

Cultures Of India: Grade 4 Social Studies Program

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Project Objectives

- This project embodies the following guiding principles :
 - based upon the philosophy of equality and mutual respect with regard to Indian culture in the province of Newfoundland & Labrador.
 - The project will be based on the values of Respect, Equality and Diversity as it related to Multiculturalism policy
 - All educational activities will be based on input from educators and the learning outcomes support current school curriculum.

Grade 4 : World Community

- People
- Arts & Literature
- Music
- Dancing
- Cuisine
- Entertainment
- Language
- Political Structure
- Economic Structure
- Religion
- Law



How Can We find Out About Cultures In India?

- Direct -In order to really appreciate India & the Cultures of her people, the best approach is that at least once in your life you visit India
- Indirect - Alternatives are to read, meet people & learn about them

Our Project Partners

- Department Of Canadian Heritage
- Department Of Education
- High Commission Of India

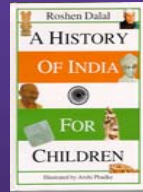
The Resource Kit



- Dare to Play Karishma (CD-ROM)



- Stories of India (Book)



- A History of India for Children (Book)



- India at a Glance (Book)



- My Book of Indian Festivals (Book)

- 5 Postcards of India and a Page of Stamps

Exploring the World Of India

- People
- Place/ Climate/ Vegetation
- Transportation
- Animals
- Houses/ Buildings

Indian Cuisine

- The food available in India is as diverse as its culture, its racial structure, its geography and its climate.
- The essence of good Indian cooking revolves around the appropriate use of aromatic spices.
- The skill lies in the subtle blending of a variety of spices to enhance rather than overwhelm the basic flavor of a particular dish
- The two cultures that have influenced Indian cooking and food habits are the Hindu and the Muslim traditions.

Hallmark of India

- Its physical, religious and racial variety is as large as its linguistic diversity.
- Modern India presents a picture of unity in diversity to which history provides no parallel.

Economic Factors

- Largest Democracy In the World.
- India tops export growth in Asia during Feb-April - Aug 7, 1999.

Political Background

- India's democracy is a known and stable factor. Importantly, India has no fundamental conflict between its political and economic systems. Its political institutions have fostered an open society with strong collective and individual rights and an environment supportive of free economic enterprise.

Literature/ Hindi

- Kabir (1398-1468) was born to Julaha (Muslim weavers) parents.
- Goswami Tulasidas (1532-1623) is the finest poet that Hindi literature has produced to date. His works, Ramcharitamanas (Story of Rama) is unarguably the greatest, are relevant at three levels-aesthetic, moral and social. His lofty idealism continues to inspire his readers

Bengali Rabindranath Tagore

- Rabindranath Tagore (1861-1941): mystic, philosopher, musician, painter and Nobel laureate for literature is among the leading personalities of Modern India. He was awarded the Nobel prize in Literature for his collection of well known poems Gitanjali.

Background

- Part Of Ancient Civilizations
- India's culture has been enriched by successive waves of migration which were absorbed into the Indian way of life.

Time Lines

- The Indus Valley Civilization
- Aryans and the Vedic Age
- Rise of Religions and Emergence of the State
- The Gupta Age
- The Southern Kingdoms
- The Muslim Invasions
- The Struggle for Independence
- Coming of the Europeans
- The Struggle for Independence
- The New State

Indian Languages: living Tower of Communications!

- Fifteen national languages recognized by the Indian constitution and these are spoken in over 1600 dialects by a population of over 900 million.
- India's official language is Hindi in the Devnagri script. However, English continues to be the official working language.

Festivals

- The Indian calendar is one long procession of festivals.
- Varied in origin as they are large in number.
- There are innumerable national, regional, local, religious, seasonal and social festivities.
- This is not surprising considering the fact that India is the land of gods, goddesses, saints, gurus and prophets.

Religions

Secular India is home to

- Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Jainism, Sikhism and other innumerable religious traditions.

Monuments

- Taj Mahal built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife, Mumtaz Mahal.
- Work started in 1634 and continued for almost 22 years.
- Without doubt, the Taj Mahal ranks as amongst the most perfect buildings in the world, flawlessly proportionate, built entirely out of marble.
- Intended to be a commemoration of the memory of Shahjahan's beloved wife, in reality, it is his gift to the entire human race.

Closing Remarks

Rich In diversity,

*a colourful exploration of people,
customs, regions, myths, arts and
celebrations.*

*Indian Cultures are not so much for
studying as for experiencing.*

Smita Joshi