

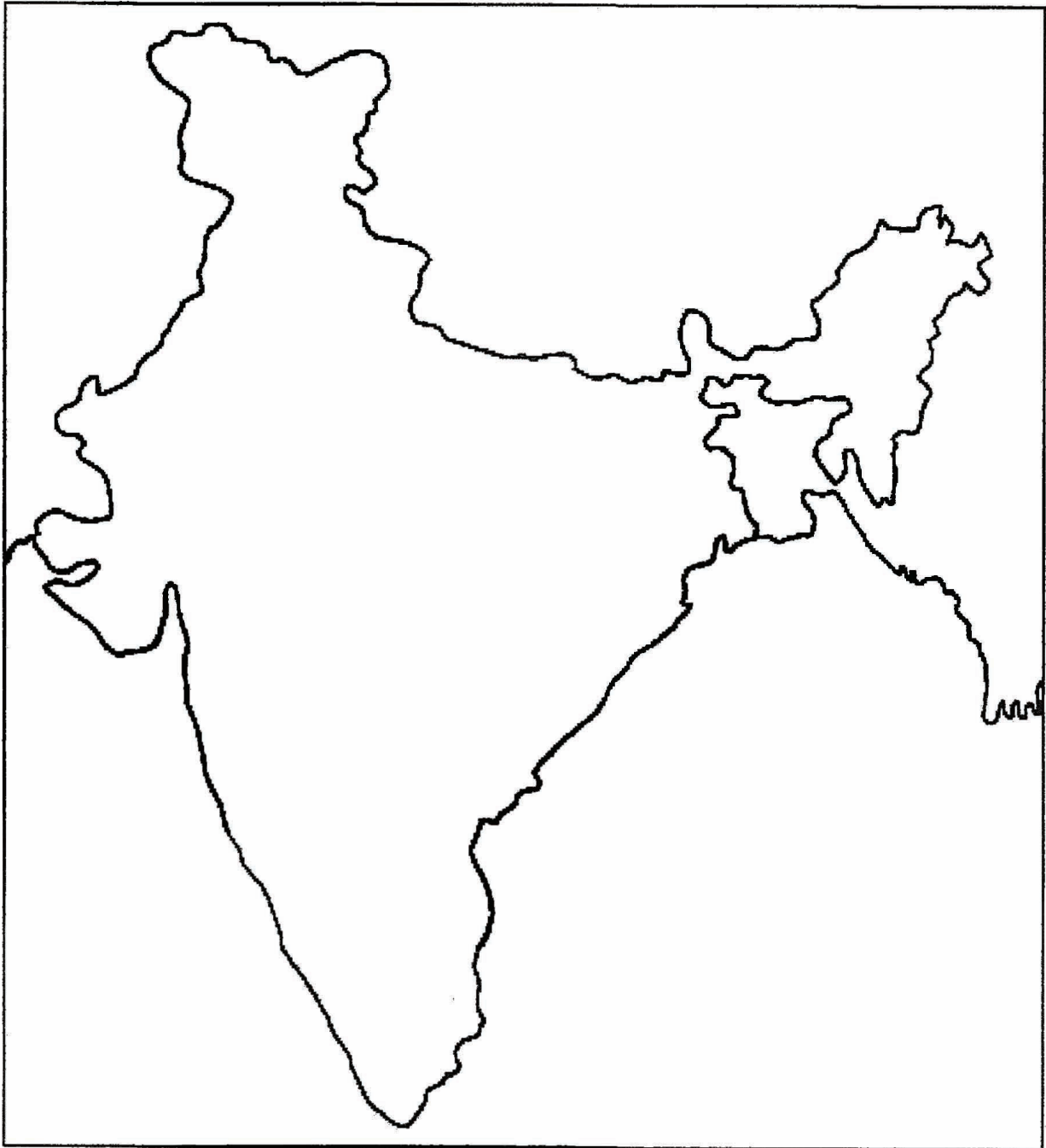
# GETTING TO KNOW INDIA by Di Dunlop

<https://pixabay.com/photos/taj-mahal-india-building-misty-1209004/>

- India is one of the largest countries in the world.
- Population is 1.25 billion
- Capital city is New Delhi
- National Day is on 26 January (same as Australia's)
- It became an Independent nation in 1950.
- India was a British colony for over 350 years.
- There are eighteen languages recognised in the Constitution. Hindi and English are widely used in nationwide communication.
- The Constitution provides for freedom of religion. Eighty-two per cent are Hindus and 11% are Muslims. The remainder include Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains.
- India is divided into three main physical regions - Himalayan Mountains; plains of the Indus and Ganges rivers; the Deccan Plateau.
- Climate is influenced by the South-West Monsoons which bring rain between June and September, often causing floods and loss of life.
- India has a long history involving the rise and fall of many empires including Afghan, Mughal and European invaders.
- Although India is still predominantly an agricultural country, manufacturing and technology sectors are growing rapidly.
- India is the world's tenth-largest economy.
- Daily life is still influenced by a caste system, even though it has been abolished under law. The lowest caste, the Untouchables, are still discriminated against in India.
- Traditional households include an older couple, their married sons with wives and children, and unmarried children.
- India's neighbours are Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, Pakistan and China.



# ACTIVITY - INDIA



- On the map mark in and name these countries:  
PAKISTAN                      CHINA                      BHUTAN  
NEPAL                        BANGLADESH                      SRI LANKA
- Mark in and name these cities:  
NEW DELHI      AGRA      KOLKOTTA      HYDERABAD      GOA  
CHENNAI      JAIPUR      MUMBAI      COCHIN      LUCKNOW
- Mark in and name:  
HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS      GANGES RIVER      ARABIAN SEA      INDIAN OCEAN      BAY OF BENGAL
- Shade in the states of:  
RAJASTHAN                      UTTAR PRADESH                      KERALA
- Locate and label the disputed area of Kashmir on the map.



---

# SOUTH ASIA QUIZ

---

From the list below choose the best answer.



Akbar  
Diwali  
sitar  
Punjab  
Panchayat

Mahabharata  
Brahmin  
Deccan  
tandoori  
Kashmir

Mohenjo-daro  
garam masala  
pigs  
pappadam  
cows

Ceylon  
Ramadan  
Hinduism  
sari  
Ganges

1. A type of Indian bread: .....
2. The old name for Sri Lanka: .....
3. Muslims must not eat the meat of .....
4. A great Indian ruler: .....
5. Muslim fasting period: .....
6. The festival of lights in India: .....
7. The basic ingredient for Indian food: .....
8. An Indian musical instrument: .....
9. A famous Indian story: .....
10. An area of India: .....
11. The highest caste in India: .....
12. An area of India: .....
13. The major religion of India: .....
14. An ancient city of India: .....
15. The sacred animals of Indian Hindus: .....
16. A holy river in India: .....
17. A plateau in Central India: .....
18. A northern state of India: .....
19. A type of Indian cooking: .....
20. A type of Indian clothing: .....

# INDIA'S HISTORY

- **Indus Valley civilisation** (Harappan culture 2300-1750 BCE) - One of the four great civilisations, with two major cities of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa. The people were Dravidians.
- **Aryan invasions** (fierce nomadic tribes) - Religious and social origins of Brahman, Buddhist and Jain in the Vedic period. Detribalisation and the formation of a merchant class at the end of this period. Persian invasions of the Indus Valley under Darius I (around 518 BCE). In 326 BCE and 325 BCE; Alexander the Great conquered north-western India. The Aryan Indian absorbed many of their Persian and Macedonian-Greek ideas.
- **Mauryan Empire** (300-185 BCE) - Chandragupta Maurya and his grandson Asoka created the first great Indian empire from the small fragmented Indian kin doms. Asoka made Buddhism the official religion and Indian art was reborn.
- **Shunga dynasty** (185-72 BCE) - A time of Buddhist persecution.
- **Andhro period** (72 BCE - 320 CE) - Domination of the Deccan occurred. Still essentially a Buddhist society (Sanchi sculptures).
- **Kushan period** (50-320 CE) - The Kushan period runs parallel with the Andhra dynasty's power over the Deccan. It spread from north-western India (Afghanistan) through central northern India. These people were the culmination of a new wave of nomadic invasions (Scythian/Mongolian). The two major centres were Gandhara and Mathura.
- **Gupta period** (320-500, Indian classical period) - The apex of Indian Buddhist art in central and northern India. The Huns destroyed the Gupta empire during the sixth century and, like all other conquerors, they were absorbed into the culture.
- **Southern Indian** (Dravidian) - This was largely insulated from northern India. A succession of Dravidian dynasties ruled in southern India, the three most important being:
  - (1) Pallavas (600-897) - Hindus, successors to the Andhras - Mahabalipuram
  - (2) Cholas (897-1250) - Dominated the whole of southern India, part of the Deccan and Sri Lanka. Particularly famous for free-standing bronze sculptures. They were succeeded by the Pandyas and Heysalas.
  - (3) Nayak (1564-1700s) - Controlled the most southern part of India after the overthrow of the Vijayanger kingdom, until their power was eroded by the Dutch and British merchant companies.
- **Mediaeval period** (700s-1400s) - A period of small regional kingdoms in northern India. Buddhist influence waned, while Brahmanism gained ascendancy. Most important sites were pillaged or destroyed by Islamic invaders.
- **Rajputs** - These were warrior descendants of the Barbarian Huns who came to India during the sixth century. They were absorbed into the Indian way of life as Hindus. The Muslim conquest began in 712. Further expansion to the Ganges Valley was blocked by the Rajputs until 1193, when the Sultanate of Delhi became established after the Muslims conquered much of northern India.
- **Moghul empire** (1526-1769) - Tamerlane, the Mongol, sacked Delhi in 1398 but then left to attack China. Babur, a descendant of Genghis Khan and Tamerlane, defeated the Sultan of Delhi in 1526, thereby establishing the Moghul empire. After Aurangzeb's death in 1707, the Moghul empire disintegrated due to attacks from Sikhs and small Hindu kingdoms. The British defeated Moghul forces in 1764, although the last Moghul emperor did not leave Delhi until 1858 when the British established a Viceroy of India.
- **British Raj** - The British came as traders in the seventeenth century, like the Portuguese, Dutch and French. The East India Company established a monopoly that was only superseded by a British Parliamentary Act after the Sepoy Mutiny of 1857.
- **Independence of India** (15 August 1947) - Independence was partitioned into India, West Pakistan (Pakistan) and East Pakistan (Bangladesh). Mahatma Gandhi was the first leader of India after Independence was declared.

## ACTIVITY

Construct a timeline to show India's history.  
Ensure you are accurate with BCE and CE.





# INDIA WONDERWORD

B	H	I	M	A	L	A	Y	A	N	A	B	C	K
A	E	E	G	N	I	L	E	E	J	R	A	D	A
N	F	N	K	A	T	H	A	K	A	L	I	D	S
G	A	N	G	E	S	G	N	I	M	A	R	B	H
L	H	G	I	A	K	N	A	L	I	R	S	J	M
A	V	A	L	A	L	S	A	T	D	H	L	K	I
D	L	N	D	O	T	A	B	U	N	S	L	M	R
E	A	E	I	H	X	T	V	N	I	R	A	E	N
S	H	S	V	K	O	J	U	I	H	Q	P	T	D
H	A	H	A	I	L	J	A	C	S	M	E	S	O
F	M	A	L	S	U	D	N	I	L	A	N	A	P
L	J	E	I	L	A	V	P	Y	P	A	R	C	G
S	A	D	N	I	A	T	I	R	B	U	C	I	O
X	T	C	C	B	A	R	A	S	T	I	R	M	A



1. A type of Indian bread. (5 letters) .....
2. The major language of India. (5 letters) .....
3. The golden city of the Sikhs. (8 letters) .....
4. A northern neighbour. (5 letters) .....
5. The city of the Moghuls. (6 letters) .....
6. An eastern neighbour. (10 letters) .....
7. The Bay of ..... (6 letters)
8. The old Portuguese region. (3 letters) .....
9. A river in India. (6 letters) .....
10. Another river in the subcontinent. (5 letters) .....
11. Mt Everest is in the ..... Mountains. (9 letters)
12. A northern state. (7 letters) .....
13. A beautiful tomb. (8 letters) .....
14. A town famous for its tea. (10 letters) .....
15. An island country to the south east. (8 letters) .....
16. A city on a delta. (8 letters) .....
17. The European colonial power that ruled India. (? letters) .....
18. A type of clothing Indian women wear. (4 letters) .....
19. The old system which kept Indians in their place in society.  
(5 letters) .....
20. A festival in India. (6 letters) .....
21. The highest level in the caste system. (6 letters) .....
22. A type of Indian dance. (9 letters) .....
23. The elephant god in Hinduism. (7 letters) .....
24. A small religious group in India. (4 letters) .....
25. Another Hindu god. (4 letters) .....



# LEVELS OF POLITENESS IN INDIA

- Touching the feet of one's parents and elders is a common occurrence. It is a method by which the young earn the blessings of their seniors.
- Pointing one's feet at another person is considered rude.
- Sitting in such a manner that the soles of your shoes face another person is also considered to be rude.
- Shoes are thought of as unclean, so they are removed when entering traditional homes and kitchens.
- Shoes are also removed when visiting temples, mosques, mausoleums, tombs and other sacred places.
- Indians are courteous, and reluctant to say 'no' - particularly to guests, visitors and foreigners.
- Hindus bathe before temple worship. Washrooms are attached to mosques, where Muslims may carry out their ritual ablutions.
- Hands are thoroughly washed before meals, and hands and mouths are washed after meals.
- The right hand is used for all 'clean' tasks such as eating. The left hand is used for purposes of personal hygiene.
- When food or gifts are handed to friends, the left hand is never used on its own.
- The most common form of Hindu welcome is 'Namaskar' - spoken as the palms are brought together and the head inclined. To respond with 'namaskar' confers feelings of special respect and recognition of personal status.

