

ANDREW
JENNINGS

AGES
7-8

COMPREHENSION NINJA



COMPREHENSION NINJA WORKBOOK



Learning at Home

Non-Fiction comprehension activities
to support the National Curriculum

BLOOMSBURY

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NINJA
WORKBOOK**

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INTRODUCTION

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Vocabulary Ninja and Comprehension Ninja would undoubtedly never have become a reality.
I'm proud to call him a friend and even prouder that he could be a part of the
Comprehension Ninja series.

Reading comprehension is all about understanding what you are reading – and being able to show that you understand. This Comprehension Ninja workbook will help your child master the foundations of reading comprehension by focusing on three key aspects:

- **Skimming** and **scanning** a whole text to locate information efficiently.
- **Retrieving** the correct information from the text in eight different ways.
- **Vocabulary** awareness and the **effect of word choices**.

This book contains seven curriculum-linked texts, each followed by a set of questions to check whether your child has understood the text. There are eight question types to develop your child's comprehension skills:



For texts 1 - 4, the activity pages feature one question type per page so your child can focus on building up their comprehension skills one at a time, while texts 5 - 7 look a bit more like a test, with two pages of mixed questions.

This book includes the following topics: Mahatma Gandhi, Stone Age life, renewable energy, Pompeii, chocolate, the water cycle and the history of the charts.

HOW TO USE THIS WORKBOOK

STEP 1 – READ THE TEXT CAREFULLY

Encourage your child to read the whole text carefully before they start trying to answer the questions. You can help them with any words or phrases they don't know. As an extra activity, you could ask your child to read the text aloud to you.

STEP 2 – PICK OUT KEY WORDS AND INFORMATION

Picking out key words and headings will help your child to quickly locate the information they need to answer the questions. Encourage your child to underline key information as they read the text, such as:

- **Nouns** – names of people, places and objects.
- **Time** – dates and periods of time.
- **Numbers** – amounts, statistics, percentages and figures.
- **Vocabulary** – important topic vocabulary or words they are unsure of. They could look these up online or in a dictionary to find out what they mean.

Your child should also look out for titles and headings, which will help them understand the structure of the text.

STEP 3 – IDENTIFY KEY WORDS IN THE QUESTIONS

Encourage your child to identify key words in the questions so they know what they're looking for to find the answer. For example, in a text about the seaside:

Question: What might you find in a rock pool?

Key words: rock pool

'Rock pool' is the clue needed to answer the question.

STEP 4 – SKIM AND SCAN THE TEXT

Once your child has identified the key words in the question, they can try to remember where in the text the answer can be found. This might be as simple as remembering whether it was at the beginning, middle or end of the text, or thinking about which section the key information was in.

Your child can then **skim read** the whole text to find the section they need. When they've found it, they should **scan** the section to find the relevant sentences. They then read those sentences carefully to find the answer.

Invite your child to work through all the questions and give them lots of encouragement along the way. The answers can be found at the back of the book.

1 THE LIFE OF MAHATMA GANDHI

Mahatma Gandhi was an extraordinary activist and champion for justice. This is the story of how he changed the world.

Gandhi was born on 2 October, 1869, in Porbandar, India. His birth name was Mohandas Gandhi. He lived in England between the ages of 19 and 22, and became a lawyer.

When he returned home, Gandhi was shocked by the cruel way the British rulers and other white people treated Indian, Chinese and black people. He wanted to work to stop this injustice, but he saw the damage that riots could do.

Instead, Gandhi developed his own method of peaceful protest. He encouraged people to show the power of a cause by marching, sitting peacefully in the street or refusing to work. If one or two people did these actions, they wouldn't have been noticed – but Gandhi convinced thousands of people to join him.

Gandhi worked to change many laws, and made many people angry. He convinced people across India to wear Indian rather than British cloth, and was arrested for this. He later fought against tax on salt by marching 241 miles to the sea to make his own. This was known as the Salt March. Thousands of Indians joined him, and the law was changed. Gandhi also succeeded in changing laws that allowed people to mistreat the poorest members of Indian communities.

By changing these laws, Gandhi showed Indian people that they could stand up for their rights. His work led up to a protest against British rule in India – but he was arrested again.

Gandhi's treatment made Indian people more passionate for change. When he was released, Gandhi showed he had not given up on the cause. After World War II, he led vast peaceful protests against British rule. Finally, independence was granted.

Many people were still angry about the system Gandhi supported, though. After all his work, he was shot while attending a prayer meeting in 1948.

Gandhi came to be called 'Mahatma', meaning 'great soul', all over the world. He is also called 'Bapu', which means 'father'. Gandhi's great soul showed how to change the world with peaceful actions. He became the father of justice and independence.



FILL IN THE GAP



Read the sentences and choose the correct word or words to fill in the gap. Look back at *The life of Mahatma Gandhi* to find the correct answer.

Mahatma Gandhi was an extraordinary activist and _____ for justice.

Instead, Gandhi developed his own method of peaceful _____.

Gandhi came to be called _____, meaning 'great soul', all over the world.

He became the _____ of justice and independence.

Look back at paragraphs 3 and 4 in *The life of Mahatma Gandhi* to find the correct answer.

When he returned home, Gandhi was shocked by the cruel way the _____ and other white people treated Indian, Chinese and black people.

He wanted to work to stop this _____, but he saw the damage that riots could do.

He encouraged people to show the power of a cause by marching, sitting peacefully in the street or _____ to work.

If one or two people did these actions, they wouldn't have been noticed – but Gandhi convinced _____ of people to join him.

Look back at paragraph 5 in *The life of Mahatma Gandhi* to find the correct answer.

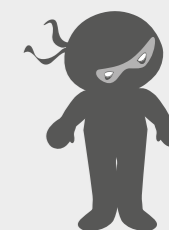
Gandhi worked to change many laws, and made many people _____.

This was known as the _____.

He later fought against tax on salt by marching _____ miles to the sea to make his own.

_____ of Indians joined him, and the law was changed.

MATCHING



Draw a line with a ruler to match the information. One has already been done for you.

1948	Gandhi born
thousands	Gandhi shot
241 miles	length of the Salt March
1869	people on the Salt March

Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

worked in England as	marching and sitting peacefully
peaceful protest	Salt March
refused to wear	lawyer
famous protest	British cloth

Draw a line with a ruler to match the information.

champion for	Bapu
born in	justice
known as	great soul
Mahatma means	Porbandar


MULTIPLE CHOICE


Circle the correct answer to the following questions.

In which year was Gandhi born?

1989	1896	1986	1869
------	------	------	------

How many people joined Gandhi on the Salt March?

tens	hundreds	thousands	millions
------	----------	-----------	----------

How many miles did Gandhi walk on the Salt March?

241	421	124	242
-----	-----	-----	-----

What does Mahatma mean?

great man	great manager	great Indian	great soul
-----------	---------------	--------------	------------

Which job did Gandhi do in England?

teacher	priest	lawyer	doctor
---------	--------	--------	--------

What was Gandhi's birth name?

Hatma Gandhi	Mohandas Gandhi	Mohat Gandhi	Mo Gandhi
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What does 'Bapu' mean?

mother	protester	soul	father
--------	-----------	------	--------

What was Gandhi the father of?

justice and independence	peace and justice	freedom	independence and freedom
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TRUE OR FALSE


Read the sentences. Put a tick in the correct box to show which sentences are *true* and which are *false*.

Mahatma Gandhi was born in London.

True False

Mahatma Gandhi died in 1869.

True False

His birth name was Mohandas.

True False

The British rulers were cruel to Indian, Chinese and black people.

True False

Gandhi was a lawyer.

True False

Gandhi marched 280 miles.

True False

Gandhi marched to the sea to make his own salt.

True False

Millions of Indians joined him on the Salt March.

True False

Gandhi got the law changed.

True False

Gandhi died in his sleep.

True False

Gandhi is known as Bapu, which means 'father'.

True False

Gandhi was arrested a number of times.

True False

Gandhi believed in peaceful protests.

True False

During peaceful protests, Gandhi would sit in the street.

True False

He lived in England between the ages of 15 and 32.

True False