Lesson Plan, Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Pilgrimage to India: Part 2: 3. Classroom Activity; Part 3: 1. Opening Activity

India Trip Itinerary, Feb 9 - March 10

February 9: King arrives in Bombay

February 10: New Delhi
  • Arrival at Palam Airport
    • Welcomed by G. Ramachandran and Sucheta Kripalani
  • Press conference at the Janpath Hotel
  • Luncheon with Rajkumari Amrit Kaur
  • Reception at the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi
  • Tea with Dr. Radhakrishnan/Conversation with Vice-President
  • Reception at the Quaker Centre
    • Students, diplomats, prominent people
  • Dinner with Prime Minister Nehru
    • Included Lady Mountbatten

February 11: New Delhi
  • Laid a wreath on the Samadhi at Rajghat (cremation site and memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi)
  • Lunch with Sucheta and Acharya Kripalani at their home
  • Coretta King was at tea with Shri Jairamdas Daulatram
  • Public meeting at Sapru House
    • King’s first major address in India
  • Dinner with Morarji Desai, Union Finance Minister
    • Including Sushila Nayar and U.N. Dhebar
    • Discussion of Gandhian principles

February 12: New Delhi
  • Visit to the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi
    • Discussion with Ramachandra about Gandhi etc.
  • Luncheon with Kaka Kalelkar
  • Open meeting with students at Ramjas College by Delhi University students
  • Tea with Dr. Rajendra Pras at the Rashtrapati Bhavan
  • Met with Sarvodaya workers at the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi/Coretta talked to African Students assembled at the Quaker Centre

February 13: Patna
  • Early flight for Patna
  • Address to student gathering at the University
  • Train ride to Gaya (w/ Jayaprakash Narayan)
  • Jeep ride to reach J.P.’s Ashram

February 14: Gaya
  • Visit to the Bhoodi Buddhist monastery and the historical Buddhist temple at Budh Gaya
  • Visited small Ashram, established by Vinoba Bhave
  • Jeep ride to reach J.P.’s Ashram
February 15: Shantiniketan
- Drove to Shantiniketan in a truck
- Spoke at a gathering in the afternoon
- Left for Calcutta

February 16: Calcutta
- Interview with individuals who were close to Gandhi and involved in the Indian Independence Movement
  - Came to the hotel
- Press conference at the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi offices
- Open meeting
- Dinner with Ben and Emily Polk, Calcutta Quakers
  - 25 of Calcutta’s leaders in the field of social interests and concerns (including Nirmal Kumar Bose)

February 17: Calcutta
- Student meeting
- Meeting with labour union leaders over tea
- Public meeting
- Coretta was taken to the All India Radio studios to hear some Indian music

February 18: Madras
- Meeting with students
- Public meeting (best meetings)
- Raj Bhavan accommodations - Governor House

February 19: Madras
- Visit to rajagopalachari and Mahabalipuram
- N.E.S blocks for community development
- Tea with Joint Development Commissioner of Madras State

February 20: Gandhigram
- Made a devotional message at the end of the Gandhigram prayers
- Major address by King translated for audience
- Music entertainment by people at Gandhigram and an evening meal

February 21: Madurai and Gramdan Villages
- Visited 3 villages
  - 1st Gramdan village
    - Engaged in long and instructive discussion
    - N.E.S. Block workers were providing technical skill and help
  - 2nd Gramdan village
    - Guests for lunch
  - Harijan village
  - Madurai
    - Saw the ancient Hindu temple
    - Public meeting at the new gandhi smarak nidhi museum

February 22: Trivandrum
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- Royal welcome when plane landed at the Trivandrum airport
- Luncheon with Mr. Namboodiripad, chief minister of Kerala
  - 1st woman to be appointed as a High Court Judge in India
- Cape Comorin
  - Sufficient number of crowds gathered
- Gandhi Shrine

**February 23: Trivandrum**
- Attended the legislative assembly for a short time at the end of the morning
- Full afternoon of
  - Personal interviews
  - Good press conference
  - Tea with Governor
  - Public meeting at night

**February 24: Bangalore**
- Visit in the home of the Chief Minister of the Mysore State
- 2 Bangalore factories
- Institute of World Culture

**February 25: Bangalore**

**February 26: Bangalore (Arrival in Bombay at 6pm)**
- King meets with Jaya Chamaraja Wadiyar, the governor of Mysore,
- All-India Cattle Show

**February 27: Bombay**
- Garden of Shantilal Shah home
- Public meeting at Green’s hotel

**February 28: Bombay**
- Early morning meeting
- King saw the Voice of India film
- Interview with the governor of bombay/Mr. Diwakar
  - Discussion of nonviolence and reliance
- Chief Minister of Bombay state
- Luncheon with younger members of Congress party
- Press conference
- Met with African students of Bombay

**March 1-3: Sabarmati Ashram**
- Sabarmati Ashram (starting point of Gandhi’s Salt March to the Sea)
- All-India Shanti Sena Conference was being held at a small village
  - Mid-way between Ajmer and Kishangarh
  - Met with Vinoba Bhave
- Lunch with Jayaprakash Narayan
  - Coretta and King returned to Kishangarh

**March 3**
- King joins Vinoba on a three mile march back to Kishangarh.
• King interviews Vinoba
• additional meeting with Vinoba in the evening

March 4: Agra
• Taj Mahal
• Punjab Mail

March 5: Delhi
• King spends his day at the Quaker Center before attending a South Indian circus in New Delhi

March 6: Delhi
• Dinner at the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi as guests of G. Ramachandran

March 7: Delhi
• Nidhi
• Quaker Center
• Farewell reception by the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi
• Musical recital in Ramachandran’s home
• R. R. Diwakar presided at the reception
• Coretta provided a beautiful ritual
• Luncheon at Rajkumari Amrit Kaur’s beautiful home
• Returns to the circus
• Visit Sushila Nayar, Gandhi’s doctor’s, house
• Pyarelal Nayyar
  o Meeting with people who had known Gandhi

March 8: Delhi

March 9: Delhi
• Press conference held at the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi
  o Press conference with the following statement
  • Evening: Home of Acharya Kripalani (Dinner)

March 10: Delhi
• Early departure from the airport