October 2, 1869 – January 30, 1948

Mahatma Gandhi
Mahatma Gandhi was born in the state of Gujarat, India in 1869.
At the age of thirteen Mahatma Gandhi was married to Kasturba.

The marriage had been arranged for him by his family.

They had four sons.
When he was 18 Gandhi came to London to train as a barrister.

He tried behaving like an Englishman and took up ballroom dancing. We know that he took a dislike to his landlady’s boiled cabbage!

In these days he got “stage fright” when speaking in court.
He returned to India in 1891, then accepted a job at an Indian law firm in South Africa.
He experienced racism in South Africa proved to be a turning point in his life.

He was refused admission to hotels. Beaten up when he refused to give up his seat to a white man on a stage coach.

And thrown off a train when he refused to move to a third class compartment, after he had paid for a first class ticket.
When he was about to return to India, he heard that a law was going to be passed to prevent Indian people from voting.

He decided to draw attention to this injustice and became an activist.
However Gandhi said:

“There are many causes that I am prepared to die for, but no causes that I am prepared to kill for.”

He developed a new non-violent way to make things right, by getting lots of people to disobey unfair laws, and to be unco-operative with rulers who were treating them badly.
Over the next seven years Gandhi led a non-violent campaign of resistance to laws which were unfair to “coloured” people.

During this time thousands of Indians, including Gandhi, were flagged or jailed, and many were shot for striking or burning their registration cards.
Eventually the government was forced to seek a compromise with Gandhi, and when he left South Africa, conditions for Indian people had greatly improved.
He spun his own yarn and made his own cloth. He encouraged others to do the same, instead of buying imported British material.
At this time Indian villagers were poorly paid, and many were dying of famine.

In 1918 Gandhi began a campaign to get them to stand up for themselves against the British who were ruling India.
It was the time that Gandhi became known as Mahatma.

Mahatma means “Great Soul”.
The British became worried about keeping control. Soldiers were ordered to prevent people from gathering together for meetings.
Nevertheless, in 1919 ten thousand unarmed people attended a protest meeting in Armritsar.

Without warning, British soldiers fired on the crowd, killing nearly 400 people, and wounding over one thousand.

People were very shocked by this atrocity and many more joined Gandhi’s campaign.
Armritsar
Meanwhile the British rulers continued to collect heavy taxes from the people, which kept them in poverty.
In 1930 Gandhi led a 248 mile march to the sea, as a protest against a tax on salt. Thousands joined him in making salt of their own.

Over 60,000 people were arrested.
However, the British Government was forced to negotiate with Gandhi, and they agreed to release political prisoners if he stopped his campaign of non-co-operation.
In 1933 Gandhi went on a fast for 21 days to draw attention to the treatment of the very poorest people in India, who he called the “Children of God”
By 1947 Gandhi’s campaign had weakened the British Government’s hold on the country. But with independence looming, killings and riots raged between Hindus and Muslims who hoped to take control of the Indian Government
During the second World War, Gandhi and his followers made it clear that they wouldn’t support Britain unless India was granted independence.

In 1942 Gandhi was arrested by the British, and imprisoned for two years.
It was decided to divide India into two separate countries – India and Pakistan. Gandhi was strongly opposed to this idea, but was forced to agree because of the threat of civil war.
The violence continued
Gandhi’s appeals for
calm were ignored, so he
began another fast.

Only when Hindu, Sikh
and Muslim leaders
promised to renounce
violence did he agree to
take a sip of orange
A few days later, on January 30th 1948 Gandhi was shot by a Hindu fanatic on his way to a prayer meeting in Delhi.
His ashes were dipped in all the major rivers of the world before being enshrined in the Mahatma Gandhi World Peace Memorial.
In India Gandhi is often called “The Father of the Nation”

Gandhi’s Birthday is October 2, and his Birthday is a public Holiday in India.
Be the change you want to see in the world.

-Mahatma Gandhi
These are the links where I got the informations about Mahatma Gandhi:

1. https://www.britannica.com/biography/Mahatma-Gandhi
2. https://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mahatma_Gandhi
3. https://www.slideshare.net/mobile/Typewriter98/ppt-mahatma-gandhi