

E-Content Resources in History (Secondary stage)

Resource 1

S. N.	AREA OF MATA DATA	
1	Topic	Novels, Society and History
2	Subject	History
3	Topic connected which area of subject?	Biography of Leo Tolstoy
4	Class/ Level	X
5	Objectives	Familiarize students with one of the most famous writers of the nineteenth century.
6	Summary	<p>Leo Tolstoy was born on 9 September, 1828 in Tula Province of Russia. His mother died in 1830 and his father's cousin took over caring of children. His father died after seven years. His aunt died after some time and his second aunt took over the charge of Tolstoy and his siblings. His childhood was not great. He completed his primary education at home. He left his studies in 1847 without completing his degree.</p> <p>He wrote about his childhood memories in his autobiography "Childhood". His first published work was "The Contemporary" in 1852. He wrote "Boyhood" in 1854 as a sequel of Childhood. He wrote trilogy of "Sevastopol Tails". He wrote his first and great novel "War and Peace" in 1960s. A part of the novel "The Messenger" was published in 1965. His second best novel published in 1873 was "Anna Karenina". He continuously wrote fiction during 1880s and 1890s. His one of the victorious later works was "The Death of Ivan Illyich". He died on 20 November, 1910 in Astapovo, Russia.</p>
7	Key Words	Childhood, The Contemporary, The Cossacks, Boyhood, War and Peace, Anna Karenina, The Mediator, The Death of Ivan Illyich, Resurrection, The Living Corpse,
8	Team of content	Shephali Jatwal,PGT, History,Poorna Prajna Public School, Vasant

	persons	Kunj
9	Subject Coordinator	Seema S. Ojha
10	CIET Coordinator	

Life sketch of Leo Tolstoy

Early Life



Tolstoy at age 20, 1848

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Leo_Tolstoy#/media/File:Lev_Nikolayevich_Tolstoy_1848.jpg

Leo Tolstoy was born on 9 September, 1828 in Tula Province of Russia. His mother, Yasnaya Polyana died in 1830 and his father's cousin took over caring of children. When His father, Count Nikolay Tolstoy, died seven years later, his aunt was appointed as a legal guardian. His aunt died after some time and his

second aunt took over the charge of Tolstoy and his siblings. His childhood was not great. He expressed his childhood in his writings.

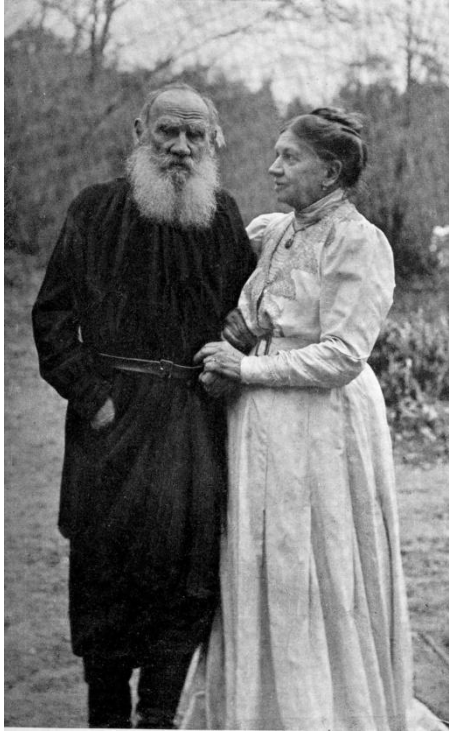
He completed his primary education at home, with the help of French and German tutors. He took admission in Oriental Languages Program at the University of Kazan in 1843. At university he failed as a student. Because of his low grades he was shifted to easier law programs. Finally, he left his studies in 1847 without completing his degree and returned to his paternal estate, where he began farming but he soon realized the futile dream of becoming farmer. However, he put energy in keeping a journal that inspired him beginning a lifelong habit of writing fictions.

His elder brother, Nikolay tried to convince him to join army as a junker, in the Caucasus Mountains, where Nikolay himself was posted. As a junker, Tolstoy was transferred to Sevastopol in Ukraine where he stayed and fought Crimean war till 1855.

Early Publications

As a junker Tolstoy wrote an autobiographical story called **Childhood**. In this book he shared his childhood memories. In 1852, he submitted the draft to the most popular journal, "**The Contemporary**". The story was accepted and became Tolstoy's very first published work. After finishing Childhood, he began writing about his day to day life at the army, but could not complete it. He completed it after leaving army. During the Crimean war Tolstoy managed to write **Boyhood** in 1854. It was a sequel to Childhood. He also expressed his views on the contradictions of war on three part series, **Sevastopol tales**. In the second book Tolstoy adopted new writing technique. Much part of the story is presented in the form of a soldier's stream of consciousness.

After the end of Crimean war, Tolstoy left the army and returned Russia. At home, he found himself in high demand in the literary scene. He refused to ally himself with any intellectual school of thought. Tolstoy declared himself an anarchist, and left for Paris in 1857 but lost all his money there and was forced to return Russia. After returning home he published third part of his autobiographical trilogy. In 1862, he produced the first of 12 issue- installment of journal **Yasnaya Polyana**, and same year he got married to Sofya Andreyevna Bers.



Tolstoy and his wife, 1910.

<https://www.google.co.in/search?q=leo+tolstoy&biw=1600&bih=794&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiA7-apuubPAhXJiVQKHfCmwQAUICCgB#tbs=sur:fc&tbm=isch&q=+leo+tolstoy+wife&imgsrc=FyZxmehLpHlrhM%3A>

Major Novels

Leo Tolstoy resided at Yasnaya Polyana with his wife and children. He spent much of 1860s toiling over his great novel, **War and Peace**. His first novel was published in parts; first portion was published in the *Russian Messenger* in 1865, under the name of "the year 1805". Three more chapters were released in 1868, and in the following year the whole novel was released. Both public and critics praised his novel about Napoleonic wars. The novel is the combination of realistic and fictional characters. After the success of *War and Peace*, Tolstoy started working on the second of his best novels in 1873, **Anna Karenina**. *Anna Karenina* was based on current events while Russia was at war with Turkey. There are biographical accounts from Tolstoy's life.

Religious Conversion

In spite of the success of *Anna Karenina*, Tolstoy faced spiritual crisis and grew depressed. To uncover the meaning of life, he first went to Russian Orthodox Church, but believed that Christian churches are corrupt. Soon he developed his own beliefs and decided to express his views in new publication **The Mediator** in 1883.

Russian Orthodox Church ousted him because of his unconventional and controversial spiritual beliefs. He was even watched by secret police. Tolstoy's beliefs encouraged him to give away all his wealth, to which his wife strongly objected. This put strain in couple's marriage. Finally Tolstoy agreed to compromise. He gave copyright of all his works to his wife.



Family of Leo Tolstoy, 1887

https://www.google.co.in/search?q=leo+tolstoy&biw=1600&bih=794&source=lnms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKEwiA7-apuubPAhXJiVQKHfCmwQ_AUICCGB#q=young+leo+tolstoy&tbm=isch&tbs=sur:fc&imgc=dy0U-wiXyWgIM%3A

Later Fiction

Tolstoy continued writing fiction throughout 1880s and 1890s. The genre of his later work was moral tales and realistic fictions. **The Death of Ivan Ilyich** was one

of the most successful later works of Tolstoy. In this novel the title character comes to the harsh realization that he wasted his life on unimportant matters, but the realization comes too late. A short story written in 1898, *Father Sergius*, seems to criticize the Tolstoy's beliefs which he developed during his spiritual conversion. The following year he wrote another successful novel, **Resurrection**. But it hardly matched the acclaim and success of his previous works. In 1890 he wrote satirical play called **The Living Corpse**. Another novel *Hadji-Murad* got published after his death.

Later Years

Over the last thirty years of his life, Leo Tolstoy established himself as a moral and religious leader. His ideas of non violence were influenced by social leaders like Mahatma Gandhi. During his later years he reaped many rewards and international acclaim. He still struggled to reconcile his spiritual beliefs with the tensions that created in his home. His wife disapproved his teachings and disciples. Their troubled marriage took an air of notoriety in the press. He wanted to run away his wife's anger. In October 1910, Tolstoy, his daughter, Aleksandra and his physician, Dr. P. Makovitski began pilgrimage.

Death and Legacy

Unfortunately, the pilgrimage proved too difficult for the aging novelist. In November 1920, the stationmaster of a train depot in Astapovo opened his home to Tolstoy. Shortly after that, on 20 November 1910 Tolstoy died. He was buried at Yasnaya Polyana, his family estate in Tula province. He was survived by his wife and eight children.



Leo Tolstoy in statu mortis

https://www.google.co.in/search?q=Leo+Tolstoy+in+statu+mortis&biw=1600&bih=794&source=Inms&tbm=isch&sa=X&ved=0ahUKewiQ37r7vubPAhXmsFQKHUK6BUMQ_AUIBigB#imgrc=MM-uywph1HVBEM%3A

His novels are considered to be the finest work in the field of literature. His greatest novel "War and Peace" is quoted as the greatest work ever written. He is widely known for describing literature's characters in a different manner. He expressed his childhood pain and suffering through his characters in the novels. He also put people's day today actions and characteristics in his literary works.