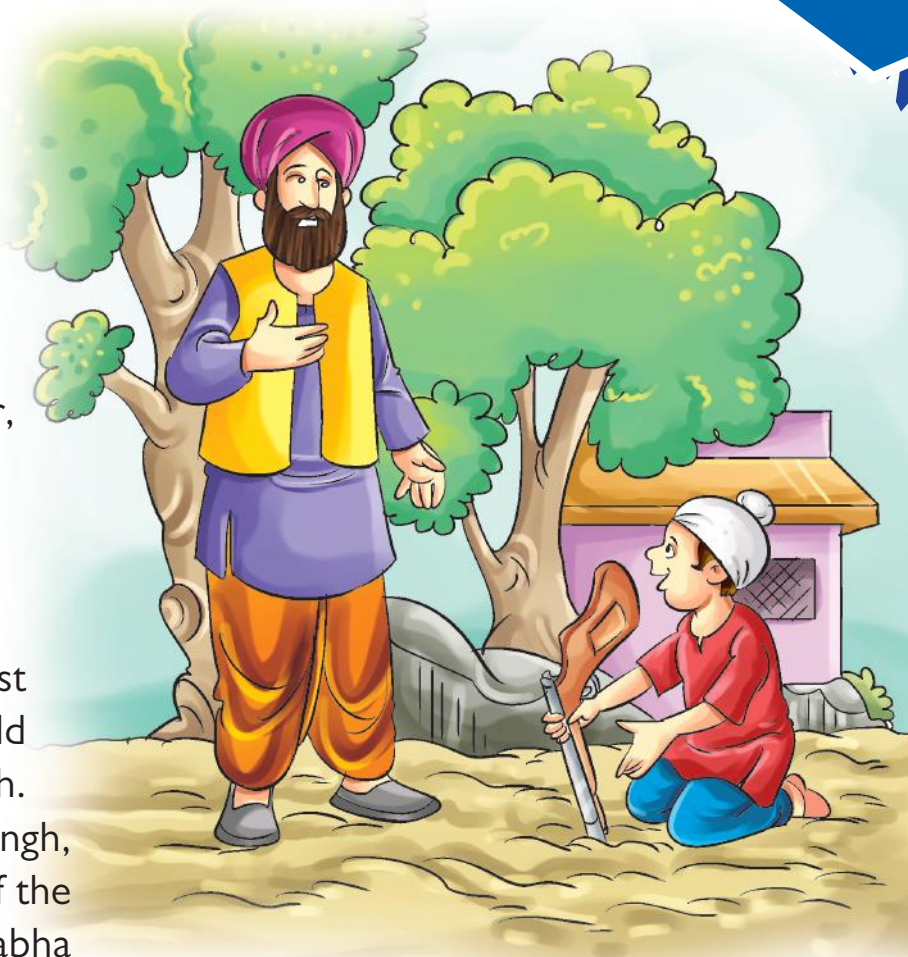


Sardar Bhagat Singh

Bhagat Singh was a great patriot. He fought like a hero for India's freedom and sacrificed his life.

Bhagat Singh was born on September 27, 1907 in the village Banga of Layalpur to Mata Vidyavati and Sardar Kishan Singh. His uncle, Sardar Ajit Singh, as well as his father, was great freedom fighters, so Bhagat Singh grew up in a patriotic atmosphere. His grandfather, Arjun Singh, was a follower of Swami Dayanand Saraswati's Hindu reformist movement, Arya Samaj which would carry a heavy *influence* on Bhagat Singh. His uncles, Ajit Singh and Swaran Singh, as well as his father were members of the Ghadar Party, led by Kartar Singh Sarabha Grewal and Har Dayal. Ajit Singh established the Indian Patriots' Association, along with Syed Haidar Raza, to organize the peasants against the Chenab Canal Colony Bill. He also established the secret organization, the Bharat Mata Society. He is considered to be one of the most influential revolutionaries of the Indian independence movement.

Bhagat Singh was admitted to the primary school. He was highly involved in studies from his childhood. His class-fellows also liked him very much, so he was their leader. His childhood itself indicated that later he would become a leader of revolutionaries. Bhagat Singh also took his studies seriously. His teachers wondered at his intelligence. He scored good marks in subjects like history,

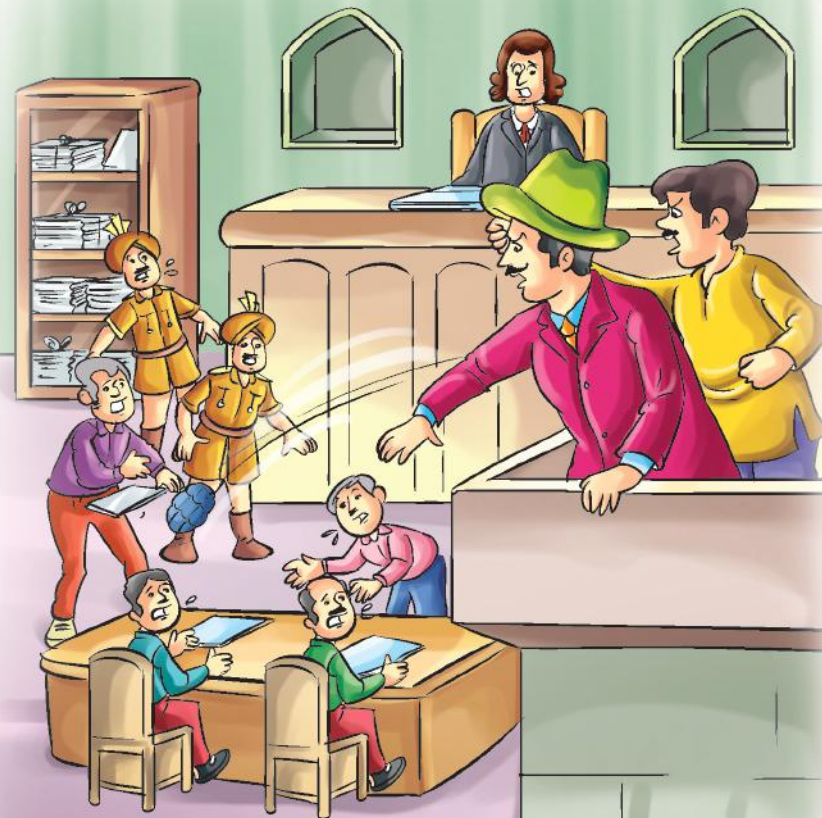


geography and arithmetic. But he had a bad score in English – 68 out of 150! This was because he had always hated the British. His words in his letter to his grandfather are really appealing : “My score in English is 68 out of 150. A score of 50 is enough to pass. Thus I have passed with credit.” That was how the clever boy stated his low score in a round about manner.

At an early age, Bhagat Singh started dreaming of **uprooting** the British Empire. The Ghadar Movement left a deep **impression** on his mind. Kartar Singh Sarabha, hanged at the age of 19, became his hero. It was the year 1919, a very tragic event happened in India that year. British soldiers opened fire on a gathering in Jallianwala Bagh, and kept up the fire for quite some time. There was no way of escape for the people. **Innumerable** people – men, women and little children fell down dead. At that time, Bhagat Singh was just twelve years old; he was deeply distressed by this event. Bhagat Singh left the school and joined the movement. Himself a revolutionary, Kishan Singh willingly gave his consent. Bhagat Singh was a source of zeal. His village was too small for his activities. He went to Lahore. There a union of revolutionaries by name 'Naujawan Bharat Sabha' was founded. Bhagat Singh became the Secretary.

During the Simon Commission, Lala Lajpat Rai was wounded because of lathi charge and died later. To take revenge of his death, Bhagat Singh and Rajguru killed Saunders (one of the deputy officers in connection with the Simon Commission). The police searched and searched for Bhagat Singh and Rajguru, but could not find them. Three months passed.

On April 8, 1929 the two men took the bombs and entered the Assembly Hall. They sat in the visitors' gallery. The session **commenced**. The bills were placed before the Assembly by the Government. The members rejected them.



In the end, a member of the Government began an announcement that the Viceroy had exercised his special powers. At once, a bomb fell from above and exploded causing a terrified sound. Immediately another bomb fell. The police rushed to the spot. Only Bhagat Singh and Batukeshwar Dutt were there. They were holding pistols. Afraid of them, the police moved back. But both threw down their pistols and got them handcuffed.

There was no harm for people's life. Two or three persons received very minor injuries only.

It was not the revolutionaries' purpose to kill anybody. The incident drew the attention of the entire world. The Kranti Dal's name became a **household** word. The British Government trembled after that incident.

After the incident, the Government raided the factory at Lahore. The Government seized enough material to make seven thousand bombs. Within a few days, most of the leaders of the Kranti Dal were arrested. The Government filed a case against them, accusing them of executing the Lahore plot. Bhagat Singh and his companions were kept in prison in Lahore.

While in prison, Bhagat Singh and two others had written a letter to the Viceroy requesting him to treat them as prisoners of war. They want to execute themselves by firing squad and not by hanging. Prannath Mehta, Bhagat Singh's friend, visited him in the jail on March 20, four days before his execution, with a draft letter for mercy, but he declined to sign it.

On March 23, 1931, Bhagat Singh, Shivram Rajguru and Sukhdev were hanged to death. Bhagat Singh's only mission in life was to see his country free from British rule. The only thing that made him sad was that he couldn't do more for his country.

Even today, the heroic spirit of Bhagat Singh is a lasting source of inspiration to the youth of the country. His courage, spirit of adventure and patriotism are an example to one and all.

Word Treasure

influence: effect, powerful

impression: mark, effect

commenced: started

uprooting: eliminating

innumerable: countless

household: domestic



EXERCISE TIME

Comprehension Skills

A. Tick (✓) the correct option :

- Bhagat Singh was a great _____.
a. king b. warrior c. leader
- He had a bad score in _____.
a. Hindi b. Science c. English
- The _____ rushed the spot.
a. army b. police c. ministers
- How many years of age was Sardar Bhagat Singh in the case of "Jalliwawala Bagh" ?
a. twenty two b. twelve c. eighteen
- His courage, spirit of _____ are an example to one and all.
a. adventure b. patriotism c. both

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct option :

raided, Simon Commission, uprooting, mission, revolutionaries

- His childhood itself indicated that later he would become a leader of _____.
- At an early age, Bhagat Singh started dreaming of _____ the British Empire.
- During the _____, Lala Lajpat Rai was wounded because of lathi charge and died later.
- After the incident, the Government _____ the factory at Lahore.
- Bhagat Singh's only _____ in life was to see his country free from British rule.

C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements :

- Bhagat Singh grew up in a patriotic atmosphere.
- Bhagat Singh established the secret organization, the Bharat Mata Society.
- Bhagat Singh was not interested in studies.
- Bhagat Singh became the Secretary of 'Naujawan Bharat Sabha'.
- Bhagat Singh's only mission in life was to become the President of India.

D. Answer the following questions :

1. Why did Bhagat Singh's classfellows and teachers like him?
2. What was the tragic event that happened in the year 1919?
3. What happened during the Simon Commission?
4. Who threw bombs in the Assembly Hall? Why?
5. What did Bhagat Singh and his friends write in a letter to the Viceroy?

Fun with Words

E. Write the meanings of the following words :

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------|-------|
| 1. establish | _____ | 2. consent | _____ |
| 3. revolutionary | _____ | 4. prisoner | _____ |

F. Use the following words in your own sentences :

1. patriotic _____
2. impression _____
3. terrified _____
4. mission _____
5. inspiration _____

Essential Grammar

G. Join each pair of sentences using suitable Conjunctions (and, but, or, because) :

1. I am right. You are wrong.
2. He came to Mumbai. His friend went to Delhi.
3. Take this. Leave the rest.
4. I respect him. He is a learned man.
5. He sells mangoes. He sells bananas.

H. Rewrite the following sentences into correct form :

1. wants / Roma / see / to / you

2. the / of / gift / wisdom / heaven / is

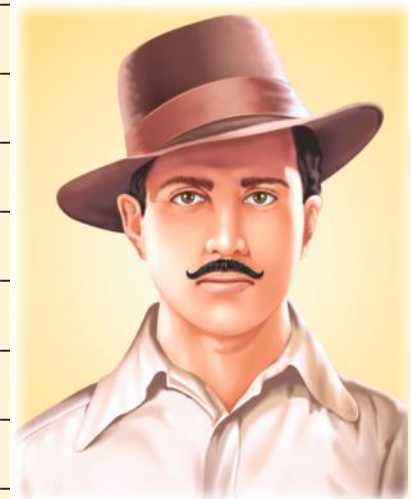
3. you / where / umbrella / buy / did

4. Ganga / a / is / the / river / sacred

5. fault / to / easy / find / it / is

Essential Writing

I. Write a short paragraph on : Bhagat Singh, one of the freedom fighters :



Essential Speaking

J. From the story of Bhagat Singh, discuss the incident which you like the most.

Fun to Do

K. Make a list of 10 freedom fighters :

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 6. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 8. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 10. _____ |