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Abstract: Reports on the 75th anniversary of the March 12, 1930 salt march protest by Mohandas Gandhi in Dandi, India. Reason of Gandhi for protesting against the British rule in his country; Impact of Gadhi's protest on the government of India; Number of people that reenacted the salt march protest in 2005.

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Marching for History

Hundreds of people in India walked more than 230 miles to honor the 75th anniversary of a historic protest

Earlier this month, cheering crowds gathered in Dandi, India, to greet hundreds of marchers who paid tribute to a great leader. The crowds threw flowers, played music, and set off fireworks to honor Mohandas Gandhi's "salt march" of 1930.

Gandhi was one of India's, and history's, greatest figures. Many Indians called him Mahatma, or Great Soul. Gandhi spent much of his life challenging the British government, which ruled India for many years. Gandhi, who died in 1948, taught people to avoid violence and peacefully work for independence.

On March 12, 1930, Gandhi began a march from Ahmedabad to protest against British rule. He arrived in Dandi on April 5. The next day, Gandhi defied British law by collecting natural salt. He was arrested because Indians were forbidden to collect salt. The law required Indians to buy salt from the British government and pay tax on it.

Gandhi's peaceful protest helped bring about India's independence from Britain, which was granted in 1947.

To mark the 75th anniversary of Gandhi's walk, about 250 people began walking from Ahmedabad on March 12 and arrived in Dandi on April 5 (see maps). They walked about 12 miles a day, usually sleeping in tents. Like Gandhi, the marchers walked along dusty roads and river banks. At the end of their trip, the marchers were joined by thousands of others for celebrations in Dandi.

[TRAVEL QUIZ](#)

Read the maps and the map keys to figure out the answers to the following questions. Fill in each correct circle.

1. Which map would you use to locate the capital of India?

- (A) small-scale
- (B) large-scale

2. Which map shows more detail of Gandhi's 1930 march?

- (A) small-scale
- (B) large-scale

3. Which body of water is closest to the place where Gandhi ended his march?

- (A) the Bay of Bengal
- (B) the Gulf of Khambhat

4. India is located on which continent?

- (A) Africa
- (B) Asia

5. Which of these rivers did Gandhi cross during his 1930 march?

- (A) Narmada
- (B) Ganges

What's that word?

Defy: (di-fye) verb. To refuse to obey a person or a rule.

MAP: A small-scale map (left) shows a large geographic area with little detail. The large-scale map (right) shows a smaller area, but with more detail.

PHOTO (COLOR): FOLLOWING IN HIS FOOTSTEPS: People walk along the Mahai River (above) to honor Gandhi (left) and his 1930 march.

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By Paul Coco

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