

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Class _____

INDIA PAKISTAN PARTITION DOCUMENTARY

Directions: Watch the BBC documentary on the Partition of India and Pakistan, and while you watch, answer the following questions on loose leaf. Please write in full sentences. You can find the link to the video on PupilPath as well as MrCaseyHistory.com.

1. What was life like between Hindus, Muslims, and Sikhs in India before the partition, specifically in the city of Lahore in Punjab? How did these relations vary between individuals?
2. What role did World War II play in the British decision to leave India?
3. Gandhi and Nehru both supported a single Indian state where all religions live together. However many Muslims feared and opposed such a solution. Why do you think that was?
4. Why did violence breakout between Hindus and Muslims in the city of Calcutta in Bengal?
5. How did Indian Muslims view Gandhi and why?
6. Why did the British appoint a new viceroy of India? How did he live? How was Lord Mountbatten different from previous viceroys?
7. How and why did the violence escalate between Sikhs and Muslims in Punjab?
8. Why was the date for India's Day of Independence moved up by almost a year? Do you think this was a good idea or bad idea? Explain.
9. Once it was decided that India would be partitioned between a Muslim Pakistan in the secular but Hindu-Majority India, how was it decided where the border would be drawn? What problems did this create?
10. Why did the policy of granting areas with majority Muslim population to Pakistan and areas with majority Hindu populations to India lead to ethnic cleansing in those areas? Explain how one lead to the other. Do you think this should have been foreseen?
11. What atrocities took place in Punjab even before partition was finalized, and why do you think people committed such atrocities?
12. By what reasoning did Mountbatten and Radcliffe decide to keep the new borders secret until after independence was announced? Do you think this was a good or bad idea?
13. Why wasn't Gandhi present at the Indian independence ceremony?
14. Describes the experiences of the refugees, on both sides of the India-Pakistan border, as they fled to their respective new countries? What you think could have been done differently, if anything, to make this process easier and safer for those moving from one country to another?
15. Listening to the eyewitness account of people who lived through partition is heartbreaking and horrifying. How can human being reach this level of barbarism and in humanity? I'm not sure if there's really an answer to this, but write whatever you're thinking or feeling at this moment.
16. How did the horrors of partition change the way that Indian, especially Punjabis, felt about Prime Minister Nehru?
17. According to the eyewitness, how did the city of Lahore change after it became part of Pakistan? Did it change for better or for worse?