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Gandhi's Story

Mary Sue Ellinger

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Gandhi's Story

Mary Sue Ellinger – School not available

Grade Level (Req.): 4th-7th grade	Content Area (Req.): World Geography, Reading	Unit (Opt.):
Connections to Other Disciplines (Opt.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 		
Time Frame (Req.): 3 class periods: Use the 20 "A" cards one day, 20 "B" cards the next, then 20 "C" cards for the last day.	Goal (Req.): To understand some basis of India's culture <hr/> Objective (Req.): Students will read aloud and understand Gandhi's story and impact on India.	
Materials Needed (Req.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sixty numbered cards telling Gandhi's life • Bulletin board with timeline and map would be useful • • • • • 	New Vocabulary (Opt.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	
Anticipatory Set/Introduction [Inquiry Question is required] (Req.): Preparation: Photocopy and cut apart numbered cards; you may wish to laminate for continued use. Does anyone anything about Gandhi? How did he impact the Indian people?		
Instructional Sequence/Procedure (Req.): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the story in advance. Be aware of vocabulary and ideas which your students will want to discuss. 2. Have each student (or pair) read one of the cards about Gandhi. (Each card should be read in order.) 3. Discuss, using information as springboard to discussion on non-violent protests and discrimination. 4. Dramatize several scenes that lend themselves to simple but dramatic situations. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 		

- 17.
- 18.
- 19.
- 20.

Formative Evaluation (Req.): Class discussion, ability to work in pairs (if applicable)

Assessment (Req.): Dramatizations? Or have the students write a response to what they learned about Gandhi's life.

Iowa Core Curriculum Standards Used (Req.):

- Geography, grade 3-8: Understand how geographic and human characteristics create culture and define regions.
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Common Core Curriculum Standards Used (Opt.):

- Speaking and Listening, grade 6-12: Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups and teacher-led) with diverse partners on specific grade level topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly and persuasively.
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NGS Standards Used (Req.):

- The Characteristics, Distribution, and Complexity of Earth's Cultural Mosaics
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Five Themes of Geography Used (Req.):

- Place
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School District Standards and Benchmarks (Opt.):

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21st Century Universal Constructs (Opt.):

Other Disciplinary Standards (Opt.):

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Other Essential Information (Opt.):

Other Resources (Opt.):

- Source: "The Story of Gandhi" by Rajkumari Shanker, Children's Book Trust, New Delhi
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A-1

October 2, 1869. Mohandas Gandhi is born at Porbandar on the western coast of India.

A-2

Mohandas was the youngest of six children. His nickname was "Moniya." He was the favorite child of the family.

A-3

Moniya's mother, Putlibai, was very religious. She was a lovable and strong-willed woman, widely respected for her wisdom and good sense.

A-4

Moniya's father, Kaba, was the "Dewan" (administrator) of Porbandar. He was a good administrator, brave and generous.

A-5

Moniya loved his family but was shy and did not mix easily with other children. He loved reading and spent much of his free time reading.

A-6

When Mohandas was a teenager, his marriage to Kasturbai was arranged. The wedding celebrations lasted a week!

A-7

The saddest event in Mohandas' teenage years was the death of his father.

A-8

On September 4, 1888, Mohandas left India to study in London, England, part of Great Britain. He was sad to leave his family, but he was excited about studying abroad.

A-9

When young Gandhi landed in Great Britain, he found everything around him strange. People dressed differently and ate different foods.

A-10

To fit in, Gandhi bought well-tailored, British clothes and took both music and French lessons. His attempt to be an Englishman lasted about three months.

A-11

Gandhi soon realized that he was foolish to try to convert to British ways. He devoted himself to becoming a serious student and joined the London Vegetarian Society.

A-12

Gandhi soon became one of the most promising law students in London. After passing his final law exams with high marks, he was admitted to the bar on June 10, 1891.

A-13

On June 12, 1891, Gandhi sailed home for India. As his ship arrived in Bombay (called Mumbai today) weeks later, he saw his brother waiting on the dock.

A-14

Gandhi's homecoming was a sad one. He learned that his mother had died a few weeks before he returned.

A-15

For a short time, Gandhi practice law in India. Soon, however, he was disgusted with the greed and pettiness among the lawyers. He longed to get away.

A-16

Because Gandhi spoke English well and knew English law, he was asked to go to South Africa to represent a large law firm. Like India, South Africa was a part of the British empire.

A-17

It was a long journey from India to South Africa. After leaving India in April, 1893, he arrived in the Port of Natal, South Africa, towards the end of May, 1893.

A-18

The first thing Gandhi noticed in South Africa was that Indians were treated with little respect. When he appeared in court the first time, he was rudely told to remove his turban.

A-19

Gandhi was insulted by the confrontation about his turban, so he wrote a letter that appeared in a Durban newspaper. Many people noticed the letter.

A-20

After a week in Durban, Gandhi left for Pretoria, South Africa, to work on a legal case. With a first-class ticket, he boarded the train.

B-1

At the first rain stop, an Englishman got into Gandhi's compartment. He looked at Gandhi with contempt and sent for the conductor. "Take this coolie and put him in the place where he belongs. I will not travel with a colored man."

B-2

After his experience with the Englishman on the train, Gandhi resolved to fight all injustice.

B-3

After other problems along the way, Gandhi finally arrived in Pretoria. Here he began his work on the Abdulla law suit.

B-4

While he worked on the law suit, Gandhi formed a league (special group) of the Indians living in Pretoria. Their purpose was to unite and keep the South African government informed about their difficulties and needs.

B-5

Gandhi's brilliance as a lawyer became evident as he won the Abdullah law suit for his client. Although they won, Gandhi convinced his clients to be lenient on their opponent.

B-6

In the South African state where Gandhi was living, Indians had been deprived of all their rights. For example, they were not allowed to use certain highways, they could only do the jobs no one else wanted, and they had to carry a permit if they were going to be out of their house after 9:00 p.m.

B-7

Gandhi had obtained a special letter from the State Attorney allowing him to be outdoors at any time without police interference.

B-8

One evening when Gandhi was walking alone, he was suddenly attacked and knocked down. As he struggled to his feet, he faced a police constable.

B-9

The policeman shouted at Gandhi, "That will teach you to obey the law. No Indian has the right to walk past the President's house. Didn't you know that?"

B-10

An English friend of Gandhi's passed by just as this incident took place. After seeing if Gandhi was alright, he said to the policeman, "This man is my friend and a distinguished lawyer. If he brings a complaint against you, I shall be his witness."

B-11

Even though the Abdullah law suit had been settled, Gandhi decided to stay in South Africa. He could see that the Indians living in South Africa needed help.

B-12

After spending three years in South Africa, Gandhi decided to return to India. His plan was to get support for his cause in South Africa and to bring his family back there.

B-13

When Gandhi returned to Africa at the end of 1896, many people were upset. Many of the whites in Durban thought that Gandhi had caused too much trouble in their country. Many wanted him sent back to India.

B-14

An angry mob was waiting for Gandhi when he got off the ship in Durban. They threw stones, sticks, bricks, and rotten eggs at him.

B-15

When Gandhi was asked to identify his attackers, he wouldn't do it. "I do not want to prosecute anyone," he told the officials.

B-16

As the struggle in South Africa continued, a change was coming over Gandhi. His way of life became simpler. He tried changes in his food. He even came to the conclusion that fasting increased one's willpower.

B-17

During Gandhi's 12-year stay in South Africa, he worked hard for fair treatment of Indians. His ideas about non-violence began here.

B-18

As Gandhi disobeyed unfair laws in South Africa, he and many others spent time in prison.

B-19

One time, he and other Indians decided to disobey the "Black Act." They would not carry their identification card with their

name and fingerprints. "I would rather die than submit to this law," Gandhi said.

B-20

Finally, Gandhi threatened to burn all Indian registration cards if the government would not change their policy.

C-1

Gandhi's passive resistance movement became known as the "Satyagraha" movement. People who acted in non-violent but resistive ways were known as "Satyagahis."

C-2

When the South African government refused to return the Indian's applications for voluntary registration, Gandhi started another Satyagraha movement. A big bonfire was lit, and more than 2,000 certificates were burned.

C-3

Finally, the Indians decided to send a delegation to Great Britain to inform the British Government about the Indian's plight in South Africa. The mission was a failure. They returned to South Africa with grim determination to fight to the bitter end.

C-4

Gandhi then made a big decision. He gave up his practice as a lawyer. He felt he could not go on earning his living by law when he was defying it.

C-5

The South African government continued to harass the Indians and deprive them of their human rights. Many Satyagrahis were beaten, flogged, and killed.

C-6

Finally, Gandhi organized a march of over 6,000 Indian workers from the Natal mining area. They would cross a border without a permit.

C-7

Soon the movement of passive resistance spread throughout the area. The government did not know what to do. The prisons were overflowing and the people would not give up!

C-8

At last Gandhi's efforts paid off. The South African government granted the Indians all the reforms they had asked for.

C-9

Gandhi now felt that his mission in South Africa was over and he wanted to return to India. Two days before he and his family reached India, World War I was declared.

C-10

When Gandhi and his wife finally arrived in India, he was greeted with affection. Some people asked him if there would be a Satyagraha movement in India. "It is difficult to say," he responded.

C-11

As Gandhi traveled around India, he angered some people with his honesty. He also aroused people's desire for Indian's to govern themselves. This was called Home Rule. Home Rule was discussed at a number of meetings in 1916.

C-12

The All India Congress Committee and the All India Muslim League were two very powerful political groups in India. They came to an agreement on the future of India known as the Lucknow Pact.

C-13

Gandhi now focused his attention on labor issues. He wanted to put a stop to ignorant workers being enticed away from India to work in the other British colonies.

C-14

The British Government soon realized Gandhi's strength and his devotion to causes. Gandhi traveled all over India spreading his ideals of non-violence and non-cooperation.

C-15

In the spring of 1917, World War I entered a critical phase. The Germans had inflicted crushing defeats on both the British and French troops in France. The Viceroy of India invited various Indian leaders to attend a war conference. Gandhi was invited and went to Delhi, India.

C-16

Many of Gandhi's friends could not understand how he could support the British. He was actually encouraging Indians to enlist in the armed forces. Gandhi nearly ruined his health during the recruiting campaign.

C-17

In 1919, the British Colonial government made it unlawful to organized opposition to the government. Gandhi led a campaign

that prevented the government from doing this. Gandhi called off the campaign when riots broke out. He also fasted.

C-18

Gandhi worked in many ways for Indian independence from Great Britain. He began a hand spinning and weaving program so that the Indians wouldn't have to buy their cloth from Britain.

C-19

In 1930, Gandhi led hundreds of followers on a march to the sea where they made salt from seawater. This was a protest against the British Salt Acts. The Salt Acts made it a crime to possess salt not bought from Britain.

C-20

During World War II, Gandhi continued his struggle for India's freedom through non-violent disobedience to British rule. Mohandas Gandhi will always be remembered for his non-violent protests against injustice.