## Activity 5 The Table of Contents



Read each question.

Look at the Contents page in your book.

Which chapter has the answer to the question?

Write the name of the chapter.

Find the answer to the question. Write the answer.

Good readers use the Table of Contents.

The Table of Contents helps readers find information quickly.

Question	Chapter	Answer
Where is Gandhi born?	Early Years	Porbandar, India
1. What are Gandhi's main beliefs?		
2. What does Gandhi protest in India?		
3. Why does Gandhi decide to stay in South Africa?		

# Activity **6** Make a Connection

Read the idea from the story.  
Make a connection to your life.

Reading is more than understanding the ideas on a page.  
Good readers connect the ideas to their lives.

## Idea



## Your Life

Gandhi believes a simple life leads to harmony. Gandhi changes his life. He gives up his wealth. He gives up his home. He gives up his fine clothes. Gandhi begins to live a simple life.

What kinds of things do people want?  
Brainstorm a list.

Look at your list.  
Which things can you get without money?  
Which things are most important?  
Which things make people happy?

Do you think people work too hard for things that are not important?  
Explain your answer.

Describe what a “simple” life means to you.

In what ways is your life simple?  
In what ways is your life not simple?

Would you change anything in your life to make it more simple?  
Explain your answer.



© GandhiServe.



© iStockphoto/Justin Horrocks.

# • Writing •

## Activity 1 Write Your Ideas

Complete these paragraphs  
about living a simple life.  
Use your ideas from page 28.

Your instructor will help you with spelling.

Good writers know that writing is a process.  
Good writers think of ideas before they write.  
Good writers check their writing.

### Paragraph 1

Living a simple life means \_\_\_\_\_ .

It also means \_\_\_\_\_ .

Living a simple life can also mean giving up \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ .

### Paragraph 2

My life is simple because \_\_\_\_\_ .

My life is not simple because \_\_\_\_\_ .

If I could, I would \_\_\_\_\_ .

This would make my life \_\_\_\_\_ .

Read each paragraph out loud.  
Which paragraph do you like better?  
Copy the paragraph on the lines.

Check for capital letters and end punctuation.

---

---

---

---



© iStockphoto/Effinity Stock Photography

## Activity 2 Organize Ideas



Look at the idea map.

What is the topic of the idea map?

What are the 3 main ideas?

Add these details to the idea map.

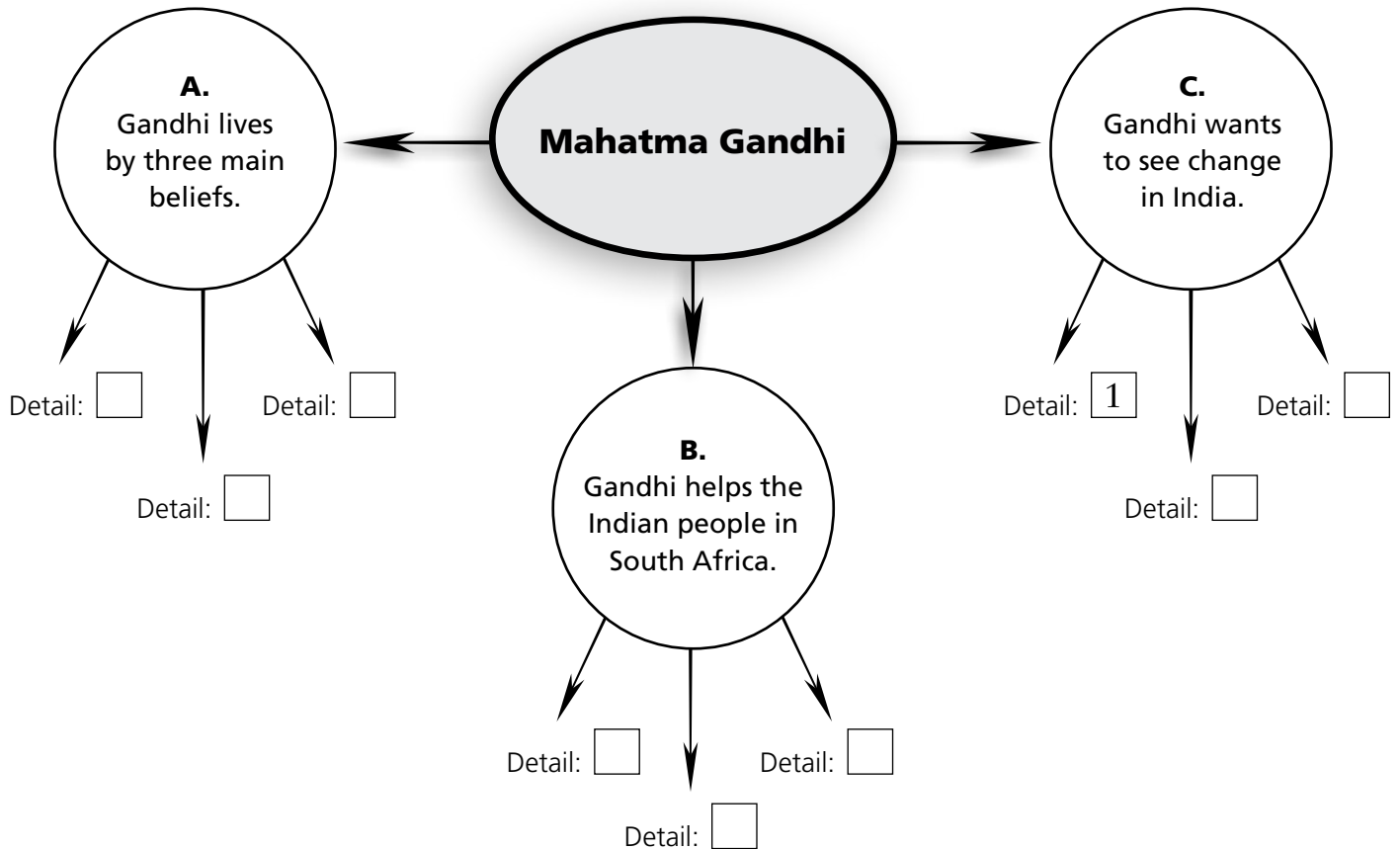
Put the number in the correct box.

Good writers know that writing is a process.

Good writers organize their ideas before they write.

One way to organize ideas is to use a main idea and details.

- ✓ 1. Gandhi tells Indian people to treat the untouchables as equals.
2. Gandhi forms the Natal Indian Congress in South Africa.
3. Non-violence can bring change.
4. Gandhi protests British rule in India.
5. Gandhi wants Indian people to solve India's problems.
6. Truth can bring change.
7. A simple life leads to harmony.
8. Gandhi protests racism in South Africa.
9. Gandhi wins rights for Indians in South Africa.



Choose details from the idea map to complete the paragraphs.  
Copy the details into the paragraphs.

### Paragraph A

Mahatma Gandhi lives by \_\_\_\_\_ (1) Non-violence  
can bring change. (2) \_\_\_\_\_ .  
(3) A simple life leads to harmony.

### Paragraph B

Gandhi helps the Indian people in South Africa. He forms the Natal  
Indian Congress in South Africa. He \_\_\_\_\_ in  
South Africa. He \_\_\_\_\_ for Indian people in South Africa.

### Paragraph C

Gandhi wants \_\_\_\_\_ . Gandhi  
tells the Indian people to treat the untouchables as equals. Gandhi protests  
\_\_\_\_\_ in India. Gandhi wants Indian people \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

## Activity 3 Use Capital Letters and Punctuation



Read these sentences.

Add capital letters and end punctuation.

1. india gains freedom from the british in 1947
2. gandhi wants india to stay as one country
3. hindus and muslims live in india
4. the new country of pakistan is formed
5. an angry hindu man kills mahatma gandhi

#### In this activity...

##### use capital letters

at the beginning of a sentence,  
with names of people and places, and  
with names of groups of people.

##### use punctuation

at the end of a sentence.

# • Word Attack Skills •

## Activity

# 1

### Predict the Word



Complete each sentence.

Use the pictures to predict the word.

Readers see new words all the time.  
They need to decode the new words.

Good readers decode words  
in different ways.

They use pictures to predict words.  
They use meaning clues to predict words.

These are two ways to decode words.



© Vithalbai Jhaveri/GandhiServe.

1. Gandhi spins \_\_\_\_\_  
with his spinning wheel.



© Vithalbai Jhaveri/GandhiServe.

2. There is a \_\_\_\_\_  
around Gandhi's home.



© Vithalbai Jhaveri/GandhiServe.

3. These men \_\_\_\_\_ with Gandhi.

Complete each sentence.

Use meaning clues to predict the word.

4. Gandhi makes a decision. He \_\_\_\_\_ to stay in South Africa.

5. Indian people are not \_\_\_\_\_ to white people. White people pass racist laws.

6. Indian people burn dead bodies at funerals. This is a Hindu \_\_\_\_\_ .



## Activity 2 Find Common Patterns

Look at each word in the box.

Each word has a common pattern.

Group the words under the correct pattern.

*simple* ✓    *nature*    *bright*    *culture*  
*right*    *fight*    *future*    *people*  
*night*    *purple*    *example*    *furniture*

Good readers look for common patterns in words.

This is another way to decode words.

**ple**

*simple*

**ight**

**ture**

Read the sentences in the box.

Circle the words that have one of these patterns:

**ple ight ture**

Many words have common patterns.

The patterns look and sound the same.

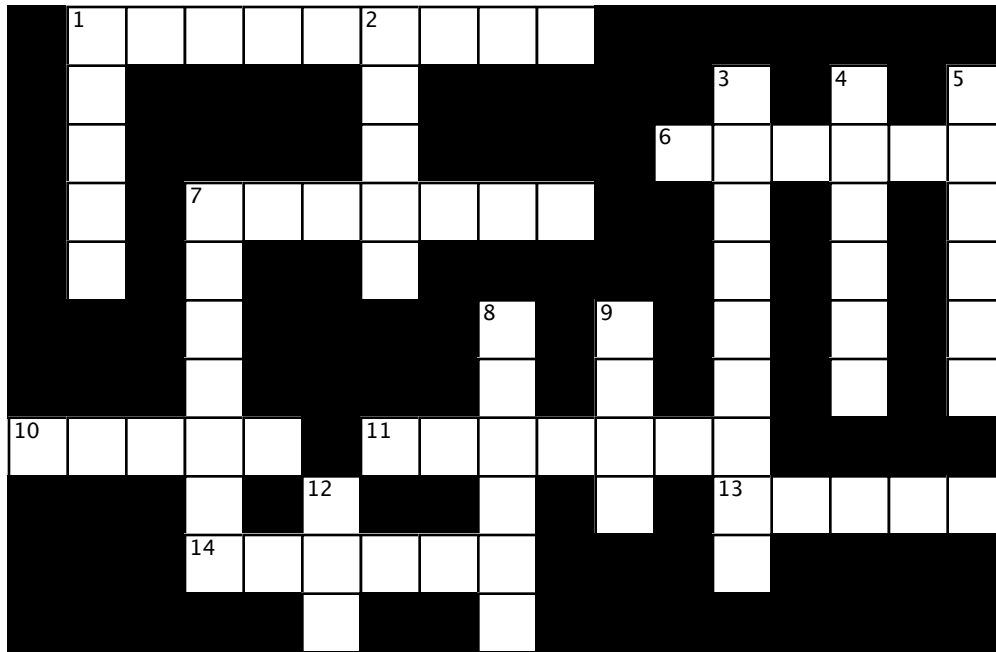
### Find the Common Patterns



1. Gandhi begins to live a simple life.
2. He is an example for other people.
3. Gandhi spends a long night in a train station.
4. He decides to fight for Indians' rights.
5. Gandhi thinks about the future.
6. He hopes two cultures can live in peace.

# • Crossword •

## Mahatma Gandhi



### Crossword Clues

All the answers to the clues are from Mahatma Gandhi's biography.

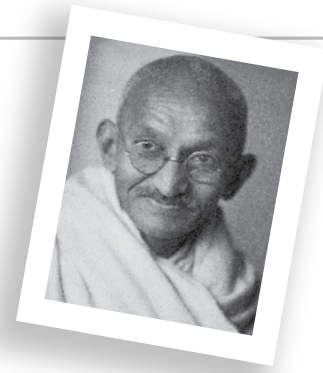
#### ACROSS

1. tables, chairs, beds
6. not hard (rhymes with dimple)
7. mother and father
10. opposite of noisy
11. say we will do something for sure
13. we see the moon and stars at this time
14. these run on railway tracks

#### DOWN

1. boxers do this in the ring
2. money we pay to the government
3. not the same
4. divides (rhymes with hits)
5. plural of person
7. complain about something
8. select; pick
9. prison
12. angry

# Mahatma Gandhi



1. **Main Idea and Details:** (1) b, c (2) a, b
  2. **Invisible Messages\*:** (1) People respect the work Gandhi does. People honour Gandhi. People see Gandhi as a spiritual leader. (2) Gandhi suffers for his beliefs. Gandhi does not give up. Gandhi spends over six years in prison.
  3. **Fact and Opinion:** (1) O/F (2) F/O (3) F/O
  4. **Table of Contents:** (1) Gandhi's Beliefs / peaceful ways can bring change; there is no God but truth; a simple life leads to harmony (2) Gandhi's Protests / British rule (laws) (3) Gandhi's Decision / because of his personal experience with racism on the train; to fight for rights for Indian people
  5. **Organize Ideas:** **Main Idea A** with details 3, 6, 7 **Main Idea B** with details 2, 8, 9 **Main Idea C** with details 1, 4, 5 **Paragraph A:** three main beliefs / Truth can bring change. **Paragraph B:** protests racism / wins rights **Paragraph C:** to see change in India / British rule / to solve India's problems
  6. **Use Capital Letters and Punctuation:** (1) India gains freedom from the British in 1947. (2) Gandhi wants India to stay as one country. (3) Hindus and Muslims live in India. (4) The new country of Pakistan is formed. (5) An angry Hindu man kills Mahatma Gandhi.
  7. **Predict the Word\*:** (1) thread; fabric; cloth; yarn; clothes (2) fence (3) march; walk; protest (4) decides (5) equal (6) tradition; custom; belief
  8. **Find Common Patterns:** (1) simple (2) example / people (3) night (4) fight / rights (5) future (6) cultures
- \*Accept any answer that makes sense.

## Crossword Solution

