

## Document Based Assessment

### A Fistful of Salt

Mohandas Gandhi's campaign of nonviolent resistance was a potent weapon in the Indian struggle for independence from Britain. The documents below describe one hard-fought battle: the Salt March of 1930.

#### Document A

"Wherever possible, civil disobedience of the salt laws should be started. These laws can be violated in three ways. It is an offense to manufacture salt wherever there are facilities for doing so. The possession and sale of contraband salt, which includes natural salt or salt earth, is also an offense. The purchasers of such salt will be equally guilty. To carry away the natural salt deposits on the seashore is likewise violation of the law. So is the hawking of such salt. In short, you may choose any one or all of these devices to break the salt monopoly."

--Gandhi on the Salt March

#### Document B

"The Salt Satyagraha started with a dramatic long march by Gandhi and a group of picked companions from Sabamati to the coast at Dandi, 240 miles away, where he proceeded to make salt illegally by boiling sea water. The march was a publicity enterprise of great power as the press followed the party's progress...As he journeyed...deliberately challenging established authority, village headmen began to resign in large numbers...in April, India's Viceroy, Lord Irwin reported to London that in Gujarat 'the personal influence of Gandhi threatens to create a position of real embarrassment to the administration...as in some areas he has already achieved a considerable measure of success in undermining the authority of Government.'"

--From **Modern India: The Origins of Asian Democracy**  
By Judith M. Brown

#### Document C

"Suddenly, at a word of command, scores of native policemen rushed upon the advancing marchers and rained blows on their heads with their steel-shod lathis. Not one of the marchers even raised an arm to fend off the blows. They went down like ten-pins...The survivors, without breaking ranks, silently and doggedly marched on until struck down."

--Webb Miller, a British journalist reporting on a march to the salt deposits at Dharsana

#### Document D



Gandhi picking up salt at the costal village of Dandi in India, April 6, 1930

### Analyzing Documents

Use your knowledge of this Chapter and Documents A, B, and C and D to answer questions 1-4.

- In Document A, Gandhi was mainly addressing
  - British Journalists
  - Journalists around the world
  - The British people
  - The Indian people
- In Document B, the historian describes the effect of the Salt March on
  - The supply of salt.
  - The authority of the British government.
  - Protestors in other countries
  - Gandhi's health
- Which words from Document C reflect the attitude of the reporter toward the marchers?
  - Suddenly, command
  - Steel-shod, lathis, ten-pins
  - Fend, blows
  - Silently, doggedly
- Writing Task** How was the Salt March a turning point in India's struggle for independence? Use what you have learned from these documents and the chapter, notes, and internet research.