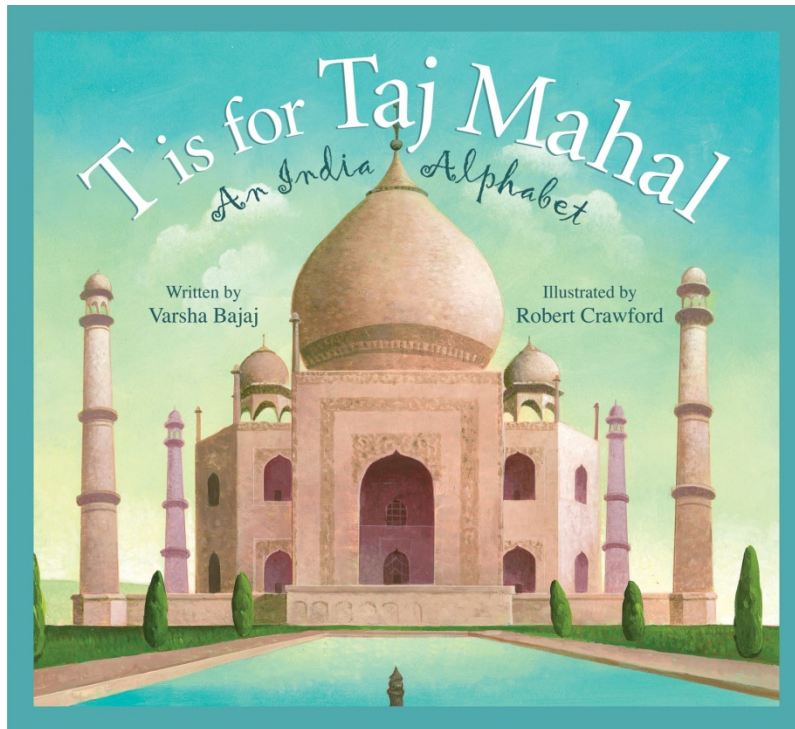


Teacher's Guide



T is for Taj Mahal An India Alphabet

Author: Varsha Bajaj

Illustrator: Robert Crawford

Guide written by Angela Smith

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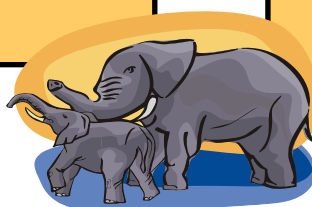
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WILDLIFE NAMES

DIRECTIONS: Below you will find a list of common animals found in India. Your job is to research the baby name of each animal along with the name the animals have as a group (can be more than one name). Write those names by the numbers provided. As an extra challenge to yourself as you research, try to find the female and male name for each animal.

ANIMAL	BABY NAME	GROUP NAME
DEER	1)	1)
ELEPHANT	2)	2)
TIGER	3)	3)
ANTELOPE	4)	4)
SNOW LEOPARD	5)	5)
BEAR	6)	6)
HYENA	7)	7)
JACKAL	8)	8)
LION	9)	9)
PEACOCK	10)	10)
COW	11)	11)
SNAKE	12)	12)



COMPARE/CONTRAST COUNTRIES

Directions: In this activity, you will brainstorm facts you know about the country of India and the country of the United States and write them in the spaces provided. Then, you will need to write the similarities and differences you found about each country and write them in the spaces provided in the middle of the page.

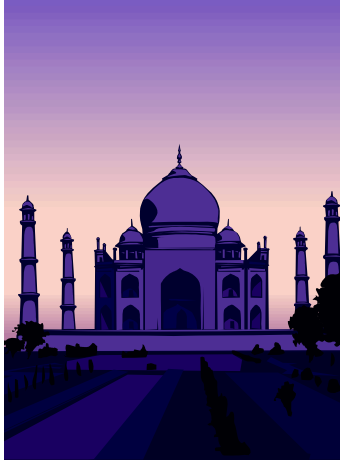
FACTS ABOUT INDIA

SIMILARITIES OF BOTH COUNTRIES

DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES

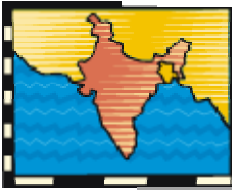
FACTS ABOUT THE UNITED STATES

THE TAJ MAHAL

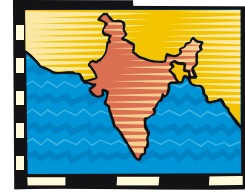


As you will remember from reading the book, *T is for Taj Mahal* by Varsha Bajaj, the Taj Mahal is the eighth wonder of the world. Located in Agra, it was built to honor Mumtaz Mahal, a wife of Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan. Her dying wish was to have her husband build a mausoleum for her which would be more beautiful than any the world had seen before. In 1632, work on this magnificent structure began. It is built of white marble, forty-three varieties of precious and semiprecious stones, and is perfectly symmetrical. The Taj Mahal was completed in 1653.

DIRECTIONS: Your mission is to create a drawing of a structure you would like to create to honor someone or some group. You may want to create a special reading garden to honor a grandparent or a statue to honor a local hero from your community. Whatever structure you choose to draw, make sure you include lots of details. Don't forget to give your design a title and include a short summary about why you decided upon this structure.



ALPHABETICAL ORDER GEOGRAPHY



DIRECTIONS: The box below contains various geographical areas in and around the country of India. Place the areas in alphabetical order...starting with AFGHANISTAN. Look at the words very carefully, and try your best.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____
- 11) _____
- 12) _____
- 13) _____
- 14) _____
- 15) _____
- 16) _____
- 17) _____
- 18) _____
- 19) _____

Nepal
Himalayas
Bhutan
China
Arabian Sea
Bangladesh
Mount Everest
Tropic of Cancer
Tibet
Bangalore
India
Bay of Bengal
New Delhi
Mumbai
Pakistan
Afghanistan
Sri Lanka
Ganges River
Indian Ocean



WORD SCRAMBLE

DIRECTIONS: Try your best to unscramble a few of the words that you read about in the book *T is for Taj Mahal* by Varsha Bajaj. Unscramble the words and write your answers in the boxes.

1) DI I NA

2) CPEI

3) AESGGN

4) BYDOOWLLO

5) SI CUM

6) WFELI I DL

7) ORZE

8) CKCRETI

9) AGDNI H

10) SAAYLAMHI

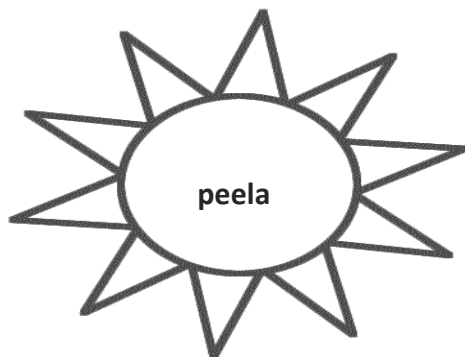
11) RURYC

12) I AI LWD

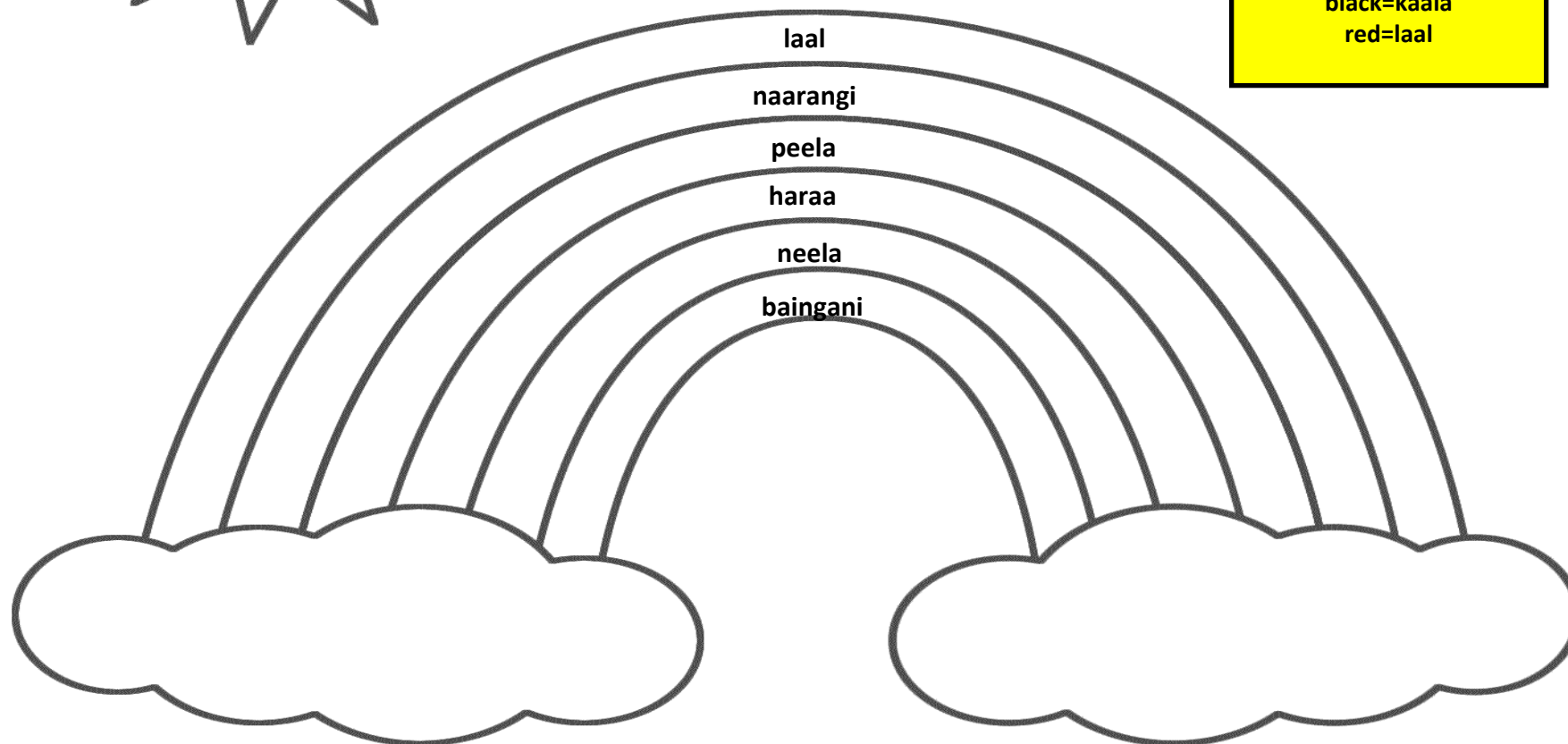
Try to scramble some other words from the book and see if your friends can unscramble them!

COLORS

Directions: Below you will find some colors and their Hindi translation. Try pronouncing the words as you correctly color the rainbow below. Use the box below as your guide.



COLORS	
indigo blue	=neela
sky blue	=aasmaani
orange	=naarangi
violet	=baingani
yellow	=peela
green	=haraa
black	=kaala
red	=laal



Facts to Find

DIRECTIONS: Please use the book *T is for Taj Mahal*, by Varsha Bajaj, to answer the following. Lines are provided for your answers. Look very carefully throughout the book for the answers. Good luck!



- 1) Aryan society grew into a system of social ranks called _____ that still influence Indian society today.
- 2) The name of the longest poem in the world written by poet Vyasa is called _____.
- 3) The Hindi language cinema industry based in Mumbai is called _____.
- 4) What is the name of the five day festival that occurs on the new moon between mid-October and mid-November? _____
- 5) On August 15, 1947, India won its independence from which country?

- 6) This spiritual and political leader led a very simple life and believed in civil disobedience. Who was he?

- 7) The highest mountain peak in the world, _____, stands at 29,029 feet tall.
- 8) An Indian stringed instrument with a long hollow neck is called a _____.
- 9) Devout Hindus make pilgrimages to bathe in this river. _____



- 10) India's gift to the world of math was this number. _____
- 11) India's wilderness areas are called _____,
from the Hindi word *jangal*.
- 12) She was the daughter of India's first prime minister and became prime minister from 1966 to 1977.
Who was she?

- 13) Built in 1653 by order of Emperor Shah Jahan, this eighth wonder of the world is to honor his wife
Mumtaz Mahal.

- 14) A physical and spiritual practice aimed at joining the mind, the body, and the spirit is called
_____.
- 15) Although not India's national sport, this popular team sport is played with a bat and ball and an eleven
person team. Which sport would it be?

JUST THE FACTS

Summary of India

DIRECTIONS: Use the book *T is for Taj Mahal* to help identify important information about the country of India. Please write your answers on the lines provided.

India's capital _____

India's national flower _____

India's national bird _____

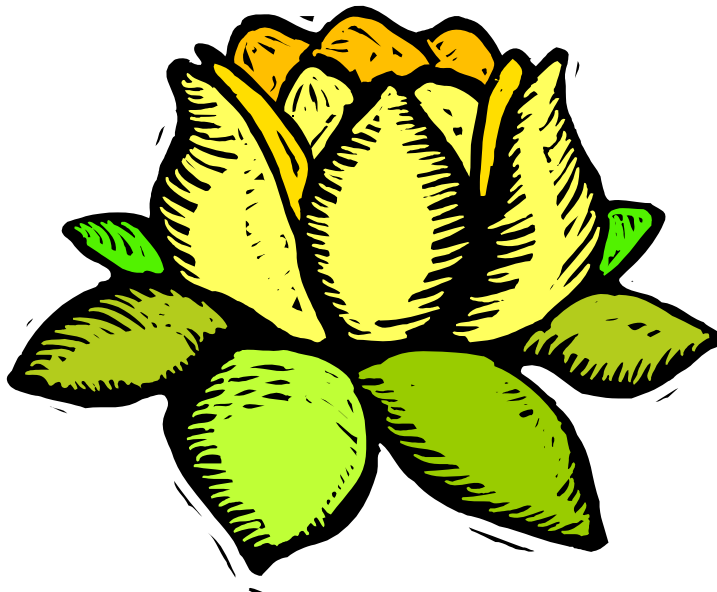
India's national animal _____

India's national tree _____

India's most populous city _____

Number of official languages in India _____

Eighty percent of those in India are of this religion _____

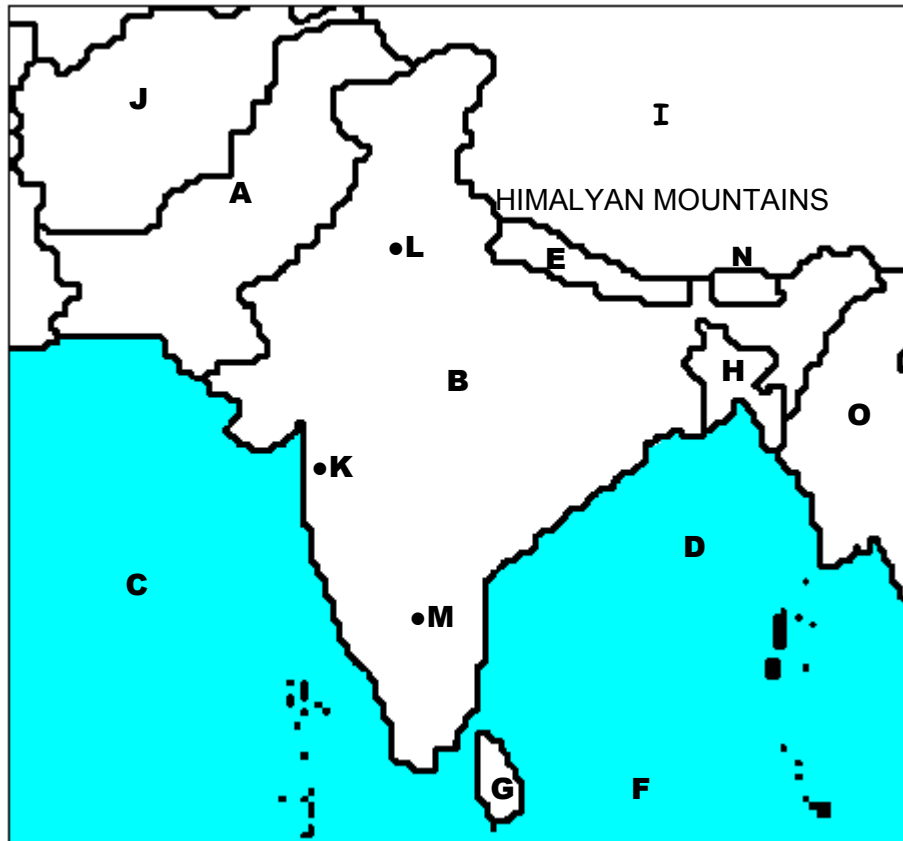


MAP OF INDIA

DIRECTIONS: Below you will find a map of India and some of the countries and bodies of water that surround India. Each is labeled by a letter of the alphabet. Using a map, identify each of the countries, cities, and bodies of water that are labeled. You will find a word box to help you. Good luck!

- | | |
|---------|---------|
| A _____ | H _____ |
| B _____ | I _____ |
| C _____ | J _____ |
| D _____ | K _____ |
| E _____ | L _____ |
| F _____ | M _____ |
| G _____ | N _____ |
| O _____ | |

Afghanistan, Arabian Sea, Bangladesh, Bangalore, Bay of Bengal, Bhutan, China, India, Indian Ocean, Mumbai, Myanmar, Nepal, New Delhi, Pakistan, Sri Lanka



MATCHING

JEWELS HAVE SYMBOLIC VALUE

DIRECTIONS: The various regions of India have diverse styles and designs of jewelry. Many Indians are fascinated with jewelry and gold today, especially because of its symbolic value. By simply drawing a line, please match each of the jewels in the left box with what the jewels

symbolize in the right box.

Blue Sapphire

Coral

Diamond

Emerald

Pearl

Ruby

Yellow Sapphire

Jupiter

Mars

Mercury

Moon

Saturn

Sun

Venus



STORY PROBLEMS

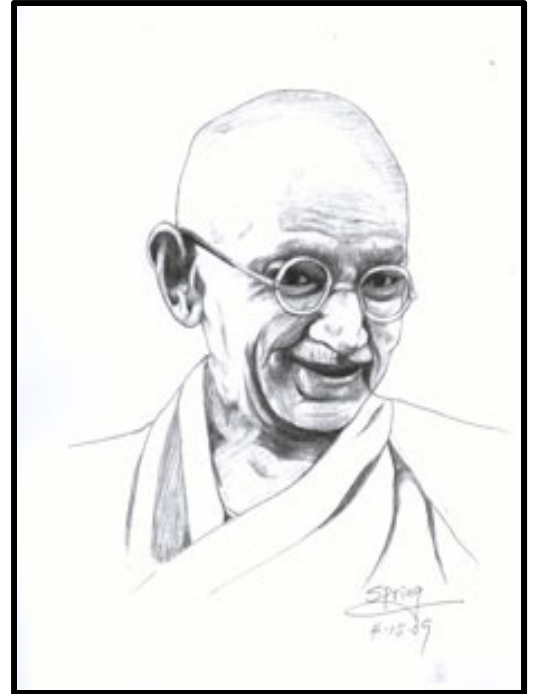
DIRECTIONS: Try your best to solve the story problems below. You may have to use addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division to solve the problems. Write your answer(s) in the space provided. You can use another piece of paper to show your work.

- 1) How many players are on a cricket team? Multiply that number by five. What is your answer (product)?
- 2) A sari is six meters long. How many saris could be made with 96 meters of fabric?
- 3) You practice yoga for thirty minutes a day. How long do you practice yoga in five days? In thirty days? In 365 days?
- 4) Qutab Minar is the tallest brick minaret in the world at 728 feet. If you were to climb to the halfway point in order to take a picture, how far up from the ground would you be?
- 5) India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, served in office from 1947 to 1964. How long was he in office?
- 6) Indira Gandhi, India's first and only female prime minister served from 1966 to 1977 and then again from 1980 to 1984. How many total years did she serve as prime minister?
- 7) India's main exports are zinc, sugar, and steel making products. If the country exports 150 pounds of zinc, 225 pounds of sugar, and 575 pounds of steel making products each day, how many pounds of each are exported in five days?
- 8) India produces the largest number of films in the world at approximately 700 a year. At this current rate, how many films would be produced in two years? Four years? Six years?
- 9) The highest mountain peak in the world, Mount Everest, stands at 29,029 feet tall. If you were to climb to the halfway point, how many feet would you have climbed? Round up to the nearest number.

MOHANDAS GANDHI

“An eye for an eye makes the whole world blind.”—Gandhi

Mohandas Gandhi was born in Porbander, India, on October 2, 1869. Later in life he was called *Mahatma*, which means “Great Soul.” In his late teens, he sailed to London to further his education. In 1891 he became a lawyer. Gandhi had a difficult time finding a place to practice law in India, so he moved to South Africa. He and other Indians faced a great deal of racism in South Africa. They were barred from riding in railroad cars, staying in hotels, and were often beaten and mistreated. Gandhi fought political injustice in a non-violent manner. He was successful at helping to reduce injustice in South Africa and moved back to India where he used nonviolent ways to force the ruling British to lessen its rule on India. He spent two years in jail for civil disobedience and was jailed many times thereafter. Gandhi helped to fight political injustice in India and many positive changes happened due to his efforts. Unfortunately, Mohandas Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948. He remains a very beloved person to those in India and to many around the world.



- 1) What is civil disobedience?
- 2) How can someone protest any kind of injustice in a nonviolent manner?
- 3) What does the quote at the top of the page mean? What do YOU believe?
- 4) Can you think of any past or present citizens of the United States who have made important changes in our country? If so, what did they do and how are they honored?
- 5) What issues would you like to change in your school? Your city/state? Your country?
- 6) What could you do to begin to make those changes?
- 7) Trace your hand on a piece of paper and cut out the drawing (or use pre-cut paper). Write on it a way you can work to make a difference in your own home, school, or community. The cut-outs will be collected and displayed for you and your peers to see. **TOGETHER, WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

TRUE OR FALSE



DIRECTIONS: Determine whether the following statements from *T is for Taj Mahal* are TRUE or FALSE. If the statement is correct, write the word TRUE on the line provided. If the statement is incorrect, write the word FALSE on the line provided and correct the statement. Good Luck!

- 1) India is a continent. _____
- 2) India's national sport is cricket. _____
- 3) The epic poem, *The Ramayana*, is approximately 50,000 lines long. _____
- 4) The highest mountain peak in the world, Mt. Everest, is part of the Himalayas. _____
- 5) At the stroke of midnight on August 15, 1987, India became a free country. _____
- 6) The Taj Mahal is known as the 8th wonder of the world. _____
- 7) Mumbai is the most populated city in India. _____
- 8) Bangalore is the capital of India. _____
- 9) India's national bird is the peacock. _____
- 10) Most Hindus do not eat beef and Muslims do not eat pork. _____
- 11) The main message of epics is that of good conduct, or karma, fearlessness, dedication and duty, and the victory of good over evil. _____
- 12) In India, the president is the head of the government. _____

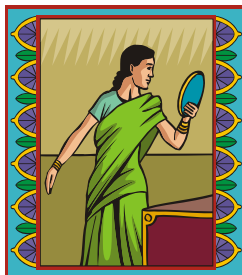
WHAT IS BEING DESCRIBED?

DIRECTIONS: Using the boxes below, please write the word each phrase describes by writing it on the line provided. Good luck!

- 1) The Hindi-language cinema industry based in Mumbai. _____
- 2) Traditional attire for men; a long piece of fabric wrapped around legs and waist.

- 3) The most important festival in four religions; in Sanskrit it means “a row of lights” _____
- 4) These people came from central Asia and were considered hardy, tough people who were fierce and warlike _____
- 5) Unstitched fabric almost 20 feet in length which is worn by women and draped around the waist _____
- 6) These stories of Indian mythology are about gods and demons _____
- 7) Range of mountains covering six countries _____
- 8) An Indian stringed instrument with a long hollow neck _____
- 9) North Indian classical dance form _____
- 10) Hindi word used to greet someone _____

Aryan
Bollywood
Dhotis
Diwali



Himalayas
Kathak
Namaste
Sari

MATH

THE RUPEE



DIRECTIONS: The common name for the monetary unit in India is called the Rupee. Exchange rates for currency around the world can vary from day to day. In this math activity, you are to find the conversion for the following monetary amounts. Good Luck!

****For this activity, \$1.00 in U. S. currency will equal 45 Rupees.**

- 1) \$2.00 equals how many Rupees?
- 2) \$4.00 equals how many Rupees?
- 3) \$5.00 equals how many Rupees?
- 4) \$8.00 equals how many Rupees?
- 5) \$10.00 equals how many Rupees?
- 6) 135 Rupees equal how many U. S. Dollars?
- 7) 270 Rupees equal how many U. S. Dollars?
- 8) 405 Rupees equal how many U. S. Dollars?
- 9) 900 Rupees equal how many U. S. Dollars?
- 10) 315 Rupees equal how many U. S. Dollars?

DIRECTIONS: We share many of the same beliefs about character as the people from India. Below are a few of the character traits we all feel are important. List some examples of how YOU display acts of character for each of the following. Use another piece of paper if necessary. Maybe you can share your list with others.

RESPECT FOR OTHERS

SHARING

LOVE

PATIENCE

FAMILY TRADITIONS

DIWALI CRAFT

Diwali is the most important festival in four religions-Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, and Jainism-practiced in India. It is a five-day festival that occurs on the new moon between mid-October and mid-November. There are many activities that take place during Diwali. One such activity is creating a Rangoli. A Rangoli is a colorful design made on the floor of the entrance to a house or courtyard in order to welcome goddess Lakshmi (pronounced Laxmi).

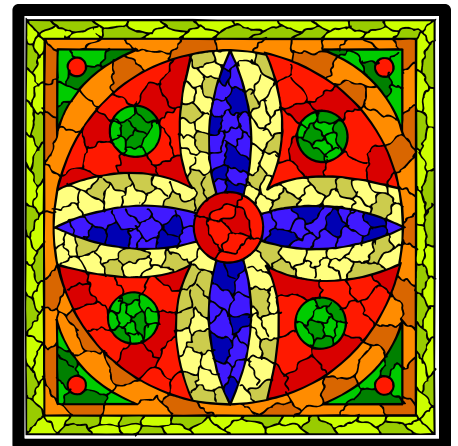
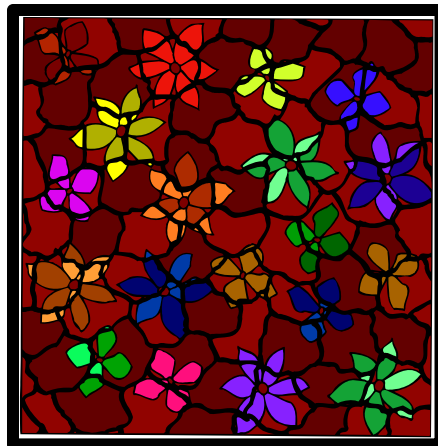
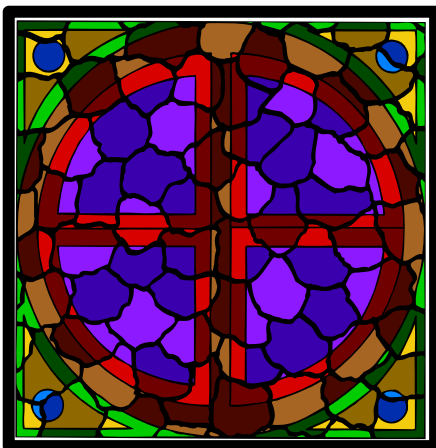
CRAFT ITEMS NEEDED:

- A piece of sturdy paper (cardstock, construction paper)—size of paper depends on what is available to you
- Many pieces of geometric shapes—lots of variety in shapes, sizes, and colors
- Glue

CRAFT DIRECTIONS

Using the geometric shapes, create a colorful design to cover the entire piece of paper. Glue the pieces in place and allow them to dry. The finished designs can be displayed for others to see. The floor may not be the best place to display the designs of this craft (unless laminated), but you can find a place that will allow others to have a clear and careful view of the designs.

(Maybe you will have the opportunity to listen to some traditional music from India as you create your Rangoli.)





FLAG OF INDIA



The Flag of India was adopted on July 22, 1947, after India gained its independence from Great Britain.

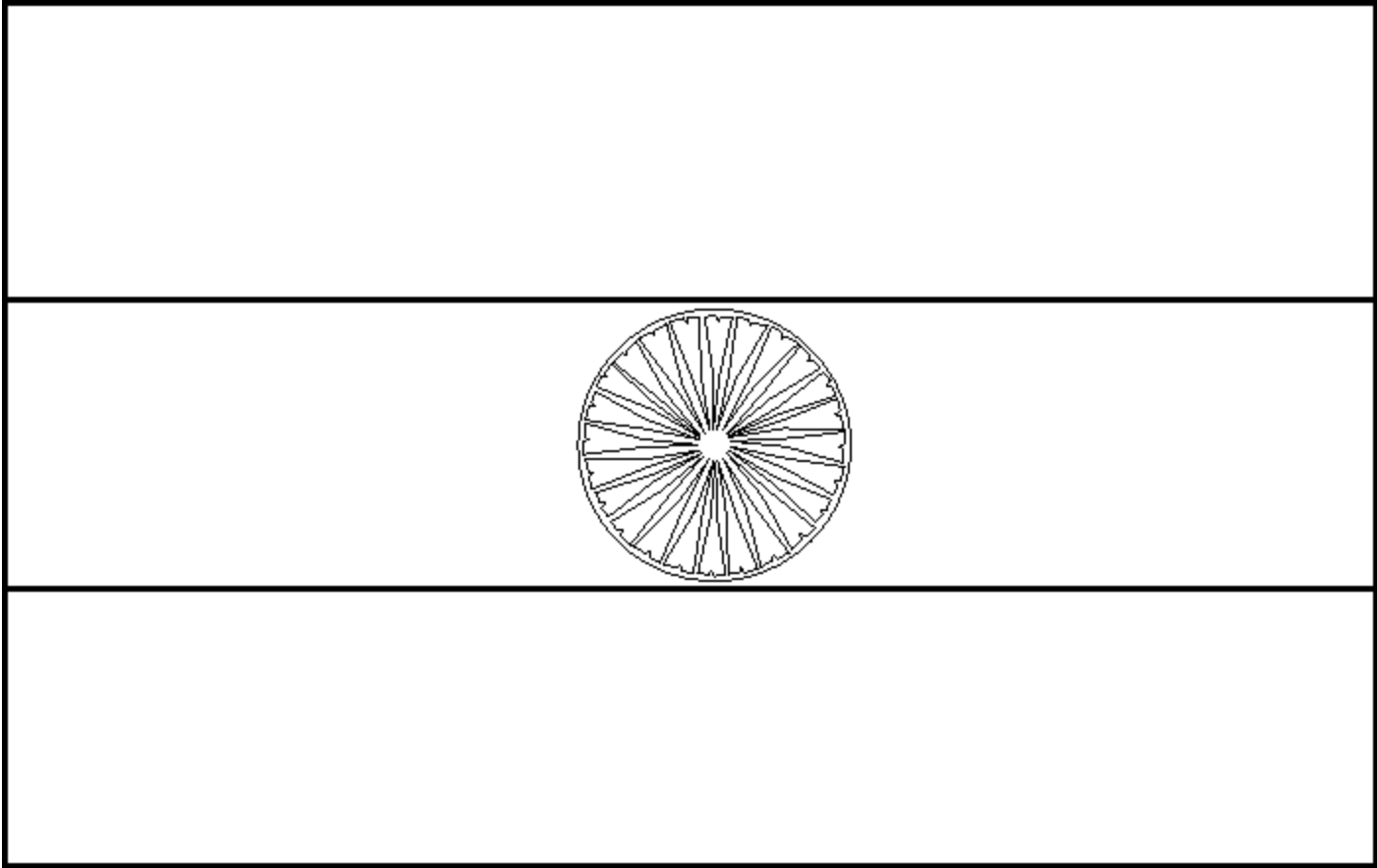
Interesting facts about the Flag of India...

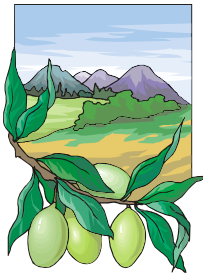
- 1) The flag was hoisted on Mount Everest on May 29, 1953 along with the Union Jack and the Nepalese national flag.
- 2) In 1971 the flag was taken aboard the Apollo 15 space flight.
- 3) In April 1984, the flag was worn as a medallion on the spacesuit of Cosmonaut Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma during an Indo-Soviet space flight.

The Flag of India represents...

- 1) The saffron color (dark orange) on the top portion of the flag represents COURAGE and SACRIFICE. The saffron color is a sacred color in Hinduism.
- 2) The white portion in the middle of the flag represents PURITY and TRUTH.
- 3) The dark green portion on the bottom portion of the flag represents FAITH and FERTILITY.
- 4) The dark blue colored wheel in the center of the flag represents Dharma Chakra, the wheel of law in Sarnath Lion Capital. The twenty-four spokes, with small moons at the ends of each spoke, represent twenty-four hours in a day. The dark blue color represents the sky and the ocean.

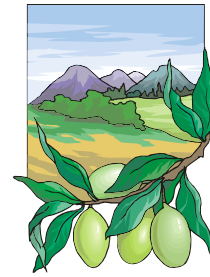
DIRECTIONS: Please color the Flag of India below using the same colors mentioned above.





MANGO

KING OF FRUIT



The **National Fruit of India**, the mango, is considered to be the “King of Fruit.” Mangoes originated in East India. There are over 100 varieties of mango, and they are grown in almost all parts of India, except the hilly areas. Mango trees play a sacred role in India. They are a symbol of love and some believe the mango tree can grant wishes. Mango leaves (which are toxic) are placed outside the front door of an Indian home during Ponggol (Hindu New Year) to bless the home. Mangoes are distant relatives of cashews, pistachios, poison ivy, and poison oak. **Those who are allergic to tree nuts may very well have an allergy to the mango.**

Ways to try the mango...

MANGO DIPPING

Cut a mango into pieces and dip into melted milk chocolate, melted dark chocolate, and/or yogurt—or just eat mango by itself!

MANGO SALSA

Items needed:

- 3 ripe mangoes, diced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ (or less) of a red onion, diced
- $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of Cilantro, finely chopped
- juice of 1 lemon
- 2 tomatoes, diced
- peppers (amount and type—cook’s choice), diced

Directions:

Add diced ingredients together and gently mix.

Serve with any variety of cracker or toasted bread—cook’s choice!

HINDU NUMBERS

DIRECTIONS: Below you will find the numbers zero through ten and their translations. Cut across each strip **HORIZONTALLY** so that you can fold the translation behind the English language pronunciations and quiz yourself. You could also practice writing some of the numbers using the script provided for you.

ZERO

SHUNYA (SHOONYA)

ONE

EK
(PRONOUNCED LIKE *AKE* IN
BAKE)

□ □

TWO

DO
(PRONOUNCED LIKE
THOUGH)

□ □

THREE

TEEN



FOUR

CHAAR



FIVE

PAANCH



SIX

CHHAH



SEVEN

SAAT

□ □ □

EIGHT

AATH

□ □

NINE

NON

□ □

TEN

DAS

□ □

RECIPE

Indian Sweet Recipe



Banana Bread

Items needed:

2 cups all-purpose flour/mida

1 cup of sugar

½ cup butter/ghee

1 tsp. baking soda

3 ripe bananas, mashed

2 eggs

½ tsp. vanilla

½ cup nuts (baker's choice)—optional

Directions:

- 1) Mix butter and sugar until fluffy
- 2) Beat together eggs, baking soda, vanilla, banana puree, and flour. Then mix with butter/sugar mixture
- 3) Grease loaf pan thoroughly
- 4) Pour mixture into greased loaf pan—only fill halfway
- 5) Bake at 325° F for one hour
- 6) Let cool and enjoy!!

KEY

WILDLIFE-BABY AND GROUP NAMES

- 1) Deer= baby fawn, group herd or mob
- 2) Elephant=baby calf, group herd or parade
- 3) Tiger=baby cub or whelp, group ambush or streak
- 4) Antelope=baby calf, group herd
- 5) Snow leopard=baby cub, group leap or prowl
- 6) Bear=baby cub, group sloth or sleuth
- 7) Hyena=baby pup, group pair or pack
- 8) Jackal=baby cub, group clan or cackle
- 9) Lion=baby cub, group pride
- 10) Peacock=baby peachick, group bevy
- 11) Cow=baby calf, group cattle
- 12) Snake=baby snakelet, group bed, nest, or pit

COMPARE/CONTRAST-varies

THE TAJ MAHAL-varies

ALPHABETICAL ORDER-GEOGRAPHY

- 1) Afghanistan
- 2) Arabian Sea
- 3) Bangalore
- 4) Bangladesh
- 5) Bay of Bengal
- 6) Bhutan
- 7) China
- 8) Ganges River
- 9) Himalayas
- 10) India
- 11) Indian Ocean
- 12) Mount Everest
- 13) Mumbai
- 14) Nepal
- 15) New Delhi
- 16) Pakistan
- 17) Sri Lanka
- 18) Tibet
- 19) Tropic of Cancer

UNSCRAMBLE

- 1) India
- 2) Epic
- 3) Ganges
- 4) Bollywood
- 5) Music
- 6) Wildlife
- 7) Zero
- 8) Cricket
- 9) Gandhi
- 10) Himalayas
- 11) Curry
- 12) Diwali

COLORS-follow rainbow order of: red, orange, yellow, green, indigo blue, violet , and sun is yellow.

FACTS TO FIND

- 1) Castes
- 2) Mahabharata
- 3) Bollywood
- 4) Diwali
- 5) Britain
- 6) Mohandas Gandhi
- 7) Mount Everest
- 8) Sitar
- 9) Ganges River
- 10) Zero
- 11) Jungles
- 12) Indira Gandhi
- 13) Taj Mahal
- 14) Yoga
- 15) Cricket

JUST THE FACTS

- 1) New Delhi
- 2) Lotus
- 3) Peacock
- 4) Royal Bengal Tiger
- 5) Banyan tree or Indian fig tree
- 6) Mumbai
- 7) 22
- 8) Hindu

MAP IDENTIFICATION

- A) Pakistan
- B) India
- C) Arabian Sea
- D) Bay of Bengal
- E) Nepal
- F) Indian Ocean
- G) Sri Lanka
- H) Bangladesh
- I) China
- J) Afghanistan
- K) Mumbai
- L) New Delhi
- M) Bangalore
- N) Bhutan
- O) Myanmar

MATCHING

Blue Sapphire=Saturn

Coral=Mars

Diamond=Venus

Emerald=Mercury

Pearl=Moon

Ruby=Sun

Yellow Sapphire=Jupiter

MATH

- 1) 11 PLAYERS $11 \times 5 = 55$ PLAYERS
- 2) 16 SARIS
- 3) 5 DAYS=150 MINS, 30 DAYS=900 MINS, 365 DAYS=10,950 MINS
- 4) 364 feet
- 5) 17 years
- 6) 15 total in office 1st term=11, 2nd term=4
- 7) Zinc $150 \times 5 = 750$ lbs. Sugar $225 \times 5 = 1125$ lbs. Steel materials $575 \times 5 = 2875$ lbs.
- 8) 2=1400 films, 4=2800 films, 6=4200 films
- 9) 14,514.5 to 14,515 ft.

GANDHI

- 1) CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE is a nonviolent way to actively refuse to obey certain laws, demands, or commands (answers may vary).
- 2) Vary—boycott, sit-ins, work stoppage
- 3) Vary
- 4) Vary—Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr., Abraham Lincoln
- 5) Vary
- 6) Vary

TRUE/FALSE

- 1) False—country
- 2) False—field hockey
- 3) True
- 4) True
- 5) False—1947
- 6) True
- 7) True
- 8) False- New Delhi
- 9) True
- 10) True
- 11) False—dharma
- 12) False—prime minister

WHAT IS DESCRIBED?

- 1) Bollywood
- 2) Dhotis
- 3) Diwali
- 4) Aryan people
- 5) Sari
- 6) Epics
- 7) Himalayas
- 8) Sitar
- 9) Kathak
- 10) Namaste

MATH-RUPEE

- 1) 90
- 2) 180
- 3) 225
- 4) 360
- 5) 450
- 6) \$3.00
- 7) \$6.00
- 8) \$9.00
- 9) \$20.00
- 10) \$7.00

RESPECT FOR OTHERS-varies