CLASS 5 · SOCIAL STUDIES · CHAPTER 12

India's Freedom Struggle

Each part of the chapter is one short sentence, with the words to remember highlighted. Cover the yellow words with a strip of paper and try to say them. The pictures come from your textbook.

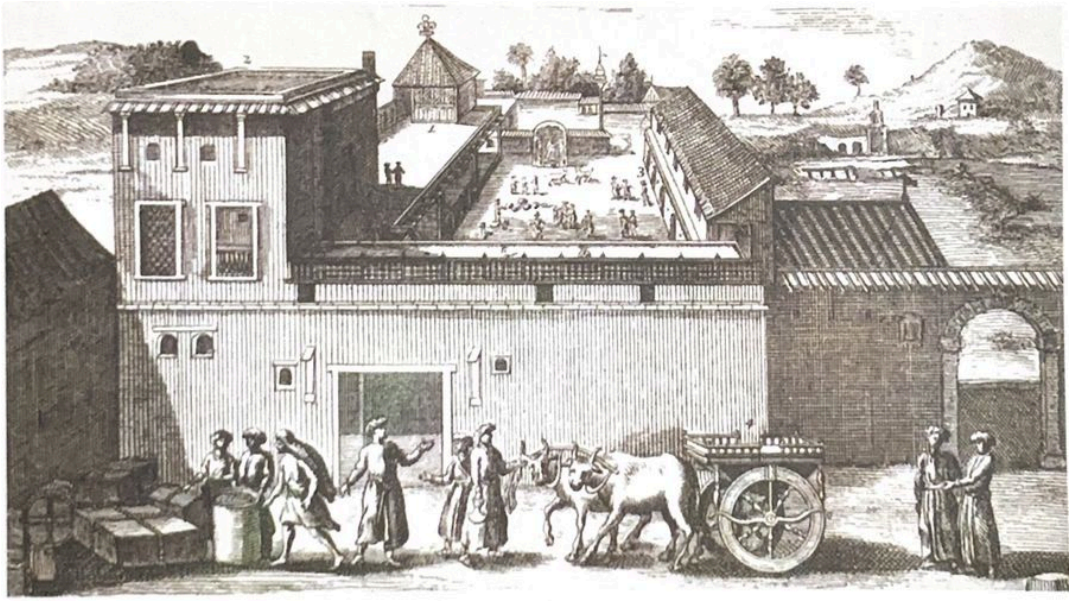
One line per section

1 Visitors to India long ago

Alexander the Great went back after a battle with **Porus**, **Hu-en Tsang** from China came to study at **Nalanda and Takshila**, the **Moghuls** settled here and **Chengis Khan** looted India; **Columbus** landed in **America** instead, **Vasco da Gama** came from **Portugal** for spices, and the **British** ruled for nearly **200 years**, winning power after the **Battle of Plassey (1757)** and full control by **1856**.

2 The East India Company

The British started it on **31 December 1600** to join the **spice trade**, but it got into politics and became an agent of British **domination** (control) in India.



The trading port of the British East India Company at Surat

2.1 East India Company: at a glance

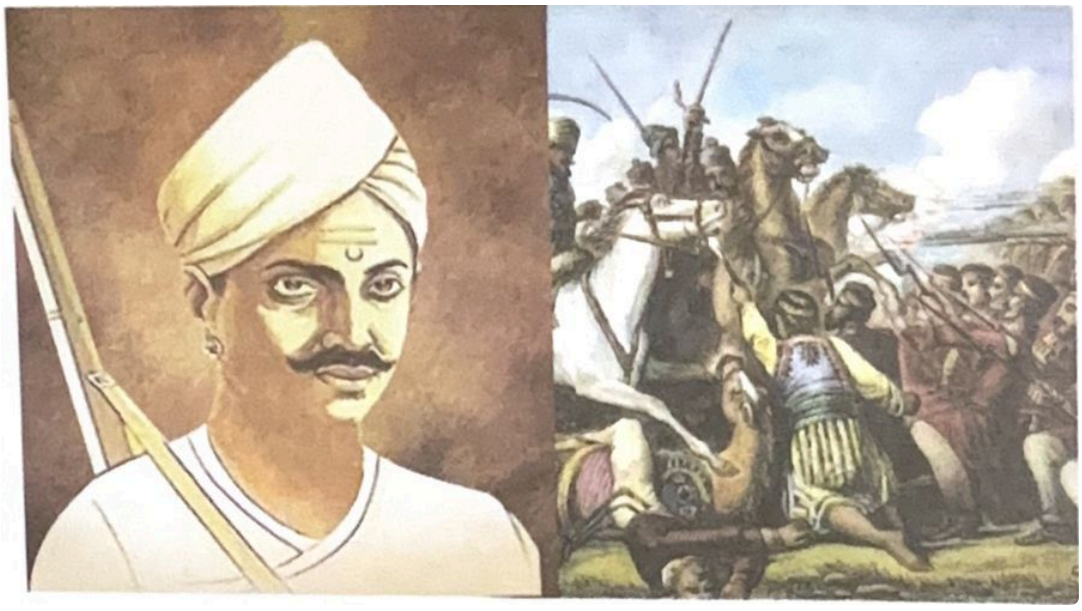
Nicknames: **John Company** and **Company Bahadur**; founder **John Watts**; headquarters **London**; it stopped working on **1 June 1874**.

2.2 Why people became unhappy

Local rulers, peasants, **intellectuals** and common people were unhappy with British rule, which led to the **1857 Mutiny**; the freedom struggle lasted **90 years**, from **1857 to 1947**.

3 Sepoy Mutiny 1857

A **sepoy** was an Indian soldier of the Company; they revolted because the British did not respect Indian customs, and the rifle bullets they had to **bite** were greased with **pig and cow fat**.



Mangal Pandey, who is considered to have sparked the rebellion

3.1 What happened, day by day

Mangal Pandey attacked two officers on **29 March 1857** and was executed on **8 April**; sepoys revolted on **10 May 1857**, marched to **Delhi**, put the **Mughal Emperor** back in power, and the British declared peace on **8 July 1858**.

3.2 Why it failed, and what changed

It failed because there were **no capable leaders** and **little support from the people**; afterwards the **East India Company was abolished**, India came under **direct rule from London**, and Indians could join the local **legislature**.

4 Indian National Congress 1885

The **INC** was formed in **1885** by **Allan Octavian Hume**, a British officer, to organise the freedom struggle; its first meeting was on **28–31 December** in **Bombay**, and **Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee** was its first president.



Formation of INC, 1885



Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee

5 Idea of Satyagraha

Satyagraha means **'power of truth'** (passive resistance without violence); Gandhi first used the word on **11 September 1906** in **Johannesburg**, where **3,000 people** promised to disobey an unfair law.

6 Muslim League 1906

The **All-India Muslim League** was founded on **30 December 1906** in **Dhaka** (headquarters **Lucknow**); it wanted a separate Muslim nation, **Pakistan**, which led to the **partition** of India in 1947, and **Jinnah** joined it in **1913**.



Jinnah joined the Muslim League in 1913

7 Morley-Minto Reforms 1909

Lord Curzon divided Bengal in **1905** (the **partition of Bengal**), causing a big uprising, so the British passed the **Indian Councils Act 1909**, called the **Morley-Minto Reforms**, which gave Indians a small part in government.

8 Gandhian Nationalism 1915–1930

Gandhi came back from **South Africa** in **1915**, gave his first speech at **Banaras Hindu University**, and led local movements at **Champaran, Kheda** and the **Ahmedabad** mill workers' strike.

8.1 Champaran Satyagraha

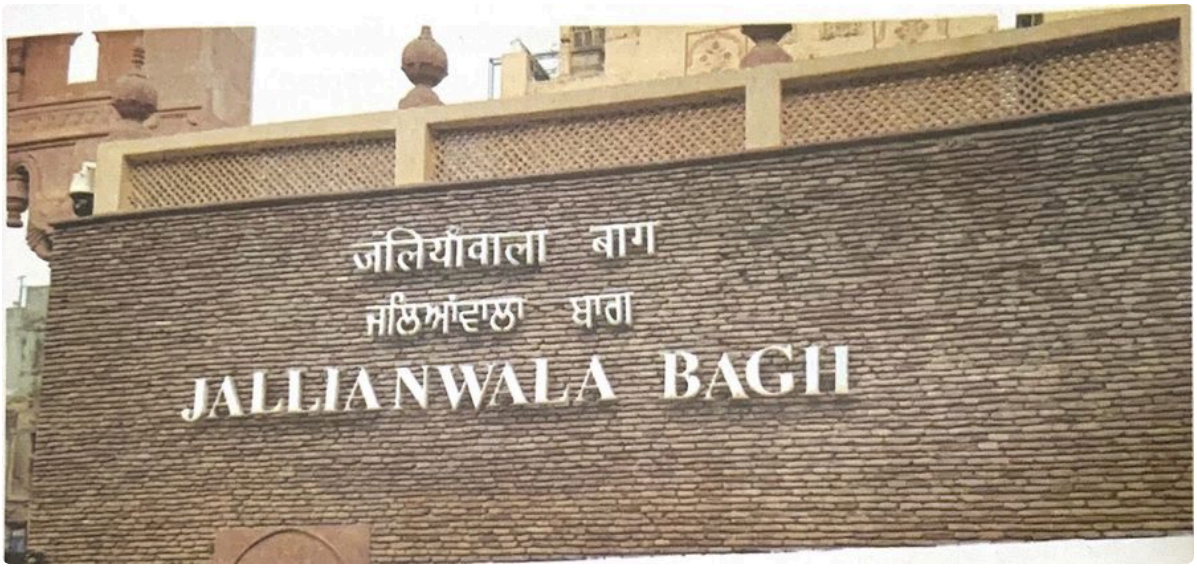
In **April 1917** Gandhi led a **farmers' uprising** in **Champaran** district of **Bihar**.

8.2 Rowlatt Act 1919

This law (**Anarchical** and Revolutionary Crimes Act, **1919**) let the British **jail people without trial** and stopped a free press, so Gandhi called a nation-wide **hartal** (closing shops and work) from **6 April**, called the **Rowlatt Satyagraha**.

8.3 Jallianwala Bagh Massacre

On **13 April 1919** in **Amritsar**, **General Reginald Dyer** ordered soldiers to fire on people; this made many Indians turn against the British; Gandhi called it a **'Himalayan blunder'** and took responsibility as a leader.



Jallianwala Bagh Memorial

8.4 Non-Cooperation Movement

Gandhi started it on **5 September 1920** to win **self-governance** and **full independence**, after the Rowlatt Act and Jallianwala Bagh.

8.5 Chauri Chaura incident

On **4 February 1922**, at Chauri Chaura in **Gorakhpur** district (United Province), Non-Cooperation protesters **clashed with the police**, who opened fire.

8.6 Civil Disobedience Movement

Civil disobedience means openly **refusing to obey** certain laws of a government, and it must be **non-violent** (that is why it is called 'civil').

8.7 Quit India Movement

Also called the **August Movement**, Gandhi launched it on **8 August 1942** at the **Bombay** session of the Congress, demanding an **end to British rule**.

9 **Indian Independence in 1947**

India became free on **15 August 1947** because Britain had **no money** to keep India and **no support** from the people; the **Indian Independence Bill** made **India and Pakistan** at **midnight**, ending more than **100 years** of British rule.

10 **Some of our national leaders**

Patel joined **560 princely states**, **Gandhi** is the **Father of our Nation**, **Bose** led the **Azad Hind Fauj**, **Ambedkar** was architect of the **Constitution**, and **Kamaraj** opened **17,000 schools** (see the Leaders section below for all ten).

11 **Let's Know: Swadeshi and our anthem**

In the **Swadeshi Movement** (1900s) **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** asked people to **boycott foreign goods**; in **1911** **Rabindranath Tagore** wrote the song that became **'Jana Gana Mana'**, adopted as the **National Anthem** on **24 January 1950**.

12 **Global Connect: Goal 16**

UN **Goal 16** is about **peace, justice and inclusion**, the same things freedom fighters wanted; in India **NITI Aayog** coordinates these goals and the **census** collects data.

Timeline

- 1600 East India Company started (31 December).
- 1757 Battle of Plassey: British get political power.
- 1856 British rule firmly established.
- 1857 Sepoy Mutiny: Mangal Pandey 29 March; revolt 10 May.
- 1858 British declare peace (8 July).
- 1874 East India Company stops working (1 June).
- 1885 Indian National Congress formed (Bombay, 28–31 December).
- 1905 Lord Curzon's partition of Bengal.

- **1906** Word "satyagraha" first used (11 September); Muslim League founded (30 December).
- **1909** Morley-Minto Reforms.
- **1911** Tagore writes the song that becomes Jana Gana Mana.
- **1913** Jinnah joins the Muslim League.
- **1915** Gandhi returns from South Africa.
- **1917** Champaran Satyagraha (April).
- **1919** Rowlatt Act; hartal from 6 April; Jallianwala Bagh 13 April.
- **1920** Non-Cooperation Movement (5 September).
- **1922** Chauri Chaura incident (4 February).
- **1942** Quit India Movement (8 August).
- **1947** Independence (15 August); partition into India and Pakistan.
- **1950** Jana Gana Mana adopted as National Anthem (24 January).

The book asks for the date of the Civil Disobedience Movement but does not give one in the chapter, so it isn't in the timeline. Ask your teacher which date to learn.

Causes → Events → Results

Each big change in the chapter, from its cause to the main event and the final result.

The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857

CHAIN 1

CAUSE The British did not respect Indian customs, and sepoys had to **bite bullets greased with pig and cow fat**, which hurt Muslim and Hindu beliefs.

EVENT **Mangal Pandey** attacked two officers on **29 March 1857**; sepoys revolted on **10 May 1857**, marched to Delhi and put the Mughal Emperor back in power.

RESULT The revolt failed (no capable leaders, little support from the people), but the **East India Company was abolished** and India came under **direct rule from London**.

Birth of the Indian National Congress

CHAIN 2

CAUSE — Local rulers, peasants, **intellectuals** and common people were all unhappy with British rule.

EVENT — **Allan Octavian Hume** formed the **INC in 1885**; its first meeting was in **Bombay** (28–31 December), led by **Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee**.

RESULT — The freedom struggle became **organised**, and the INC led the movement for independence.

Partition of Bengal & the Morley-Minto Reforms

CHAIN 3

CAUSE — **Lord Curzon** divided Bengal in **1905**, and Indians had only a very small part in governing their own country.

EVENT — A **massive uprising in Bengal**, while the INC kept asking for reforms and **self-governance**.

RESULT — The **Indian Councils Act 1909 (Morley-Minto Reforms)** gave Indians a small, limited part in government.

Rowlatt Act & Jallianwala Bagh

CHAIN 4

CAUSE — The **Rowlatt Act (1919)** let the British **jail people without trial** and stopped a free press.

EVENT — Gandhi's nation-wide **hartal from 6 April** (Rowlatt Satyagraha), then the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** in Amritsar on **13 April 1919**, ordered by General Dyer.

RESULT — Moderate Indians turned against the British, and Gandhi launched the **Non-Cooperation Movement on 5 September 1920**.

Muslim League & the Partition of India

CHAIN 5

CAUSE — The **Muslim League (1906)** wanted a separate Muslim-majority nation, **Pakistan**.

EVENT — The **Indian Independence Bill** came into force at **midnight** on 15 August 1947.

RESULT — India was divided into two independent nations, **India and Pakistan**, in **1947**.

The British Leave India

CHAIN 6

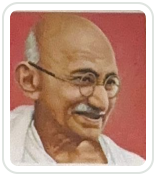
CAUSE — Britain **no longer had the money** to keep India, and Indian resistance showed it had **no popular support**.

EVENT — Movements like **Non-Cooperation**, **Civil Disobedience** and **Quit India (8 August 1942)** kept up the pressure.

RESULT — India became independent on **15 August 1947**, ending more than **100 years** of British rule.

Leaders: who's who

Orange edge = freedom fighter from Tamil Nadu.



Mahatma Gandhi

FATHER OF OUR NATION

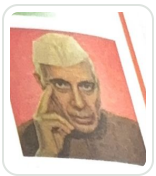
Born **2 Oct 1869**, Porbandar; died 30 Jan 1948. Led India with **truth, non-violence and satyagraha**.



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

IRON MAN OF INDIA

Brought **560 princely states** together. First **Deputy Prime Minister**. 'Sardar' means chief.



Jawaharlal Nehru

CHACHA NEHRU

Prime Minister **1947–1964**. Loved children: his birthday, **14 November**, is Children's Day.



Subhash Chandra Bose

NETAJI

Led the **Indian National Army (Azad Hind Fauj)**. Slogans: 'Jai Hind', 'Chalo Dilli'.



Bhagat Singh

INSPIRED MANY GENERATIONS

Born **28 Sept 1907**. Gave his life in **1931** at just **23**.



Dr B. R. Ambedkar

BABASAHEB

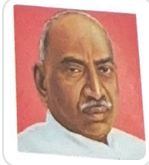
Architect of the **Indian Constitution**; first Law Minister. Fought **untouchability**. Bharat Ratna 1990.



Mangal Pandey

SPARKED THE 1857 REVOLT

Sepoy who attacked two British officers on **29 March 1857**.



K. Kamaraj

PERUNTHALAIVAR (A GREAT LEADER)

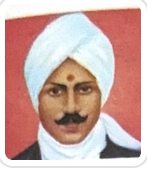
(1903–1975) Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu 3 times; opened **17,000 schools**.



Tiruppur Kumaran

KODI KAATHA KUMARAN

Born **4 Oct 1904**, Erode district. Founded the **Desa Bandhu Youth Association**.



Subramanya Bharathi

TAMIL POET

Used his **poems** to make people in the south join the freedom struggle.



V. O. Chidambaram Pillai

KAPPALOTTIYA TAMIZHAN (TAMIL HELMSMAN)

Started the first Indian **shipping service**, Tuticorin to Colombo. Disciple of Tilak.

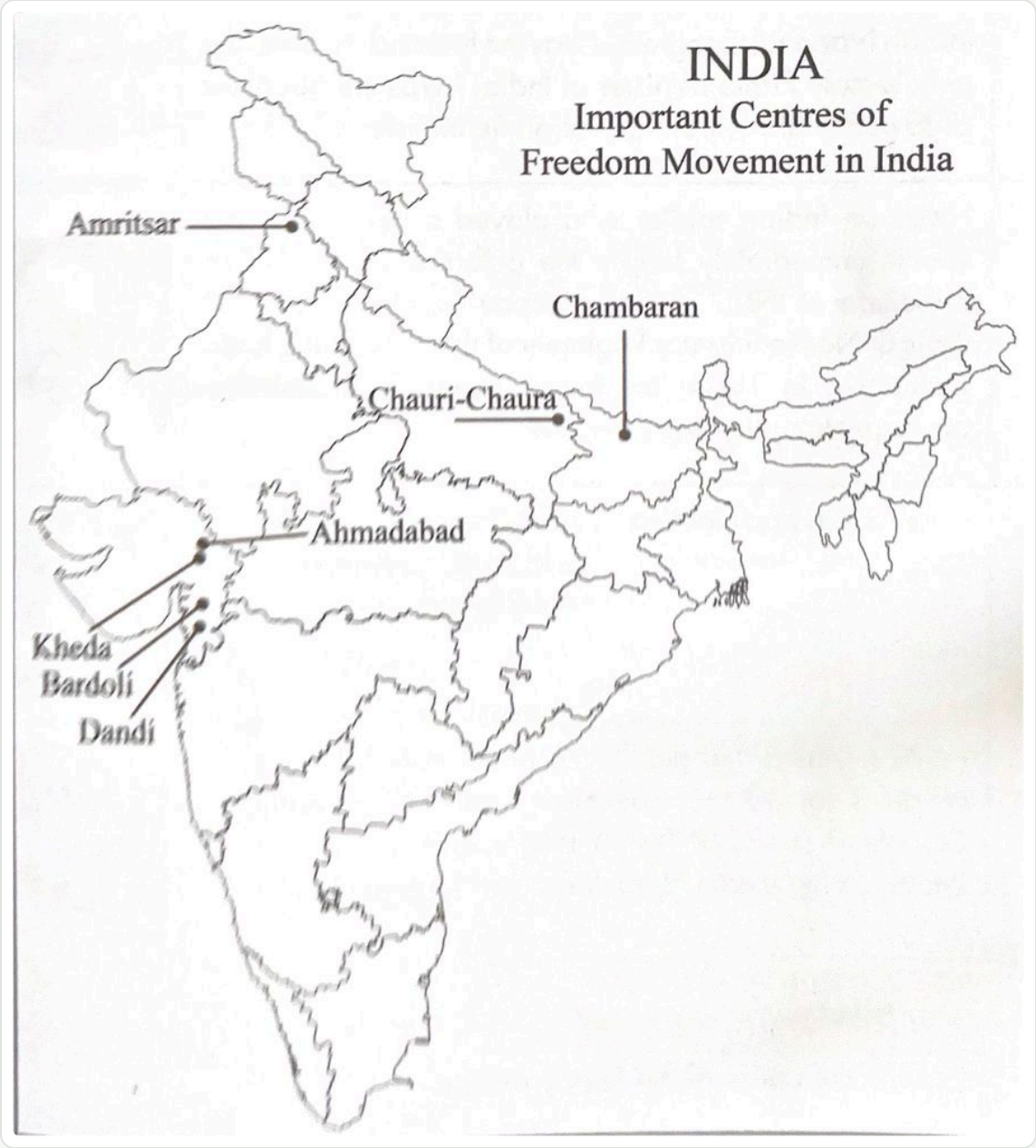


Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee

FIRST INC PRESIDENT

Led the first INC meeting in **Bombay, 1885**.

Map: important places



Important centres of the Freedom Movement in India (textbook Map Work)

Amritsar	Jallianwala Bagh massacre, 13 April 1919
Champaran (Bihar)	Gandhi's farmers' satyagraha, April 1917
Chauri Chaura	Protesters clashed with police, 4 February 1922
Ahmedabad	Mill workers' strike led by Gandhi

Kheda	One of Gandhi's first local movements
Dandi	The Dandi March, an important satyagraha
Bardoli	Marked on the book's map, but the chapter doesn't describe it
Bombay	First INC meeting 1885; Quit India launched 1942
Delhi	Sepoys marched here in 1857 and restored the Mughal Emperor

Memory tricks

THE BIG THREE YEARS

1857 · 1885 · 1947

Mutiny, Congress, Freedom. From 1857 to 1947 is **90 years** of struggle.

DOUBLE 1906

06 + 06

Two things were born in **1906**: the word **Satyagraha** (Sept) and the **Muslim League** (Dec).

TWO BAD THINGS IN 1919

R → J

Rowlatt Act, then **J**allianwala Bagh. Hartal on the **6th**, massacre on the **13th** of April.

GANDHI'S FIRST FIGHTS

C-K-A

"Cool Kids Agree": **C**hamparan, **K**heda, **A**hmedabad.

GANDHI'S BIG MOVEMENTS, IN ORDER

N → C → Q

"No Cake? Quit!": **N**on-Cooperation (1920) → **C**ivil Disobedience → **Q**uit India (1942).

1857 CALENDAR

29 · 8 · 10

Pandey attacks **29 March**, is hanged **8 April**, sepoys revolt **10 May**. Peace: **8 July 1858**.

WHY 1857 FAILED

No L, No P

No Leaders, **No People's** support.

TAMIL NADU HEROES

K-K-B-V

"Kind Kids Become Volunteers": **K**amaraj, **K**umaran, **B**harathi, **V**.O.C.

NICKNAMES

Iron · Chacha · Netaji

Iron Man = **Patel**, Chacha = **Nehru**, Netaji = **Bose**, Babasaheb = **Ambedkar**, Perunthalaivar = **Kamaraj**.

SATYAGRAHA

Satya = Truth

Satya = **truth**, so satyagraha = **power of truth**. No fighting, no hitting.

INC FIRST MEETING

H · B · B

Hume formed it, **B**ombay hosted it, **B**onnerjee was president.

MUSLIM LEAGUE CARD

D-L-1906

Born in **D**haka, office in **L**ucknow, ended on **14 Aug 1947**, a day before India's freedom.

Who am I?

From the textbook's "Who am I?" exercise. Read the clue and say the name; the answer is in green.



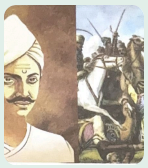
1. I was the queen of Jhansi and a leading figure of the 1857 Rebellion, a symbol of resistance to British rule.

Rani of Jhansi (Rani Lakshmibai)



2. I was the first and only woman Prime Minister of India, and the daughter of Jawaharlal Nehru.

Indira Gandhi



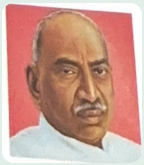
3. I was a sepoy in the 34th Bengal Native Infantry before the 1857 Rebellion. A stamp was issued for me in 1984.

Mangal Pandey



4. I was a political activist and poet who supported women's freedom and India's independence.

Sarojini Naidu



5. I was a freedom fighter from Tamil Nadu who joined Gandhi's movement. People call me 'Perunthalaivar'.

K. Kamaraj

Flashcards

Cover the green answer and say it out loud first. The last ten are the book's Word Wise words.

When was the East India Company started?

31 December 1600

What is a sepoy?

An Indian soldier in the service of the British East India Company

Why did the sepoys refuse the bullets?

The grease was made of pig and cow fat, which hurt Muslim and Hindu beliefs

Who sparked the 1857 rebellion?

Mangal Pandey (29 March 1857)

Two reasons the 1857 revolt failed?

No capable leaders; little support from the people

Which company was abolished after 1857?

The East India Company

Who formed the INC, and when?

Allan Octavian Hume, 1885

First president of the INC?

Womesh Chandra Bonnerjee

What does 'satyagraha' mean?

'Power of truth' (passive resistance)

Where and when was the Muslim League founded?

Dhaka, 30 December 1906

Who divided Bengal in 1905?

Lord Curzon

What did the Rowlatt Act allow?

Jailing people without trial; it also stopped a free press

When and where was the Jallianwala Bagh massacre?

13 April 1919, Amritsar

Who ordered the firing at Jallianwala Bagh?

Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer

When did Non-Cooperation start?

5 September 1920

Quit India Movement: other name and date?

August Movement, 8 August 1942

Why did the British leave India?

No money to keep India, and no support from the people

Who is the 'Iron Man of India'?

Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Netaji's famous slogans?

'Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe aazadi dunga', 'Jai Hind', 'Chalo Dilli'

Who wrote the song that became Jana Gana Mana?

Rabindranath Tagore (1911); adopted 24 January 1950

colony

A country or area under the political control of another country

domination

Having control over people or a situation

intellectuals

People interested in learning and thinking about complicated ideas

legislature

The group of people who make and change laws

mutiny

A rebellion against authority

campaign

An organised course of action to achieve a goal

anarchical

Without law or control

hartal

Closing shops or stopping work as a political protest

republic

A government in which the state is ruled by representatives of the citizens

sepoy (Word Wise)

An Indian soldier in the service of the British East India Company

Quick quiz

Questions 1–8 are from the book's Review Zone. Correct answers are in green.

1. Which important event of 1857 is an inspiration for the freedom struggle?

Quit India | Non-cooperation | **Sepoy Mutiny** | Chalo Dilli

Why: The Sepoy Mutiny of 1857 was the first war of Indian independence.

2. He was our first Deputy Prime Minister and is called the 'Iron Man of India'.

Chacha Nehru | Mahatma Gandhi | **Vallabhbhai Patel** | B. R. Ambedkar

Why: Sardar Patel brought 560 princely states together.

3. Which way encouraged the path of truth and non-violence?

Parigraha | Anugraha | Navagraha | **Satyagraha**

Why: Satyagraha means 'power of truth'.

4. Openly refusing to obey certain laws of a government is called...

Mutiny | Rebellion | **Civil disobedience** | Revolution

Why: It must be non-violent, which is why it is 'civil'.

5. Which statement is FALSE?

- Jallianwala Bagh showed the cruelty of British rule
- Non-Cooperation aimed at self-governance and full independence
- **Quit India is also called the October Movement**
- Civil disobedience means peaceful, non-violent protest

Why: Quit India is called the AUGUST Movement (8 August 1942).

6. Which Tamil Nadu leader opened 17,000 schools?

- Tiruppur Kumaran
- V. O. Chidambaram Pillai
- **K. Kamaraj**
- C. Rajagopalachari

Why: Kamaraj, 'Perunthalaivar', was Chief Minister three times.

7. Which Act gave the power to jail people without trial?

- **Rowlatt Act**
- Pitt's India Act
- Ilbert Bill
- The Official Secrets Act

Why: The Rowlatt Act of 1919, opposed with a nation-wide hartal.

8. Champaran, where Gandhi led a satyagraha, is in...

- Gujarat
- Uttarakhand
- **Bihar**
- Jharkhand

Why: Champaran district of Bihar, April 1917.

9. The Quit India Movement started in the year...

- 1920
- 1922
- **1942**
- 1947

Why: Launched on 8 August 1942 in Bombay.

10. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place in...

Delhi | **Amritsar** | Bombay | Lucknow

Why: Amritsar, 13 April 1919.

3-day revision plan

Day 1 · 20 min

- Read the one-liners out loud.
- Cover the yellow words in sections 1–7 and say them.
- Learn the "big three years".

Day 2 · 20 min

- Cover the yellow words in sections 8–12.
- Draw the timeline from memory, then check it.
- Do the Who am I? cards.

Day 3 · 20 min

- Flashcards and the quiz.
- Point to each place on the map and say what happened there.
- Tell someone the story from 1857 to 1947 in 3 minutes.

STORY METHOD

Tell it like a story: **traders came → took over → sepoys fought (1857) → Congress formed (1885) → Gandhi used truth → India free (1947)**.

ACT IT OUT

Pretend to be a leader and say one line: "I am Netaji. Chalo Dilli!" Saying it out loud helps you remember it.