Two New Nations

Trace how resistance and division ended the British Raj.

MWH.C.7.3.A "Describe the fall of the British Raj and the emergence of an independent India and Pakistan, including the influence, ideas, and acts of civil disobedience by Mohandas Gandhi."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline Gandhi's ideas and acts of civil disobedience, circle pressures on British rule, and number the two new nations. Use your marks to trace how the Raj ended.

From Raj to Independence

1 At the start of the twentieth century, Britain ruled most of the Indian subcontinent through the British Raj. British officials held the highest offices, while many Indians demanded a voice in governing themselves. In 1919, British troops fired on an unarmed crowd in Amritsar, killing hundreds. The massacre deepened distrust of colonial rule. Mohandas Gandhi called for **swaraj**, or self-rule, and argued that Indians could resist injustice without using violence. He urged people to boycott British goods and institutions. By refusing to cooperate, millions could make it harder for Britain to govern while showing that Indians could organize for independence.

2 In 1930, Gandhi led a march to the sea, where he broke British salt laws by making salt. The Salt March turned an everyday need into a public protest against the Raj. Thousands joined the wider civil disobedience campaign, openly breaking laws they considered unjust and accepting arrest rather than attacking officials. During World War II, Britain drew heavily on Indian resources and soldiers, yet kept control of India's government. In 1942, Gandhi and the Indian National Congress called for Britain to quit India. British authorities jailed many leaders, but the demand for independence continued to grow.

3 After World War II, Britain was weakened and faced growing pressure to leave. Leaders of the Indian National Congress sought a united independent country, while Muhammad Ali Jinnah's Muslim League pressed for Pakistan, a separate state with Muslim-majority regions. Disagreements over political power and rising violence between religious communities made a shared government harder to arrange. Britain decided to partition its colony. Pakistan became independent on August 14, 1947, and India on August 15. Borders cut through Punjab and Bengal; amid fear and violence, millions fled their homes. The Raj ended, but independence brought both self-rule and a painful division.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Gandhi's ideas about self-rule and nonviolence offer a way to challenge British rule?

2. How did the Salt March turn an everyday need into a challenge to the Raj?

3. How did World War II and the Quit India call increase pressure on British rule?

4. Why did independence produce two states, and what was one consequence of the division?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a 75 to 100 word museum label titled "Two Birthdays, One Divide" that begins with a visitor question. Explain how Gandhi's ideas and one act of civil disobedience challenged the Raj, why India and Pakistan emerged as separate states, and one human cost of partition; connect at least two events with cause-and-effect language.

Two New Nations

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline Gandhi's ideas and acts of civil disobedience, circle pressures on British rule, and number the two new nations. Use your marks to trace how the Raj ended. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Gandhi's ideas about self-rule and nonviolence offer a way to challenge British rule?	**Gandhi argued that Indians could seek self-rule without violence. Boycotting British goods and institutions would make the Raj harder to govern.**
2	How did the Salt March turn an everyday need into a challenge to the Raj?	**Gandhi made salt in defiance of British law. This public act encouraged others to break laws they considered unjust and accept arrest.**
3	How did World War II and the Quit India call increase pressure on British rule?	**Britain used Indian resources and soldiers during the war while keeping political control. In 1942, Gandhi and the Indian National Congress demanded that Britain leave, and support for independence kept growing despite arrests.**
4	Why did independence produce two states, and what was one consequence of the division?	**Congress leaders sought a united country, while the Muslim League pressed for a separate Pakistan. Britain partitioned its colony, creating India and Pakistan; amid fear and violence, millions fled their homes.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Two Birthdays, One Divide

How could a protest over salt help end an empire? Gandhi believed Indians could gain self-rule through nonviolent resistance. When he made salt in defiance of British law, he showed how ordinary people could challenge the Raj, and thousands joined the wider campaign. After World War II, weakened Britain faced growing demands to leave. Congress leaders wanted a united country, but the Muslim League pressed for Pakistan. Because they could not agree on a shared government, Britain partitioned its colony. Independence brought two states, while fear and violence drove millions from their homes.

Accept explanations that connect nonviolent resistance and wartime pressures to the Raj's decline. Students should distinguish the creation of two independent states from the displacement that accompanied partition.