

Chapter - 13 (History and Civics)

Class - 8

Mahatma Gandhi Leads the Freedom Struggle.

D. Answer in brief:

2. What was the Rowlatt Act?

Ans: Rowlatt Act was the Act, where the government could imprison any person without a trial and search any place without a warrant.

3. Why did khadi and the Charkha become symbols of non-cooperation?

Ans: Khadi and the Charkha became the symbols of non-cooperation because spinning and weaving was a part of constructive program of Gandhiji. Charkha and khadi became the symbol of self-reliance, perseverance and determination.

E. Answer in detail.

2. Describe how the Rowlatt Act led to the Rowlatt Satyagraha.

Ans: (i) Mahatma Gandhi took a pledge to oppose the Rowlatt Act through Satyagraha.

(ii) He called for a countrywide passive resistance on 6th April 1919. It was observed as a Black Day.

(iii) There were demonstrations and hartals or strikes staged by Hindus and Muslims.

3. Write few lines about the Jallianwala Bagh incident.

- Ans: (i) On 13th April 1919, people gathered at Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar to protest against the arrest of two nationalist leaders - Satya Pal and Dr. Saifuddin Kitchlew. The meeting was peaceful and many aged men, women and children were present.
- (ii) General Dyer, a British officer, entered the park with military troops and opened fire on these unarmed demonstrators.
- (iii) As the park had high walls and only one exit, hardly anyone could escape. Hundreds were killed and over a thousand were injured.

4. What was the Non-Cooperation Movement? What was its impact on the country?

Ans: Non-Cooperation Movement was a peaceful way to fight against the opposition, by refusing to co-operate with their policies.

The Non-Cooperation Movement had a powerful impact on the country:

- (i) It turned the freedom struggle into a mass movement. Indians from all walks of life came forward to join the Movement.
- (ii) The enforcement of law and order by the government resulted in clashes and bloodshed.
- (iii) By the end of 1921, thousands of important nationalist leaders had been imprisoned. But this could not subdue the spirits of the Indians.

What was the Chauri Chaura incident? Why did Gandhi call off the Non-Cooperation Movement after this incident?

Ans: On 5th February 1922, a procession of a few thousand peasants, led by Congress workers, was fired upon by the police at Chauri Chaura, in Uttar Pradesh. In anger, the peasants burnt down the police station. Twenty-two policemen died.

Mahatma Gandhi took a very serious view of this incident. He realised that the idea of non-violence had not been properly understood by the people, so he called off the campaign of non-cooperation.

Picture Study

1. This picture was taken in South Africa
2. He was practising law.
3. Gandhiji was engaged in a long struggle against racism and other injustices.
4. Nelson Mandela.

A. Fill in the blanks. (only answers)

1. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, Porbandar (Gujarat)
1869.
4. 1919

B. Tick the sentences that are true. Correct the others.

1. False - The Jallianwala Bagh is in Amritsar.
5. False - The Chauri Chaura incident occurred in 1922.

C. Multiple choice questions:

1. a
2. d
3. c
4. a