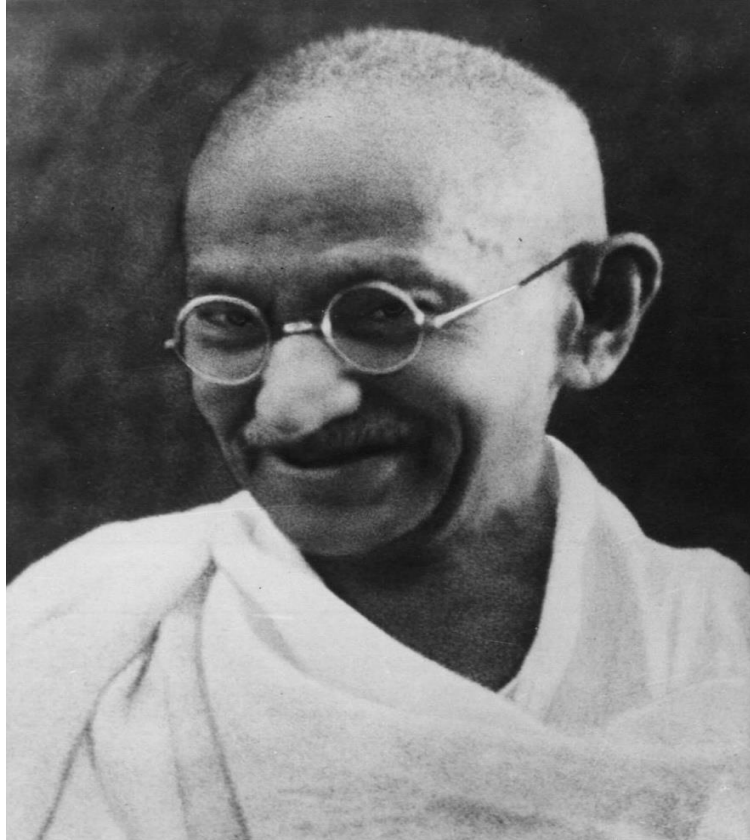


AREA OF META DATA	CONTENT
THEME	MAHATMA GANDHI IN SOUTH AFRICA
SUBJECT	HISTORY
LINKAGE OF THEME WITH CHAPTERS(NAME)	MAKING OF THE NATIONAL MOVEMENT
CLASS/LEVEL	Class VIII
TARGET AUDIENCE	STUDENTS AND TEACHERS
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop understanding of Gandhi's struggle against racism in South Africa. • To realize the significance of Gandhi's stay in South Africa.
DESCRIPTION	<p>In January 1915 Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi returned to his homeland after two decades of residence abroad. These years had been spent for the most part in South Africa, where he went as a lawyer, and in time became the leader of the Indian community there. In South Africa he had led a great struggle against the most vicious racist oppression and humiliations to which the Indians and Africans were subjected by the White minority. Influenced by the ideas of Tolstoy, Ruskin and Thoreau, Gandhiji's struggle against the ruling white minority gave shape to a new philosophy, and method of struggle based on truth and non-violence. This</p>

	<p>was Passive Resistance, or Satyagraha. It also meant mass actions through <i>hartals</i>, marches, mass violation of oppressive laws and mass courting of arrests. The challenges and trials that Gandhi underwent in Africa in the form of racist oppression was very significant. It gave birth to new ideas and philosophy, and method of struggle based on truth and non-violence.</p>
KEY WORDS	<p>Gandhi, Durban Court House, Tolstoy farm,, Pietermaritzburg Station, Satyagraha, Natal Indian Congress, Indian Ambulance Corps, <i>Burning Cauldron</i>, Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance, Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance, Hermann Kallenbach .</p>
CONTENT DEVELOPER	<p>MILY ROY ANAND</p>
SUBJECT COORDINATOR	<p>MILY ROY ANAND</p>
CIET COORDINATOR	<p>INDU KUMAR</p>



Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's stay in South Africa from 1893 to 1915 was a significant chapter in the life of Gandhi. The challenges and trials of the South African experience was a turning point because this period transformed Gandhi's identity from a lawyer to a political activist. His experience of vicious white racist oppression against Indians and Africans in Africa gave birth to new ideas and philosophy, and method of struggle based on truth and non-violence. These ideas largely shaped India's struggle for freedom and inspired other movements for civil rights and freedom across the world.

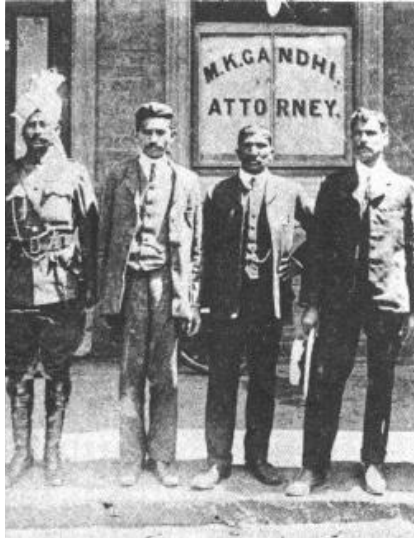
TRACING GANDHI'S JOURNEY IN SOUTH AFRICA

1. ARRIVAL AS LAWYER

CIET: HYPERLINK INFORMATION A



Gandhi as lawyer in South Africa.



Gandhi with colleagues

INFORMATION A

Hailing from Porbandar, a small town on the Kathiawar peninsula, Gandhi went to London to study Law. After completing Law he was not successful in finding work in India. He was offered a contract from *Dada Abdulla and Sons* in South Africa who needed a lawyer to settle a dispute. He arrived in South Africa in 1893 at the age of 24 and upon arrival he himself was subjected to racial discrimination which Indians were facing in Durban.

The Durban Court House Incident and the infamous **Train Incident at Pietermaritzburg Station** were events that aroused political consciousness and led Gandhi to embark on his fight against racial oppression. It gave birth to a Satyagraha, a method of struggle based on truth and non-violence.

The Durban Court House Incident



Old Court House Museum, Durban.

Soon after his arrival in Durban, Gandhi visited the Durban Court House. The local magistrate asked Gandhi to remove his turban. Gandhi refused to take off his turban arguing that removing his turban was a sign of disrespect and against Indian tradition. He left the court thereafter.

Train Incident at Pietermaritzburg Station



Pietermaritzburg Station

On 7 June 1893 Gandhi was travelling in a first class compartment to Pretoria. A white man objected to his presence in the compartment and ordered him to move to the third class at the end of the train. Gandhi refused stating that he had a valid first class ticket. He was thrown off the train at Pietermaritzburg. Gandhi spent the winter night in the waiting room of the station and made the historic decision to stay on in South Africa and fight racial discrimination.

Bronze Statue of Gandhi in Pietermaritzburg



A plaque at the station

In the vicinity of this plaque MK Gandhi was evicted from a first-class compartment on the night of 7 June 1893. This incident changed the course of his life. He took up the fight against racial oppression. His active non-violence started from that date.

2. CAMPAIGNS IN SOUTH AFRICA

CIET : [HYPERLINK INFORMATION B](#)

Formation of the Natal Indian Congress



Gandhi with members of the Natal Indian Congress

Formation of the Indian Ambulance Corps



Gandhi with the stretcher-bearers of the Indian Ambulance Corps

INFORMATION B

The Natal Indian Congress (NIC) was formed by Mahatma Gandhi in 1894 to fight discrimination against Indian traders in Natal. The Natal Legislative Assembly intended to pass a bill denying Indians their right to vote. Gandhi drew up a petition and set up a temporary committee which was transformed into the Natal Indian Congress (NIC). Within a month there were 10 000 signatures which was presented to Lord Ripon, Colonial Secretary who did not pass the Bill immediately. However in 1896 the Bill finally became law which disqualified voters who were not of European origin. This was the first time that Indians got together to participate in a campaign.

The Indian Ambulance Corps was founded by Gandhi in 1900 after the outbreak of the Anglo-Boer war in 1899. Gandhi persuaded Indians to sign up for the Indian Ambulance Corps and volunteer as stretch –bearers. They were trained to serve on the front lines. They carried wounded soldiers to a field hospital as the terrain was too rough for the ambulances. Gandhi and other Indians received war medals for their service.

3. TOWARDS SATYAGRAHA THE METHOD OF PASSIVE RESISTANCE

CIET: HYPERLINK INFORMATION C

The Gandhi Memorial also known as *Burning Cauldron* outside the Hamidia Mosque, Johananesburg symbolizing burning of registration cards as part of passive registration campaign led by Gandhi.



INFORMATION C

11 September 1906 witnessed a mass protest meeting in Johannesburg where about 3000 people gathered to protest against the Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance of 1906 by the Transvaal government. According to it, all male Asians in Transvaal had to produce a thumb-printed certificate of identity while all women and children above eight years of age residing in Transvaal were required to carry a certificate of registration. It was during this meeting that Gandhi adopted for the first time the method of non-violent protest or Satyagraha. He called fellow Indians to defy the new law and what followed was seven years long struggle led by Gandhi. Protesters were punished for refusing to register, for burning their registration cards or engaging in other forms of non-violent resistance. On 16 August 1908 more than 2000 registration documents were burnt outside the Hamidia Mosque in Johannesburg as part of passive resistance campaign.

Women Jailed For The Passive Resistance Campaign

CIET: HYPERLINK INFORMATION D



INFORMATION D

In 1913 Gandhi led another satyagraha campaign against imposition of £3 tax that was levied on former indentured labourers. In 1860 Indians had begun to arrive in South Africa as indentured labourers to work on sugar estates and coal mines. After 1895 those who had completed their term were asked to pay a £3 tax per year for each member of the family. Gandhi called for a strike against imposition of this tax as well as for other demands such as right of Indians to travel between provinces, recognition of Hindu and Muslim marriages, etc. Women crossed over from Transvaal into Natal and vice versa in protest for which many were arrested.

Striking Workers led by Gandhi in November 1913.

CIET: HYPERLINK INFORMATION E



INFORMATION E

In 1913 Gandhi also led a large group of striking workers across the Transvaal border along the Durban-to-Johannesburg railway line. Thousands of striking Indian workers joined the movement led by Gandhi and nearly paralysed the economy of Natal. During this period Gandhi was arrested and let out on bail three times.

The 1913 protest marches had the desired effect. A commission of enquiry was set up to investigate into the demands and grievances of Indians which culminated in the Indian Relief Act. The stage was now set for Gandhi's return to India.

Transvaal Protest March



Gandhi being put under arrest in South Africa

TOLSTOY FARM: A HOME FOR THE SATYAGRAHIS



In South Africa Gandhi had a number of friends but it was Hermann Kallenbach who was Gandhi's closest friend. In 1910 Kallenbach donated a piece of land to Gandhi to be run as a home for the *satyagrahis*. It was known as Tolstoy farm and Gandhi stayed here with his son Manilal. The other residents who stayed here belonged to diverse communities such as Hindus, Muslims, Parsis and Africans.



Gandhi and other residents of Tolstoy Farm, South Africa, 1910

ACTIVITY 1

MATCH THE INFORMATION BY DRAG AND DROP

CIET: DRAG AND DROP

1. Tolstoy Farm	
2. Pietermaritzburg Station	
3. The Indian Ambulance Corps	
4. Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance	
5. Hermann Kallenbach	
6. Durban Court House	

INFORMATION

- **Gandhi was thrown off the train.**
- **Founded by Gandhi during the Anglo-Boer war to serve as stretch bearers.**

- **Required all Asians to carry registration documents.**
- **Home For The Satyagrahis.**
- **Gandhi refused to take off his turban.**
- **Close associate of Gandhi who donated Tolstoy farm**

CORRECT ANSWERS

- 1. Tolstoy Farm - Home For The Satyagrahis**
- 2. Pietermaritzburg Station - Gandhi was thrown off the train**
- 3. The Indian Ambulance Corps- Founded by Gandhi during the Anglo-Boer war to serve as stretch bearers.**
- 4. Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance - Required all Asians to carry registration documents.**
- 5. Hermann Kallenbach - Close associate of Gandhi who donated Tolstoy farm.**
- 6. Durban Court House - Gandhi refused to take off his turban.**

ACTIVITY 2

Arrange the Information in Chronological Order in The table given below.

CIET : User should be able to drag and drop information in correct order in the Table.

- **Gandhi led another satyagraha campaign against imposition of £3 tax that was levied on former indentured labourers.**
- **Indian Relief Act.**
- **Gandhi arrived in South Africa in 1893.**
- **The Natal Indian Congress (NIC) was in 1894 to fight discrimination against Indian traders in Natal.**
- **Gandhi went to London to study Law.**
- **Registration documents were burnt outside the Hamidia Mosque in Johannesburg as part of passive resistance campaign.**
- **Gandhi refused to vacate the first class compartment stating that he had a valid first class ticket.**
- **Gandhi led a large group of striking workers across the Transvaal border along the Durban-to-Johannesburg railway line.**
- **The local magistrate asked Gandhi to remove his turban in Durban Court House.**
- **Mass protest meeting in Johannesburg to protest against the Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance of 1906 by the Transvaal government.**

1.	
2	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

CORRECT ORDER

- 1. Gandhi went to London to study Law.**
- 2. Gandhi arrived in South Africa in 1893.**
- 3. The local magistrate asked Gandhi to remove his turban in Durban Court House.**
- 4. Gandhi refused to vacate the first class compartment stating that he had a valid first class ticket.**
- 5. The Natal Indian Congress (NIC) was in 1894 to fight discrimination against Indian traders in Natal.**
- 6. Mass protest meeting in Johannesburg to protest against the Asiatic Law Amendment Ordinance of 1906 by the Transvaal government.**
- 7. Registration documents were burnt outside the Hamidia Mosque in Johannesburg as part of passive resistance campaign.**

8. Gandhi led another satyagraha campaign against imposition of £3 tax that was levied on former indentured labourers.

9. Gandhi led a large group of striking workers across the Transvaal border along the Durban-to-Johannesburg railway line.

10. Indian Relief Act.

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