Introduction to India
What Do You Already Know About India?  
What Do You Want to Learn?

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Location

• India is part of the continent of Asia. Most of India forms a peninsula, which means it is surrounded by water on three sides.

• India is located in the southern part of Asia.

• India is entirely located in the Northern Hemisphere, the Country extends between $8^\circ 4'$ and $37^\circ 6'$ latitudes north of the Equator, and $68^\circ 7'$ and $97^\circ 25'$ longitudes east of it.

• Looking at the map, can you identify four of India’s neighbors?
Geography

Alappuzha, Kerala
Geography

• There are 6 geographic regions of India. These include mountains, deep valleys, extensive plains, Plateau and coastal ghats, deserts, and islands. Ghats are mountain ranges along the coast.

• The Himalayan range is the world’s highest mountain range, with its tallest peak Mount Everest on the Nepal-China border.

• The Thar Desert forms a significant portion of wester India.

• There are major rivers within India (Ganges, Yamuna, Indus, Brahmaputra). These rivers that originate from three main watersheds. A watershed is an area of land that separates waters flowing to different rivers or seas.
History

Taj Mahal
History

- India's earliest known civilization arose about 5,000 years ago on the Indus River in what is now Pakistan.

- In the 200-year reign of the Gupta Empire, starting in the fourth century A.D., arts, crafts, and sciences flourished.

- The Mongols oversaw a golden age of art, literature, and architecture in India between 1527 and 1707. They built roads, mosques, gardens, and enormous tombs, including the grand Taj Mahal.

- In 1757, Britain gained control over most of the country. Uprisings against British rule began in 1856. In 1920, the famous Mahatma Gandhi began nonviolent protests to push the British out. In 1947, India had independence.

Humayan’s Tomb
Language
Language

• The Aryan people were farmers from Central Asia who arrived in India around 1500 B.C. They spoke Sanskrit, one of the world's oldest known languages. The Vedic Scriptures, writings that form the basis of the Hindu religion, were written during the Aryan reign.

• India has 22 official languages

• Hindi is the primary language of Northern India

• Many people in India speak English because of their history of British occupation
Food
Food

• The cuisine of India is very diverse and is often dictated by the local fruits, vegetables and spices of the region. The cuisine typically includes lentils, beans, rice, grains, fruits, vegetables, and meat from local animals (in some parts of the country).

• The people in many parts of India are vegetarian. Chai is a popular drink all throughout India. It is tea that is made with milk and spices (masala).
Traditional Clothing for Women

Saree

Kurti

Anarkali

Salvar Kameez

Lehnga
Traditional Clothing for Men

Lunghi

Headdress or Turban

Sherwani
Holidays
Holidays

• Holidays are very important in India. Many holidays are religious in nature. Most holidays involve large gatherings in the community where people celebrate with food and dance.

• Popular holidays include Diwali, Holi, Republic Day and Ramzan.
Sources

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• Language

• Food

• Clothing
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