GEOGRAPHY OF INDIA

Reading Culture Presentation
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Image: Holi Festival of Colors
Image Source: theindianpick.com
True or False? India has always been located within the Earth’s Northern Hemisphere.

Answer: False. India today is located north of the equator, but before the split of Pangaea roughly 200 million years ago, it was located in the Southern Hemisphere.
Where is India?

- Occupies most of Indian subcontinent in South Asia. Borders Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, Pakistan, Nepal, China, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh.

- The Indian subcontinent merged with Eurasia approximately 50 million years ago.
India’s Geography

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LPUjLci2ARY
India’s Size and Population

- India has an area of approx. 1.26 million square miles
- Just over 1/3 the size of the United States.
- India is the 7th largest country in the world in area
- Population (2017): 1.28 billion; 2nd most populous country in the world
- Uttar Pradesh (UP), India’s most populous state with over 200 million residents, would be the world’s 5th most populous country if on its own

Map Source: Aron Strandberg

Map Source: http://www.cia.gov
India is a land of extremes physically in terms of topography and environments.

- High mountains are found in the north, including a part of the Himalayan range.
- Deserts in the northwest, river lowlands in north central, Deccan Plateau and Ghats in the South.
- The highest point is Kanchenjunga = 28,169 feet
- The lowest point is Kuttanad = 7 ft below sea level
True/False: The monsoon plays a major role in India’s climate patterns?

Answer: True

Much of India is influenced by the monsoon circulation pattern, which reflects a shift in winds from one time of year to another.
This 1,560 mile river begins in Himalayas and charts most of its course across India.

Most sacred river in Hinduism, believed to be a goddess that literally pours life into the earth.

Starts as one of purest sources of water on planet, but ultimately considered to be among the most polluted rivers in world.

Key challenge for India’s government has been to attempt to clean the river while respecting the sacred nature of it.
**Trivia: Cultural**

- **True or False?:** Mohandas Gandhi helped spearhead India’s independence movement from British rule.

- **Answer: True**
- Gandhi lived from 1869-1948. He sought social justice through nonviolent protest and effectively helped spearhead Indian independence.

Source: Goalcast

Source: brainyquote.com

*In a gentle way, you can shake the world.*

- *Mahatma Gandhi*

*An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.*

Source: brainyquote.com
Gandhi

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rJBGjtOlAYw&t=8s
• **Harappa** (Indus River Culture Hearth): 4500 years ago
• Mauryan Empire (320-125 BC)
• Gupta Empire (320-480 AD)
• Mughal Empire (1526-1707)
• British “Raj” (1858-1947)
• Fully independent since 1947
Under Hindu dogma, fixed layers in society whose ranks are based on ancestries, family ties and occupations

Communities were historically segregated according to castes

Highest castes included Brahmans, lowest cases included dalits

Persons born into caste; perform only certain jobs

British and leaders of India like Gandhi worked to modify the caste system

Today, relics of the caste system remain a part of India’s cultural mosaic, but in more subtle ways than in the past
• Officially a federal parliamentary republic
• 29 states; federal district centered on New Delhi
• Current constitution went into effect in 1950
• Narendra Modi from the Bharatiya Janata Party has served as India’s Prime Minister since 2014
Cultural: Demographics

- Ethnicity: 72% Indo-Aryan; 25% Dravidian; 3% Other
- Official languages: 22 (Hindi most common; English a lingua franca for many)
- Religion: 80% Hindu; 14% Muslim; Other 6%
- Median Age: 27.9 years old
- Life Expectancy at Birth: 68.8 years of age

Language Map of India
Map Source: NCLM 50th Report
True or False? The Taj Mahal is India’s most famous mosque.

Answer: False

The Taj Mahal is actually a mausoleum built under the leadership of Mughal emperor Shah Jahan; it was built as a symbol of everlasting love for Jahan’s dearly departed wife Mumtaz Mahal.
Taj Mahal

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SAAHg5KO11U
India possesses the world’s 6th largest economy

Just under ½ of population works in agriculture

Services are a major source of economic growth

India a major exporter of information tech services, business outsourcing services, & software workers

Source: theatlas.com
True or False?: Laughter yoga is a real thing and it was founded in India.

Answer: True

Laughter yoga is a series of breathing and relaxation exercises intended to “stimulate merriment for better health”. The first known laughter yoga club was invented in 1995 by Dr. Madan Kataria in India.
Laughter Yoga

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0N60nBD-__Mc
Saroo Brierley’s Journey across India: A Long Way Home


Saroo Brierley and his adoptive mother, Sue
Source: http://www.adelaidenow.com.au
India: A Final Glimpse For Now

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZwR0oVHqTU8
Thank you for your attention!

Questions?