

Known as Narendranath Dutta, Swami Vivekananda was born on January 12, 1863. His father's name was Vishwanath Dutta and mother's name was Bhavaneshwari Devi. His mother was a pious lady steeped in the Great Hindu epics. His father was a lawyer.

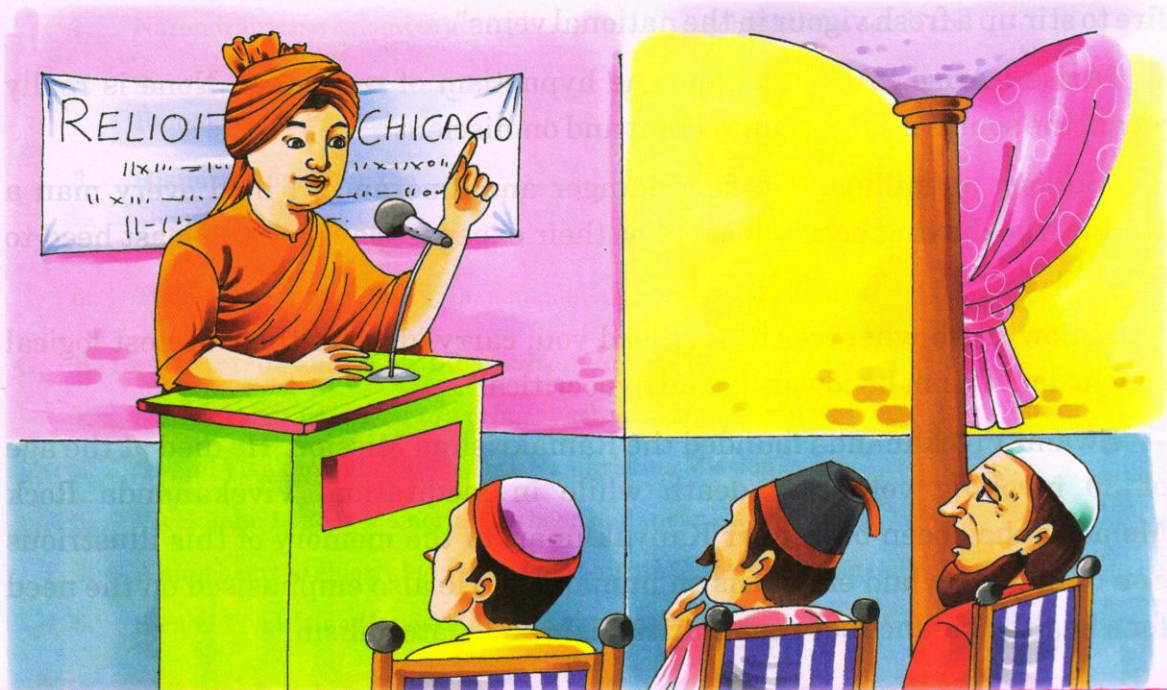


Narendranath was sent to a primary school at the age of six. He was very intelligent and as he grew, he also learnt gymnastics, wrestling and other sports. Even in childhood, Narendranath possessed great physical strength, a vivid imagination, presence of mind, an extraordinary memory, keen intelligence, power to think, a love for truth, passion for purity, a spirit of independence and a tender heart. Swami Vivekananda was the disciple of a great scholar Swami Ramakrishna Paramhans. His guru taught him the essentials of true religion. Swami Ramakrishna Paramhans asked Vivekananda to preach true knowledge to the people and bring them to the right path.



After Sri Ramakrishna's death, Naren visited Ayodhya, Haridwar, Varanasi and many other sacred places throughout India. Swami Vivekananda also travelled extensively as a wandering monk from the Himalayas to Kanyakumari. He toured far and wide and preached true knowledge and Indian Philosophy. He was asked by the Indian people to attend the Parliament of Religions to be held on Monday, September 11, 1893 in the Hall of Columbus in USA as India's delegate. Kings and commoners insisted and even arranged funds for him.

When Swami Vivekananda sailed for America to attend the Parliament of Religions at Chicago, he was only Thirty years old. At Chicago, he entered a Catholic institution and was informed that the convention will commence in September and that he needed an institution to recommend his entry. In Boston, Professor J.H. Wright gave him a letter to serve as a permit to the convention. He reached Chicago once again but he found that he had lost the letter of Professor Wright. A kind hearted elderly lady at last took him to the convention Hall. As he stepped on to the dais, the other delegates looked down at him. After a long wait he was allowed to speak. He addressed the audience by saying, "Sisters and Brothers of America" instead of 'Ladies and Gentlemen'.





The American audience had never been addressed that way. There was a thunderous applause for several minutes. When there was silence, he said, "All rivers and rivulets flow down into the ocean by losing their entire nature and character. Similarly, all ideologies of different religions finally get lost in the greatness of God".

Swami Vivekananda gave a short but impressive speech. The audience were overwhelmed. Now, Americans and Europeans wanted him all over the place to speak on Vedic ideology. He established many vedantic institutions in America. He toured some other parts of America and to address the people. He spread a message of love and goodwill. Americans were greatly impressed by Indian Philosophy and Hindu religion.

Swami Vivekananda gave many speeches in India. He told the youth of India, "Have faith that you are my brave lads, born to do great things. Let not the barks of puppies frighten you; no, not even the thunderbolt of heaven, but stand up and work".

He further said, "Truth always triumphs. What India wants is a new electric fire to stir up a fresh vigour in the national veins".

"Arise ! Arise ! Awake ! from the hypnotism of weakness. None is really weak, the soul is infinite, omnipotent and omniscient".

"So long as millions die from hunger and ignorance, I hold every man a traitor who, having been educated at their expense, pays not the least heed to them".

Follow truth wherever it may lead you; carry ideas to their utmost logical conclusion. Do not be cowardly and hypocritical".

Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramakrishna Mission. He died at the age of 39 invoking voluntary death while in meditation. Vivekananda Rock Memorial has been built near Kanyakumari in the memory of this illustrious Son of India. He laid emphasis on humanism. He also emphasised on the need for a healthy balance between spiritualism and materialism.





## SUMMATIVE ASSESSMENT

### A. Tick (✓) the correct option:

- Swami Vivekananda's father was a .....  
(a) Doctor  (b) Teacher  (c) Lawyer  (d) Professor
- Swami Vivekananda gave many ..... in India.  
(a) speeches  (b) books  (c) documents  (d) suggestions
- Swami Vivekananda established many Vedantic institutions in .....  
(a) India  (b) America  (c) Japan  (d) China
- Americans and Europeans wanted ..... all over the place to speak on Vedic ideology.  
(a) Swami Vivekananda  (b) Rama   
(c) Shiva  (d) Narendranath
- Narendranath was very .....  
(a) good  (b) bad  (c) strong  (d) intelligent

### B. Complete the following sentences:

- Narendranath was sent to a ..... school at the age of six.
- Swami Vivekananda was the ..... of a great scholar Swami Ramakrishna Paramhans.
- His guru taught him the ..... of true religion.
- As he stepped on to the ..... the other delegates looked down at him.
- There was a thunderous ..... for several minutes.

### C. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:

- Narendranath was sent to a primary school at the age of five.
- Swami Vivekananda founded the Ramkrishna Mission.
- Vivekananda Rock Memorial has been built near Kanyakumari.
- A kind hearted elderly lady at last took him to the examination hall.
- Swami Vivekananda gave a short but impressive speech.

**D. Match the following:**

A	B
1. Swami Vivekananda	(a) Father
2. Vishwanath Dutta	(b) Kanyakumari
3. Catholic Institute	(c) 11th Sept. 1893
4. Vivekananda Rock Memorial	(d) January 12, 1863
5. Parliament of Religions	(e) Chicago

**E. Answer the following questions:**

1. Who was Swami Vivekananda ?

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2. In which country was the Parliament of Religions held ?

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3. Who was invited from India to represent at the Parliament of Religions ?

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4. How did Swami Vivekananda address the audience ?

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5. Where is Vivekananda Rock Memorial ?

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**FORMATIVE ASSESSMENT**

- Organise a play on Swami Vivekananda. Dress up as Swami and recreate events mentioned in the chapter.