

The Clothes Line

Lesson plan 2: Finding out about India

Age group: 7 - 11

Aims:

To give children an opportunity to find out basic information about India.
 To develop reading and discussion skills through a quiz.

What to do:

Photocopy the **India Quiz** (below) so that you have enough for each pair of pupils to share one.

As a class, ask children to brainstorm all the words that come to mind when they think about India. Write down everything they say and explain that brainstorming means coming up with as many ideas as possible in a short time. Write all ideas down without rejecting any.

Now give each pair of pupils the **India Quiz answer sheet** (below). After they have completed the quiz, come together again as a group and go through the answers. The teacher may wish to add extra information from the answers. As a class, discuss what information and ideas the children already had about India. (Many images are shaped by television reports, newspapers, holidays and travel brochures, etc.) Now go back to the brainstorm. What have they learnt about India? What has surprised them most?

Curriculum links:

England	Scotland	Wales
English: - Listening - respond to others appropriately, taking into account what they say. - Group discussion and interaction - Make contributions relevant to the topic and take turns in discussion. - Reading for information - scan texts to find information; obtain specific information through detailed reading.	English: - Listening- listening in groups. - Talking - talking in groups. - Reading - reading for information.	English: - Listening - respond to others appropriately, taking into account what they say. - Group discussion and interaction - Make contributions relevant to the topic and take turns in discussion. - Reading for information - scan texts to find information; obtain specific information through detailed reading.

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Worksheet: India quiz

1. Nearly one person in every six lives in India. True or false?
2. The wettest place on earth is in India. True or false?
3. India is one of the world's largest producers of films. True or false?
4. All people in India follow the Hindu religion. True or false?
5. In India, the number of people who live in towns and cities is growing faster than in the countryside. True or false?
6. India is still part of the British Empire. True or false?
7. India has two official languages, Hindi and English. True or false?
8. Textiles and clothing are one of India's main exports. True or false?
9. India is five times the size of the UK. True or false?
10. India has the largest postal service in the world. True or false?
11. India is covered in forest. True or false?
12. India is a very popular holiday destination. True or false?
13. India produces a surplus in food and donates aid to other countries. True or false?
14. Most people in India live in poverty. True or false?

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Worksheet: India quiz answers

1. **True.** In 2005 India had a population of over 1.1 billion. It has a population density of 229 per km squared compared with 246 per km squared in the UK.
2. **True.** The wettest place on earth is Cherrapunji which has 1,270 cm of rain each year compared to 59 cm of rain in London.
3. **True.** India makes about 800 films a year (more than three times the number produced in the USA) and has about 5,000 cinemas. On average every Indian goes to the cinema 6.6 times per year. Over 14 million Indians go to the cinema every day.
4. **False.** In the 2001 census, India's population was divided as follows: 80.5% Hindu, 13.4% Muslim, 2.3% Christian, 1.9% Sikh, 0.8% Buddhist, 0.4% Jain.
5. **True.** The urban population has expanded steadily since 1960. In 2001, 28 per cent of Indians lived in urban areas, but 60 per cent of Indians still lived in villages with fewer than 5,000 people in them.

The largest cities in India are Mumbai (Bombay) (16.4 million), Kolkata (Calcutta) (13.2 million), Delhi (12.8 million), Chennai (Madras) (6.4 million), Bangalore (5.7 million) and Hyerabad (5.5 million).

However, most people in India (about 60 per cent) depend on agriculture (including forestry and fishing) for a living. These farmers depend on the weather for their livelihood, since only one-third of cultivated land is irrigated.

6. **False.** India became independent from Britain in August 1947.
7. **False.** India has 18 official languages, but the people of India have over 1,500 different mother tongues. Hindi and Bengali are the fifth and sixth most spoken languages in the world. English is widely spoken but is not an official language.
8. **True.** The textiles industry is the second largest industry after agriculture. It provides jobs for perhaps 35 million people and accounts for nearly 20 per cent of exports.
9. **False.** India's total land area is 3,287,263 km. It is over 13 times the size of the UK.
10. **True.** There are 500,000 letter boxes in India and 150,000 post offices.

11. **False.** Most of the country used to be covered in forest but today this has been reduced to only 21 per cent. About half of this area is reserved for the production of timber and other forestry products.

12. **True.** In 2005 nearly 4 million tourists visited India. By 2020 the Indian government estimates that tourism will be worth five times the amount it is today.

13. **True.** The Green Revolution of 1965 led to an increase in food production and India could feed itself by 1971. India gives various types of development aid to neighbouring countries and this has included food aid.

14. **False.** It is estimated that around 27.5 per cent of the Indian population lives below the poverty line. Although this is a very large figure, it is a reduction from the number of people living in poverty in 1977–78 (51.3 per cent of the population).