

Penguin  Readers

THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF

MAHATMA GANDHI



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People in the book



Mahatma Gandhi, the young man



Mahatma Gandhi, the old man

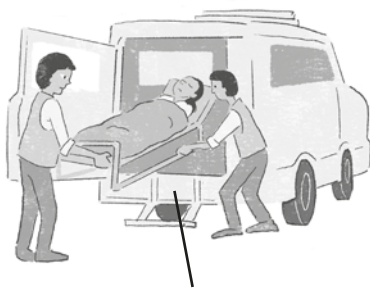


Kasturba Gandhi

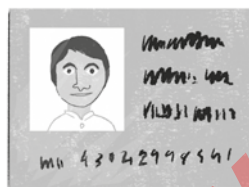


Mahatma, Manilal, Kasturba
and Harilal in 1896

New words



ambulance



ID card



lawyer



prison



religion



university



war

Note about the book

Mahatma Gandhi (1869–1948) was from India. From 1858 to 1947, the British **government*** had **power** over India. Gandhi wanted India to be an **independent** country, and he **fought for** his **beliefs**. India got its **independence** on 15th August 1947.

Some cities in India changed their names after independence. Calcutta is now Kolkata, and Bombay is Mumbai.

There were many religions in India, but most people were **Hindus** or **Muslims**. In 1947, the British government made two parts of India (one in the west, and one in the east) into a new country for Muslims. This country was called Pakistan, and there was West Pakistan and East Pakistan. Today, East Pakistan is a new country called Bangladesh.



Before-reading questions

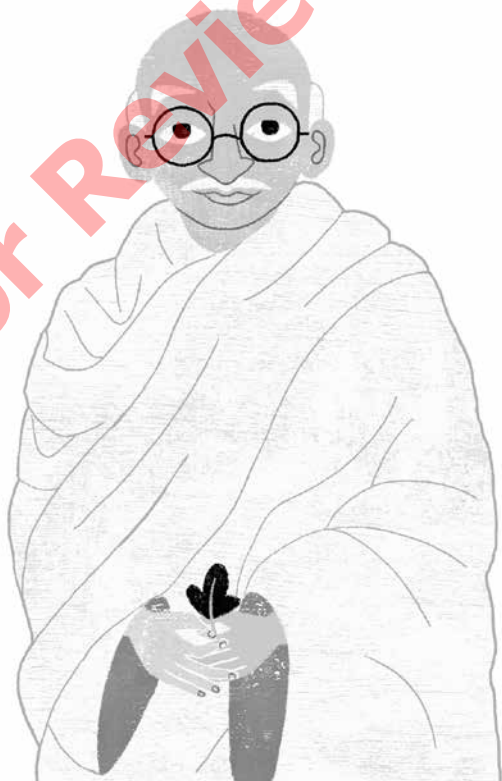
- 1 Look at the cover of the book. What do you know about Mahatma Gandhi?
- 2 What do you know about India and Indian independence?
- 3 Read the “Note about the book”. What more do you know about Mahatma Gandhi and Indian independence now?
- 4 What would you like to find out from this book?

*Definitions of words in **bold** can be found in the glossary on pages 63–64.

CHAPTER ONE

Who was Mahatma Gandhi?

Mahatma Gandhi was **born** on 2nd October 1869, in the small town of Porbandar in the west of India. His mother and father gave him the name Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, and their little boy grew into a very important **man**. He was a **leader**, and his work changed the **lives** of people in South Africa, in India and around the world.



There were four children in Mohandas's family, and Mohandas was the youngest. He was not a quick student or very good at sports, but he worked hard at school. Mohandas also had a strong **mind**. He did not do things because other people did them. He did things because he wanted to do them.



Mohandas Gandhi
worked hard
at school.



Mohandas studied to be a lawyer, and he lived and worked in South Africa for many years. He **fought for** the **rights** of Indian people in the country.

Mohandas studied
to be a lawyer.

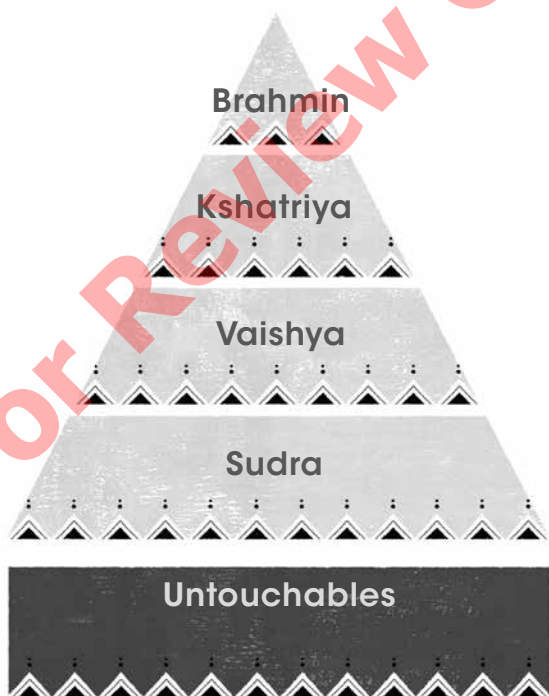
In India, Mohandas also fought for the rights of Indian people. He wanted India and the Indian people to be **independent** from the British. He started **peaceful protests** and talked to British leaders about Indian **independence**.

But Mohandas was more than a leader. He wanted to help people, and he wanted their lives to get better. He worked hard to help old people and **ill** people. He started an ambulance group. The group helped **injured** people in the Boer War in South Africa and in the First World War in Europe.

Mohandas always helped people.



Mohandas Gandhi **believed** in **equal** rights for all people, and he did not like the caste system in India. In the caste system, people and their families were put into different groups (castes). Different castes worked in different jobs. The *untouchables* had hard and dirty jobs. They were always very poor, and their lives were difficult. Gandhi wanted all Indian people to be equal – all castes and all religions.



The Hindu caste system