

CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA

1917

(Mahatma Gandhi's first Satyagraha in India)

Social Science

Grade 8

Chapter No: 9

The Making of the National Movement

(1870-1947)

Our Pasts- III Part II



Gyan Bharati School, Saket, New Delhi
Affiliated to CBSE

Disclaimer

This book is published as a reading material to enable the students to have a better understanding about the Champaran Satyagraha and advent of Mahatma Gandhi.

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The Principal, Mrs. Nishi Misra Manglik for her constant guidance, support and encouragement.

The advisor, Mr. Sandeep Sethi for his valuable inputs.

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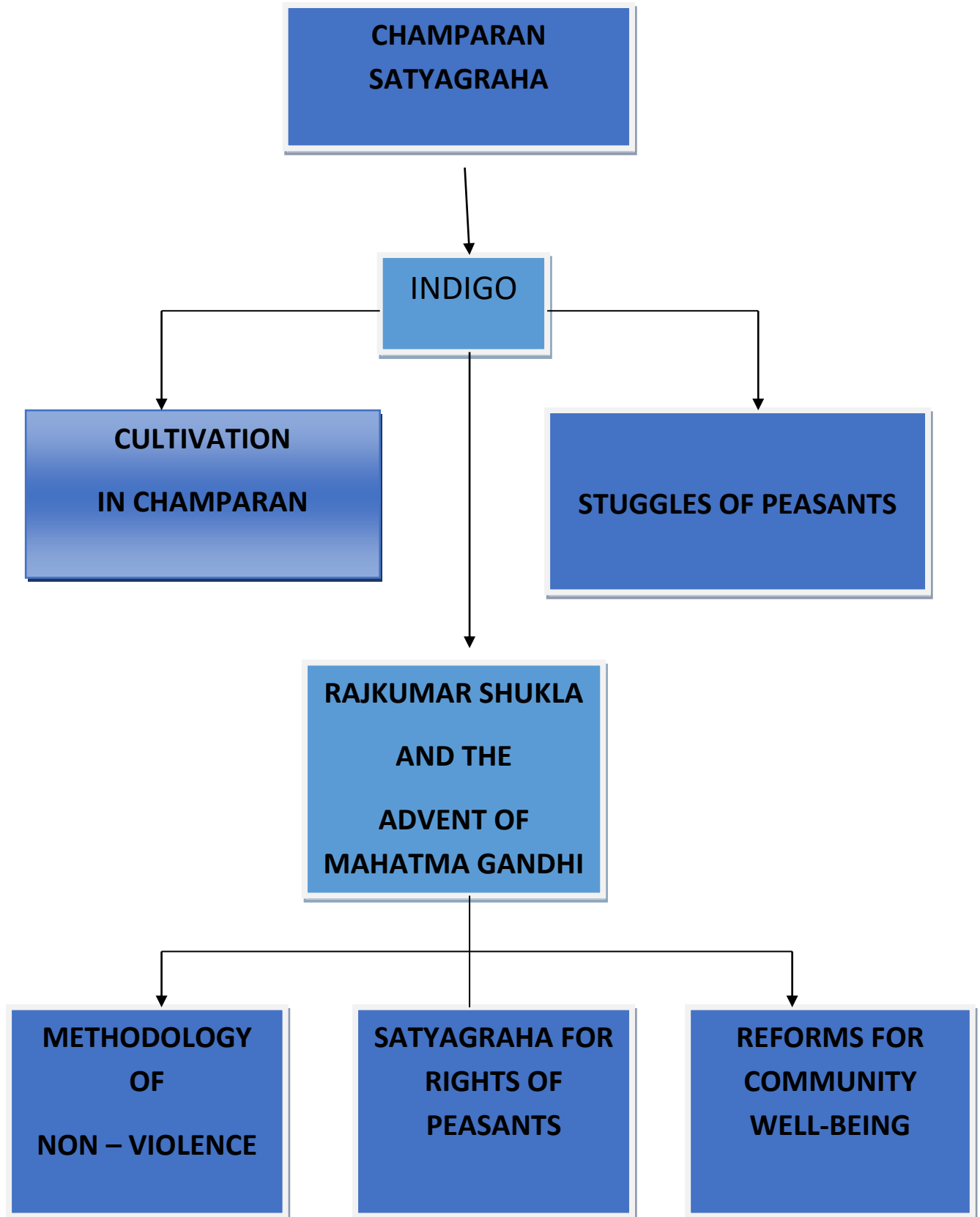
Technical Assistance

Neha Sharma

Learning Outcomes

- Students will learn about Indigo cultivation and making a dye from it.
- Students will analyse the agrarian policy of the colonial government in India in the region of Bihar and its impact on the Peasants (Ryots) in the 19th and 20th century.
- Students will be introduced to the strategy used by the colonial government to yield revenue from the countryside by the cultivation of indigo.
- Students will learn about the problems faced by the peasants who were engaged in cultivation of Indigo.
- Students will learn about the first experiment of Satyagraha by Mahatma Gandhi in India.
- Through the case study of Champaran Satyagraha the students will learn about the two ideas of Gandhiji:
 - Ahimsa or Non - Violence
 - Following the path of Truth in our thought, words and actions.
 - Students will inculcate the value of Non-violence and harmony in their life.

STORY BOARD



TIME LINE

2 October 1869: Birth of Gandhiji at Porbandar.



1882: Married to Kasturba bai, aged 13.



29th September 1888: went to England to study Law and became a barrister.



25th May 1893----- 14th July 1914: South Africa (Durban)



9th January 1915: Gandhiji reached India with Kasturba Gandhi.

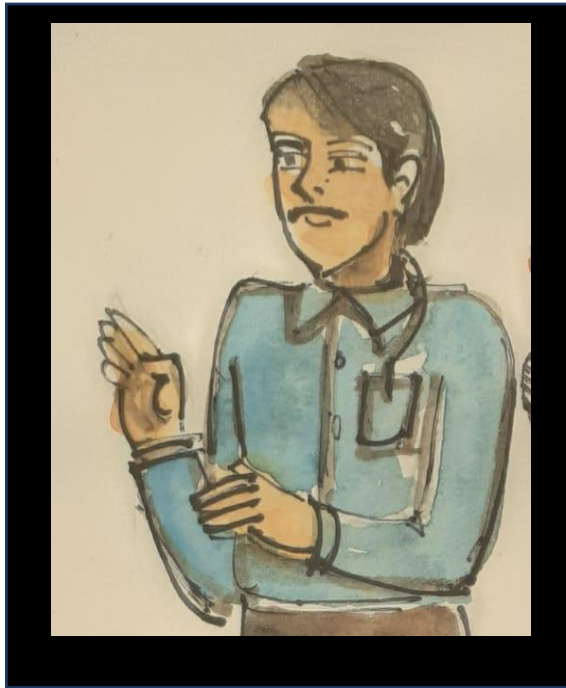


December 1916: Gandhiji attended the Indian National Congress convention
and met Rajkumar Shukla.

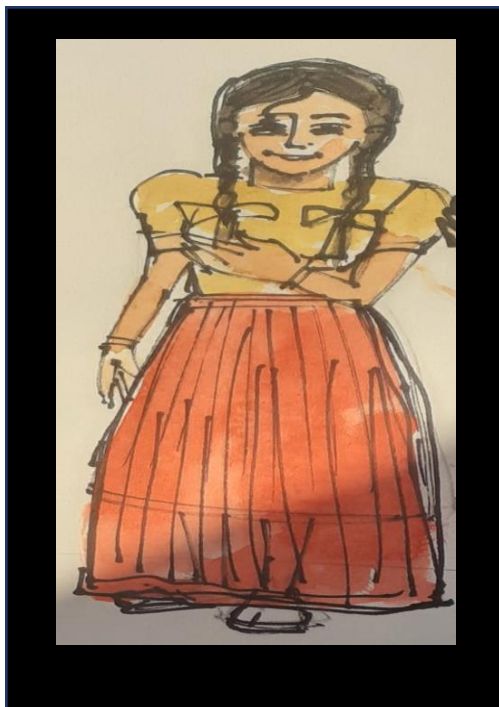


19 April 1917: Gandhiji led a successful Satyagraha at Champaran for the rights of
peasants, cultivating Indigo.

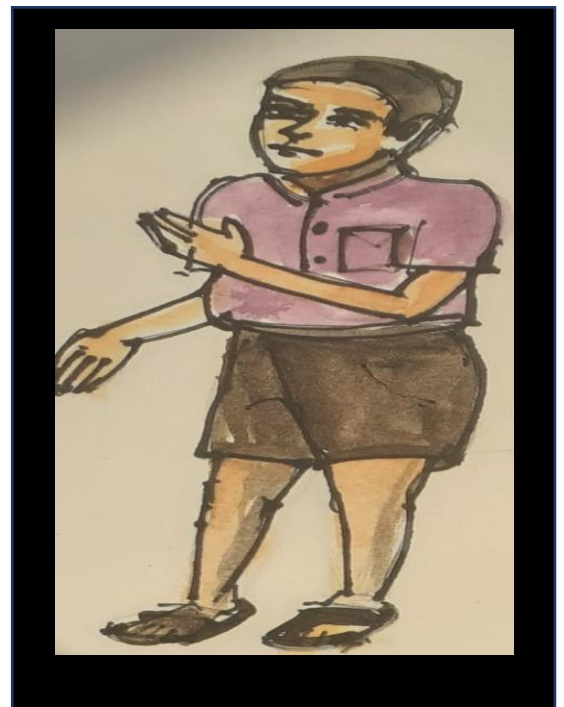
Know your characters



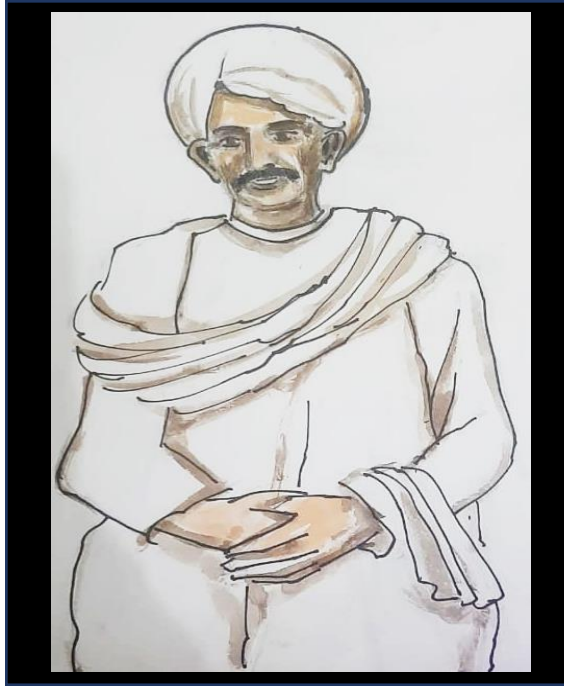
Chachaji: 43 years old man from Champaran, Bihar.



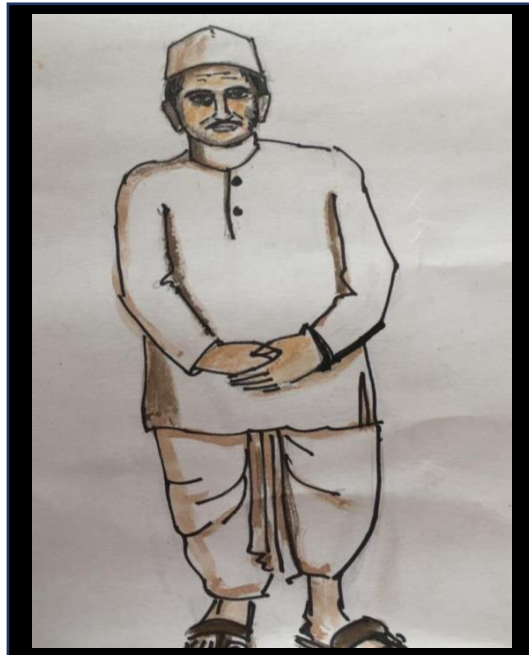
Indu: 14 year old girl from Delhi.



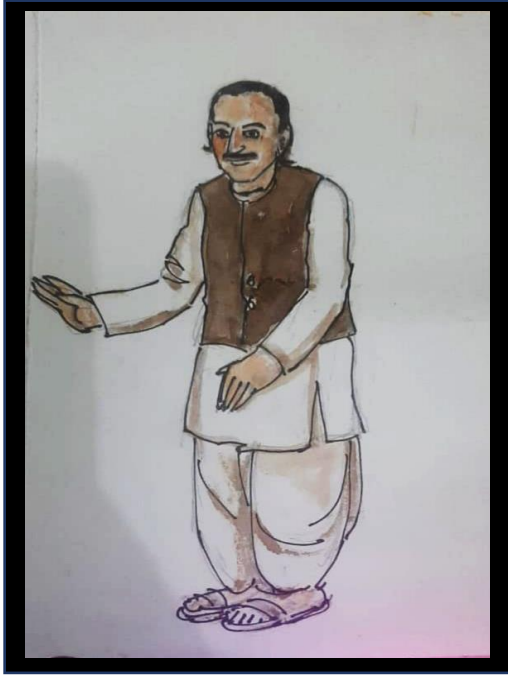
Raju: 10 year old boy from Delhi.



Gandhiji: A prominent political leader of India (The Father of The Nation).



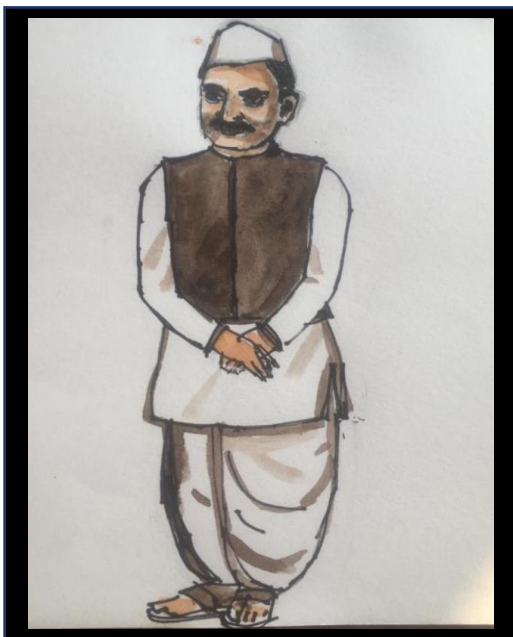
Rajkumar Shukla: A poor, emaciated but resolute peasant of Champaran.



J.P Kripalani: A professor of the Arts College in Muzzafarpur.



Sir Edward Gait - Lieutenant Governor (Bihar).

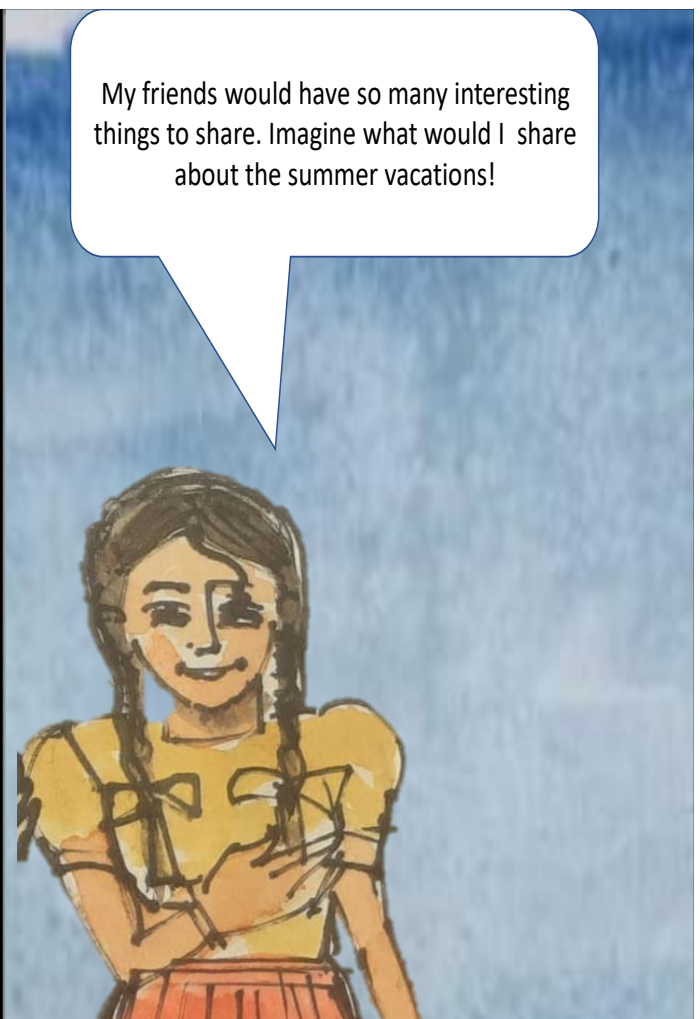


Rajendra Prasad- A lawyer who later became the first President of India.



Kasturba Gandhi: wife of Mahatma Gandhi.

Indu and Raju are visiting their home town in Bihar. Although, they agreed to visit their Chachaji who lives in Champaran but are unhappy about their decision.



Indu and Raju were very busy talking. They did not realise that their uncle had been hearing their conversation.



Next Day

Good Morning! Indu and Raju.



Very Good Morning!
Chachaji.



Raju and Indu had decided to spend some time looking around the village on their own and to their surprise, Chachaji also decided to accompany them to show them a few important places.

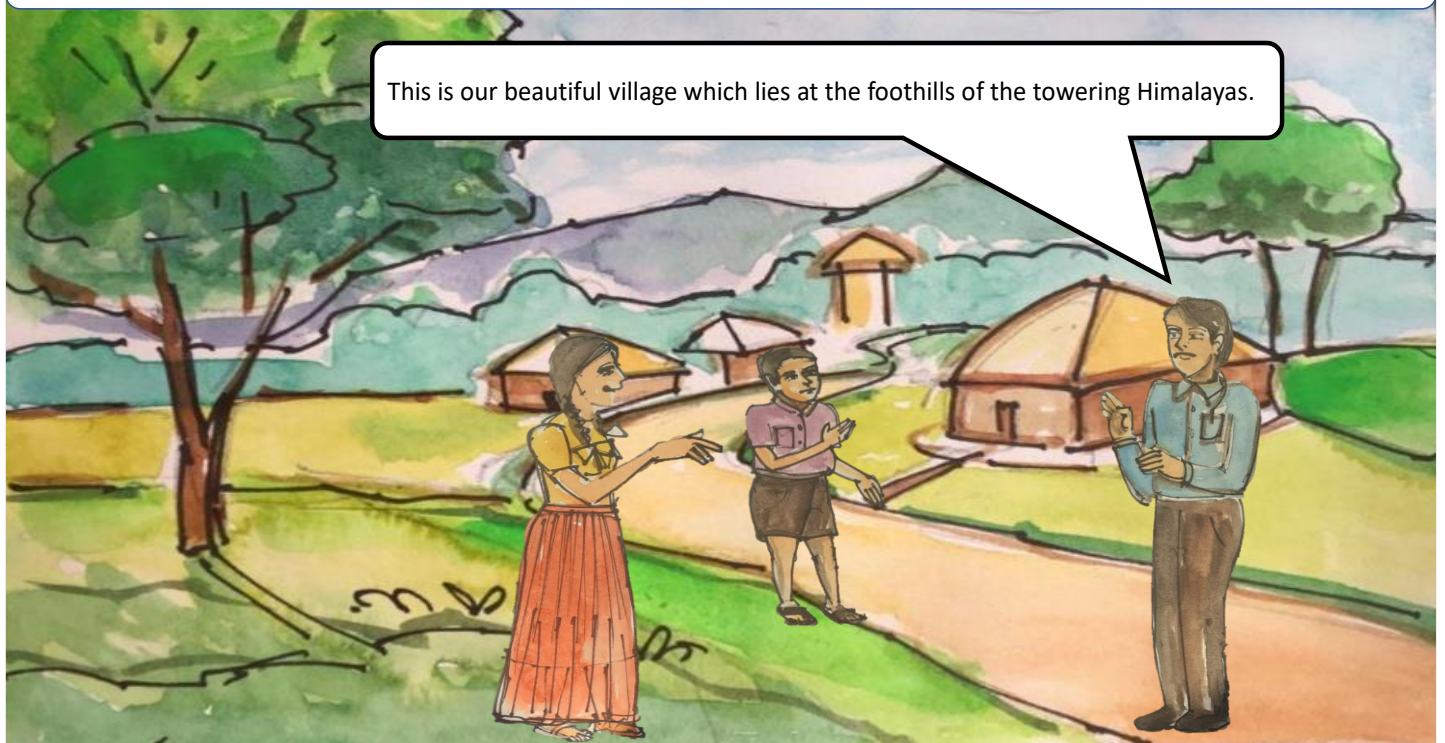
As today is Sunday, why don't we
enjoy? Let's spend some time
together and I can show you our
village.

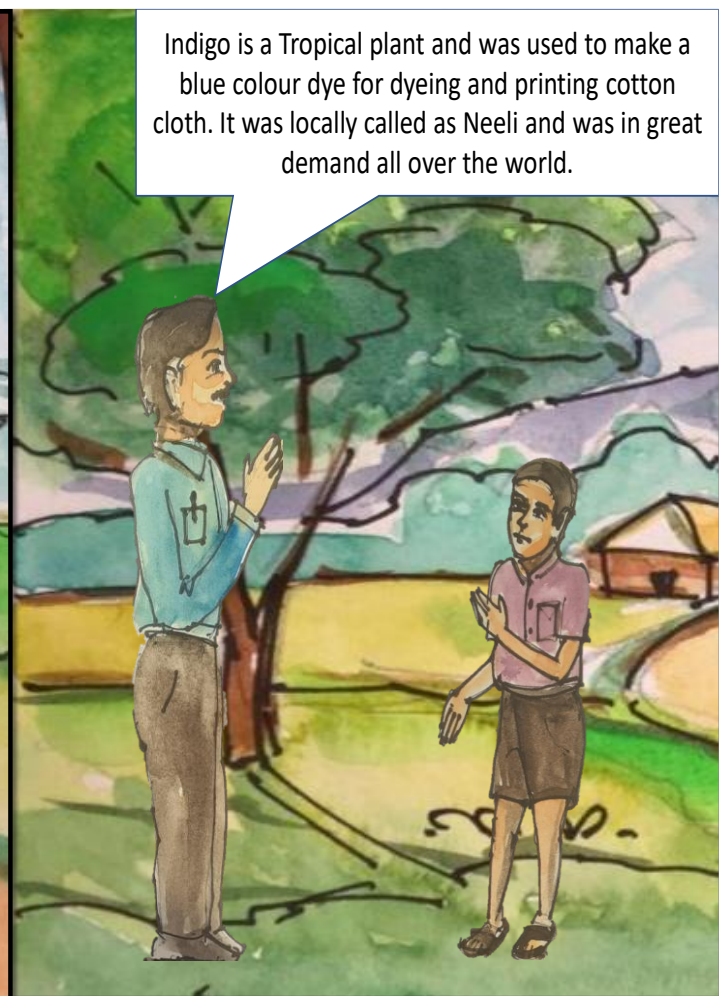
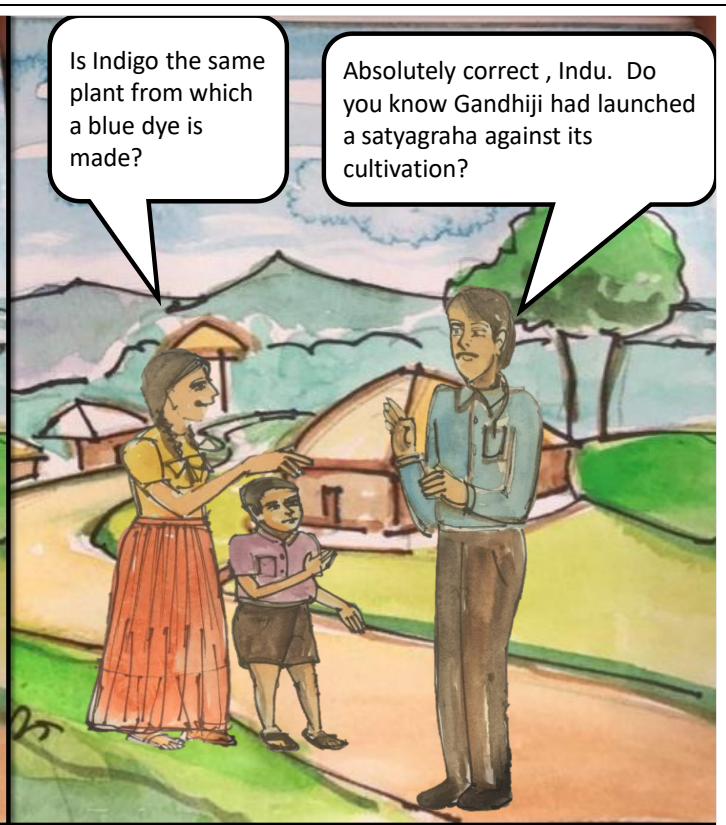
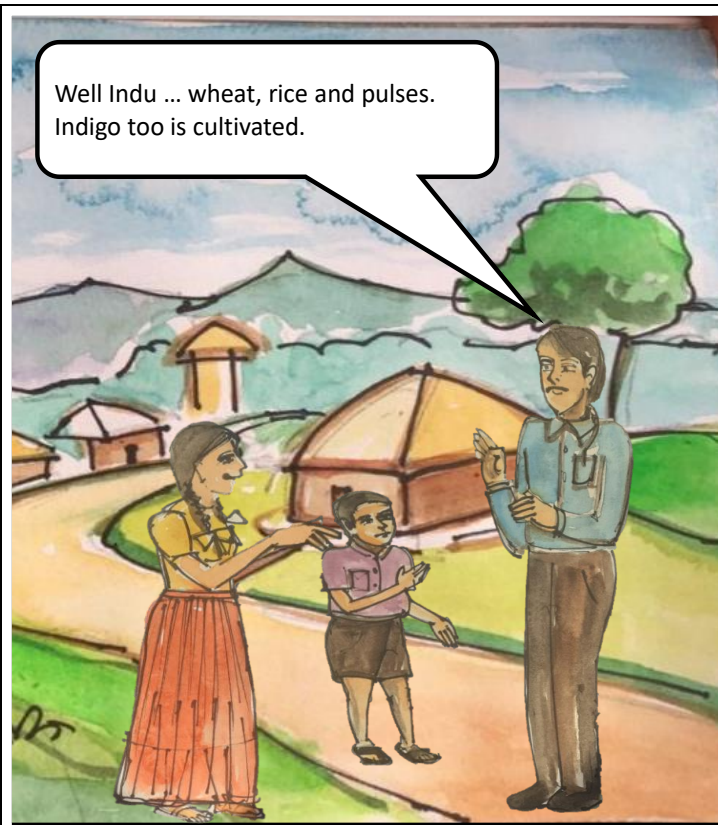
Hmm
yes .

We would love to know about it!



Indu and Raju excitedly accompany Chachaji around the village.





The use of Indigo dates back to approximately 4000 years ago in Egypt, India and China.

Wow! that's so amazing. But how was the dye made from a plant?



Ok. Let me tell you how the dye was made from Indigo.



After the harvest, the leaves were stripped off and the indigo plant was soaked in warm water in a vat (known as the fermenting or steeper vat) for several hours.



When the leaves fermented and the liquid boiled and bubbled, then, rotten leaves were taken out and the liquid drained into another vat that was placed just below the first vat.

In the beater vat, the solution was continuously stirred and beaten with paddles. When the liquid gradually turned green and then blue, lime water was added to the vat.





The indigo separated out in flakes. Muddy sediment settled at the bottom of the vat and a clear liquid rose to the surface. The liquid was then drained off and the sediment – the indigo pulp – transferred to the settling vat and then pressed and dried for sale.

Indigo farming was done extensively during the colonial period for cotton textile industry.

Is it still cultivated?



Chachaji takes Indu and Raju to a nearby field which was still used for growing Indigo.



Imagine a poor emaciated peasant Rajkumar Shukla himself narrating the story. Let's begin.....

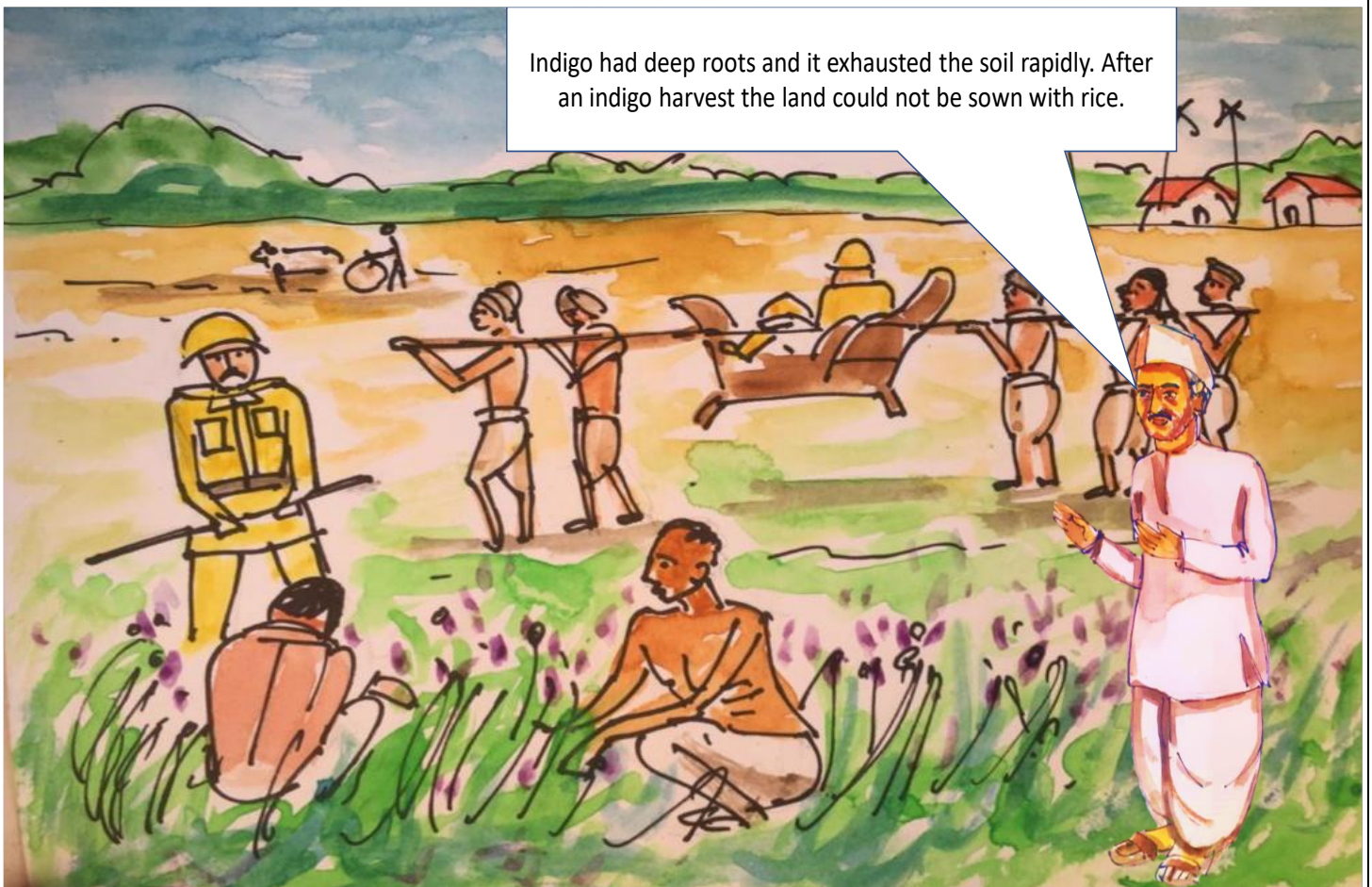
I am Rajkumar Shukla, a peasant from Champaran. I was greatly troubled by the colonial government which forced the peasants to grow indigo on their fields in my village.



The peasants wanted to cultivate food crops but the planters forced them to cultivate Indigo on 3/20th of the total land and sell the crop at a low price . This was called “Tinkathia System” .



Indigo had deep roots and it exhausted the soil rapidly. After an indigo harvest the land could not be sown with rice.



The peasants were beaten badly when they were unable to payback the cash advances or when they refused to grow Indigo.



In the meantime Germany had developed a synthetic dye replacing indigo.

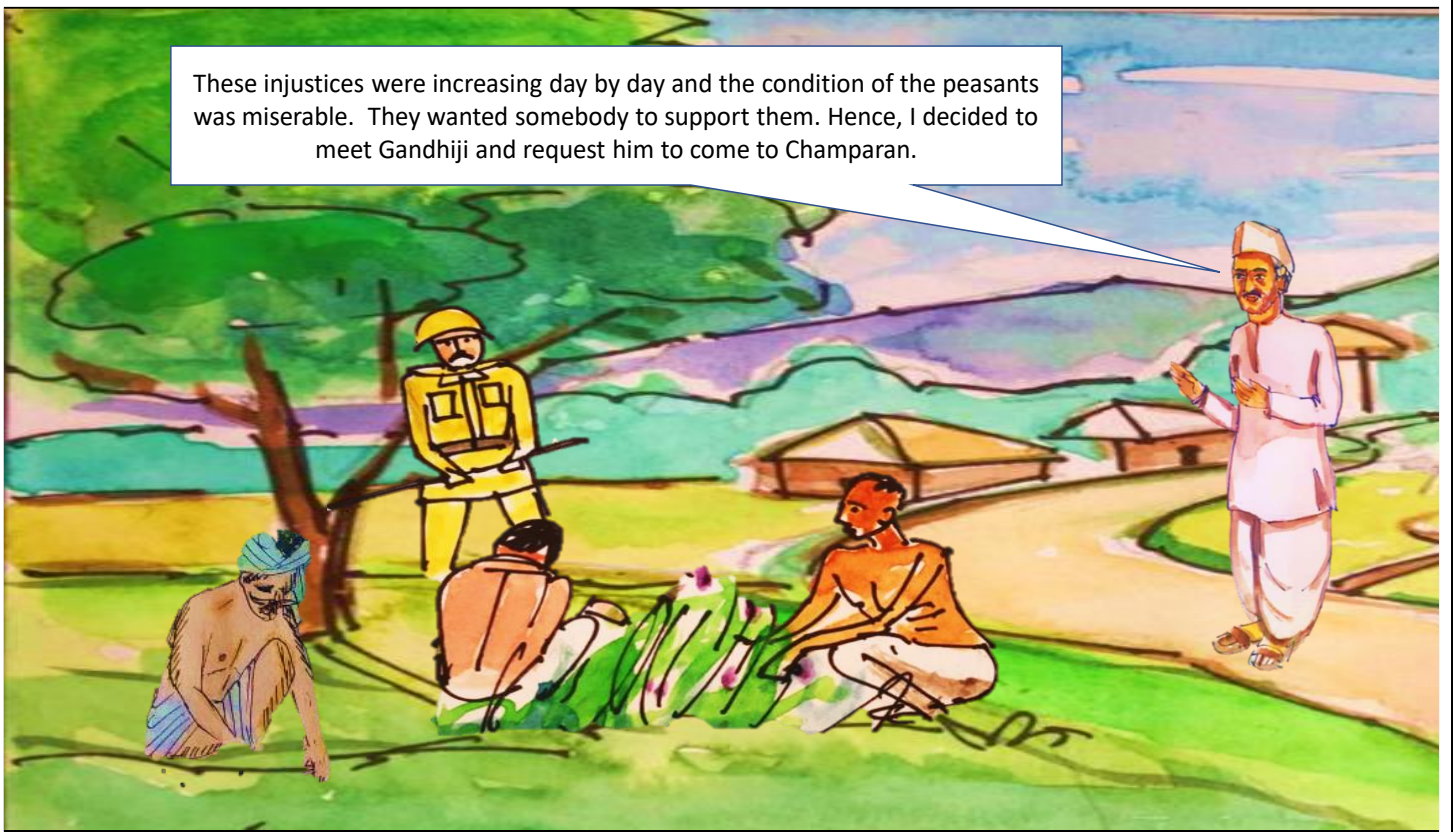


When the news of synthetic dye reached the peasants. They felt cheated and became resentful. They wanted back their money.



Though the British landlords freed the Indian farmers from 15 percent of the total land arrangement, but asked them to pay compensation for not growing Indigo.

These injustices were increasing day by day and the condition of the peasants was miserable. They wanted somebody to support them. Hence, I decided to meet Gandhiji and request him to come to Champaran.

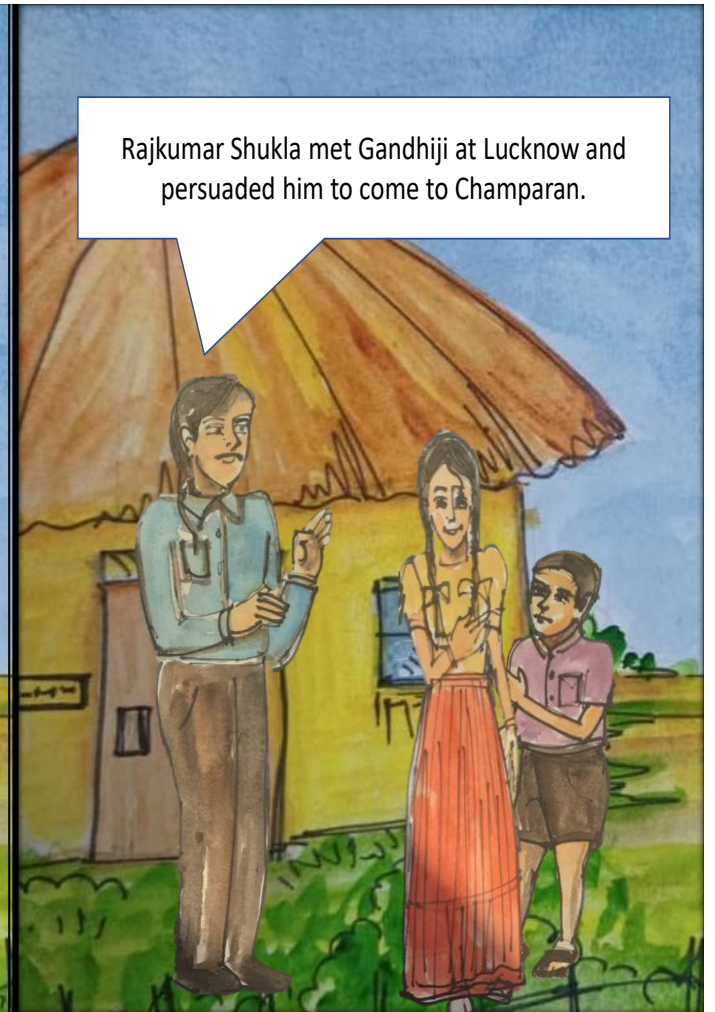


So did Gandhiji come to Champaran?

And what did Shuklaji do?



Rajkumar Shukla met Gandhiji at Lucknow and persuaded him to come to Champaran.





But before going ahead with the story let me share with you some Information about Gandhiji.



Or *Bapu* as we call him lovingly.

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on October 2, 1869 in Porbandar, India.





Porbandar is a coastal city in Gujarat, right?

Yes. By profession he was a lawyer.





Gandhiji began his activism in South Africa against the injustices and racial discrimination towards the natives and people of mixed races.

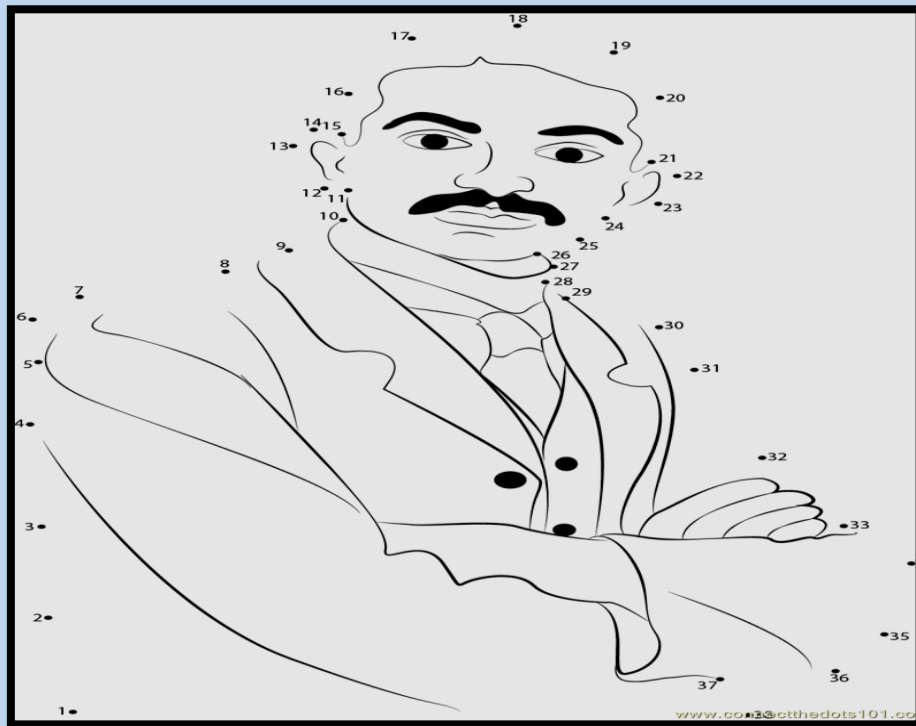
Yes, I remember reading about how Gandhiji was not allowed to sit in the first class compartment of the train even though he had the ticket for it and when he refused to leave he was forced out of the train.



He developed the concept of Satyagraha ("truth and firmness") and passive resistance. He returned to India in 1915 at the age of 46 to challenge the colonial rule in India. It is on the return of Gandhiji that Rajkumar Shukla decided to meet him at the Indian National Congress Convention in 1916.

Activity Time

1. Connect the dots: Follow the numbers to complete the images of Gandhiji.



Quiz Time I

1. At which of the following places did Mahatma Gandhi launch a Satyagraha to help the oppressed indigo farmers?

- A. Kheda
- B. Bardoli
- C. Champaran
- D. Ahmedabad

2. The Champaran Satyagraha was associated with_____.

- A. Salt
- B. Indigenous textiles
- C. Indigo
- D. Prevailing land owning system

3. In which state of India is Champaran located?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Chhattisgarh
- D. Bihar

4. Which cultivation system was followed in Champaran?

- A. Ryotwari
- B. Tinkathia
- C. Mahalwari
- D. Kurtaul

5. Who was Raj Kumar Shukla?

- A. Lawyer
- B. Government official
- C. Politician
- D. Poor peasant

6. Why did Rajkumar Shukla come to the Congress session?

- A. to share the problems faced by farmers.
- B. to receive Gandhiji and take him to Champaran.
- C. to bid farewell to the farmers.
- D. to accompany Gandhiji to go to other parts of India.



I will narrate the rest of the story. But for that, let's go back to the year 1916.....

Gandhiji was attending the INC Convention at Lucknow (1916) and all the members were happy as the Moderates and Extremists had decided to join hands against the British rule.

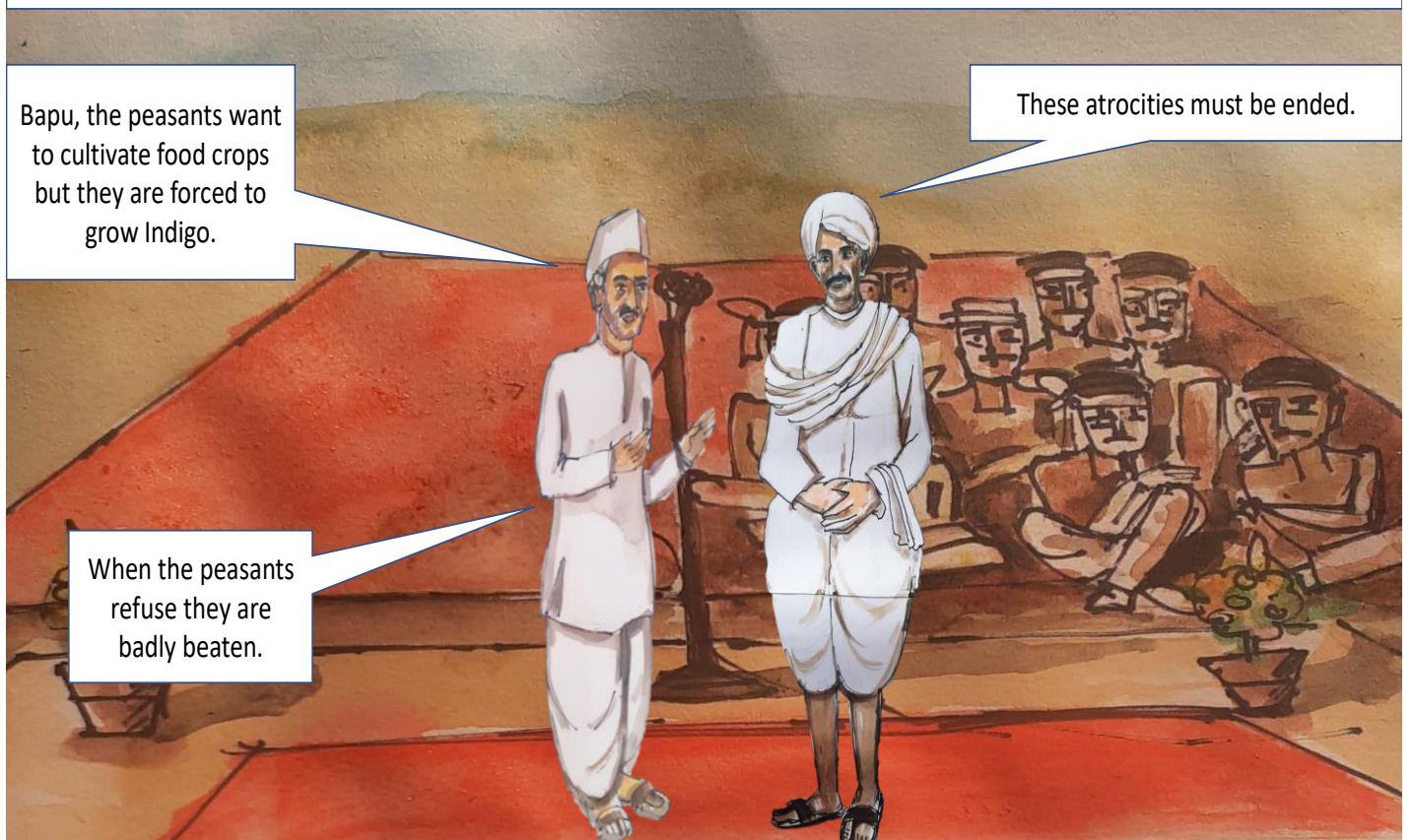


The INC members had split in 1907 at Surat over the difference of opinion regarding the candidature for the President of the Congress.

As the meeting concluded, Rajkumar Shukla approached Gandhiji.



Rajkumar Shukla narrated the plight of Indigo cultivating peasants and the injustices of the British Planters.



Gandhiji became extremely sad upon hearing the injustices faced by the peasants at Champaran.



At that time Gandhiji had a prior appointment and had to visit other parts of India. Rajkumar Shukla patiently accompanied him everywhere. Impressed by his determination Gandhiji agreed to accompany him.



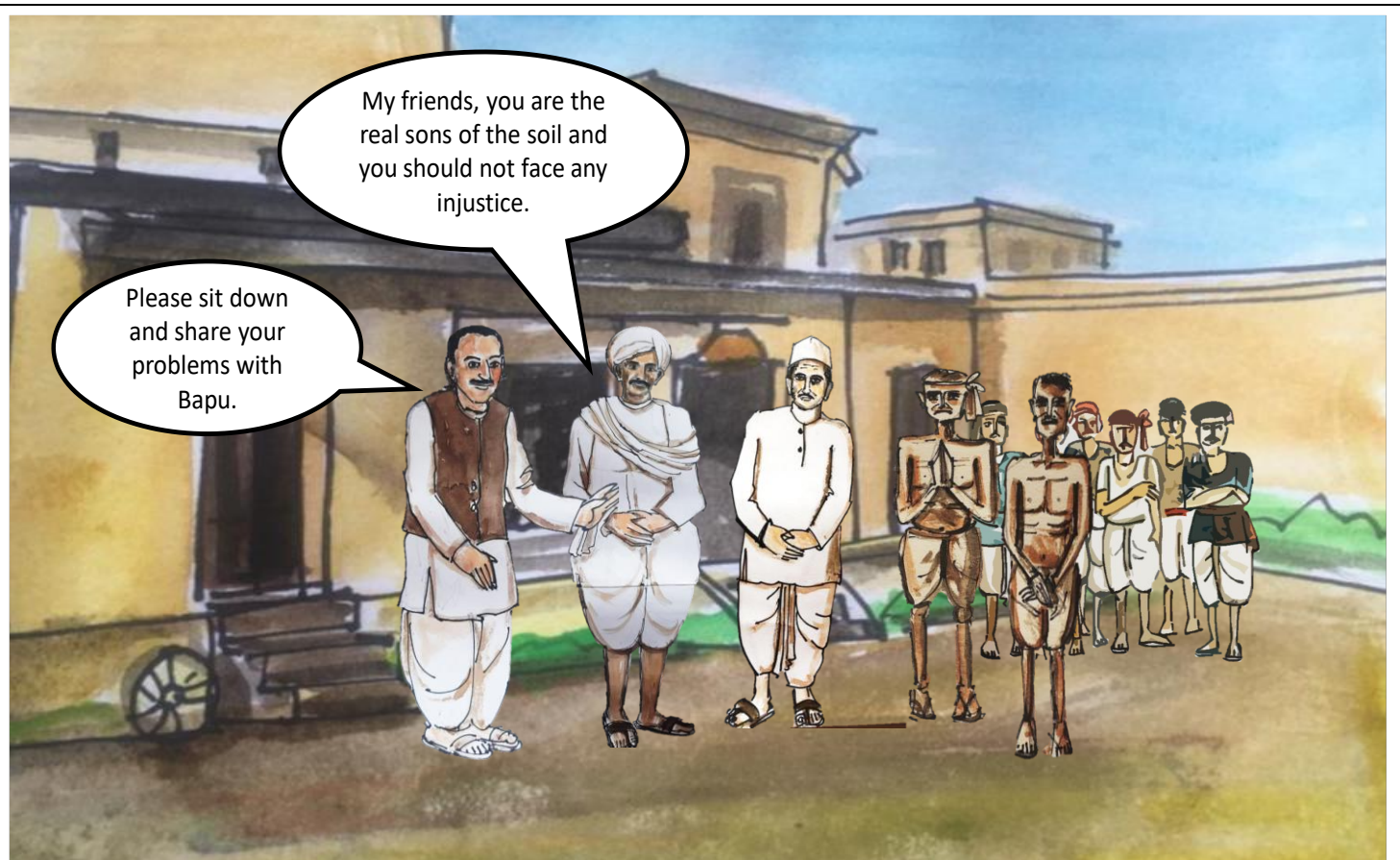
Gandhiji arrived at Champaran.



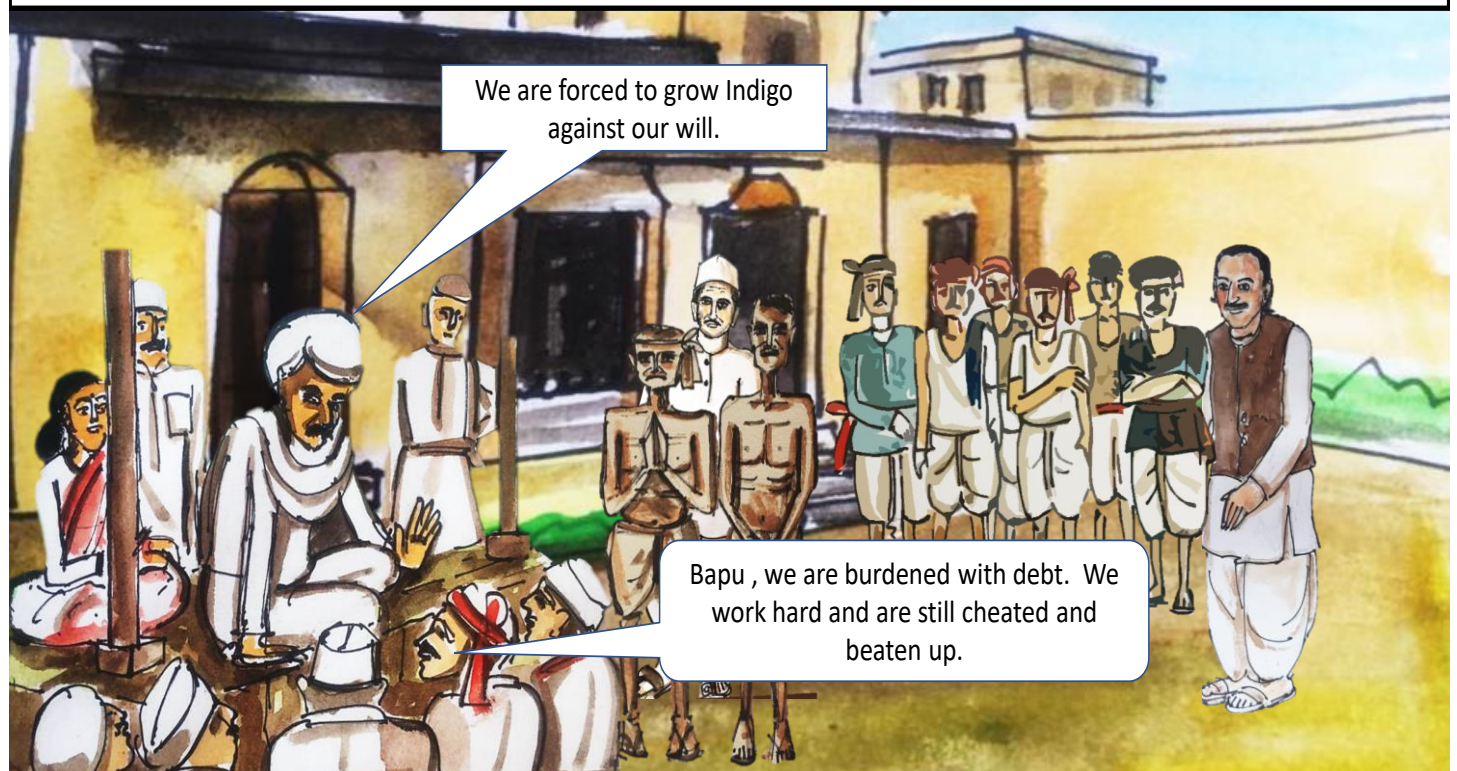
He stayed at the house of an advocate and met a few peasants who were waiting for him.



Location: Village in Champaran



Gandhiji listened to each farmer. He was saddened to hear about their miserable condition. He decided to visit the British Landlord's Association the very next morning, to get more information about the peasants.



The following morning Gandhiji visited the British Landlord's Office.



He met the Secretary at the Landlord's Office.



The visit to British Landlord's Office was not of much help. The Secretary refused to provide any information and dismissed Gandhiji.



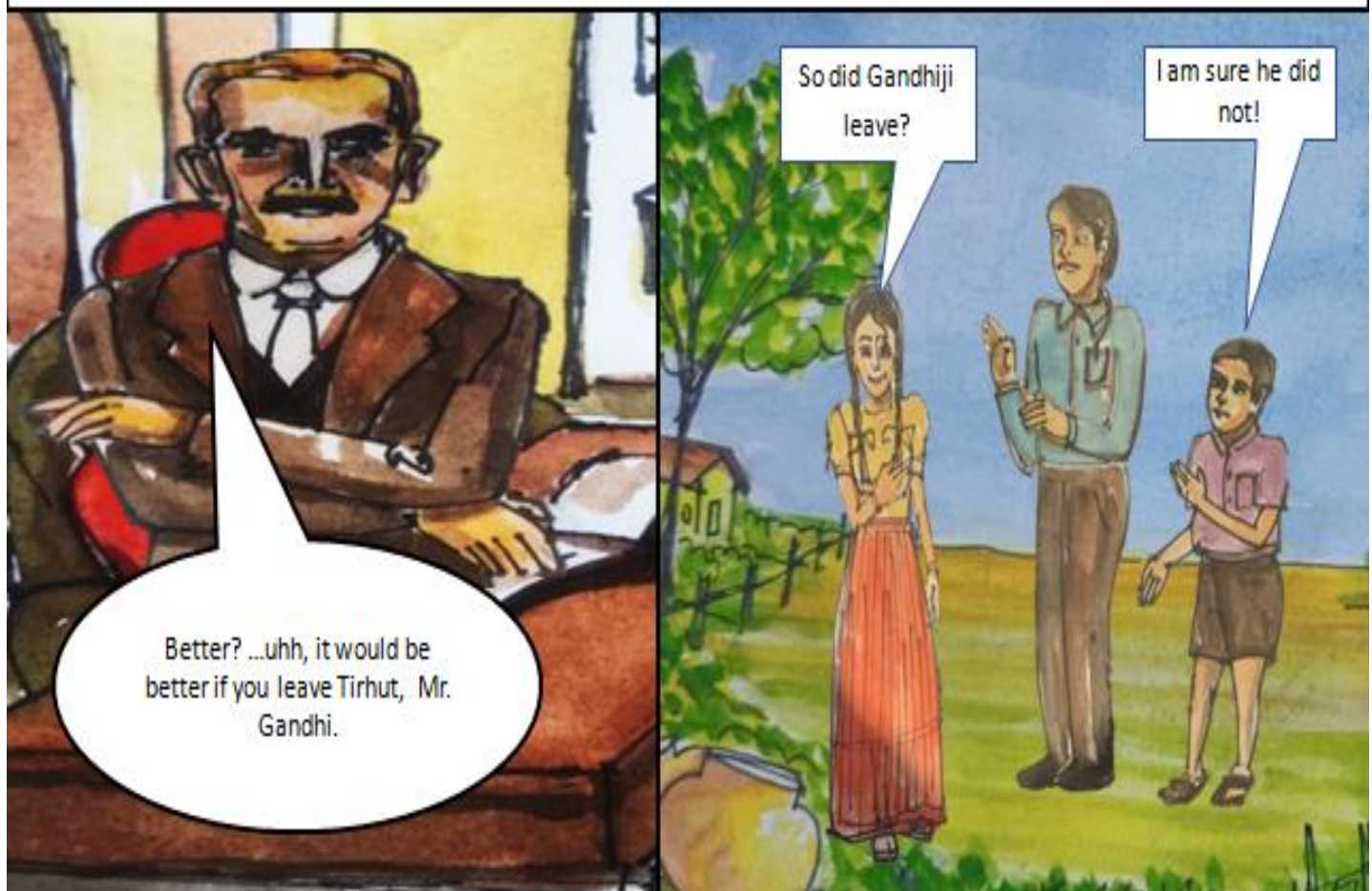
The next day Gandhiji visited the office of the Commissioner.



Office of the British Commissioner (Tirhut)



However, the British Commissioners also refused to cooperate with Gandhiji.



QUIZ TIME II

1. When did M. K. Gandhi arrive in Champaran?

- A. April, 1915
- B. April, 1916
- C. April, 1917
- D. April, 1918

2. From where did Gandhiji begin his work after reaching Champaran?

- A. House of an advocate.
- B. From the land of farmers.
- C. From the office of British Council.
- D. From the court at Tirhut

3. What does Gandhiji's fight in Champaran signify?

- A. The power of effective leadership
- B. The power of lawyers
- C. The power of farmers
- D. The power of money

4. Why did Gandhiji visit the office of British Landlord's Association?

- A. To file a complaint on behalf of peasants.
- B. To get information about Indigo growing peasants.
- C. To launch a protest.
- D. To meet representatives of peasants.

5. The "Tinkathia" system refers to _____.

- A. Champaran tenant was bound by law to plant three out of every twenty parts of their land.
- B. Champaran tenant was bound by law to plant three out of every part of their land.
- C. Champaran tenant was bound by law to plant three out of every Kattha of their land.
- D. Champaran tenant was bound by law to plant three crops on every part of their land.

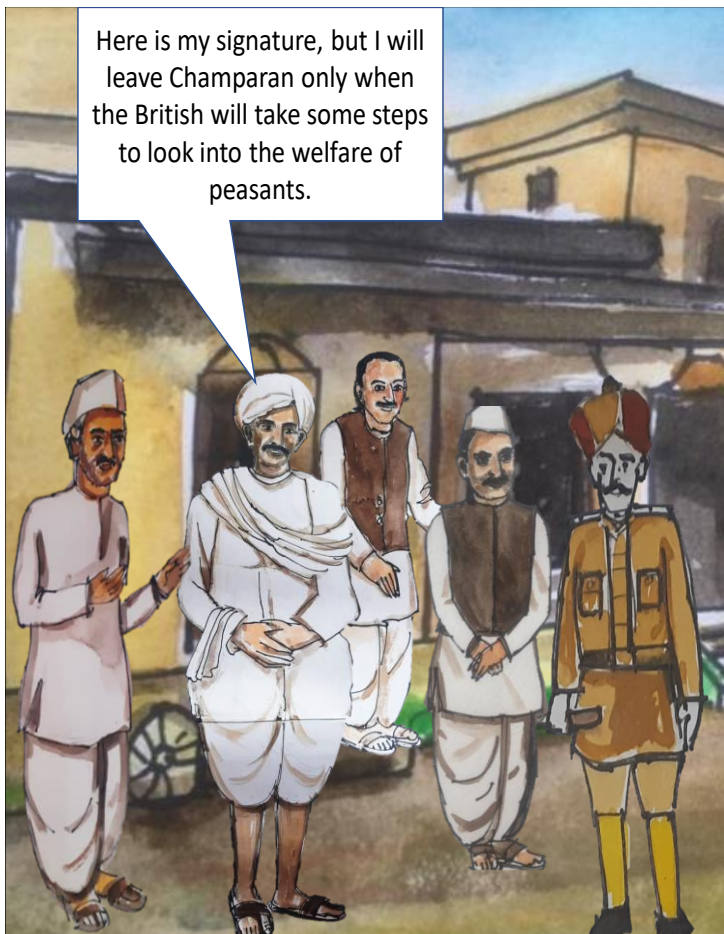
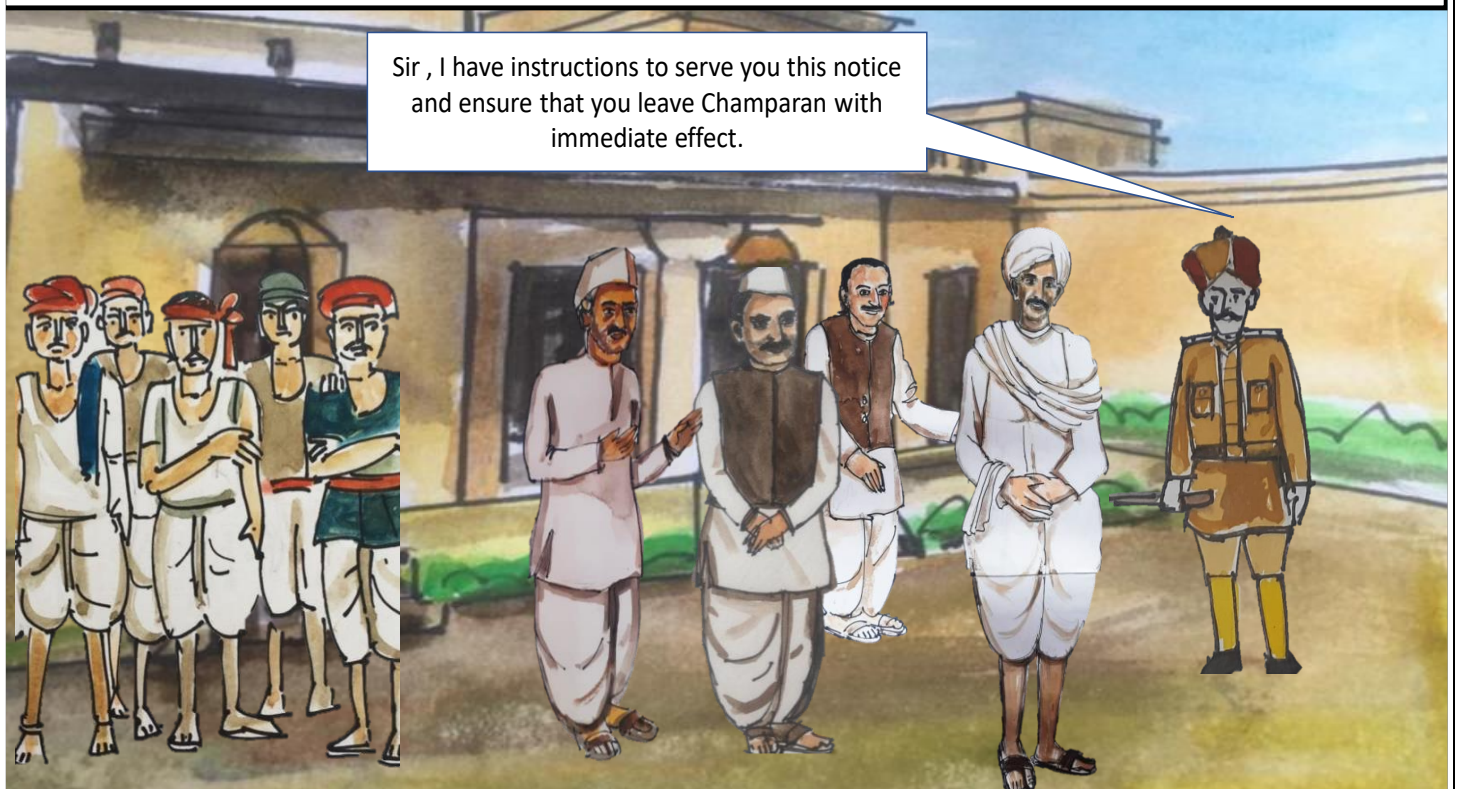
Gandhiji did not leave. He decided to proceed towards Motihari (capital of Champaran) as few peasants had been ill-treated there.



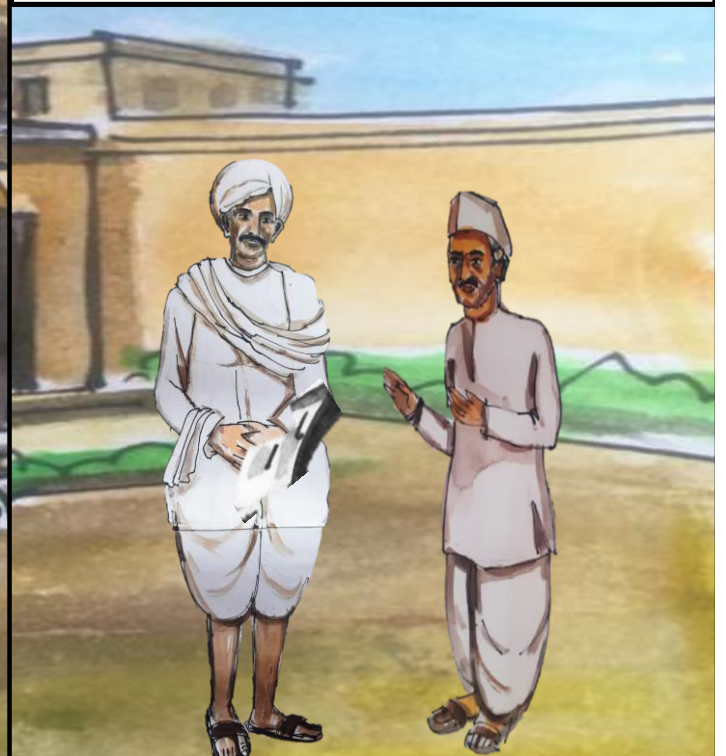
Gandhiji had not proceeded far, when a messenger of the police superintendent stopped him and took him back to the house.

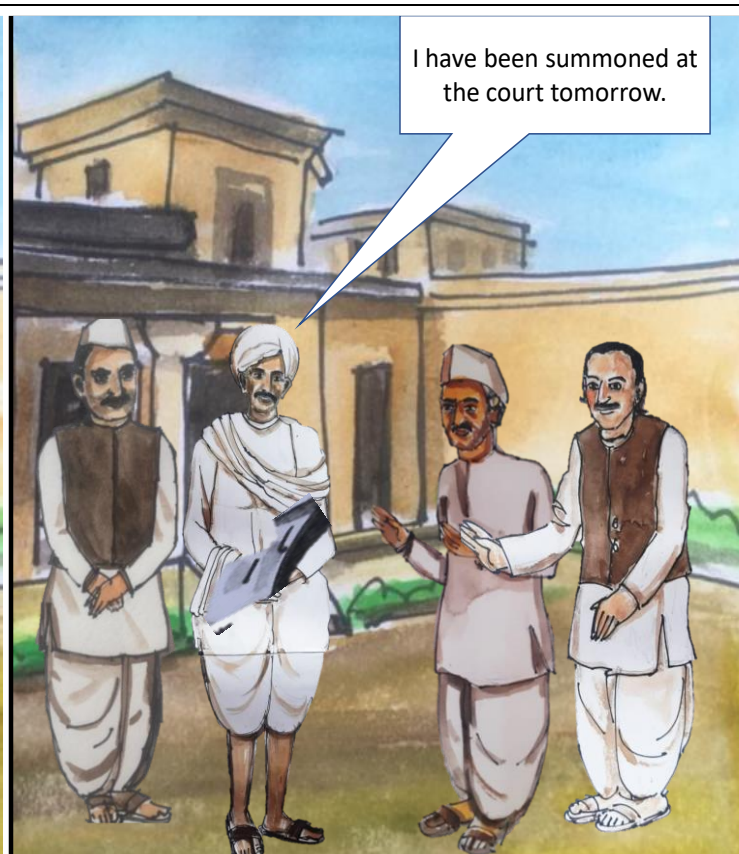
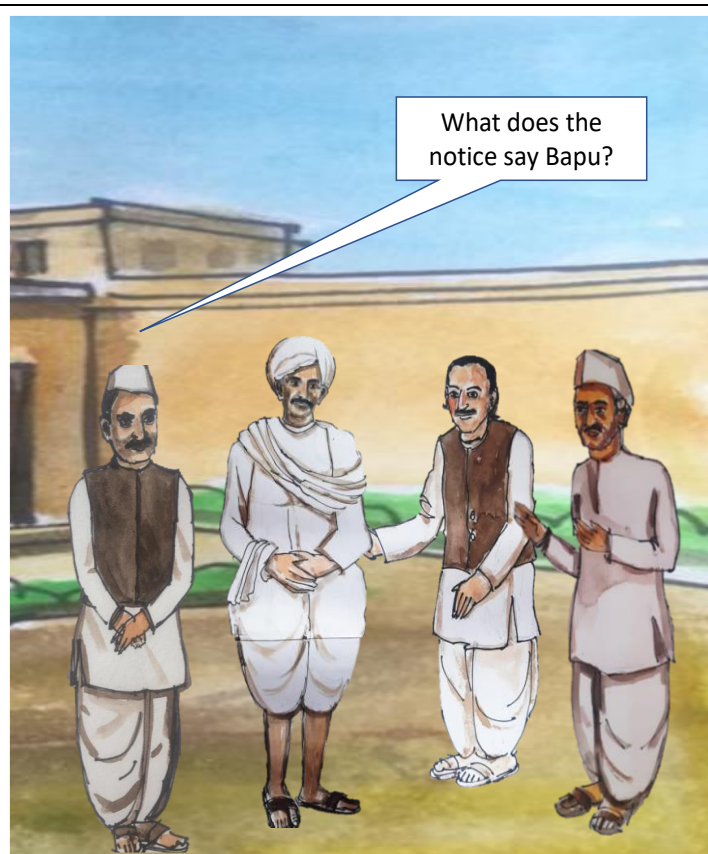


The messenger took Gandhiji back to the house and served him a notice to leave.



As a result of his decision of not to leave Champaran, Gandhiji got a court notice.





The news of Gandhiji being in trouble spread fast. Thousands of peasants came from Motihari and demonstrated in front of the court. They had become fearless.



These peasants are out of control. Look at the way they are shouting . They have no fear of the British Sarkar!



I shall help you if you let me speak to them.



The authorities must have been baffled at the situation outside the court?



What a view it must have been!

Absolutely children, but Gandhiji helped the authorities to calm down the peasants and control the situation.

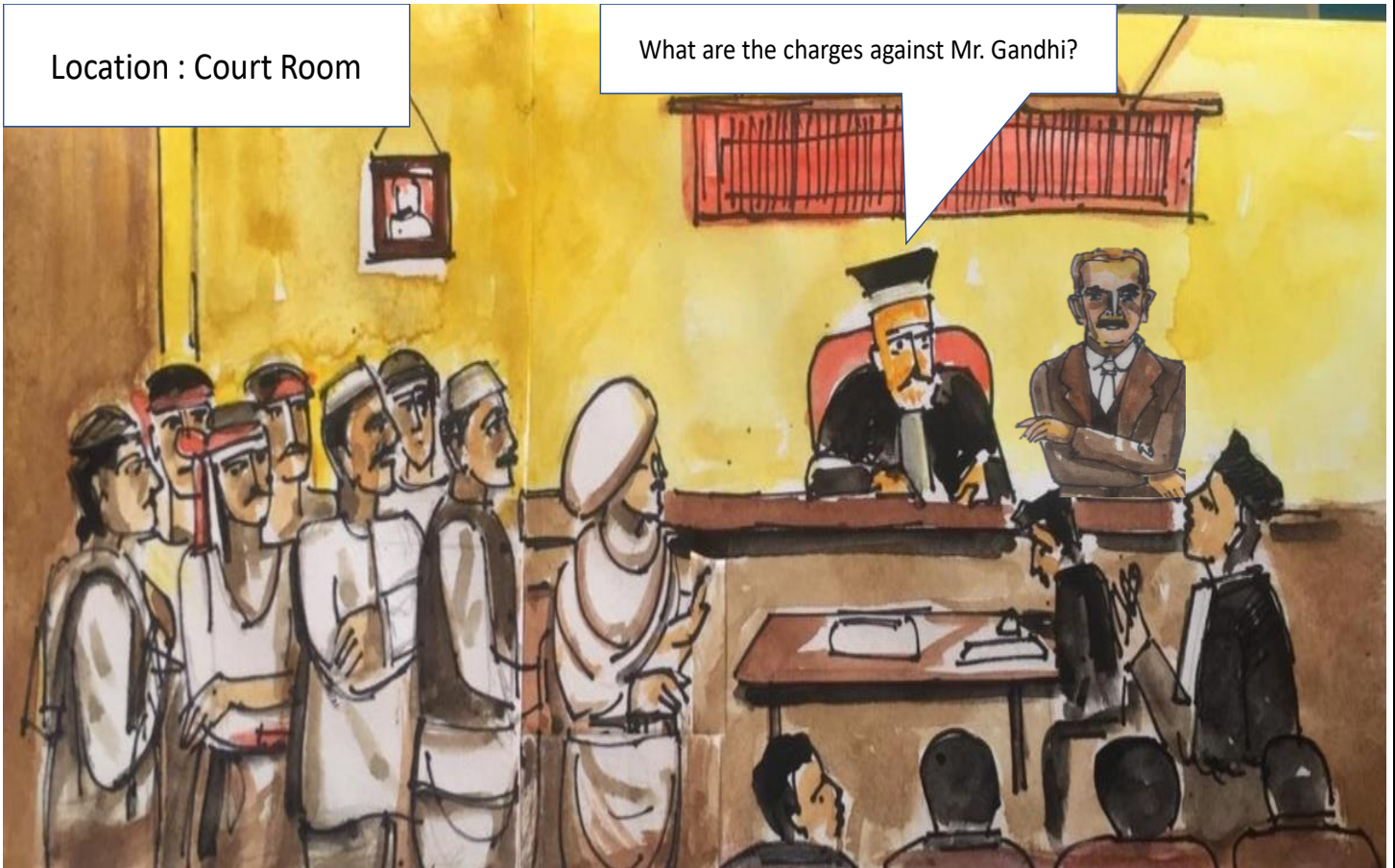


The officials and the police felt powerless. This was a proof that British authority was no longer unchallengeable.



Location : Court Room

What are the charges against Mr. Gandhi?





I have no disrespect for the law but great respect for the voice of my conscience. I will not keep quiet against any injustice.



The judge was confused looking at the huge crowd gathered outside the court. He did not know what to do, so he kept the judgment reserved and ultimately set Gandhiji free. This was the victory of Truth.



After he was set free, Gandhiji and his associates went to conduct an inquiry into the complaints of the peasants. Peasants were delighted as they had learnt a lesson of fearlessness and courage.



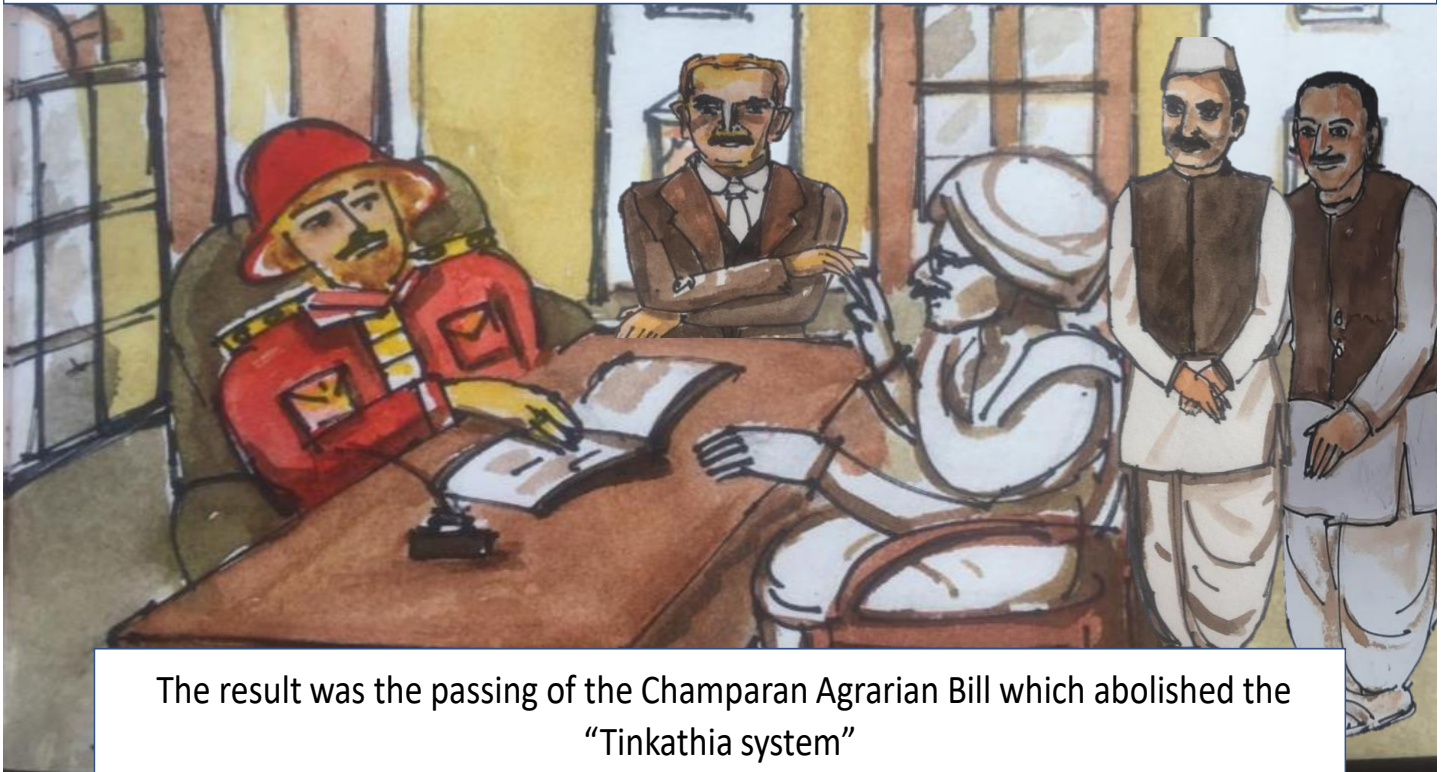
Gandhiji then visited the site where Indigo was cultivated, collected Information, made notings and shared them with the Lieutenant Governor.



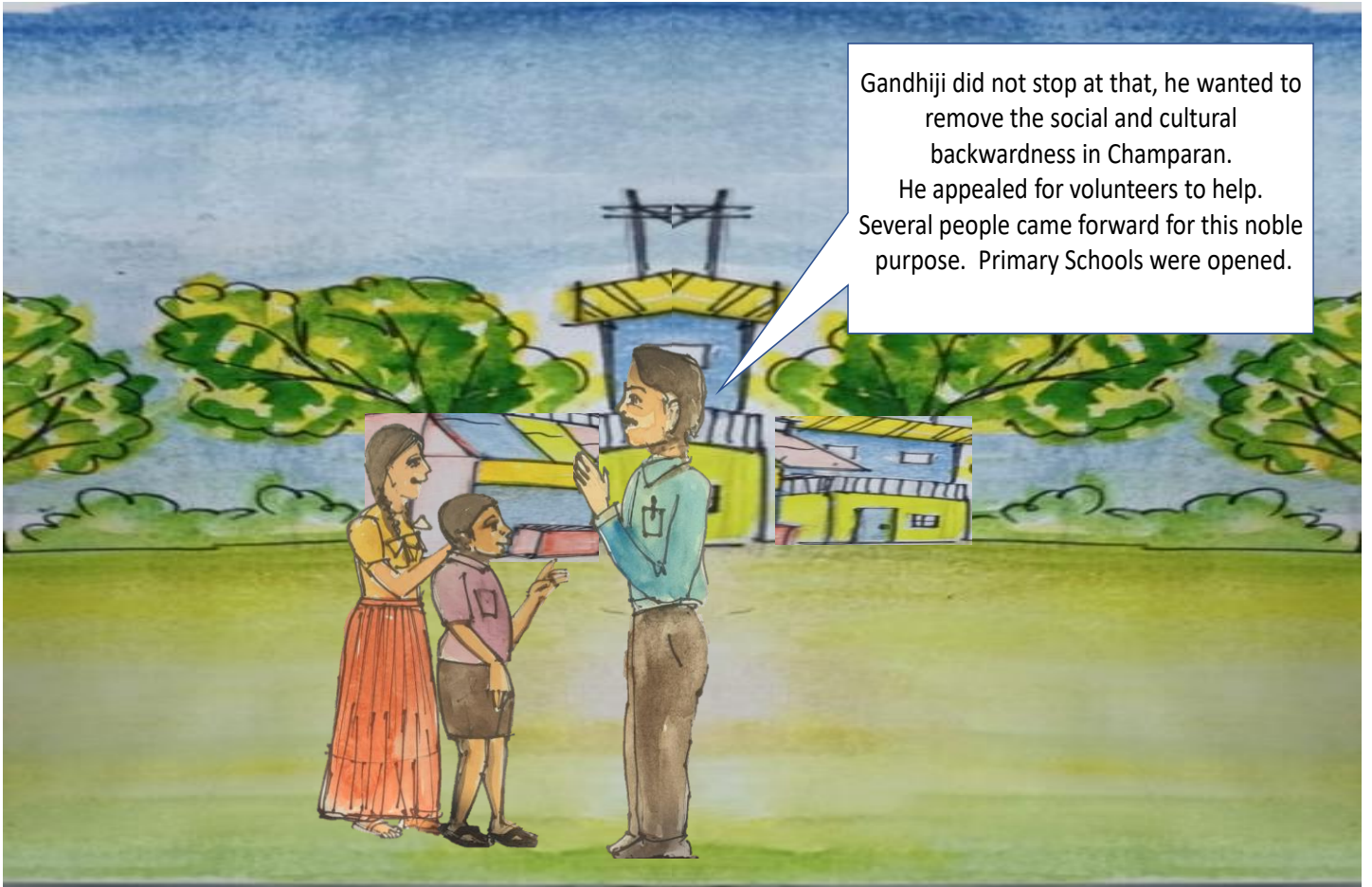
A lot of evidence was collected and the authorities were left with no choice but to agree to refund the money to the peasants.



After four meetings with the Lieutenant Governor, an official commission of inquiry was made. It consisted of landlords, government officials and Gandhiji as an only representative of the peasants.



The result was the passing of the Champaran Agrarian Bill which abolished the "Tinkathia system"



Gandhiji did not stop at that, he wanted to remove the social and cultural backwardness in Champaran. He appealed for volunteers to help. Several people came forward for this noble purpose. Primary Schools were opened.

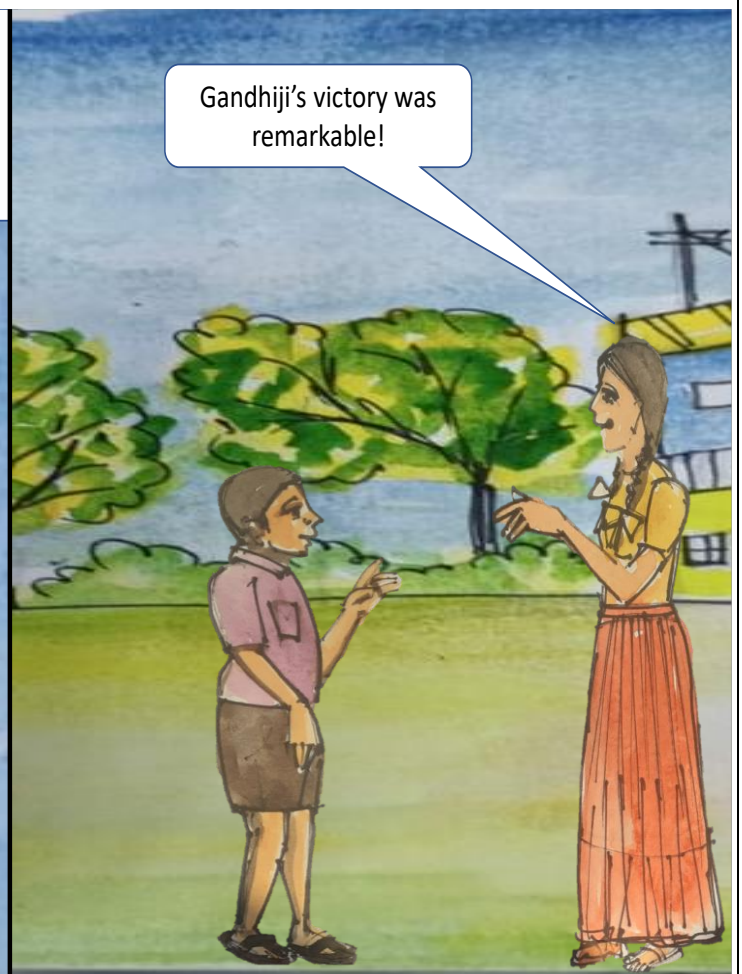
Gandhiji found that the health and hygiene of the peasants was very poor. He along with Kasturba Gandhi, began educating the people.



Champaran Satyagrah was a turning point in history. It was a victory of truth, it created a new Indian who could stand on his own feet and make India free.



Gandhiji's victory was remarkable!



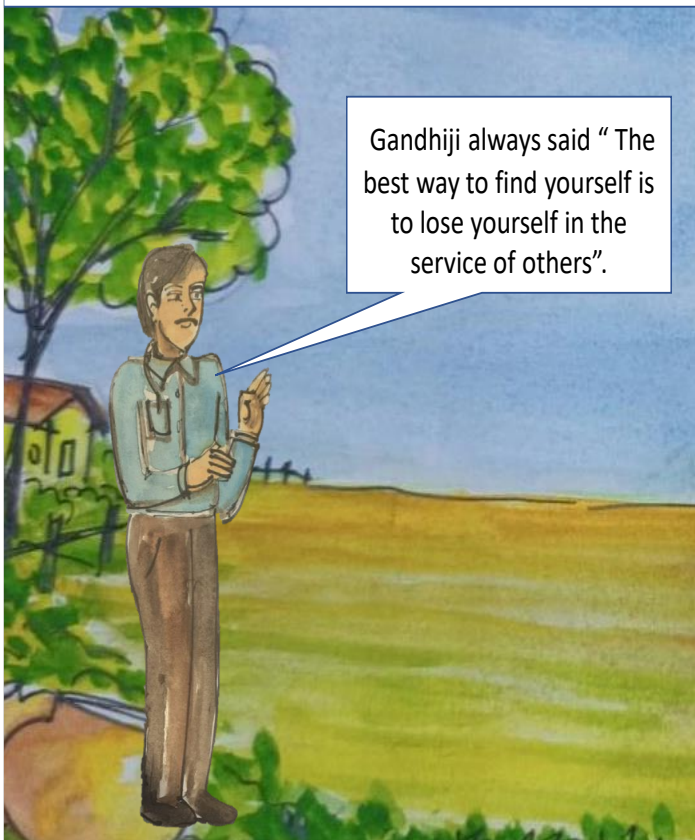
Significance of the Champaran Satyagraha transcends far beyond the exploitation of Indigo peasants. It was also for the betterment of the people of Champaran in terms of their educational and economic stature.



Yes Indu, you can say that. It was a new trajectory of India's freedom struggle, where passive resistance was the prime mode of protest against the British colonisers.



Raju and Indu spent the whole day listening to Chachaji and exploring the village. They were overwhelmed by learning about the Champaran Satyagraha and felt proud that they belonged to Champaran.



Gandhiji always said "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others".



Gandhiji's life was his message.

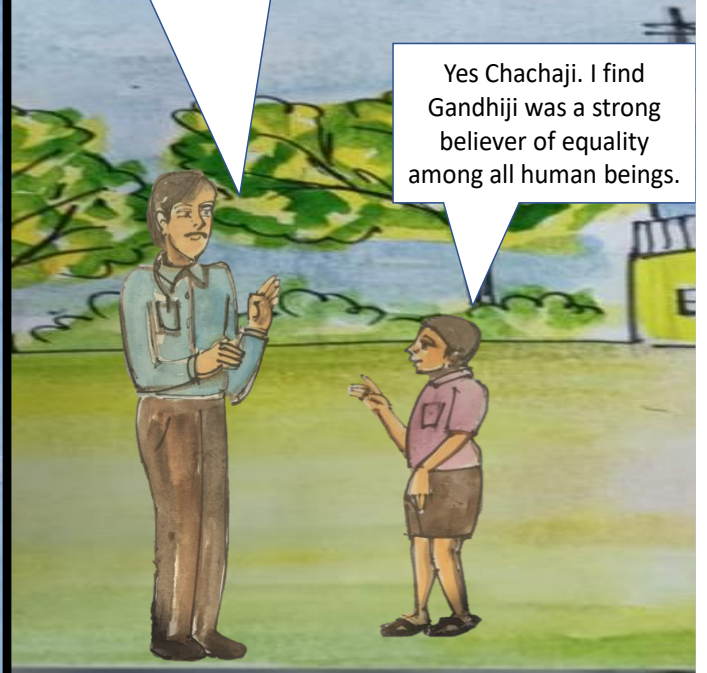
Definitely! We all have something to learn from him.

Mahatma Gandhi has taught mankind to follow the path of non-violence. If all the people, societies and countries practice non-violence, this world of ours will become a heaven of peace.



For him, truth and courage walked hand in hand. If there is truth, then there is nothing to fear.

Yes Chachaji. I find Gandhiji was a strong believer of equality among all human beings.



It was almost evening when Chachaji, Indu and Raju returned back home.

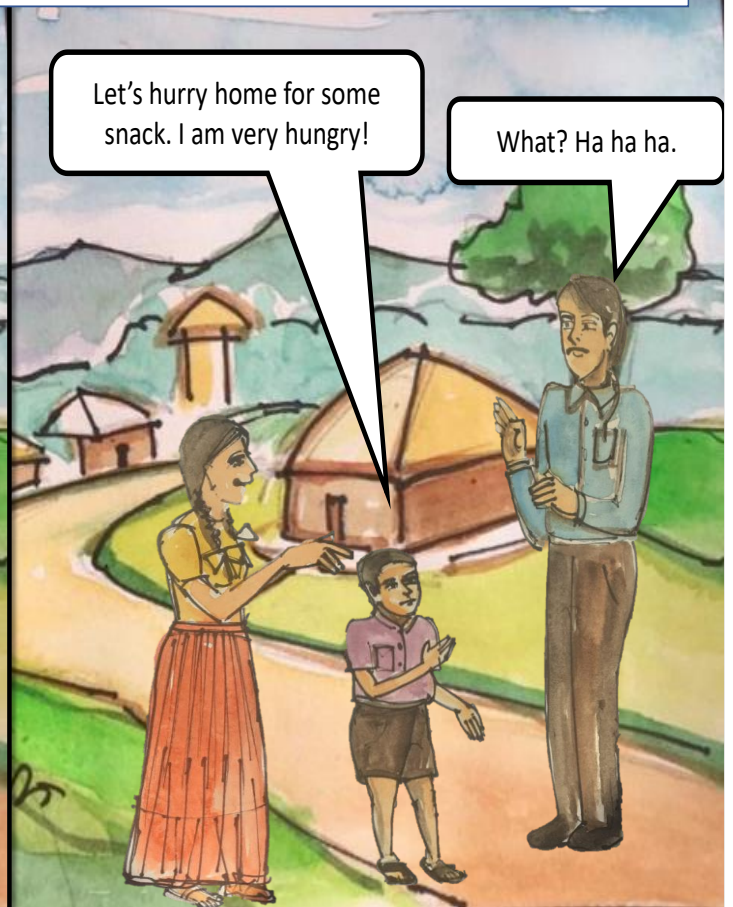
Chachaji this trip to Champaran is worth a million.

What do you say Raju?



Let's hurry home for some snack. I am very hungry!

What? Ha ha ha.



Quiz Time III

1. Consider the following statements:

- I. It was the first Civil Disobedience movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi.
- II. It was a protest against the injustice meted out to tenant farmers in Champaran district of Bihar.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct about Champaran Satyagraha?

- A. Only I B. Only II
- C. Both I and II D. Neither I or II

2. Which of the following, according to Gandhiji, is an essential principle of Satyagraha?

- A. Infinite capacity for suffering
- B. Non violence
- C. Truth
- D. All of the above

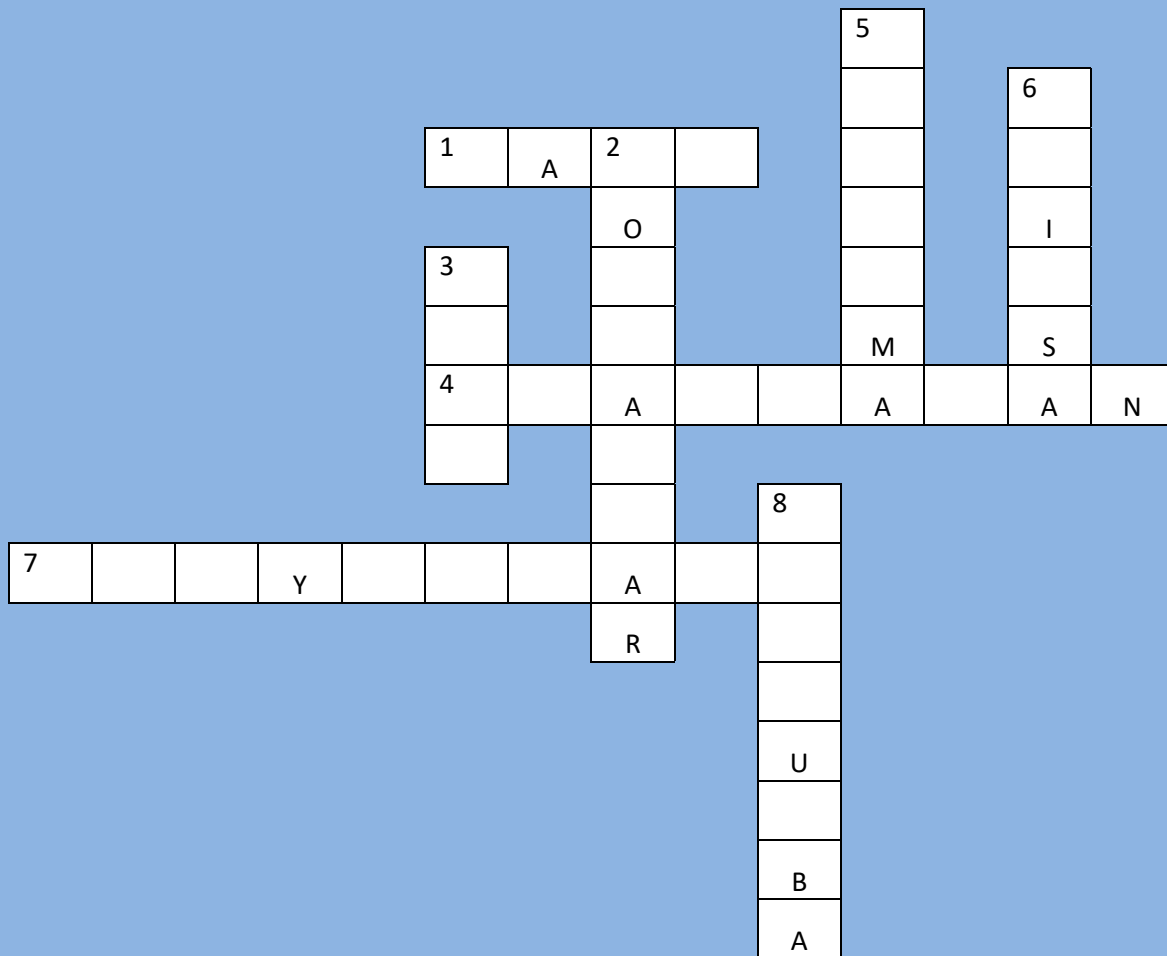
3. How was the Champaran episode a turning point in Gandhiji's life?

- A. He taught peasants a lesson of self-reliance.
- B. It was Gandhi's final triumph.
- C. It gave a spark to the Civil Disobedience movement.
- D. It gave a start to the Quit India Movement.

4. "Gandhism" is not merely a political creed, it is?

- A) A programme of action B) A message
- C) A Theory D) A working class movement

CROSSWORD



Across	Down
1. Gandhiji was lovingly called 4. The place Gandhiji launched his first Satyagraha in India. 7. A term meaning 'Truth Force'	2. Birth place of Gandhiji 3. People were discriminated in South Africa on the basis of _____. 5. Term meaning 'Great Soul' 6. Sanskrit word for 'Non Violence' 8. Gandhiji's wife

Glossary

Satyagraha: Truth-force or the force that is generated through adherence to Truth.

Ahimsa (Non-Violence): absence of the desire to kill or harm.

Colonial: connected with or belonging to a country that controls another country (colony).

Tropical: of, being, or characteristic of a region or climate that is frost-free with temperatures high enough to support year-round plant growth given sufficient moisture.

Vat: a large tank or tub used to hold liquid.

Racial Discrimination: discrimination against any individual on the basis of their skin color, racial or ethnic origin.

Civil Disobedience: the refusal to comply with certain laws considered unjust, as a peaceful form of political protest.

Moderates: The moderates were the early Congress men who led the Indian National Congress from 1885 to 1905. They resorted to peaceful means and moderate methods of appeasement like petitioning, publishing pamphlets, taking out processions etc. They published newspapers, wrote articles, and showed how British rule was leading to the economic ruin of the country.

Extremist: The Extremist leaders did not stick to constitutional methods to protest and demand. They resorted to boycotts, strikes, etc. They also burned foreign-made goods as they believed in confrontation rather than persuasion. The limitations of the moderates were the main causes of the rise of extremism. The extremist goal was 'swaraj'.

ANSWER KEY

Quiz Time I

1. C. Champaran
2. C. Indigo
3. D. Bihar
4. B. Tinkathia
5. D. Poor peasant
6. A. to share the problems faced by farmers.

QUIZ TIME II

1. A. April, 1915
2. A. House of an advocate.
3. A. The power of effective leadership
4. B. To get information about Indigo growing peasants.
5. A. Champaran tenant was bound by law to plant three out of every twenty parts of their land.

Quiz Time III

1. C. Both I and II
2. D. All of the above
3. C. It gave a spark to the Civil Disobedience movement.
4. A) A programme of action

Bibliography:

1) www.mkgandhi.org

2) Flamingo chapter 5: Indigo (NCERT)

Principal's Pen



We, at the Gyan Bharati School sincerely hope that CHAMPARAN SATYAGRAHA-1917, a well researched graphic novel curated by Roma Doraiswami, Chandana Bhattacharjee and Neha Sharma, will prove greatly beneficial to both educators and students alike.

The popularity of the Graphic Novel is on the rise and it is steadily being recognised as a visual literacy tool for educating. I feel that a child's engagement with this genre whether as a writer, illustrator or a reader can bring about enhancement in learning, skill building and engagement with books, in a joyful manner. Surely, this format will help encourage the love for reading, develop comprehension and vocabulary and an understanding of grammar rules along with the much needed reading confidence in the reluctant reader.

A few pages of this graphic novel have been shared by the teachers with differently abled children and the feedback is encouraging. It is felt that children struggling with learning difficulties will find the graphic novel format easy to read without getting overwhelmed, as they do with lessons mostly comprising text.

I appreciate the efforts of Ms. Trinu Jain for her contribution in this venture.

I take this opportunity to express our thankfulness while acknowledging the constant support and guidance

Mr. Sandeep Sethi (Director Education, MGIS Museum Trust) provided, as he mentored our teachers on this journey of new learnings.

Sincerely,

Nishi Misra Manglik

Principal
Gyan Bharati School.

Affiliated to C.B.S.E



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