

#11970 INDIA: THE NORTH

NEW DIMENSION MEDIA/QUESTAR, 2005
Grade Level: 6–10
29 Minutes



CAPTIONED MEDIA PROGRAM RELATED RESOURCES

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India: The North
Asia on the Edge of Change Series

Subject areas: Social Studies, World History, India - History, India - Culture

Synopsis: Live action film with voice-over narration explores the history and culture of India, focusing on the marks left by the Dravidian, Aryan, Moghul and British presence in the nation. Outlines the basic beliefs of Hinduism and details the caste-system. Uses archival footage to trace the life and achievements of Mahatma Gandhi, who advocated the use of non-violent opposition and passive resistance in his struggle for Indian Independence from British rule and in his efforts to loosen the oppressive caste system. Tells the story behind the construction of the Taj Mahal and explores the Islamic influences found in Indian architecture, music, cuisine and dance. Finally, looks at the rise of the Rajput civilization and the reign of the Maharajas.

Learning Objectives:

- Objective 1)** Students will be able to describe the geography and principal places of Northern India
- Objective 2)** Students will be able to identify how India's culture has been shaped by the land's geographical characteristics and by invading civilizations, including the Dravidians, Aryans, Moghuls and British.
- Objective 3)** Students will be able to demonstrate an understanding of India's caste system and be able to identify the roles of the Brahmans, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas, and Shudras.
- Objective 4)** Students will be able to discuss the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi.

Pre-Viewing Activities:

- 1) Locate the landforms of Northern India, including the Himalayan Mountain Range, the Ganges River and the Indus River on a map. Discuss how the presence of these landforms may have shaped life in India.
- 2) Define Hinduism, caste, Islam, non-violent opposition, passive resistance, and Maharaja.
- 3) Ask students to describe life in India.

Post-Viewing Discussion:

- 1) What are the roles of the Brahmans, Kshatriyas, Vaisyas, and Shudras in the caste system? How does the caste system affect individuals? Has the influence of the caste system changed since the time of Gandhi? How?
- 2) Locate the origin of the Dravidian, Aryan and Moghul people. Why might these people have come to India? How did they influence the culture of India?

- 3) Who was Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss Gandhi's philosophy of passive resistance and non-violent protest. Explore Gandhi's hopes for Indian independence, relief from the oppressive caste system and religious tolerance. Were his hopes for India realized? Why or why not?
- 4) What is the Taj Mahal? Why is it surprising that the Taj Mahal was built to honor a woman?
- 5) Who are the current rulers of India? What are the challenges India faces as a nation today?

Additional Activities:

- 1) Explore Britain's interest in India and discuss British\Indian relations during the time of British occupation. Explore the effects of British colonization, pointing out how Britain influenced Indian culture and how India, in turn, influenced British culture.
- 2) Research the belief systems of Hinduism and Islam. Why might there be conflict between the followers of the two religions? Explore the separation of India and Pakistan and Hindu/Muslim relations in the region today.

FOR INFORMATION, OR TO ORDER CONTACT:

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