

CALIFORNIA BAND DIRECTOR ASSOCIATION
2024 SOCIAL IMPACT CONSORTIUM

COMPANION CURRICULUM TO
SHRUTHI RAJASEKAR'S V.O.C. - *Helmsman of the Sea*

The following lesson plans have been designed as companion curricula to be taught alongside a school band's preparation of Shruthi Rajasekar's V.O.C. - Helmsman of the Sea.

GRADES 9-12 LESSONS

LESSON 1: FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE INDIAN INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT

OVERVIEW

This activity is designed to help students contextualize the piece and its subject (V.O.C.) by investigating the events leading up to the Indian Independence Movement and getting to know some of its most notable figures. Students will be asked to create color posters to share details about various Indian Freedom Fighters.

MATERIALS

Poster paper (or 8.5x11"); pencils/pens, markers, colored pencils, and/or crayons for illustrating.

CONTEXT

Similar to the Fourth of July in the United States, the country of India honors its struggle for freedom with its own Independence Day on August 15th. This holiday commemorates the date in 1947 when the Indian Independence Act took effect and began the legal process of Indian transitioning into a sovereign nation and out from British rule.

VIDEO: The Unmaking of India: How the British Impoverished the World's Richest Country

16 minute YouTube video by Odd Compass on the 190 years of British rule of the Indian subcontinent

<https://youtu.be/glzQxNZfGM4>



TASK

Divide the class into equal groups (2-5 students, preferably musicians who play different instruments). Assign each group an Indian Freedom Fighter to research. Students may complete their own research (in a library or on electronic devices) or base their research on the available information on their historical figure in this lesson plan. If the ensemble is especially large, additional groups may be invited to research more Indian Freedom Fighters who are not on the list.

Allow students time to complete their research and design and create their poster.

Posters can include but are not limited to:

- A full body or bust portrait of the subject
- Biographical information (birth/death years, place of birth, education or career, family details, cause of death)
- Contributions to Indian Independence Movement
- Other notable information

Following the completion of the Indian Freedom Fighter posters, invite the groups to introduce their historical figure to the class by sharing their poster and details about this person's life and contributions to the Indian Independence Movement.

Consider hanging up the posters created by the ensemble either in the classroom for the duration of the concert cycle or in the concert venue for the audience to peruse as an informal and educational gallery.

BONUS ACTIVITY

Encourage students to write melodies based on their group's Indian Freedom Fighter. These melodies can serve as "theme songs" for their historical figure in the same way the melodies of Shruthi Rajasekar's V.O.C. serve as thematic material that represents V. O. Chidambaram Pillai. Supply groups with manuscript paper and allow them to brainstorm what kind of musical structures and effects would depict their selected historical figure.

For this activity, students can compose using Western scales or they may wish to try composing using a Carnatic Raga. If there is interest in using the latter, the following resources will prove helpful:

WEBPAGE: Swara to Western Notation

A helpful guide to show how Carnatic Swara (Sa Ri Ga Ma Pa Dha Ni Sa) align with Western chromatic notation through the use of a piano keyboard.

<https://www.melakarta.com/education.html>

WEBPAGE: Raga Chart

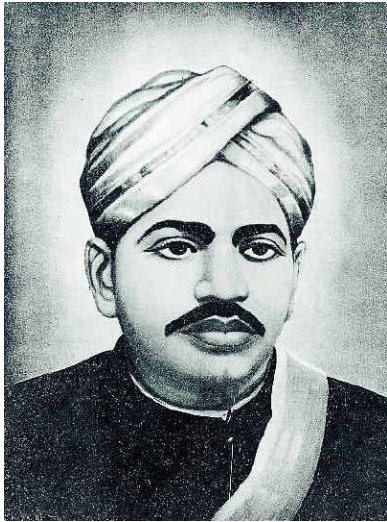
This interactive chart enables users to search by Raga name or input a sequence of Swara variations to generate a corresponding Raga.

<https://www.melakarta.com/index.html>



VALLINAYAGAM OLAGANATHAN CHIDAMBARAM PILLAI (V.O.C.) (1872 - 1936)

Kappalottiya Tamizhan (“Tamil Helmsman”)



Vallinayagam Olaganathan Chidambaram Pillai, commonly known as V.O.C. Pillai, was a major player in the Indian Independence Movement, whose multifaceted contributions spanned the realms of law, entrepreneurship, and politics. Born on September 5, 1872, in Ottapidaram, Tamil Nadu, V.O.C.'s life was marked by a fervent commitment to India's freedom.

A competent lawyer, V.O.C. entered the political stage in the late 19th century. His leadership coincided with the *Swadeshi Movement*, a pivotal phase in the Indian Independence Movement. In 1898, V.O.C. founded the **Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company**, a revolutionary venture aimed at challenging British economic dominance. This marked a significant step in promoting self-reliance and industries controlled by native Indians.

The **Swadeshi Movement** gained momentum under V.O.C.'s leadership, with a focus on boycotting British goods and promoting the use of Indian products.

V.O.C.'s efforts were not only philosophical; he actively engaged in economic resistance, urging Indians to embrace self-sufficiency. His dynamic vision of economic nationalism aimed to liberate India from British economic exploitation.

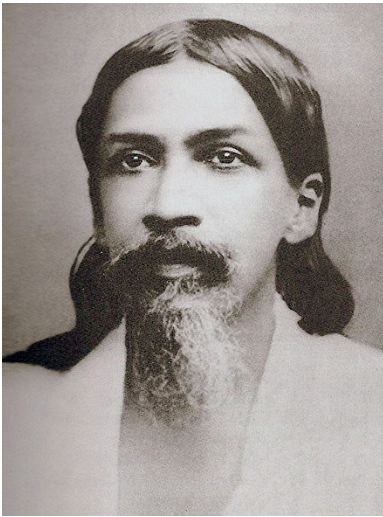
The year 1908 marked a turning point for V.O.C. when he was arrested for his anti-British activities. The arrest led to widespread protests including a general strike in Thoothukudi (a port city in Tamil Nadu) which is on record as the first politically-motivated strike in India. Despite his legal challenges and receiving two life sentences for sedition, V.O.C. remained steadfast in his dedication to India's freedom. His imprisonment from 1908-1912 (when he was released on appeal) only strengthened his resolve, turning him into a symbol of resistance against colonial oppression.

V.O. Chidambaram Pillai's contributions to the Indian Independence Movement extended beyond his incarceration. His leadership inspired countless individuals, emphasizing the interconnectedness of economic independence and political freedom. V.O.C.'s legacy resonates in his advocacy for self-reliance, portraying the economic aspect as integral to the broader struggle for independence.

Post-independence, V.O.C. continued his service to the Indian nation. He served as a member of the **Madras Legislative Council** and continued as the President of the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company. His enduring commitment to the principles of self-sufficiency and economic nationalism remained unwavering.

V.O. Chidambaram Pillai's life exemplifies the spirit of resistance and the intertwined nature of economic and political liberation. His dynamic contributions during the *Swadeshi Movement* and beyond underscore the importance of holistic approaches to nation-building. V.O.C.'s legacy stands as a testament to the indomitable spirit that fueled India's journey towards independence.

SRI AUROBINDO (1872 - 1950)



Born on August 15, 1872, in Kolkata, India, Sri Aurobindo Ghose was a multifaceted personality whose life encompassed political activism, philosophy, and spirituality. His influence on the Indian Independence Movement was profound, and his contributions extend beyond the political sphere.

Educated in England, Aurobindo initially pursued a career in the Indian Civil Service. However, his deep connection to India's cultural and spiritual heritage ignited a passion for nationalist and spiritual pursuits. Aurobindo emerged as a prominent leader in the early 20th century, advocating for India's independence from British rule.

Aurobindo's intellectual prowess and gift for expression made him a prolific writer. His writings, including essays and poetry, became a guiding force for the Indian Independence Movement. He articulated the philosophical foundations of the struggle, emphasizing the need for a spiritual awakening alongside political freedom. Aurobindo envisioned a free India that not only asserted its political autonomy but also embraced its cultural and spiritual heritage.

In 1906, Aurobindo joined the Nationalist movement and became the leader of the extremist faction within the Indian National Congress. He advocated for a more assertive approach, pushing for complete independence from British rule. Aurobindo's influential newspaper, ***Bande Mataram***, became a powerful platform for disseminating his ideas, urging the masses to unite against colonial oppression.

In 1908, Aurobindo faced legal challenges just like V.O.C. for his revolutionary activities. Despite imprisonment, Aurobindo continued to inspire the Independence Movement through his writings. His time behind bars became a period of intense spiritual exploration, leading to profound insights that would shape the latter part of his life.

Aurobindo's spiritual vision extended beyond the political landscape. He emphasized the blending of Eastern and Western philosophies, envisioning a world where spirituality and material progress coexisted harmoniously. In 1910, he withdrew from active politics to concentrate on spiritual pursuits at Pondicherry, a city in Tamil Nadu.

The latter part of Aurobindo's life was dedicated to spiritual practices and the development of **Integral Yoga**. Alongside his spiritual collaborator, **Mirra Alfassa**, known as "*The Mother*," Aurobindo founded the **Sri Aurobindo Ashram**, a spiritual retreat. His teachings and spiritual practices attracted followers from around the world.

Sri Aurobindo's legacy lies not only in his early contributions to the Indian Independence Movement but also in the profound impact of his spiritual philosophy. His integration of spirituality and nationalism continues to influence India's cultural and intellectual landscape, making him a revered figure in the nation's history. Sri Aurobindo's vision of a transformed and spiritually awakened humanity remains an enduring legacy.

SURENDRANATH BANERJEE (1848 - 1925)

Rashtraguru ("Teacher of the Nation")



Surendranath Banerjee, a pioneering figure in the Indian Independence Movement, was born on November 10, 1848, in Calcutta, British India. His life was characterized by tireless efforts in a variety of fields, including journalism, education, and politics, where he made significant contributions to India's struggle for independence.

Banerjee's early career saw him as an educator, with a profound commitment to reforming and modernizing education in India. He played a crucial role in the establishment of the **Ripon College** in Calcutta, advocating for quality education that blended traditional Indian values with modern knowledge. The college was renamed to Surendranath College in 1948 after its leader.

His foray into journalism marked another milestone in Banerjee's illustrious career. In 1875, he founded the newspaper *The Bengalee*, providing a platform to express nationalist sentiments and critique colonial policies. Banerjee utilized the power of the press to foster a sense of unity among Indians and awaken political consciousness.

Surendranath Banerjee's political journey gained prominence during the late 19th century. He was a key figure in the formation of the **Indian National Congress (INC)** in 1885, serving as its president twice, in 1895 and 1902. Banerjee's leadership within the INC emphasized the need for constitutional methods and reforms to address the grievances of the Indian people.

Banerjee, often referred to as the "**Indian Burke**" for his eloquence and oratory skills, was a staunch advocate of constitutional means for achieving political goals. He believed in negotiations and discussions with the colonial government to secure rights and representation for Indians. However, he was not immune to criticism from more radical factions within the independence movement who favored more direct and assertive approaches.

Despite his emphasis on constitutional methods, Banerjee was not oblivious to the need for mass mobilization and public awareness. He actively participated in public agitations, including the anti-separation movement against the proposed succession of Bengal in 1905. Banerjee's involvement showcased his ability to bridge the gap between moderate and radical elements within the nationalist struggle.

Surendranath Banerjee's contributions extended beyond national boundaries. He attended international conferences and worked towards garnering support for the Indian cause on the global stage. His diplomatic efforts aimed to highlight the injustices faced by Indians under British rule. In recognition of his significant contributions, Banerjee was knighted by the British government in 1895. However, he later returned the knighthood in protest against the repressive measures taken by the colonial administration.

Surendranath Banerjee's life and legacy exemplify the multifaceted nature of the Indian Independence Movement. His emphasis on education, journalism, constitutional methods, and international diplomacy underscore the complexity of strategies employed by leaders during this crucial period in India's history. Banerjee's indomitable spirit and commitment to the cause of freedom continue to inspire generations in India's ongoing journey of nation-building.

BHIKAJI CAMA (1861 - 1936)



Born on September 24, 1861 in Bombay (now Mumbai), India, Bhikaiji Cama was a prominent figure in the Indian Independence Movement. Known for her unwavering commitment to the cause of freedom, Cama played a crucial role in advocating for India's independence from British colonial rule.

Bhikaiji Cama's early life was marked by her education in England, where she absorbed the ideals of liberty and equality. Influenced by prominent leaders like **Dadabhai Naoroji** and **Bal Gangadhar Tilak**, she began to actively participate in the struggle for India's independence upon her return to the subcontinent.

Cama's contributions were manifold, and she gained recognition as a passionate speaker, writer, and activist. In 1907, she attended the **International Socialist Congress** in Stuttgart, Germany, where she unfurled the first version of the **Indian tricolor flag**. The flag featured green, saffron, and red stripes, symbolizing faith, courage, and sacrifice. This act was a bold assertion of India's desire for self-rule on the international stage.

In addition to her symbolic gesture, Bhikaiji Cama worked tirelessly to raise awareness about India's plight under British rule. She collaborated with fellow freedom fighters, including **Vinayak Damodar Savarkar** and **Shyamji Krishna Varma**, to publish revolutionary literature and newspapers. Cama herself edited and wrote for publications like **Bande Mataram** and **Madan's Talwar**, using these platforms to disseminate anti-colonial ideas and inspire the masses.

Despite facing numerous challenges and personal hardships, Bhikaiji Cama remained resolute in her commitment to the cause. She advocated for the empowerment of women and their active participation in the freedom struggle. Cama was a trailblazer in challenging traditional gender norms, becoming a symbol of strength and resilience for women in the independence movement.

Her relentless efforts, however, did not escape the watchful eyes of the British authorities. In 1909, Bhikaiji Cama was forced to live in exile in Europe thanks to Britain's oppressive measures against freedom fighters. Nevertheless, she continued her activism from abroad, using her international network to garner support for India's independence.

Bhikaiji Cama's legacy endures as a testament to the indomitable spirit of those who fought for India's freedom. Her pioneering role in internationalizing the cause and her dedication to the principles of justice and equality have left an indelible mark on the history of the Indian Independence Movement. Today, she is remembered as one of the trailblazers who paved the way for a free and sovereign India.

MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI (1869 - 1948)

Mahatma ("Great-Souled" or "Saintly")



Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, affectionately known as *Mahatma* Gandhi, was a towering figure in the fight for India's independence and a globally revered leader of the 20th century. Born on October 2, 1869, in Porbandar, a coastal town in British-ruled India, Gandhi's life was marked by a deep commitment to nonviolent resistance and principles of truth and justice.

Growing up in a devout Hindu family, Gandhi's early life was shaped by traditional values and a strong sense of morality. He pursued legal studies in London, where he was exposed to diverse ideologies and social issues. It was during his time in South Africa, where he worked as a lawyer, that Gandhi experienced racial discrimination, sparking his initial foray into activism.

Gandhi's journey as a leader began with his commitment to civil rights in South Africa. He initiated nonviolent protests against discriminatory laws, advocating for the rights of Indians and other marginalized communities. This marked the genesis of his philosophy of **Satyagraha**, a term combining "*satya*" (truth) and "*agraha*" (insistence or holding firmly). *Satyagraha* became the cornerstone of Gandhi's approach to social and political change.

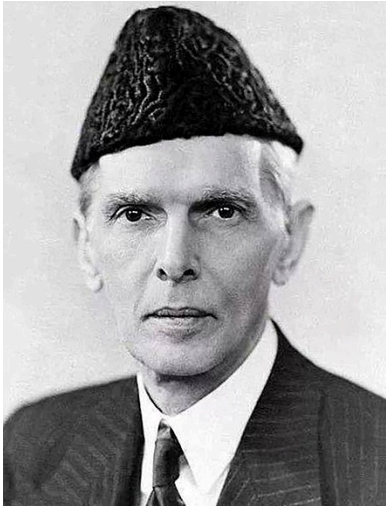
Returning to India in 1915, Gandhi emerged as the leader of the **Indian National Congress** and quickly became the driving force behind the struggle for independence from British colonial rule. His philosophy of nonviolent resistance inspired millions to join the cause. Gandhi led various campaigns, including the famous **Salt March** in 1930, where he and his followers walked 240 miles to the Arabian Sea to protest the British salt monopoly.

Throughout his life, Gandhi practiced what he preached. He embraced a simple lifestyle, wearing traditional Indian clothing and advocating for self-sufficiency. His commitment to nonviolence and his belief in the inherent dignity of every individual earned him the title **Mahatma** meaning "great soul."

Gandhi's influence extended far beyond India's borders, inspiring civil rights movements and leaders worldwide, including **Martin Luther King Jr.** in the United States and **Nelson Mandela** in South Africa. Despite facing imprisonment and personal hardships, Gandhi's unwavering dedication to justice and equality left an indelible mark on the world.

Tragically, Mahatma Gandhi's life was cut short when he was assassinated on January 30, 1948, by a Hindu nationalist angered by Gandhi's efforts to promote religious harmony. However, his legacy endures, and his teachings continue to resonate, reminding high school students of the enduring power of peaceful resistance and the pursuit of justice in the face of adversity.

MUHAMMAD ALI JINNAH (1876 - 1948)



Muhammad Ali Jinnah was a pivotal figure in the Indian Independence Movement and the founding father of Pakistan and was born on December 25, 1876, in Karachi located in modern-day Pakistan. His leadership and political vision played a crucial role in shaping the destiny of the Indian subcontinent.

Jinnah began his political career as a member of the **Indian National Congress**, advocating for Hindu-Muslim unity. However, over time, he grew disillusioned with the Congress's approach, particularly its failure to protect the rights and interests of Muslims. This dissatisfaction led Jinnah to shift towards a distinct political trajectory, eventually becoming the leader of the **All India Muslim League**.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah's contributions to the Indian Independence Movement were marked by his relentless pursuit of a separate nation for Muslims, leading to the creation of the separate country of **Pakistan** in 1947. As the leader of the Muslim League, he played a key role in negotiating the terms of independence with the British and the Congress through the **Mountbatten Plan**.

Jinnah's advocacy for the Two-Nation Theory, which posited that Hindus and Muslims were distinct nations with separate religious, social, and cultural identities, became the foundation for the demand for Pakistan. His leadership during the tumultuous period of partition reflected his commitment to securing a homeland where Muslims could exercise their rights freely.

In 1947, Pakistan was established as a separate nation, and Jinnah became its **first Governor-General** until his death in 1948. His vision for Pakistan emphasized religious freedom, equal rights for citizens, and the importance of parliamentary democracy.

While Jinnah is primarily recognized for his role in the creation of Pakistan, it is essential to acknowledge his earlier contributions to the Indian Independence Movement. His efforts as a Congress member and subsequent leadership in the Muslim League reflected a commitment to addressing the concerns and aspirations of diverse communities in the subcontinent.

Muhammad Ali Jinnah's life and legacy are complex, reflecting the challenges and intricacies of a tumultuous period in South Asian history. His contributions to the Indian Independence Movement, coupled with his role in the establishment of Pakistan, make him a figure of historical significance. Jinnah's impact on the political landscape of the subcontinent is enduring, as he remains a symbol of leadership and statesmanship in the quest for self-determination and identity.

VELU NACHIYAR (1730 - 1796)

Veeramangai ("Brave Woman")



Born in 1730 in Ramanathapuram, Tamil Nadu, Velu Nachiyar, was a valiant queen and a significant early protagonist in the Indian Independence Movement against British colonial rule. Her life is a tale of resilience, strategic acumen, and an unwavering commitment to the cause of freedom.

In her forties, Velu Nachiyar faced immense challenges when her husband, the king of **Sivaganga**, was killed by British forces. Seeking refuge with the **Marathas**, Nachiyar utilized this period to develop her military and leadership skills.

In 1780, Nachiyar embarked on a daring mission to reclaim her kingdom. With the support of the Marathas, she formed an army and engaged in guerrilla warfare against the British. Nachiyar's military tactics, including the innovative use of her followers' traditional fighting methods, proved effective against the technologically superior British forces.

One of Velu Nachiyar's significant achievements was her successful recapture of Sivaganga in 1781, making her the first queen to defy British rule. Her strategic brilliance and resilience earned her admiration from her contemporaries and posed a formidable challenge to the British presence in the region. Once returned to her throne, Velu Nachiyar was coronated and went on to rule another ten years before giving up the throne to her daughter.

Beyond military victories, Velu Nachiyar was committed to establishing a just and progressive administration. Her policies aimed at the welfare of her subjects, showcasing her vision for a free and prosperous kingdom. Nachiyar's leadership inspired loyalty and dedication among her followers.

While Velu Nachiyar's contributions are often overshadowed by more widely recognized figures in the Indian Independence Movement, her story is a testament to the diverse roles played by regional leaders in challenging colonial oppression. Nachiyar's legacy serves as an inspiring chapter in India's struggle for freedom, emphasizing the courage and strategic thinking of a queen who defied imperial rule.

Velu Nachiyar's remarkable contributions demonstrates that the Indian fight against colonialism involved not only national leaders but also resilient regional figures who played pivotal roles in shaping the narrative of India's journey toward independence. Velu Nachiyar's legacy endures as a symbol of courage and determination in the face of colonial challenges.

SAROJINI NAIDU (1879 - 1949)

Bharat Kokila ("The Nightingale of India")



Sarojini Naidu was born in Hyderabad on February 13, 1879 and was a prominent figure in the Indian independence movement in addition to many other great accomplishments. Often referred to as **Bharat Kokila**, the "Nightingale of India," she was not only a poet of great acclaim but also a dedicated political leader and social activist.

Sarojini Naidu's early life was marked by a passion for literature. She studied in England, where she honed her poetic skills and became the first Indian woman to graduate from the **University of Cambridge**. Her poetic works, characterized by their eloquence and patriotic fervor, earned her recognition both in India and abroad. As she returned to India, Sarojini Naidu became deeply involved in the freedom struggle. She joined the **Indian National Congress** and worked alongside prominent leaders like **Mahatma Gandhi**. Her oratory skills and ability to connect with people made her a powerful

spokesperson for the cause of independence.

One of Sarojini Naidu's notable contributions was her involvement in the **Non-Cooperation Movement** and the **Civil Disobedience Movement**. She played a pivotal role in advocating for **Swadeshi** (boycott of foreign goods) and nonviolent resistance against British rule. Her speeches and writings inspired many to join the fight for India's freedom.

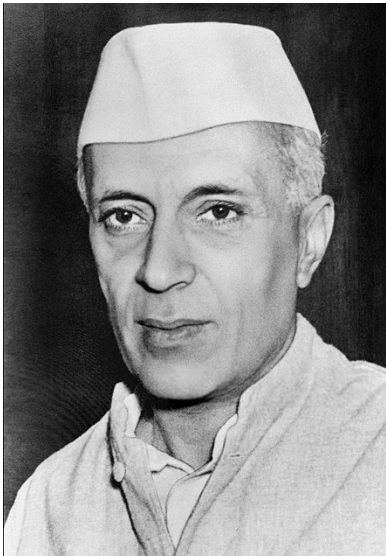
Sarojini Naidu's commitment to social issues extended beyond politics. She actively championed women's rights and was a vocal advocate for gender equality. In 1925, she presided over the Congress session in Kanpur, becoming the first Indian woman to do so.

In addition to her political and social contributions, Sarojini Naidu continued to excel in literature. Her poetry, often infused with themes of nationalism and love for her country, resonated with people across India. Her collection of poems titled **The Golden Threshold** showcased her mastery of language and her ability to capture the spirit of the time.

Sarojini Naidu's journey as a leader and poet was characterized by resilience and dedication. Despite facing challenges and being arrested multiple times during the freedom struggle, she remained steadfast in her commitment to India's independence. Her efforts were instrumental in shaping the narrative of the Indian independence movement, and her legacy as a trailblazing woman in Indian politics continues to inspire generations.

Sarojini Naidu died on March 2, 1949, but her contributions to the realms of literature and independence activism endure. The indomitable spirit of the "Nightingale of India" remains etched in the annals of India's history, a testament to her enduring impact on the nation's cultural and political landscape.

JAWAHARLAL NEHRU (1889 - 1964)



From Allahabad, India, Jawaharlal Nehru was born on November 14, 1889 and emerged as a towering figure in the Indian Independence Movement, later becoming an architect of independent India as its **first Prime Minister**. His life and contributions were integral to shaping the nation's destiny.

Educated at Harrow and Cambridge Colleges in England, Nehru was exposed to liberal and democratic ideals. However, it was upon his return to India that he found his true calling in the fight against British colonial rule. Influenced by **Mahatma Gandhi**, Nehru became a prominent leader within the **Indian National Congress**.

Nehru's role in the freedom struggle was marked by his commitment to non-violence and his charismatic leadership. In 1929, he became the president of the Indian National Congress and presided over the **Lahore Session**, where the tricolor flag was hoisted, symbolizing India's aspirations for complete independence.

As a close ally of Gandhi, Nehru actively participated in various movements, including the **Civil Disobedience Movement** and the **Quit India Movement**. He faced imprisonment multiple times, solidifying his dedication to the cause. Nehru's eloquent speeches and writings galvanized the masses, making him a beloved leader. After India gained independence on August 15, 1947, Nehru assumed the role of the country's first Prime Minister. His leadership during the crucial early years of the nation was marked by a commitment to democracy, secularism, and social justice. Nehru's vision for a modern and industrialized India was evident in his efforts to establish a mixed economy and invest in scientific and educational institutions.

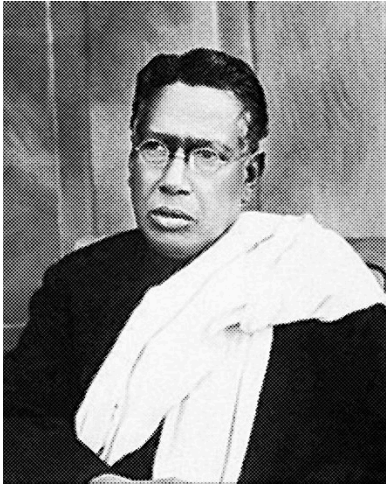
One of Nehru's enduring contributions was his role in crafting the **Indian Constitution**. As the head of the Constituent Assembly, he worked to ensure that the foundational document reflected the values of equality, justice, and individual rights. The secular and democratic principles embedded in the constitution remain the bedrock of India's governance.

Beyond political leadership, Nehru was passionate about nation-building. He initiated ambitious projects like the **Bhakra-Nangal Dam**, aimed at economic development and harnessing India's resources. His emphasis on education led to the establishment of institutions like the **Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs)** and the **Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs)**.

Jawaharlal Nehru's legacy endures in modern India. His birthday, November 14, is celebrated as **Children's Day**, reflecting his deep affection for the youth. While his leadership during the formative years of independent India faced challenges, his commitment to democratic values and social progress left a lasting mark on the nation's history. Pandit Nehru's contributions to the Indian Independence Movement and his subsequent role in shaping the nation make him a pivotal figure in India's journey towards freedom and nation-building.

BIPIN CHANDRA PAL (1858 - 1932)

"Father of Revolutionary Thoughts"



Bipin Chandra Pal was born on November 7, 1858, in Sylhet (now in Bangladesh), and was a major contributor to the Indian Independence Movement. Fondly known as the "Father of Revolutionary Thoughts," Pal was a prominent leader, orator, and writer whose contributions left an indelible mark on the struggle for India's freedom.

Pal's early education exposed him to the socio-political issues plaguing India under British rule. His fervent commitment to the cause of independence led him to join the **Indian National Congress** in the 1880s. Alongside fellow leaders like **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** and **Lala Lajpat Rai**, Pal became a part of the **Lal-Bal-Pal** triumvirate, advocating radical measures to achieve self-rule.

A powerful orator, Bipin Chandra Pal captivated audiences with his speeches that resonated with nationalist sentiments. He emphasized the importance of self-reliance, cultural pride, and the eradication of social evils. Pal's ability to connect with people played a crucial role in mobilizing support for the independence movement.

Pal was not only active in the political arena but also a prolific writer. His articles and editorials in newspapers like **Bande Mataram** and **New India** served as a platform to articulate anti-colonial sentiments and advocate for the rights of Indians. Through his writings, he aimed to awaken the masses to the injustices perpetrated by the British regime.

One of Pal's significant contributions was his advocacy for the **Swadeshi movement**. He urged Indians to embrace indigenous products and reject foreign goods, promoting economic self-sufficiency as a means of challenging British economic dominance. The Swadeshi movement gained momentum under his leadership, becoming a powerful tool in the fight against colonial exploitation.

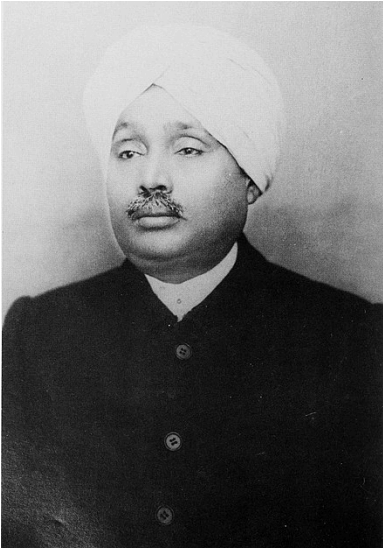
Bipin Chandra Pal's fearless approach to the independence movement led to his imprisonment on several occasions. He continued to champion the cause even while facing personal hardships. Pal's unwavering commitment to freedom, coupled with his intellectual prowess, earned him respect as a visionary leader.

As a part of the extremist faction within the Congress, Pal advocated for more assertive and direct action against British rule. However, he later distanced himself from the Congress due to ideological differences. Despite the divergence, his impact on the overall independence movement remained significant.

Bipin Chandra Pal's life came to an end on May 20, 1932, but his legacy endures. His contributions to the Indian Independence Movement, marked by intellectual vigor and a steadfast commitment to principles, continue to inspire generations of Indians in their quest for a sovereign and just nation. The "Father of Revolutionary Thoughts" remains a key figure in the pantheon of leaders who shaped India's struggle for independence.

LALA LAJPAT RAI (1865 - 1928)

Punjab Kesari ("The Lion of Punjab")



Lala Lajpat Rai was born on January 28, 1865, in Dhudike, Punjab and is a prominent and influential leader of the Indian Independence Movement. Fondly known as "Punjab Kesari" or "Lion of Punjab," Rai's life was characterized by his unwavering commitment to the cause of freedom and social justice.

Lajpat Rai's journey into activism began during his early years as a law student in Lahore, where he was deeply influenced by the socio-political issues of the time. Rai, along with **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** and **Bipin Chandra Pal**, formed the **Lal-Bal-Pal** triumvirate within the Indian National Congress, advocating for radical measures to achieve self-rule.

A fiery orator and a prolific writer, Lala Lajpat Rai used his voice and pen to galvanize the masses. He founded and edited newspapers like *The Tribune* to disseminate nationalist ideas and critique British policies. His writings played a crucial role in mobilizing public opinion against colonial rule.

Lajpat Rai actively participated in various movements that aimed to challenge British authority. The agitation against the partition of Bengal in 1905 saw him at the forefront, and he played a key role in organizing protests against the discriminatory measures.

One of Lajpat Rai's significant contributions was his involvement in the **Swadeshi movement**. He advocated for economic self-sufficiency, encouraging Indians to boycott British goods and promote indigenous products. The Swadeshi movement gained momentum under his leadership and became a powerful tool in the fight against economic exploitation.

In 1928, Lala Lajpat Rai became a symbol of resistance during the **Simon Commission protests**. While leading a peaceful demonstration in Lahore against the Commission, he sustained severe injuries from a police baton charge. Despite the injuries, Rai continued to address the crowd, uttering the famous words, *"Every blow aimed at me is a nail in the coffin of the British Empire."*

Unfortunately, Lala Lajpat Rai succumbed to his injuries on November 17, 1928. His death sparked outrage and contributed to the growing discontent against British rule.

Lala Lajpat Rai's legacy endures as a symbol of courage and sacrifice. His contributions to the Indian Independence Movement, from his early days in the Lal-Bal-Pal triumvirate to his pivotal role in various movements, showcase his dedication to the ideals of freedom and justice. Punjab Kesari's life remains an inspiration for generations, and his name is etched in the annals of India's struggle for independence.

BALDEV SINGH (1902 - 1961)



Baldev Singh was born in Rupnagar, Punjab, on July 11, 1902 and was a distinguished leader in the Indian Independence Movement, playing a vital role in shaping the political landscape of the country. His commitment to the cause of freedom and social justice made him a respected figure in Indian politics.

Baldev Singh's early life was marked by a deep sense of patriotism and a desire for social reform. He joined the **Akali Movement**, which aimed to address the grievances of the Sikh community and secure control of their religious spaces. Singh's involvement in the Akali Movement marked the beginning of his journey into the larger canvas of the Indian Independence Movement.

Singh actively participated in the **Civil Disobedience Movement** and faced imprisonment for his anti-colonial activities. His dedication to the cause led to his association with prominent leaders like **Mahatma Gandhi** and **Jawaharlal Nehru**. Baldev Singh emerged as a key representative of the Sikh community in the national struggle for independence.

One of Singh's notable contributions was his role in the formation of the **Khalsa National Party** in 1936, which later merged with the **All India Congress Committee** (AICC). His political acumen and commitment to secularism made him an influential leader within the Indian National Congress.

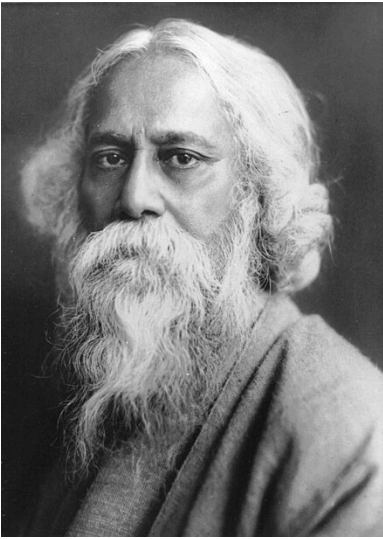
During the **Quit India Movement** in 1942, Baldev Singh played a pivotal role in mobilizing support for the call to end British rule. He faced arrest but continued to advocate for the cause of independence. Singh's leadership qualities and dedication earned him a prominent position in the political landscape.

Post-independence, Baldev Singh continued to serve the nation in various capacities. He served as the **first Defence Minister** of independent India and played a crucial role in the integration of princely states into the Indian Union. His efforts were instrumental in building a strong and unified defense infrastructure for the newly independent nation.

Baldev Singh's political career also faced challenges and he eventually resigned from the Cabinet in 1955. Despite the ups and downs, his contributions to the Indian Independence Movement and the early years of nation-building remain noteworthy.

Baldev Singh's legacy endures as a symbol of the Sikh community's participation in the struggle for independence and the subsequent nation-building process. His commitment to secularism and social justice, along with his contributions to the defense establishment, make him a respected figure in India's history. Baldev Singh's life represents a chapter in the larger narrative of individuals who dedicated themselves to the cause of a free and united India.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE (1861 - 1941)



Rabindranath Tagore, a luminary of Indian literature, arts, and philosophy, was born on May 7, 1861, in Calcutta, India. His life was a tapestry of creativity, social reform, and significant contributions to the Indian Independence Movement.

Tagore was born into a distinguished family and received a multifaceted education that spanned Western and Indian traditions. His literary prowess flourished, and he became the first non-European Nobel laureate in Literature in 1913 for his collection of poems, *Gitanjali*. Tagore's works touched on themes of universalism, humanism, and the interconnectedness of all beings.

Beyond literature, Tagore was an influential figure in the cultural and educational spheres. In 1901, he founded the **Visva-Bharati University** in Santiniketan, a unique institution that emphasized holistic education, blending Western and Indian philosophies. Tagore believed that education was key to fostering a free and enlightened society.

While Tagore's contributions to literature and education were monumental, his role in the Indian Independence Movement is equally noteworthy. Although his beliefs did not align with militant activism, Tagore expressed his patriotism through his writings and public engagement. He penned numerous poems, songs, and essays that resonated with the spirit of India's quest for freedom.

One of Tagore's most iconic contributions to the independence movement was the composition of the song "**Jana Gana Mana**," which later became the national anthem of India. The song embodies the diverse cultural tapestry of the nation and served as an anthem of unity and resistance against colonial rule.

Tagore was not without criticisms of some aspects of the nationalist movement. He was wary of narrow nationalism that ignored the rich cultural diversity within India. Tagore believed in an inclusive, spiritual nationalism that celebrated the unity of all humanity.

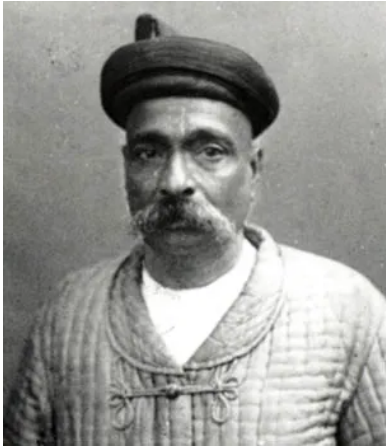
In 1919, Tagore vehemently protested against the **Jallianwala Bagh massacre** in Amritsar, returning his knighthood in protest of British atrocities. He emphasized the importance of moral resistance and condemned violence as a means of achieving political goals.

As India moved closer to independence, Tagore continued to advocate for a harmonious and culturally rich nation. He played a role in the **Swadeshi Movement**, urging Indians to embrace indigenous products and craftsmanship.

Rabindranath Tagore's life was a harmonious blend of artistic brilliance, educational innovation, and social reform. His contributions to the Indian Independence Movement, through literature, education, and public engagement, mark him as a timeless icon of India's struggle for freedom. Tagore's legacy lives on not only in the pages of his literary works but also in the spirit of a nation that continues to draw inspiration from his vision of a free, enlightened, and culturally rich India.

BAL GANGADHAR TILAK (1856 - 1920)

Lokmanya ("Accepted by the People")



Bal Gangadhar Tilak was a prominent leader in the Indian Independence Movement who was born on July 23, 1856, in Ratnagiri, Maharashtra. Often referred to as "**Lokmanya**" (meaning "accepted by the people"), Tilak was a polymath, excelling as a scholar, teacher, journalist, and political activist.

Tilak's early education in Pune, Maharashtra laid the foundation for his intellectual pursuits. He earned a degree in law and started teaching mathematics at **Ferguson College** in Pune. However, his passion for social and political reform soon took precedence over his academic career.

A strong advocate of **Swaraj** (self-rule), Bal Gangadhar Tilak co-founded the **Deccan Education Society** in 1884 to promote modern education. He believed that education was the key to liberation and worked towards fostering a sense of national pride among India's youth.

Tilak's influence extended to journalism, where he played a pivotal role in shaping public opinion. His newspapers, **Kesari** (in Marathi) and **Maratha** (in English), became powerful tools for disseminating nationalist ideas and challenging British policies. Tilak's writings inspired a generation of Indians to unite against colonial oppression.

One of Tilak's significant contributions to the independence movement was his emphasis on the celebration of festivals as a means of fostering national unity. He popularized the **Ganesh Chaturthi** festival as a public event, encouraging people of all castes and classes to participate. This cultural celebration became a platform for expressing patriotic fervor and unity against British rule.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak's activism extended beyond cultural events. He actively campaigned against the British government's unjust policies, particularly their divide-and-rule strategy. In 1905, he vehemently opposed the partition of Bengal, viewing it as an attempt to sow discord among communities. Tilak's famous slogan "*Swaraj is my birthright, and I shall have it*" echoed the collective sentiment of millions of Indians yearning for independence.

Tilak's commitment to the cause led to his imprisonment on several occasions. Despite facing hardships, he remained steadfast in his pursuit of freedom. His leadership and vision left an indelible mark on the Indian National Congress, where he played a crucial role alongside other important figures like **Lala Lajpat Rai** and **Bipin Chandra Pal**. Together, they formed the **Lal-Bal-Pal** triumvirate, advocating radical measures to achieve self-rule.

Bal Gangadhar Tilak's life was a testament to his unwavering dedication to the ideals of freedom and justice. He passed away on August 1, 1920, leaving behind a legacy that continues to inspire generations of Indians in their quest for a sovereign nation. Lokmanya Tilak's contributions played a pivotal role in shaping the trajectory of the Indian Independence Movement.

LESSON 2: MUSIC AS BIOGRAPHY

OVERVIEW

This lesson will help students draw connections between musical works and their human subjects. By considering the ways composers represent various aspects of a person's life and personality through music elements, students will gain a better understanding of the meaning and structure of *V.O.C.: Helmsman of the Sea* by Shruthi Rajasekar. In this lesson, music students have the opportunity to analyze several works of music inspired by or based on the life of a historic figure.

MATERIALS

Visual access to the score *V.O.C.* by Shruthi Rajasekar; visual access to one or more of the scores listed below (or score for another biographical work for concert band); audio recording to *V.O.C.* (if available!); audio recording to one or more of the scores listed below.

CONTEXT

Throughout history, countless works of music have been written inspired by the life, works, and personalities of living and historic people. Many times, a composer writes about a loved one or personal friend, while other times, they may be inspired to compose a work based on a famous or historic figure. Music without text or lyrics can still portray a person through the use of programmatic elements throughout the piece. These works can serve as a sort of biography of the person they are based on but might also include elements that hint at the composer's feelings about the subject.

TASK

Introduce the concept of music as biography to the class and open a discussion on songs or works of music based on real people that the students may already know. Invite them to share in small groups or with the whole class. Time permitting, listen to student examples as a class and allow the musicians to draw connections between the music (and lyrics/text if available) and the life or personality of the work's subject.

Next, engage the students with one or more works for concert band inspired by a historical subject. A list of band pieces inspired by American historical figures is included in this lesson plan. *For international ensembles, select a piece of music and historical figure relevant to your community.* Before listening to the piece, engage the class in the following steps.

- Research or share what is known about the selected historical figure
- Brainstorm how this figure might be portrayed musically; make predictions about ...
 - What instruments might be featured
 - Tempo
 - Keys, tonalities, range/tessitura
 - Motives, melodic content
 - Rhythmic patterns
 - Style, dynamics, intensity
 - Any other musical representation

Once predictions have been made, listen to the selected piece and follow along in the score. Refer back to the predictions to come to a consensus as to whether or not the predictions were accurate. Listen to the piece of music once again, this time, detailing a list of what musical elements *are* present in the work. Discuss how these elements may be tied to the composer's intent and/or their connection to the historical figure. Discussion questions may include:

- What did you hear in the piece of music?
 - What surprised you? What aligned with your predictions?
- Describe the piece of music we have just listened to with adjectives. Are these adjectives that could also describe the person the piece is based on?
- What specific musical elements or compositional techniques conveyed the most character?
 - Identify with measure numbers and/or timestamps in the recording
- Based on our listening to the musical composition, what does the composer think or feel about the subject?
- Does the composition make you curious to learn more about the life of the subject? Why or why not?
- What responsibility does a composer have when using music to portray a real person?
- What kind of research or preparation should go into a project where an artist (composer/musician or otherwise) is creating a work to represent a real person?
- If you wrote a piece of music representing the same person in the piece we have just listened to, what would be similar to this work? What would be different?

EXAMPLE PIECES FOR CONCERT BAND

INSPIRED BY/BASED ON AMERICAN HISTORICAL FIGURES

William Billings - *Chester* (William Schuman)

Cesar Chavez - *Chavez, 1927* (Giovanni Santos)

Dolores Huerta - *Dolores, AmeriCan* (Giovanni Santos)

Marsha P. Johnson - *Mother of a Revolution* (Omar Thomas)

John F. Kennedy - *Elegy for a Young American* (Ronald Lo Presti)

The Leaves are Falling (Warren Benson)

Martin Luther King, Jr. - *Etched in Stone* (Timothy Mahr)

New Morning for the World (Joseph Schwantner)

Abraham Lincoln - *A Lincoln Portrait* (Aaron Copland)

Rosa Parks - *A Movement for Rosa* (Mark Camphouse)

Rosa Parks Boulevard (Michael Daugherty)

Harriet Tubman - *Harriet* (O'Neal Douglas)

***BONUS* LESSON: FREEDOM FIGHTERS OF THE UNITED STATES**

OVERVIEW

After completing the lesson(s) on Indian Freedom Fighters and the Indian Independence Movement, encourage students to make connections to similar historical figures in the United States. While the most obvious parallel is the Revolutionary War, students may also be interested in researching American freedom fighters in other movements. Alternative lesson subjects: allow students to develop their own list of American freedom fighters or create a custom list based on geographic/cultural considerations.

Time permitting, facilitate students to complete the same steps in Lesson 1 with their American Freedom Fighter including creating a poster and composing a thematic melody to represent their selected historical figure.

INCOMPLETE LIST OF AMERICAN FREEDOM FIGHTERS

AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR

Crispus Attucks

Benjamin Franklin

Thomas Jefferson
Nathan Hale
Alexander Hamilton
Thomas Paine
Paul Revere
Betsy Ross
Mercy Otis Warren
George Washington

AMERICAN CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT

Ella Baker
Septima Poinsette Clark
James Farmer
Martin Luther King, Jr.
Coretta Scott King
John Lewis
Rosa Parks
A. Philip Randolph
Roy Wilkins
Whitney Young

AMERICAN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Susan B. Anthony
Shirley Chisholm
Margaret Sanger
Elizabeth Cady Stanton
Lucy Stone
Sojourner Truth
Victoria Woodhull

AMERICAN QUEER RIGHTS

Henry Gerber
Barbara Gittings
Harry Hay
Marsha P. Johnson
Billie Jean King
Larry Kramer
Audre Lorde
Harvey Milk
Sylvia Rivera
Edith Windsor

INTERNATIONAL FREEDOM FIGHTERS

César Chávez
Frida Kahlo
Fela Kuti
Nelson Mandela
Rigoberta Menchú

Emmaline Pankhurst
Jack Patten
Desmond Tutu
Ai Weiwei
Sitting Bull (Tatanka Yotanka)
Malala Yousafzai