

## **India**

### **Beyond Our Borders Series**

**Grade Levels:**

Grades 6-12+

**Subject Areas:**

Geography

Social Studies

History

Religion

Architecture

**Synopsis:**

Travels throughout India, linking present-day conditions to the history and geography of this, the world's most highly populated democracy. Explains that agriculturally, India is dependent on the bounties of the Himalayan Mountains. Stresses the role of religion in all aspects of daily life in India briefly reviewing the fundamental belief systems of Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Buddhism and Christianity. Relates the caste system to the influence of the Dravidians and the development of Northern Indian culture. In a summary of Gandhi's influence in India, explains that the caste system still exists but has been modified by the influence of democracy.

**Learning Objectives:** Students will:

Describe India's distinctive geography and landforms.

Understand the importance of religion to the people of India.

Explain the relationship between historical events, the development of the caste system, and the move towards democratic reform in India.

Understand the source of India's political unrest during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Explain the importance of Mahatma Gandhi to the people and politics of India.

Describe the industrial and agricultural basis of present-day India.

**Vocabulary:**

Hinduism, Jainism, Dravidians, Rajputs, Islam, Muslim, vegetarian, monsoon, cremation, mystical, Urdu, Bengali, Tamil, Gujarati, Sindi, dialects, Aryans, Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas, Shudras, civil disobedience, dhoti, Untouchables, Harijans, caste prejudice,

caste system, partitioned, assassination, Moguls, Maharajas, Islamic, saris, tolerance, literacy rate, masal films, dhobi ghats, dabbah wallahs

**Pre-Viewing Discussion:**

Where is India located? What famous mountain chain is found in Northern India?

What religion is practiced by most of the people of India?

Where is Pakistan located? What religion is practice there?

Who was Mahatma Gandhi?

What country ruled India until the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century?

What is India like today?

**Post-Viewing Discussion:**

How has the geography of India influenced the country's history? How has it influenced major industries in India?

Why are most of the marriages in India arranged marriages?

Why do so many tourists fascinated by the Taj Mahal?

Why are there so many gods and goddesses in the Hindu religion?

How did Mahatma Gandhi help the people of India?

What are favorite recreational activities in Indonesia?

Can India be called a "modern" country? Why or why not?

**Further Activities:**

Investigate the root causes of the political unrest between India and Pakistan.

Investigate the major gods and goddesses on the Hindu religion. Who are they and how do they influence human behavior?

Investigate the religious rites of Hindu cremation.

Investigate how women have influenced industrial development in Kerala.

Using a variety of research methods, record a typical day for a computer technician in Mumbai.

Sample Indian cuisine and/or investigate Indian recipes. What are the main components of the Indian diet? Could these ingredients be purchased where you live?

**Related New Dimension Media Titles:**

Asia Scope (Series)

Asian Christian Traditions

The Himalayan Region (Asia On the Edge of Change series)

India: Renymol in India (Grade 6 & 7)

India: Sadanand in India (Grade 6 & 7)

India : The North (Asia on the Edge of Change series)

India: The South (Asia on the Edge of Change series)

India: Waste in Calcutta (Changing Cities series)

The Taj Mahal and Shah Jahan (History Happened Here series)