



Cultures of the World

**India**

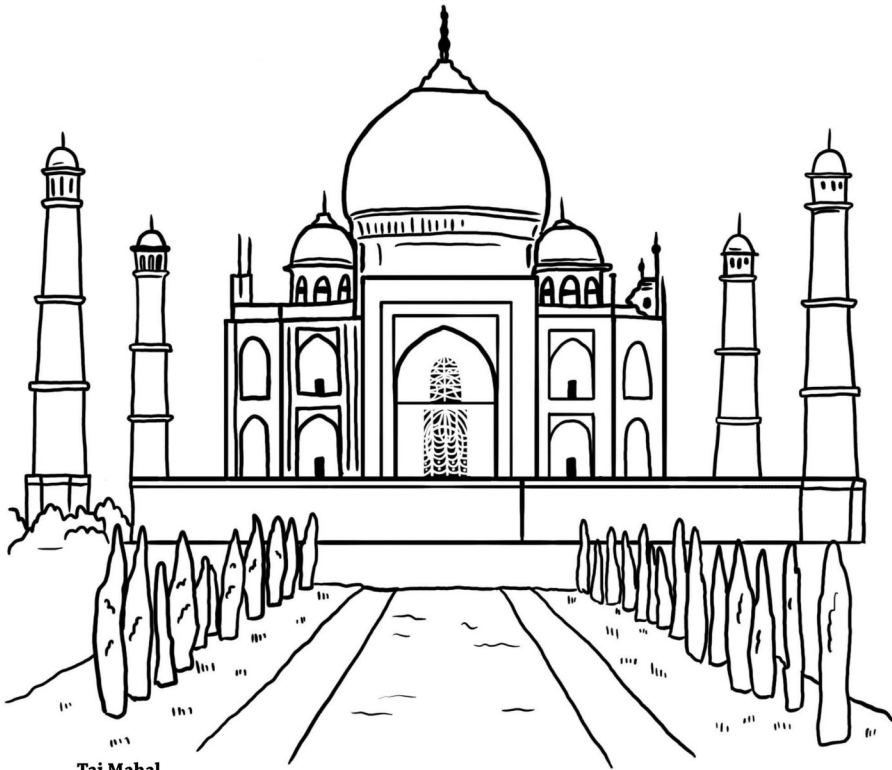
# INDIA

## STATES AND UNION TERRITORIES





**India**  
Capital : New Delhi



**Taj Mahal**

Located in Agra, India the mausoleum and surrounding architecture were built in the 17th century.  
Today the Taj Mahal is one of the most recognized buildings in the world, especially for love and beauty.

# India



**Official Name:**

The Republic of India

**Continent:**

Asia

**Capital:**

New Delhi

**Languages:**

There are many languages spoken in

India the main ones include Hindi, English, Bengali, Teluga, Marathi, Tamil and Urdu

**Money:**

Rupee

**Population:**

1.37 billion people



# India

India is the 7th largest country by area and the 2nd largest country based on populations

- India is a country in South Asia
- It borders 6 countries: Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and Myanmar
- There are 29 states in India. The most populated city is in Mumbai

There are around 1.37 billion in India



## Flag of India



- The National Flag of India is horizontal and tricolored with a Chakra in the center
- The saffron color means strength and courage
- The white represents purity, peace and truth
- The green means growth of the land



Yoga first originated in India over 5,000 years ago.

India has more post offices than any other country. They have over 150,000 post offices

India is the second largest English speaking country in the World



70% of the world's spices comes from India

A cow is considered to be holy and sacred



In general, Indians eat less meat than the rest of the world

# Fun facts about India



The Golden Temple in Amritsar serves 100,000 people a free vegetarian meal every day!

In India cars drive on the left side of the road. There road signs are in English and Hindi.

More than half of India's population is under the age of 25!

One of their popular instrument is a Sitar. It looks like a guitar but it has a longer neck!



# Food

Did you know that most of Indian food is eaten with bread instead of a utensil

- Naan is an oven-baked flatbread
- Naan is made with yogurt,, milk and sometimes eggs or butter
- To make Naan bakers shape the dough into a ball and place it in the interior walls of a tandoor ( a clay oven)



India is the largest producers of spices in the World!

- India produces over 70% of the world's spices
- Cardamom, coriander, garlic, ginger, turmeric and cumin are some of their most popular spices
- India is also home to the hottest pepper, the Ghost Pepper.



# Holidays

There are 3 National Holidays:  
Gandhi's Birthday  
Independence Day  
Republic Day

## Gandhi's Birthday

- Observed on October 2nd .
- Gandhi is known as the "Father of Nation"
- He was a political and spiritual leader in India who believed in a non-violence approach
- Gandhi is displayed on the Indian rupee



## Independence Day

- August 15th, 1947 was the day India gained its independence from British 200 year rule
- Celebrations including parades, pageants and flag waving.
- The celebrations begin at the Red Fort in the capital city of New Delhi with its annual unfolding of the flag



# Cinema



- In 1913 the first ever full length film was released by producer Dadasaheb Phalke.
- His full length silent film was called Raja Harishchandra
- This was the first Indian film that was screened in London.

## Bollywood

Bollywood movies are like musicals, they have song and dance scenes.

There are around 1,000 Bollywood films produced every year



Common movie plots include star-crossed lovers and angry parents, family ties, kidnappers and evil villains

# Art

## Henna

Henna is a small flowering shrub. The leaves are dried and turned into a fine powder. That powder is used to dye clothes, hair and for dyeing the skin.

The art of henna is known as Mehndi and traditionally used during celebrations.



Henna has been practiced for over 5,000 years!

For Hindu weddings, brides paint their hands and feet as a symbol of joy, beauty and spiritual awakening.



Henna can last between one to three weeks.

## Republic Day



- Occurs every year on January 26th
- On January 26th, 1950 India became a democratic republic nation
- Celebration include a grand parade in New Delhi, patriotic activities, military displays and most business are closed

## Other Holidays

### Holi

- The Festival of Color
- Is celebrated on the month of Phalgun which is the 12th month in the Hindu Calendar (usually around February and March)
- On this day people dance on the street and throw water and colored dye powders



### Diwali



- The Festival of Lights is a five day festival
- Similar to the Chinese New Year, Diwali is a festival about family, starting over and keeping bad energy away.
- Homes are decorated with clay lamps and Rangoli's are created on the doorways and courtyards

# Animals

## National Bird of India: Peacock

- The Peacock was declared the national bird in 1963.
- It is a symbol of grace, beauty and pride



## National Animal of India: Bengal Tiger

- The Bengal Tiger was declared the national animal of India in April 1973
- You can find a Bengal tiger in tropical rainforests, marshes and tall grasses.



# Sports

## What do you think is the most popular sport in India?

- In India, Cricket is the most popular sport
- The first cricket match was played in 1721 after the British introduced the sport to India
- The India National Cricket team won the Cricket World Cup in 1983 and 2011



## Eden Gardens Stadium

- The Eden Gardens Stadium is the largest cricket stadium in India
- It is also the largest stadium in Asia
- The stadium can seat 68,000 people
- It is home to the Bengal Cricket team and the Kolkata Knight Riders

