

Historical Princess Study Guide

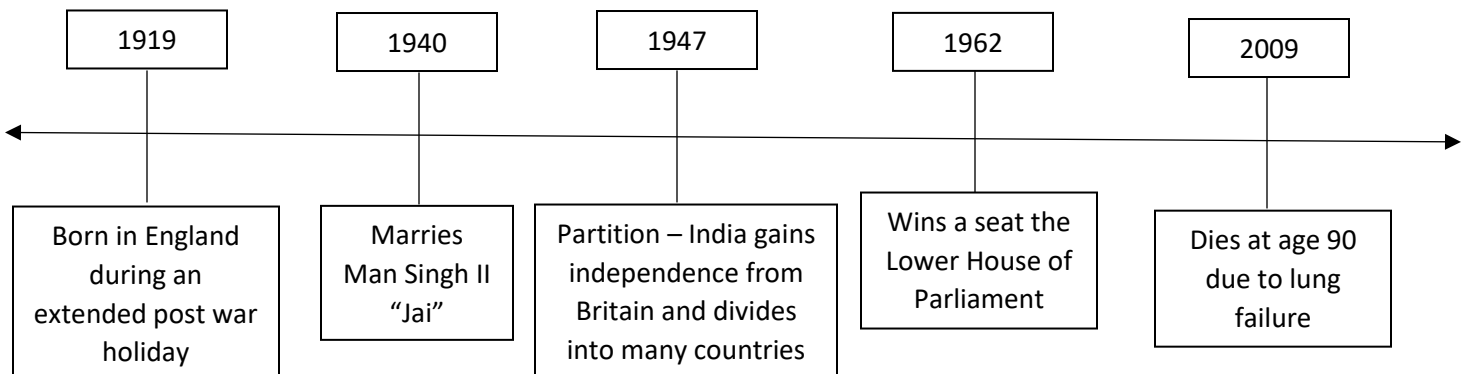
Gayatri Devi

Princess to Politician



Name: Gayatri "Aysha" Devi
Born: May 23, 1919, London, England
Died: July 29, 2009 (aged 90), Jaipur, Rajasthan, India
Spouse: Man Singh II (m. 1940 – 1970; his death)
Issue: Jagat Singh
House: Koch
Father: Maharaja Jitendra Narayan of Cooch-Bihar
Mother: Princess Indira Raje of Baroda

Above information gathered from Wikipedia





Cooch Behar Palace

City Palace of Jaipur



Non-Fiction Book List

- To Be a Princess by, H. Brewster and L. Coulter
- A Princes Remembers; The Memoirs of the Maharani of Jaipur, by Gayatri Devi

Era Literature and Historical Fiction

- Chloe in India, by Kate Darnton
- The Elephant's Friend and Other Tales From Ancient India, by Marcia Williams
- Ticket to India, by NH Senzai

Rabindranath Tagore (born **Robindronath Thakur**, 7 May 1861 – 7 August 1941), also known by his pen name **Bhanu Singha Thakur (Bhonita)**, and also known by his sobriquets **Gurudev**, **Kabiguru**, and **Biswakabi**, was a polymath, poet, musician, and artist from the Indian subcontinent. He reshaped Bengali literature and music, as well as Indian art with Contextual Modernism in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Author of the “profoundly sensitive, fresh and beautiful verse” of *Gitanjali*, he became in 1913 the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize in Literature. Tagore’s poetic songs were viewed as spiritual and mercurial; however, his “elegant prose and magical poetry” remain largely unknown outside Bengal. He is sometimes referred to as “the Bard of Bengal”.

Art From India



By Rabindranath Tagore

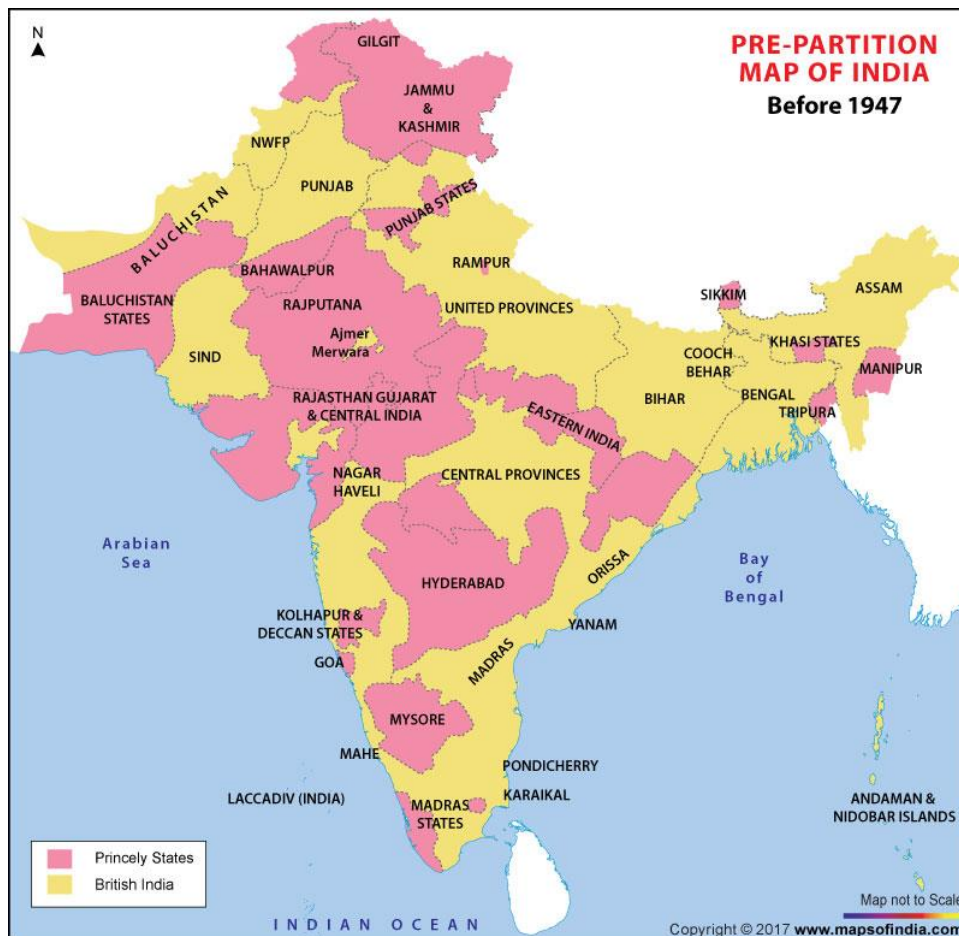


1930S ART DECO EMBROIDERED CLUTCH BAG



Huge Batik from India, 1930.

Maps



Present Day India and surrounding countries

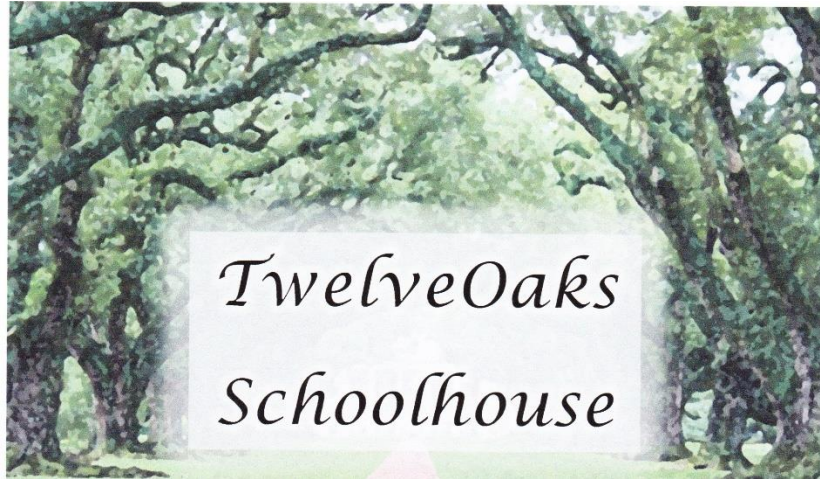


Discussion or Essay Questions

1. What was Gayatri's life like as a child? How many brothers and sisters did she have? What did she like to do? How was her life different than a normal girl's life?
2. How did she meet the man she would marry? How old was she? When did they get married?
3. What was the Partition of India?
4. How was Gayatri Devi's life different after the Partition of India?
5. Why was Gayatri Devi arrested?

Activities

- Make a family tree of Gayatri Devi.
- Make a more detailed timeline including all the important events in India during Gayatri's life
- Mark on the maps above all the important places to Gayatri (hint – Jaipur is in Rajputana)
- Watch a documentary on Mahatma Gandhi and/ or watch the Doctor Who episode dedicated to the Partition; “Demons of the Punjab” episode 6, series 11.
- Learn a Bollywood dance. Here's a video you can use: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nJ0maICKKEI>



Historical Princesses Study Guides – Gayatri Devi

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