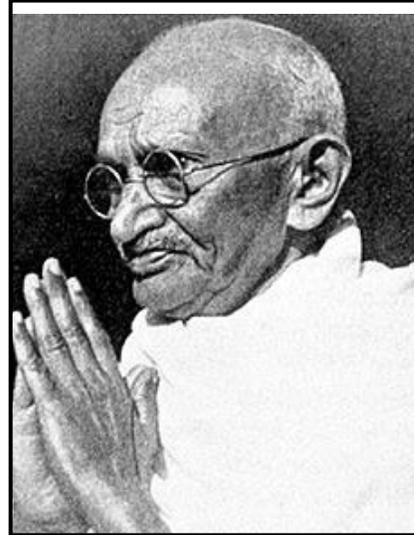


# Salt March

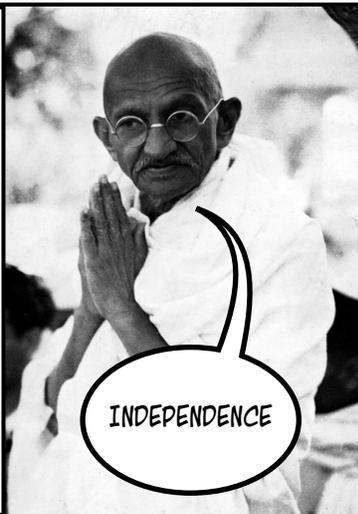
In 1930, the Salt March occurred which affected the rest of lives of Indian people and brought them independence from the British Raj.

Date:



I was a 5 year old kid when I saw this, nearly bald man of 60 years who was dressed in simple clothes made out of a coarse, hand-woven material called khadi. He wore dhoti or a kind of loincloth similar to baggy shirts and a shawl draped over his shoulders and wooden sandals. He was missing numerous teeth and he wore small steel-rimmed glasses.

I asked my dad who that was. He said that that was a spiritual leader Mohandas Gandhi. He was looking for followers, who would help him free us from salt taxes.



I didn't know what were salt taxes, what's why I asked my grandfather about it. He said that people had to pay taxes on salt and buy salt from Britain. Also, they were not allowed to make salt.



I thought that it was kind of unfair and I got interested in that idea. I decided to find out a little bit more, what this weird old man and all those people wanted to do.



I asked my grandmother about them. She said that Gandhi was collecting followers to do a protest. Our town was the last one on his way, that's why he had already have 60,000 people with him. Gandhi's idea was to break the law by "producing" the salt by himself.

Next day, 6th of April, I woke up at 4 in the morning because I was too excited for today's event. I left our small house, so they I wouldn't wake up my parents. I decided to go to the shore, where I was supposed to meet my parents in two hours.



And then, I saw a woman meditating. I saw her before a, she was walking next to Gandhi, when they came here. I decided to say hi to her. When I came up to that woman, she opened her eyes and smiled. Then, she asked me who I was. And she said that she was Sarojini Naidu. I knew that name, she was the first woman governor and a poet. Also, she said that she wanted to free us, because she thought it was unfair, but it wasn't her main idea. Her main idea was to bring together Hindus and Muslims. My family was Hindu and I've heard my dad saying bad things about Muslims. But peace would be better, I thought.

When I realized that it was 5:40, I ran to another part of the shore, where I had to meet my parents. That part of the shore was inaccessible for us, but people broke in there. I've never seen so much salt before!!



On April 6th, at 6 am we went in the water. It's an Indian tradition, we do it every day. Then, everyone took a handful of salt, in this manner the law was broken. I've never seen such amount of people having the same idea and doing the same thing together!!



A couple of seconds later, police and military people broke into inevitable beach too. 25,000 people were arrested. Gandhi and Naidu were arrested too. Hopefully, none of my family were arrested, but I was very worried about Naidu, because she was such a good woman and governor!

Since that day I haven't seen either Sarojini Naidu or Gandhi. But today, in 1947, India was freed from Great Britain by Gandhi and Naidu. I was very lucky that I had an opportunity to take part in one of their demonstrations. They did what they wanted. They completed their goals.