

Learning About India



Hi! My name is Vikram Singh. I live in a city called Jodhpur in India. Welcome to my country! Can you find my country and city on a map of the world?

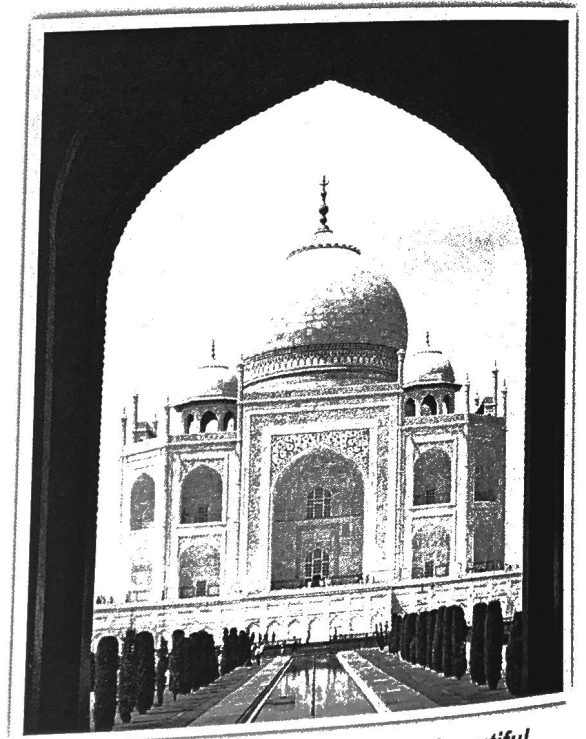
India is a large country in South Asia. It is the seventh largest country in the world in size. India has the second highest population in the world. There are 1,103,371,000 people living in my country.

The people in my country speak many different languages. There are 13 main languages spoken and 844 dialects. Most Indian people speak Hindi and use English to talk to people in other countries and for doing business in the world. Indian people are divided into many different groups and celebrate different religions. Most of the people live in the river valleys of northeastern India. Some Indian people are very rich while most are very poor and have very little money. Many are homeless and must sleep in the streets of large cities. Some Indian people have gone to college and university while others have never gone to school at all.

My country's flag has orange-yellow, white and green stripes. On the white stripe is a navy blue wheel which stands for the wheel of law called "Dharma Chakra". We have other symbols that are important, too. The national emblem of India is a copy of the lion at Sarnath. Our national animal is

the Bengal tiger which is now a protected animal in India. A beautiful bird called the peacock is our national bird. A water plant called the lotus is our national flower. A juicy fruit called the mango is India's national fruit. Our national tree is the banyan tree. Many legends and myths have been told about the banyan tree.

In India, we buy things at shops and markets. We pay for these things with "paises" and "rupees". One hundred paises makes one rupee.



The Taj Mahal: one of the most beautiful buildings in the world

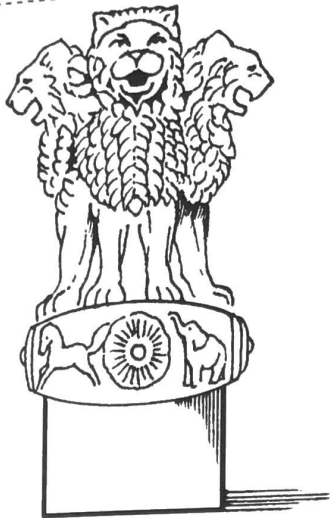
Name: _____

India's National Symbols



Did you know that India has made certain plants and animals national symbols? These symbols have been written about in many Indian folktales and legends.

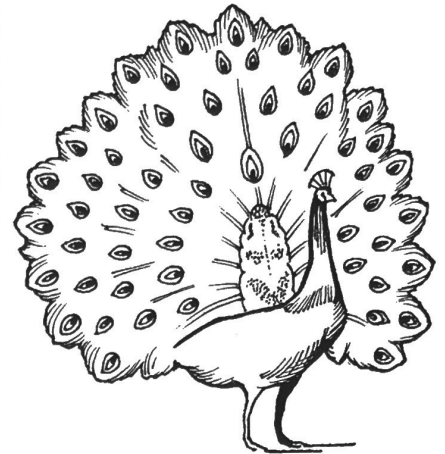
Color the chart of India's National Symbols carefully and neatly!



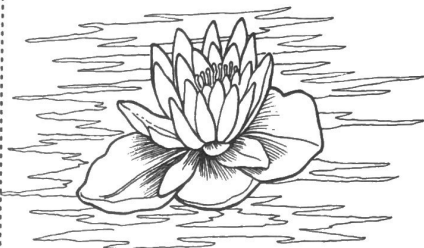
Sarnath Lion



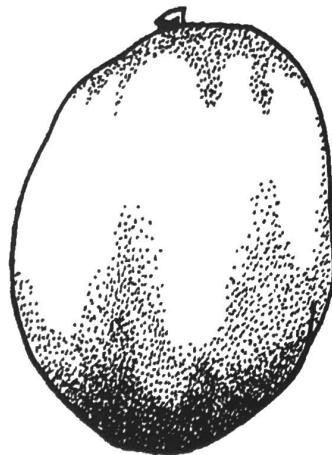
Bengal Tiger



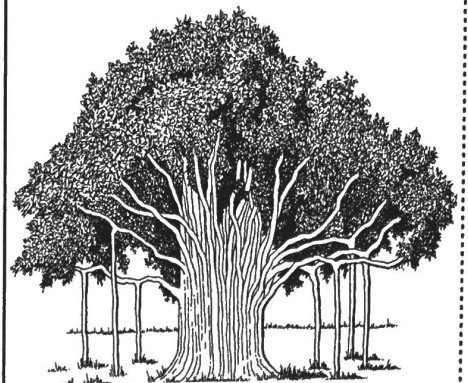
Peacock



Lotus



Mango

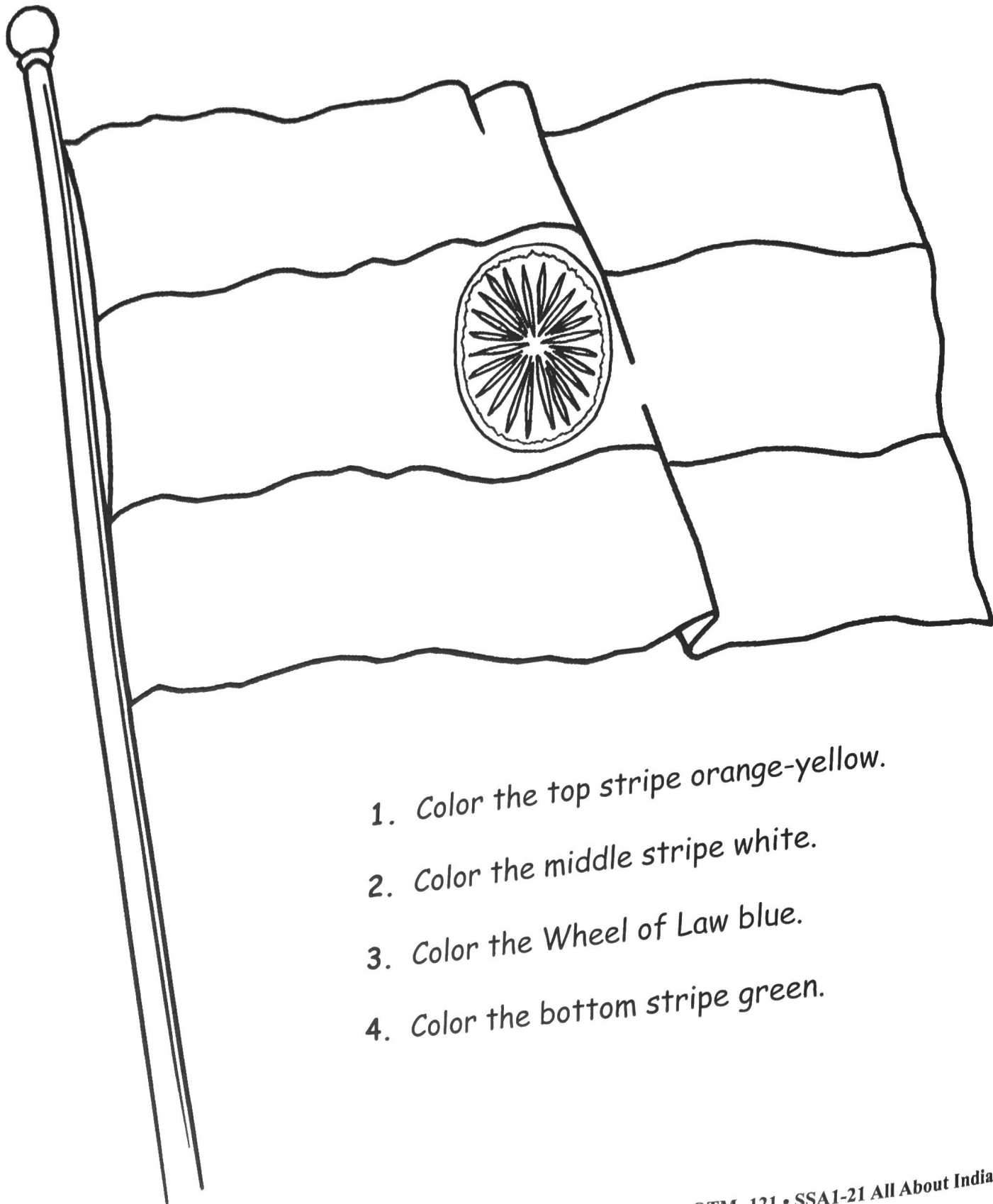


Banyan Tree

Name: _____

India's National Flag

Color India's flag.

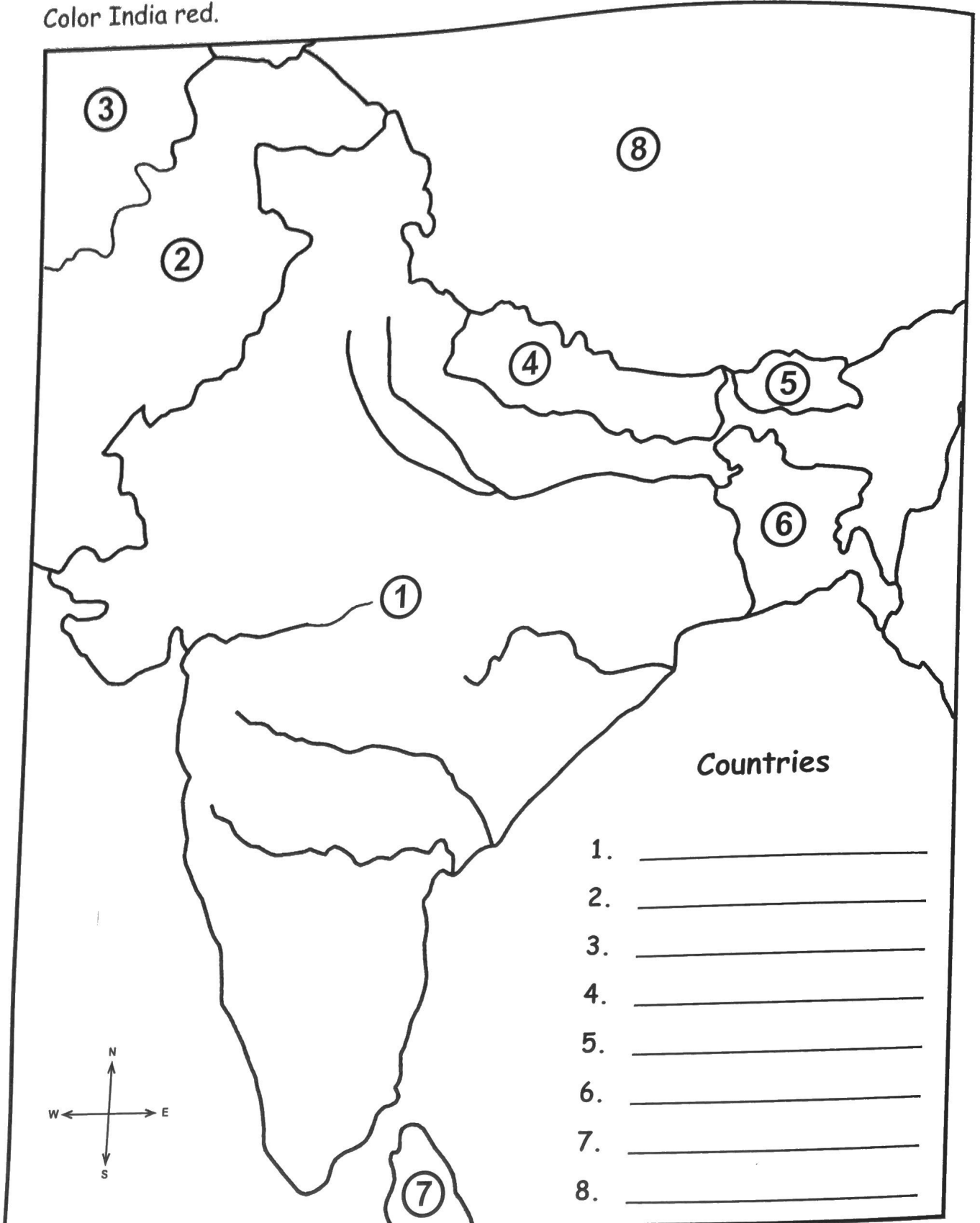


1. Color the top stripe orange-yellow.
2. Color the middle stripe white.
3. Color the Wheel of Law blue.
4. Color the bottom stripe green.

Name: _____

Where Is India?

Color India red.

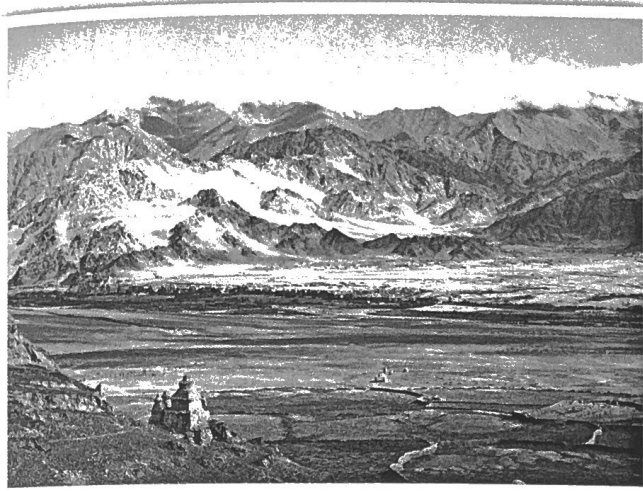


India the Land



My country is a land that changes as you travel through it.

You will find wonderful sights such as beautiful green valleys, tall snowy mountain peaks, dry treeless deserts, and warm tropical rainforests.



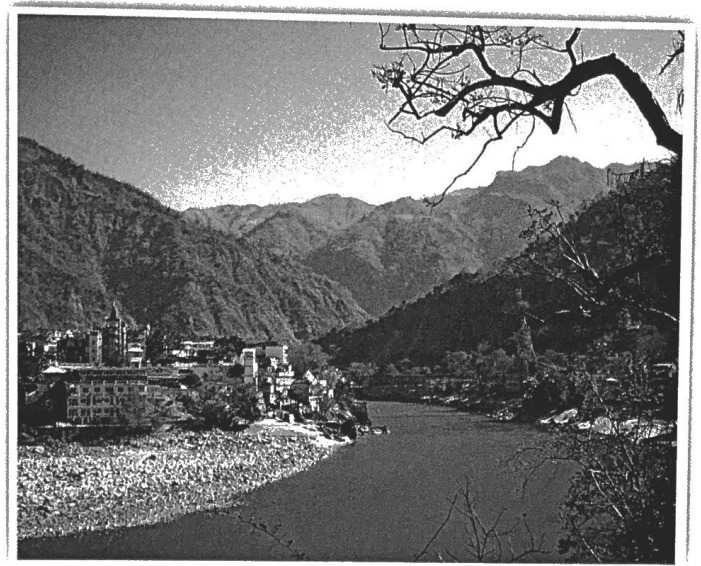
The Himalaya Mountains

On the east and west coast of India are lower mountains. They are called the Western and Eastern Ghats. They are like steps compared to the Himalaya Mountains.

Many of the valleys in India are very beautiful. Some are often covered with bright orange and yellow flowers while others are covered with a blue mist.

India is found on the southern edge of the continent of Asia. The biggest part of the country is a huge peninsula that is attached to the mainland. It looks like an upside-down triangle jutting out into the Indian Ocean.

Across the top of India is the world's highest mountains called the Himalayas. They are also the youngest mountains in the world so they are very high and very steep.



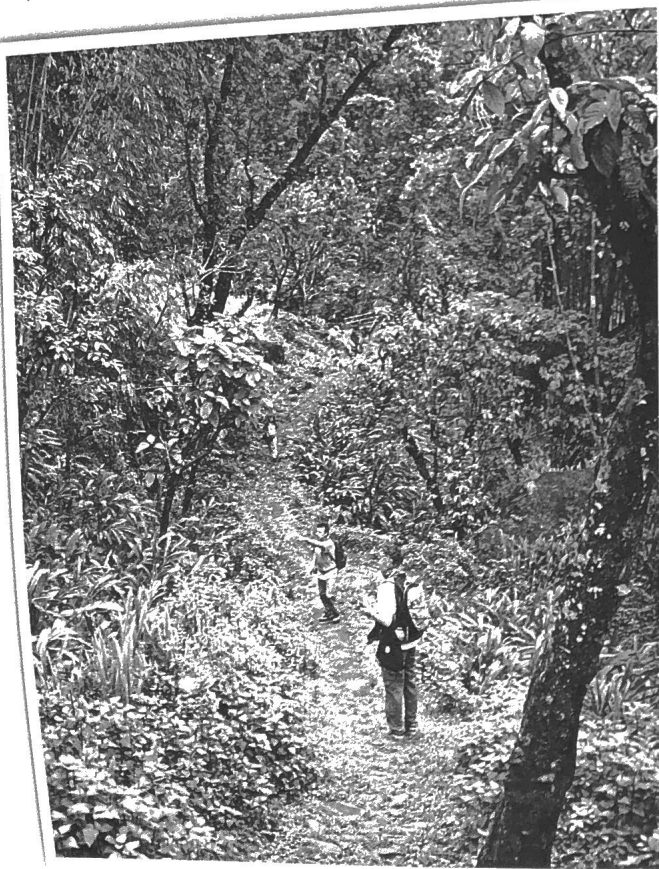
The Ganges River

India the Land

The hottest and driest areas in India are the Thar Desert and the Deccan Plateau. The Thar Desert is found in northwestern India. It is a large dry area that may get five centimeters (two inches) of rain each year. Some years it receives no rain. The temperature in the Thar Desert may be as high as 48°C (118°F). People who travel through this desert must carry jugs of drinking water. Indian people who live in the hot, dry areas of India must drink four liters (one gallon) of water every day in order to survive.

The Deccan Plateau covers most of the Indian peninsula. Sometimes its temperature gets as high as 45°C (113°F). Very few plants are able to grow here. The Northern Plains are found south of the Himalaya Mountains. The soil in this area is very rich and fertile. Water that comes from the melting snow in the mountains is carried by large rivers across the plains. They are called the Brahmaputra River, the Indus River, and the Ganges River. The water in the rivers leaves rich deposits that fertilize the land. Most of the Indian people live in this area.

India is also located near the Equator and has tropical rainforests along its coastlines and nearby islands. These forests have three levels of plants that provide food and shelter for many animals. In the rainforests you will find tigers, spotted deer, pigs, rhesus monkeys, lizards, crocodiles, crabs, and fish. A fish called the mudskipper can climb trees while weaver ants make their nests in them. One interesting animal in the rainforest is the tiger. It swims in creeks and streams, and catches fish and crabs to eat as well as spotted deer and wild boars.



Walking through the jungle in India

Name: _____

India the Land



How well do you read and remember facts?

Match the name of each area in India to the sentences that describe it.

Record the name(s) on the line at the end of each sentence.

Deccan Plateau

Tropical Rainforests

Northern Plains

Himalaya Mountains

Gnat Mountains

Thar Desert

1. It is the hottest place in India.

2. They are found along the coasts of India and on islands close to India.

3. The soil in this area is very rich and fertile.

4. People must carry water when they travel in these two areas.

5. This high, flat land is found in the Indian peninsula.

6. Three important rivers flow through this area.

7. Tigers can be seen swimming and catching crabs in this part of India.

8. They are the highest and youngest group found in the world.

India's Climate



Since we live close to the Equator, our climate is quite tropical.

We have three main seasons.



Digging a ditch to catch the rain – when it comes

In India there is a cool season, a hot season, and a rainy season. A tropical climate has hot temperatures, dry winters, and wet summers.

Our cool season lasts from October through to February. The weather is mild except in the mountains. Snow often falls in the mountains. Nights can be chilly.

India's hot season lasts from March to the end of June. The temperature can rise to 49°C (120°F). It is very dry and dusty and people feel tired and worn out. Farmers worry about their crops growing and hope that rain will come in time.

The rainy season lasts from the middle of June through to September. This is the monsoon season. Everyone worries about the monsoons that come during this season. A

monsoon is a wind that blows across the Indian Ocean and as it travels it picks up moisture. When the heavy, purple clouds finally come, they burst open and let out rain that pours down over the land. This much water is needed for drinking and growing crops.

Many parts of India rely on the rains brought by the monsoon winds to grow crops. Sometimes the farmer can even grow a second crop. People need this food to get them through the dry season.

Sometimes the monsoons can be dangerous and bring too much rain which causes flooding that kills people and destroys crops. If this happens many people in India will have little food and may go hungry.



Rivers swell during the rainy season

Comparing Climates

Compare India's Climate with _____ Climate

India's Climate

_____ Climate

Number of Seasons: _____

Number of Seasons: _____

Name of the Seasons:

Names of the Seasons:

Time of Each Season:

Time of Each Season:

Weather in Each Season:

Weather in Each Season:
