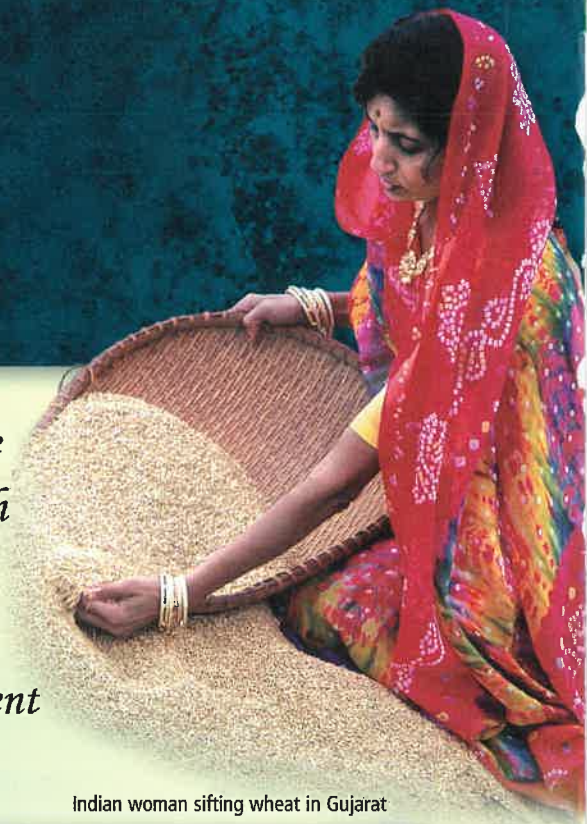


CHAPTER
25

India



Indian woman sifting wheat in Gujarat

About one out of every six people in the world lives in India, which is home to more than a billion people. This huge population includes people from many different ethnic and religious groups.



Royal portrait from Rajasthan

Hi! My name is Rojo, and I am 16. I live in Vaduthala, a small town outside the city of Cochin in the state of Kerala, southern India. My street is near a lake that is surrounded by coconut and banana trees.

When I'm relaxing at home, I like to read Indian entertainment magazines and watch television. My favorite program is about Hanuman, the monkey-god. The living room is my favorite place in the house because the ceiling fan keeps the mosquitoes away and keeps it cool. When my mom makes fish curry, she usually goes outside to the cooking terrace. That way, the whole house doesn't smell like fish. She grinds coconut there too.

I am a senior in high school. I wear a school uniform with navy blue pants and a grey shirt. Students in other schools have different uniforms, so it is very colorful in the morning when we all walk to school. We don't like walking in the summer monsoon season because we get wet. My favorite subject is math. I am studying a computer language based on math. At school we speak English. At home I speak Malayalam, the most common language of Kerala.

On Sundays we go to the Catholic church in the next town. Then we come back to the house and have a big lunch, including chicken curry, fish curry, sweet bread, eggs, and a vegetable dish. At Christmas they decorate the church with colored lights.



Section 1

Natural Environments

HOLT Geography's Impact Video Series

Watch the video to understand the impact of population density.

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are the major landform regions and rivers of India?
2. Which climate types and resources does India have?

DEFINE

subcontinent

LOCATE

Himalayas
Ganges River
Gangetic Plain
Deccan Plateau
Western Ghats
Eastern Ghats

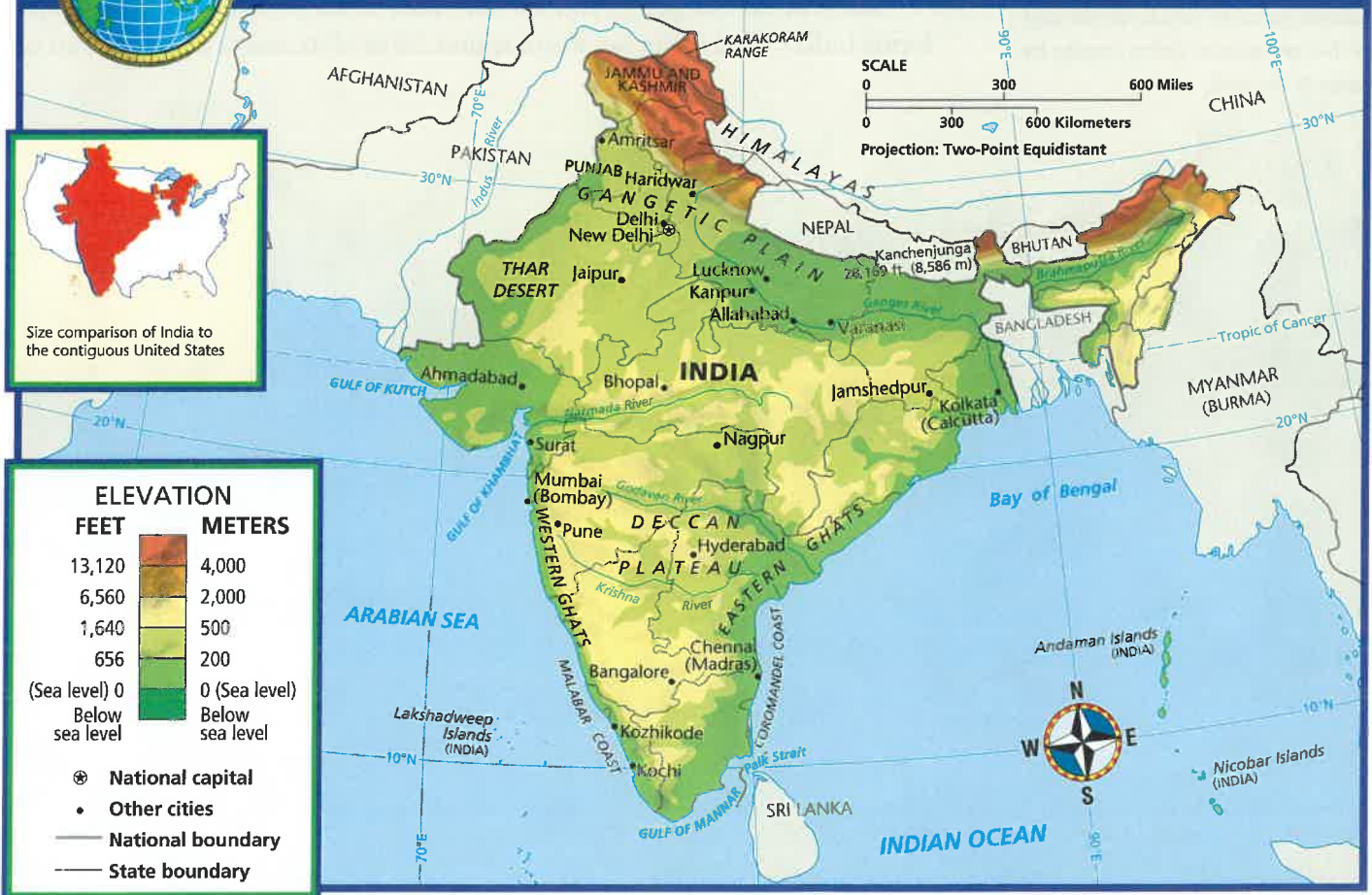
Narmada River
Godavari River
Krishna River
Brahmaputra River
Thar Desert

Reading Strategy

READING ORGANIZER Before you read, create a two-column chart. Title one column Advantages and the other column Challenges. As you read this section, list the physical geographic characteristics that make life in India easier and those physical geographic characteristics that create challenges that people in India must overcome.



India: Physical-Political



GO TO: go.hrw.com

KEYWORD: SW3 CH25

FOR: Web sites about India



Physical Features

The world's highest mountains separate India and its neighbors from the rest of Asia. Together these countries form the Indian **subcontinent**. A subcontinent is a very large landmass that is smaller than a continent. In addition to this large landmass, India also includes two island territories located in the Indian Ocean.

Tectonic forces have shaped the Indian subcontinent. The subcontinent was once part of the supercontinent of Gondwana but then broke away. It slowly drifted northward. About 50 million years ago it pushed into Asia, forcing up a mountain system called the Himalayas (hi-muh-LAY-uhz). This mountain-building process still goes on today, causing severe earthquakes.

Landforms The Himalayas are one of India's main landform regions. They contain Kanchenjunga (kuhn-chun-JUHN-guh), which is the third-highest mountain in the world and India's highest point. At lower elevations there are farms, forests, and steep gorges. The Kashmir Valley, between two arms of the mountains, is famous for its beauty. The great Ganges (GAN-jeez) River begins high in the Himalayas' melting snow and glaciers.

South of the Himalayas is the Gangetic (gan-JE-tik) Plain. This low flat region stretches about 1,500 miles (2,415 km) across northeastern India. Its rich soil was brought down from the mountains by the Ganges River, forming the world's largest alluvial plain. In some places this alluvial layer is more than 25,000 feet (7,620 m) thick. For thousands of years, people have settled on the Gangetic Plain to farm.

South of the Gangetic Plain the land rises to the Deccan, a peninsula that forms India's third major landform region. Most of its area is a plateau. Part of

The Himalayas form a barrier between the alluvial plains of northern India and the Plateau of Tibet to the north. They are the highest mountains in the world, with more than 110 peaks rising to elevations of 24,000 feet (7,325 m) or more above sea level. The Himalayas affect weather patterns in India by blocking cold air from moving south during winter and by forcing summer monsoon rains to release most of their precipitation before crossing the range to the north.



the Deccan Plateau is very old and eroded. The newer part is made up of lava layers. Where the volcanic rocks have weathered and irrigation is possible, there are fertile grain fields. Two low mountain ranges, the Western Ghats (GAWTS) and the Eastern Ghats, form the plateau's edges. Narrow plains lie on both the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal coasts.

Great Rivers Several important rivers cut across the Deccan Plateau. The Narmada (nuhr-MUH-duh) River flows to the west. Hundreds of dams are being built on the Narmada. Although the reservoirs created by the dams store much-needed water, the projects have also displaced thousands of people. The Godavari (go-DAH-vuh-ree) and Krishna (KRISH-nuh) Rivers flow to the east. An irrigation and canal system linking the deltas of these two rivers has made the region a productive rice-growing area.

Like the Ganges, the Brahmaputra River begins high in the Himalayas. It flows eastward through Tibet and then turns to the south, flowing through eastern India. In Bangladesh the Brahmaputra joins the Ganges to form a huge delta.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Places and Regions* In what landform regions are India's major rivers located?



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD Which of India's three main landform regions can you see in this satellite image?

Climates and Natural Resources

As you can see from the Unit 8 climate map, India has six climate types. They range from a highland climate in the Himalayas to a tropical humid climate along the southwest coast.

The Thar (TAHR) Desert, also known as the Great Indian Desert, lies in the northwest. It extends into neighboring Pakistan. The prevailing dry monsoon winds and a high-pressure zone keep the region arid and hot. Compared to the densely populated Gangetic Plain, the Thar Desert has few residents.

India's plant life tends to reflect rainfall amounts. Vegetation ranges from scrubby trees in the Thar Desert to evergreen forests in the western Himalayas. The country's animal life is varied. Crocodiles, deer, elephants, mongooses, monkeys, tigers, more than 1,200 bird species, and nearly 400 snake species live in India.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Places and Regions* What six climate types are found in India?

The Monsoons India's monsoons strongly influence the country's climates. The wet summer monsoon usually begins about June. A large low-pressure



The Indian cobra has a toxic bite. Cobras kill several thousand people each year, partly because they often visit houses at night to catch rats.



INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

The wet summer monsoon brings heavy rainfall and flooding to cities throughout India, including Mumbai (Bombay) (left) and Kolkata (Calcutta) (right). While Mumbai's average annual rainfall is some 71 inches (180 cm), about 24 inches (61 cm) fall in the month of July. **How do you think heavy monsoon rains and floods affect the environment?**

area over interior Asia pulls moist air inland from the Indian Ocean. As the moist air flows inland, it brings rain. The heaviest rains fall where the monsoon meets the Western Ghats and the foothills of the Himalayas. Some areas receive more than 400 inches (1,016 cm) of rain per year.

The winter monsoon lasts from November through March. During those months cold dry winds blow from Asia's interior into India. As the winds drop down from the mountains they warm and become even drier. As a result, much of India has a warm dry winter.

Unusually heavy monsoon rains can cause terrible floods. If the monsoon is late or the rains stop early, crops may die and people may go hungry. Sometimes, within the same season one part of India can suffer drought while another has floods.

✓ **READING CHECK: Physical Systems** What causes India's monsoons?

Natural Resources India's soils and rivers are its most important natural resources. About 56 percent of the country is arable, in contrast to only 19 percent in the United States.

India also has many mineral resources, including the world's fourth-largest coal reserves. There are large deposits of iron ore and bauxite, an aluminum ore, much of which is exported. India has some petroleum deposits but must import oil to meet its needs. The country's uranium mines support several nuclear power plants. Rivers supply hydroelectric power.

✓ **READING CHECK: Environment and Society** Why are India's soils and rivers called its most valuable natural resources?



Review

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Keyword: SW3 HP25

Define
subcontinent

Working with Sketch Maps On a map of India that you draw or that your teacher provides, label the Himalayas, Ganges River, Gangetic Plain, Deccan Plateau, Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats, Narmada River, Godavari River, Krishna River, Brahmaputra River, and Thar Desert. In the margin of your map, identify the world's largest alluvial plain.

Reading for the Main Idea

- Physical Systems** What physical process created the Himalayas? What physical process created the Gangetic Plain?
- Places and Regions** The distribution of India's plant life reflects what feature of the country's climate? Where will you find scrubby trees? Evergreen forests?
- Environment and Society** What are some of India's important mineral resources?

Critical Thinking

- Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** Why might Indian farmers look forward to the summer monsoon with both hope and fear?

Organizing What You Know

- Create a chart like the one below. Use it to name the rivers and climates in India's three main landform regions. Use the unit maps to help you.

Landform region	Rivers	Climates

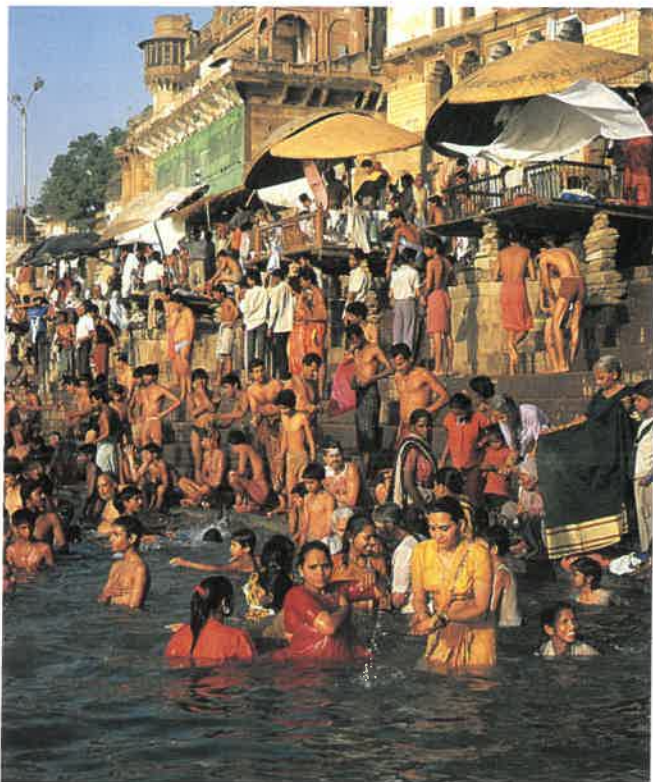
Geography for Life

The Holy Ganges

The Ganges River begins high in the Himalayas as melting glacial ice. It then flows more than 1,500 miles (2,505 km) southeastward across India's northern plains. Millions of people depend on the Ganges. They use the river as a source of drinking water and fish. Farmers use it to irrigate their crops. The Ganges also provides the country with a trade and transportation route.

To many people, the Ganges is much more than a river. It is Hinduism's holy river. The Ganges is part of India's folklore, history, and mythology. Indians call it the goddess Ganga. Every day you can find people bathing in the river's water, drinking it, and standing in it while they pray. Hindus believe that just touching the water can wash away their sins. People with various ailments come from near and far seeking the healing powers of the water. Perhaps more than 1 million people enter the Ganges somewhere along its course each day. The cities of Allahabad, Haridwar, and Varanasi are considered particularly sacred bathing sites. Temples line the banks of the Ganges in these cities. Wide stone staircases called ghats lead down to the water.

More than 1 million pilgrims visit Varanasi, India, each year to bathe in the holy Ganges.



Garbage and pollution are a common sight in the waters of the Ganges today.

Tradition says that the Ganges is pure and that nothing can pollute its water. Yet huge amounts of sewage flow into the river, making it one of the world's most polluted waterways. Waste from dozens of cities and thousands of villages is dumped into the river. Runoff from farms carries soil full of farm chemicals into it. Hundreds of factories also dump industrial waste into the Ganges. People even come to die in the river. As a result of these pollutants, many who enter the Ganges get sick.

In spite of these dangers, devout Hindus readily drink and bathe in the Ganges' waters. The government has proposed programs to reduce the river's pollution. While some Indians support a cleanup, others insist that the Ganges remains pure. Because the government lacks wide public support for its programs, it has done little to clean up the Ganges.

Applying What You Know

- 1. Summarizing** Why is the Ganges River holy to Hindus? How might non-Hindus perceive it?
- 2. Supporting a Point of View** Construct an argument for or against the need to clean up the Ganges River from the perspective of either a traditional Hindu or an environmentalist.

Section
2

History and Culture

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What were the major events and empires of India's early history?
2. How did European contact affect India?
3. What religions are practiced in India?
4. What are some other features of India's culture?

Reading Strategy

TAKING NOTES Taking notes while you read will help you understand and remember the information in this section. Your notes will be useful for reviewing the material. Write down the headings in the section. As you read, fill in notes under each heading. Underline the most important details you find. Include key terms and their definitions.

IDENTIFY

Sanskrit	Sikhism
Dalits	Jainism

DEFINE

pantheon	reincarnation
sepoys	dharma
boycott	karma
partition	caste

LOCATE

Delhi

Early Indian Civilizations

The first highly developed civilization in the Indian subcontinent developed in the Indus River valley. Named after a modern town near the site of one of its ancient cities, this culture is known as the Harappan civilization. It was centered in what is now Pakistan but also extended into India. The Harappan way of life was based on farming and trade. For India's history we look first at people who came through the western mountain passes to invade the fertile north.

The Aryans By about 1500 B.C. a warlike seminomadic people were moving into northern India from central Asia. They called themselves Aryans. The Aryans spread their influence gradually throughout northern India. In turn, Aryan culture changed as it mixed with cultures already in the area. The Dravidians, farming peoples of the interior, were slowly pushed south. They later developed advanced kingdoms in the Deccan.

The Aryans brought an Indo-European language to the subcontinent. They spoke an early form of **Sanskrit**. Hindi, the major language of modern India, developed from Sanskrit, which is still used for some religious ceremonies. The name *Himalaya* is an example of a Sanskrit word. It means "Home of Snows."

Aryan religion included many of the basic ideas that became part of Hinduism, such as a large **pantheon**. A pantheon is all the gods of a religion. The Aryans also introduced a strict system of social classes. These and other concepts developed into Hinduism, India's main religion today.

During the Aryan period, many kingdoms rose in the Gangetic Plain. These kingdoms were supported by farming the plain's rich soils. Also during the Aryan period Siddhārtha Gautama, who later became known as the Buddha, taught the concepts of Buddhism.



The Ellora Caves in western India were carved from cliffs between about 200 B.C. and A.D. 1000. They served as temples and monasteries for followers of three of India's religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, and Jainism.

Islamic Empires About A.D. 1000, Muslim armies began attacking northwestern India. In the early 1200s a Muslim kingdom was founded at Delhi. In 1398 Timur, a conqueror from the interior of Asia, invaded India and sacked Delhi.

A descendant of Timur and Genghis Khan nicknamed Bābur—“the Tiger”—invaded India in the 1520s. He took over most of northern India and founded the Mughal (MOO-guhl) Empire. Bābur was not only a brilliant general but also a gifted poet. After an unstable period Bābur’s grandson Akbar reunited the Mughal Empire and expanded it into central India. Akbar was an effective ruler as well as a successful conqueror. He allowed the peoples he conquered to practice their own religions. Although the ruling Mughals were Muslims, most of the region’s people continued to practice Hinduism.

The Gangetic Plain’s fertile land and large population helped the Mughal Empire grow rich. During this period Shāh Jahān built the world-famous Taj Mahal. Many other grand monuments remain from the Mughal Empire.

Religious tolerance ended with the rule of Shāh Jahān’s son Aurangzeb. He placed heavy taxes on Hindus and destroyed many temples. When Aurangzeb died in 1707, he left a weakened empire. Europeans took the opportunity to expand their influence.

READING CHECK: *Places and Regions* How did invasions alter India’s early cultures?

European Influence

Europeans arrived in India in the late 1490s to trade, expand their empires, and spread Christianity. The Portuguese came first, followed by the Dutch, French, and British. Powerful trading companies, such as Great Britain’s East India Company, built successful businesses in the region. Indian cotton became particularly important as Britain’s growing textile industry needed tons of the raw fiber. Soon Britain and France became rivals in India.

British Rule In the 1700s the British defeated the French. By the mid-1800s Britain controlled about half of the subcontinent. The East India Company controlled India for the British government.

However, foreign rule angered many Indians. In 1857 a rebellion broke out among the **sepoys**, the Indian troops under the command of

Connecting to

HISTORY

Early Empires

Almost all of India was first united by the Mauryan (mow-ree-uhn) Empire. It was founded in about 320 B.C. Aśoka, the most famous Mauryan emperor, gave up war after he saw the suffering he had caused. He adopted Buddhism and furthered its spread across India. Aśoka’s thoughts and accounts of his deeds were carved on rocks and pillars placed throughout the empire.

India entered a golden age under the Gupta Empire. From A.D. 320 to about 500, architecture, art, literature, mathematics, and medicine all flourished. Gupta universities drew students from as far away as Java, in southeastern Asia, to study philosophy and other subjects. Art, learning, and trade continued to prosper after the Gupta period came to an end.

Analyzing Information

In what ways did the Mauryan and Gupta Empires contribute to the early development of India?

Mauryan Empire, c. 320 B.C.—232 B.C.



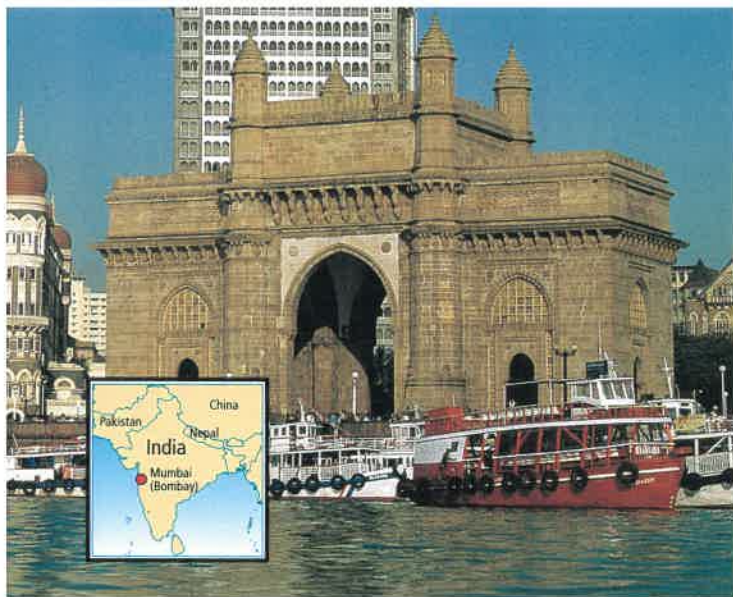
Gupta Empire, c. A.D. 400





Mahatma Gandhi led India's independence movement and became internationally famous for his doctrine of nonviolent protest and civil disobedience. Gandhi also worked to unite India's Hindus and Muslims, end discrimination, and promote education and economic development for India's poor.

The Gateway of India in Mumbai (Bombay) was built to commemorate the 1911 visit of King George V and Queen Mary. On February 28, 1948, the last British troops to leave the newly independent country of India set sail from the Gateway of India.



British officers. The sepoys killed the officers and their families. When the revolt spread across northern India, British troops rushed to the conflict. Both sides reported vicious acts of cruelty. In the end, the British crushed the revolt. The mutiny convinced the British government to end the East India Company's role and to rule India directly beginning in 1858.

India, which at that time included present-day Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, became a British colony. It was called the "jewel in the crown" of the British Empire. Indian products, such as cotton, jewels, and tea, flowed to Britain. India was also a market for merchandise from British factories. To ensure an efficient flow of goods, the British organized the construction of railroads, roads, and ports. In addition, they brought the English language and English systems of education, law, and government.

Independence The British did not treat Indians as equals, and many Indians wanted independence. Others simply wanted fair treatment. In 1885, educated middle-class Indians organized the Indian National Congress. At first, the Congress asked only for more rights, such as a larger share of government jobs. The British refused this request.

Demands for independence increased in the early 1900s. A young lawyer named Mohandas K. Gandhi led the independence movement. His followers called him the Mahatma, or "Great Soul." Gandhi believed that nonviolent noncooperation was the best way to bring about change and achieve independence. Gandhi led peaceful protest marches and urged Indians to **boycott**, or refuse to buy, British goods, particularly cloth. When he was thrown into jail, Gandhi protested by going on hunger strikes.

Gandhi's efforts were effective. After World War II the British government granted India its independence. Britain and the Indian National Congress wanted India to become one country. However, India's Muslims demanded a separate state. Hostility between Hindus and Muslims grew.

To avoid civil war, in 1947 the British government divided the colony into two parts, India and Pakistan. This division is called the **partition** of India. Pakistan, which included what is now Bangladesh, was mostly Muslim. India was mostly Hindu. The region of Kashmir was divided between the two countries.

However, the new boundaries left large numbers of Hindus in Pakistan and many Muslims in India. Panic broke out as some 16 million people fled to the country where their religion held a majority. Perhaps as many as 1 million people died in riots and massacres. Even Gandhi fell prey to the violence. In 1948 he was shot and killed by a Hindu extremist. Religious tension is still a pressing issue for India.

Today India is the world's most populous democracy. A large percentage of the people vote. There are 28 states, each with its own legislature, and seven territories. India's government is based on British models. It includes a multiparty parliament and a prime minister.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Human Systems* Why did the British want control of India, and how did they lose control?

Religion

According to its constitution, India's government is officially secular. That is, it does not support any one religion, and all faiths are equal before the law. At the same time, religion is a powerful force in Indian society. A large majority of the people take part in religious activity on a daily basis. Some Indian political parties are based on religion.

Hinduism About 80 percent of India's people are Hindu. Hinduism is an ancient religion and the largest ethnic religion in the world. There are many gods and goddesses in Hinduism. Although its pantheon is large, Hinduism teaches that all gods and all living beings are part of a single spirit.

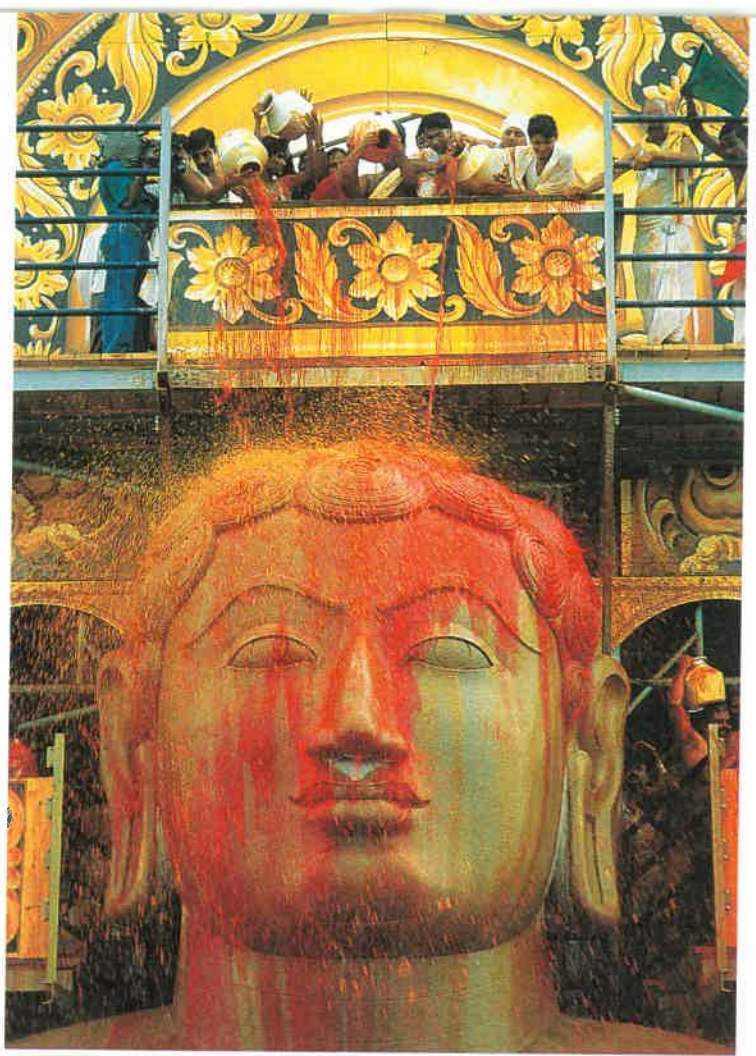
Three Hindu beliefs, **reincarnation**, **dharma**, and **karma**, are closely related. Followers of Hinduism believe that the soul is reborn again and again in different forms. This process is called reincarnation. The importance of doing one's duty according to one's station in life is called dharma. Karma is the positive or negative force caused by a person's actions. Hindus believe that people who fulfill their dharma earn good karma and may be reborn as persons of higher status. Those with bad karma may be reborn with lower status or as animals or insects.

The **caste system** is another practice central to Hinduism. A caste is a group of people who are born into a certain position in society. The Aryans developed this system thousands of years ago. It assigned people to one of four major classes, or castes, according to their occupations. The Brahmins were the highest caste. These priests and intellectuals were the only people who could read and write. Below the Brahmins were the Kshatriyas (kuh-SHA-tree-uhz), or warriors. Next came the Vaisyas (VYSH-yuhz), the traders and merchants, and then the Sudras, the farmers and laborers. There are now thousands of subcastes.

Below these four classes were the **Dalits**, which means "the oppressed." They were not viewed as part of any caste. They held jobs that higher classes saw as unclean, such as removing dead animals from the street. Dalits were forbidden from having contact with Indians of any caste.

Under the caste system, a person is born into a caste and cannot move into another. Some Indians believe that taking a job of another caste or marrying into another caste can be punished by rebirth at a lower social level. In this way, belief in reincarnation, dharma, and karma helps maintain the caste system.

The Indian constitution abolished the caste system. It declared that the poor treatment of Dalits was illegal. Still, the caste system remains a part of Hindu life, particularly in villages. Today some Dalits are educated and have good jobs. Most live in poverty, however. Violence against the Dalits still occurs.



The statue of Bahubali in the state of Karnataka is an important pilgrimage site for followers of Jainism, one of India's indigenous religions. Every 12 to 14 years a "head anointing ceremony" is performed on the statue as milk, yogurt, butter, saffron, gold coins, sandalwood, and other items are poured over its head. Jain pilgrims believe these objects acquire a powerful spiritual energy from the statue.

Islam and Other Religions Islam is the largest minority religion in India, although estimates of its followers vary. Some experts think that India has the second-largest Muslim population in the world—second only to Indonesia. Perhaps 11 to 14 percent of the population is Muslim. Most Muslims live in northern India. Their presence there reflects northern India's history as the heart of former Muslim empires.

Christianity arrived in India long before the Portuguese landed there. Accounts from the A.D. 500s describe well-established Christian churches along the west coast. Today about 20 million Indians are Christian. Although Buddhism first developed in India and flourished before the Mughal period, its importance faded under later rulers. Less than 1 percent of the population is Buddhist today.

Two other religions that began in India are **Sikhism** and **Jainism**. Sikhism combines the Muslim belief in one God with the Hindu beliefs of reincarnation and karma. Because it preaches the equality of all people, Sikhism rejects the caste system. Jainism emphasizes a strict moral code based on preserving life.

✓ **READING CHECK: Human Systems** How does the role of religion in India's constitution contrast with its role in Indian society?

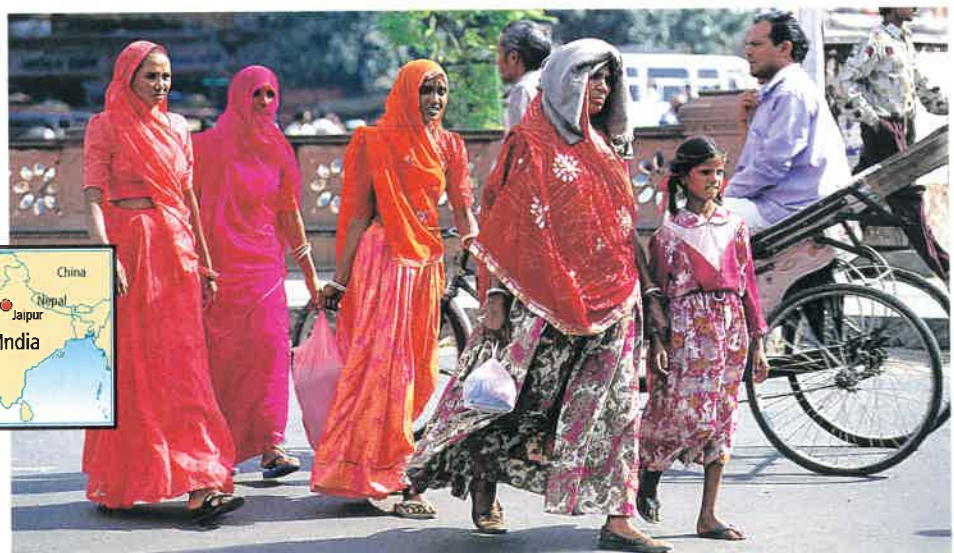
India's Culture

Ways of life vary widely among India's people. The population includes many different ethnic groups. The majority of the population—72 percent—are descended from the Aryans. About one quarter of the people are Dravidians, most of whom live in the south. Smaller groups account for the rest. India's more than 1,000 languages and dialects reflect its many ethnic groups. More than 20 of these languages have at least 1 million speakers. The national language and the main language for about 30 percent of the people is Hindi. English is the most widely used language in commerce and politics. India is unique among the world's countries because it gives another 15 languages official status. Bengali, Marathi, Tamil, Telugu, and Urdu are examples. Sanskrit is also an official language.

Clothing India's tropical climates demand cool clothing. Many Indian women wear traditional clothing styles. The sari is a rectangle of cloth, usually about 18 feet (5.5 m) long, that is wrapped around the body.

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

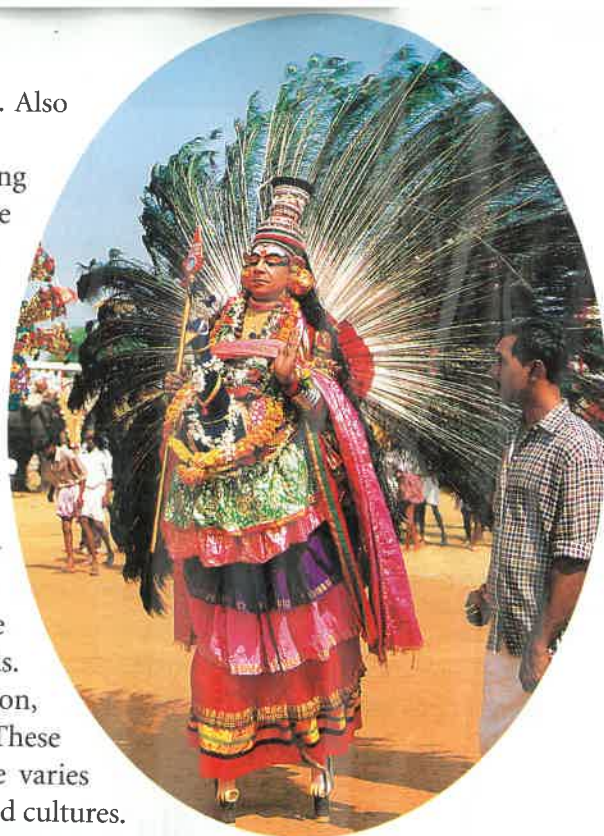
Saris are made from cotton, silk, or synthetic fabrics and often come in bright colors. Dressy versions may be richly embroidered in gold thread or trimmed with sequins and can be wrapped and draped in many ways. Women can express differences in status, age, occupation, region, or religion by how they wear their saris. How might saris help make India a distinctive region?



A tight-fitting blouse called a *choli* is worn underneath. Also popular are pajama-like pants worn under a tunic.

In the cities, Indian men wear typical Western clothing more often than women. However, a villager may be more comfortable in a garment such as the *lungi*. Like the sari, a *lungi* is a length of fabric wrapped around the waist. Loose-fitting pants are also popular for men. Some Indian men, particularly Sikhs, wear turbans. Sikhs wear turbans as a public symbol of their religious beliefs.

Food Many Americans are familiar with a packaged Indian spice mixture called curry powder. It flavors a gravy-based dish that is served over rice. However, real Indian curry powder does not come from a jar but is ground fresh every day. Cooks are proud of the unique mixtures they create from up to 20 herbs, spices, and seeds. Cardamom, chilies, cinnamon, cumin, mace, nutmeg, saffron, sesame seeds, and turmeric are among those often used. These spice mixtures are used in many recipes. Indian cuisine varies widely, reflecting the country's different climates, crops, and cultures.



Festivals With its wealth of ancient traditions, India has many holidays and festivals. Each religion has its special days, and other holidays mark political events. Many festivals are annual; some occur every few years.

Holi is observed mainly in northern and central India and celebrates spring and the triumph of good over evil. It is one of the most lively festivals. Everyone takes to the streets with colored water, powdered dyes, and water balloons. They smear, sprinkle, or splatter each other with color. Many other activities may be part of Holi, from wrestling tournaments to giving clothes to new brides. Pongal is a joyful three-day harvest festival of southern India. It features a parade of cattle decorated with beads, bells, and flowers.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Places and Regions* Why does India have so many languages and such a wide range of customs?

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

A dancer performs a peacock dance during a religious festival in Kerala in southern India. Religious festivals are celebrated throughout India and are an important part of many people's lives. All of India's major religions celebrate festivals during the year. Some festivals celebrate the seasons, phases of the Moon, or harvests. Others celebrate important dates in the lives of religious leaders. How does this festival compare to festivals that you have seen?

Section
2

Review

go.hrw.com Homework Practice Online
Keyword: SW3 HP25

Identify

Sanskrit, Dalits, Sikhism, Jainism

Define

pantheon, sepoy, boycott, partition, reincarnation, dharma, karma, caste

Working with Sketch Maps

On the map you created in Section 1, label Delhi. Which conqueror destroyed Delhi?

Reading for the Main Idea

- Human Systems** What are the origins of Hindi and Hinduism in India?
- Human Systems** What were some results of the partition of India?
- Human Systems** What are the two most widely used languages in India? How many minor languages and dialects are spoken there?

Critical Thinking

- Identifying Cause and Effect** How did growing global trade beginning in the 1400s affect India over time?

Organizing What You Know

- Create a graphic organizer like the one below. Use it to identify and compare key features of India's main religions.

Hinduism	Islam	Sikhism	Jainism

Section 3

India Today

READ TO DISCOVER

1. What are the main features of India's economy?
2. How does life in India's villages compare to life in its cities?
3. What challenges does India face today?

Reading Strategy

PAIRED SUMMARIZING Read this section silently, making notes as you read. Working with a partner, take turns summarizing the material and your notes. Stop to discuss ideas that seem confusing. Include key terms and their definitions.

DEFINE

cottage industries
jute

LOCATE

Kolkata (Calcutta)
Bangalore
Mumbai (Bombay)
Chennai (Madras)
Varanasi

India's Economy

India's economy is extremely varied and is expanding rapidly. It includes many different ways of making a living, from subsistence farming to the most advanced computer technology.

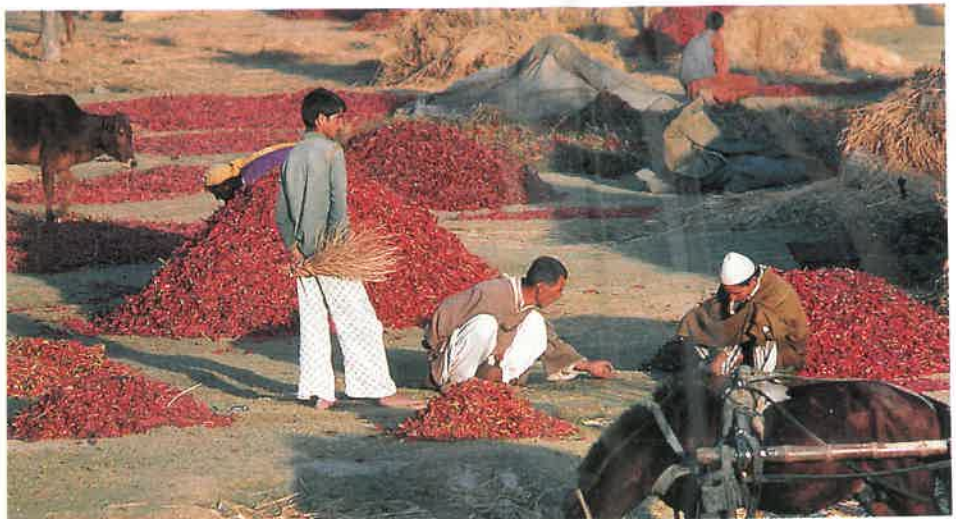
Agriculture Farming is the basis of India's economy. It contributes 25 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Farms cover about half of India's total area. Some of the major crops are rice, wheat, tea, sugarcane, and sorghum. Half of the world's mangoes come from India. No country grows more peanuts, sesame seeds, or tea than India. Only China grows more rice.

Half of India's farms are less than 2.5 acres (1 ha). A majority of farmers own their land. However, as land is divided among a family's sons, the farms become smaller and thus less profitable.

In recent decades, India has become almost self-sufficient in food-grain crops. Yet if the summer monsoon rains are late, inadequate, or too heavy, some people may still go hungry. The government constantly explores ways to make the country's agriculture less dependent on the summer monsoon.

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

A pepper harvest in northern India creates a colorful scene. Native to the Americas, peppers were first introduced to Europe by the Spanish and later spread throughout Asia. Spicy peppers are now an important part of Indian cuisine. How did the diffusion of peppers from the Americas affect the landscape in this photo?





The Green Revolution The government has made many efforts to increase food production for India's rapidly growing population. The need to grow more food was highlighted in 1943 when a disastrous famine struck eastern India. An estimated 4 million people starved to death. Although food distribution problems played a role in the famine, there was also a clear shortage of food. Government officials knew they had to increase the country's agricultural production. Their efforts, and the partial success achieved between 1967 and 1978, became known as the Green Revolution.

The Green Revolution consisted of three main elements. These were increasing the amount of cultivated land, harvesting two crops per year from existing farmland, and increasing yields with genetically improved seeds. Expanding the amount of farmland had been going on for centuries. Growing two crops each year was more difficult to accomplish. Since the monsoon rains ordinarily made only one crop possible, officials decided to use irrigation to create an artificial second rainy season. They built large and small irrigation projects to trap rainwater from the natural monsoon. Scientists also developed new strains of corn, millet, rice, and wheat that produced more grain per acre. In the areas where they were used, the new types increased yields dramatically.

Within a few decades the Green Revolution changed India from a country plagued by starvation to one that could usually feed its people. However, the Green Revolution had a downside. The irrigation projects, which required huge dams, displaced people and disrupted the environment. The new grain varieties used more dangerous pesticides and fertilizers. Many farmers who could not afford irrigation or chemicals got lower yields than they had from older varieties. Moreover, the new techniques did not work in areas where water was scarce or where farmers had no money for investment.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Environment and Society** How did the Green Revolution affect food production and the environment in India?

INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

About two thirds of all Indians are farmers. While many do not have access to advanced farming technologies, others have benefited greatly from the innovations of the Green Revolution. For example, the use of high-yielding varieties of seeds, particularly for wheat, has led to dramatic increases in some areas. How is this farmer using animals? How might the use of more advanced technologies change the way this person farms?





INTERPRETING THE VISUAL RECORD

Many Indian women work in cottage industries. Here, women in Rajasthan dye fabrics that they will sell in local markets. **How do you think cottage industries help people meet their basic needs?**

Industry Although India is largely agricultural, its industrial production ranks about tenth among the world's countries. When its GDP is distributed among its billion-plus population, however, the per capita GDP is very low. As a result, most geographers and economists describe India as a developing country.

Millions of Indians make a living by working at home in small-scale industries called **cottage industries**. Many of these skilled workers are women. They weave silk fabrics, carve wooden statues, and make silver and gold lace, as well as many other beautiful handicrafts.

India also has large-scale commercial manufacturing. The country's many cotton and woolen mills produce textiles, the leading export. Factories in Kolkata (Calcutta) process **jute**, a plant fiber used

to make burlap and rope. Factories use the steel from India's own steel mills to make durable goods such as diesel engines and cars.

Industry requires power. To increase its industrial production, India must increase its power supply. The country already imports large amounts of oil. India's rivers could supply additional hydropower, but dams can create new problems. To attract more foreign investment, India must strengthen its infrastructure. Airlines, communications systems, railroads, ports, and roads must be improved. These systems are needed to operate factories, move materials and products, and help people do their jobs efficiently. In India most of these systems lag behind what is available in other countries.

The government has been successful in attracting high-tech businesses. For example, Bangalore, in southern India, has so many computer companies that some have compared it to the Silicon Valley of the United States. (See *Cities & Settlements: Bangalore*.) Many high-tech and service industry workers belong to a growing middle class.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** What are some ways in which India's market economy is improving?

Cities and Villages

India has more than half a million villages, where more than 70 percent of the people live. Most of these villages have fewer than 1,000 residents. At the same time, India has enormous cities. Two of them—Mumbai (Bombay) and Kolkata—rank fifth and eighth among the world's largest cities. More Indians are moving into the cities to look for work, but finding none. In fact, India's big cities are growing about twice as fast as its small towns.

City Life Crowding, noise, smog, and traffic are part of daily life in India's cities. In general, city dwellers wear European-style clothing and read

English-language newspapers. Most work in factories and offices. Higher education is available in the cities, and women work alongside men in professional and factory jobs.

A small number of rich businesspeople and landowners live in the cities. The working middle class makes up a larger part of urban society. Most live in small apartments and can afford many manufactured goods. However, most of the urban population lives in poverty. Many are homeless and live in the streets. Many others live in shacks built from scraps of cardboard, metal, and wood. They have no clean water or sanitation. Each day they must look for work.

Mumbai has about 18 million residents. It is the center of India's huge movie industry. So many films are produced there that the city has been nicknamed Bollywood. Kolkata has more than 12 million residents and is one of the world's busiest seaports. Although it has a large homeless population, Kolkata is a vibrant place that promotes itself as the City of Joy. Delhi is the hub of northern India. The city's old section contains beautiful Mughal buildings. The new part of the vast city—New Delhi—is India's capital. The East India Company founded Chennai (Madras) on the southeast coast. It is now a major rail and industrial center. Varanasi, on the Ganges River, is a holy city for Hindus.

Village Life For millions of India's villagers, life goes on as it has for generations before them. Only recently have paved roads, electricity, or telephone services reached many villages. Some villages can only be reached on foot. Sanitation is still poor, and many people do not have clean drinking water. Medical services are very limited. More than half of the rural population cannot read or write.

Farm families tend to be large because children have to help in the fields. In addition, both Hindu and Muslim cultures value large families. In general, sons are valued more highly than daughters. They will also take care of their parents when they are old. Therefore, many rural couples continue to have children until they have at least two boys. Men dominate village society. When a woman marries, she becomes a member of her husband's family.

✓ **READING CHECK:** **Human Systems** Why do many people leave the villages for the cities? What do they find there?

Challenges

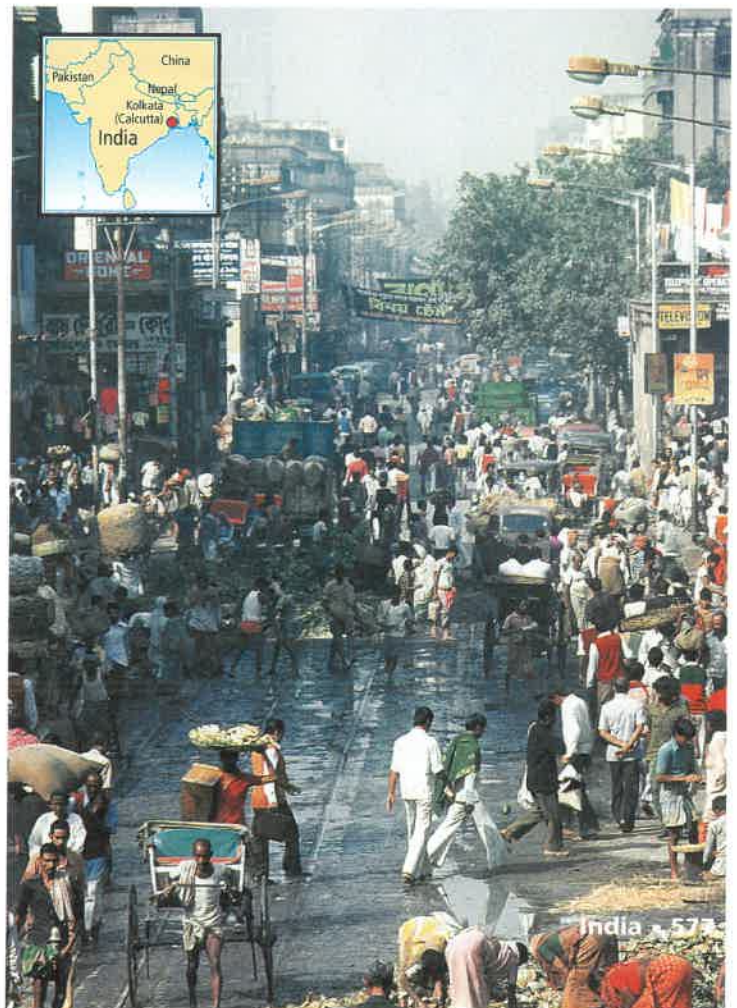
India remains a country of contrasts. While millions struggle with extreme poverty and inequality, a few have wealth and privilege. Life for many Indians has improved in recent decades, but the country faces several issues that may cloud its future.

Population and Poverty Many of India's problems are connected to rapid population growth.

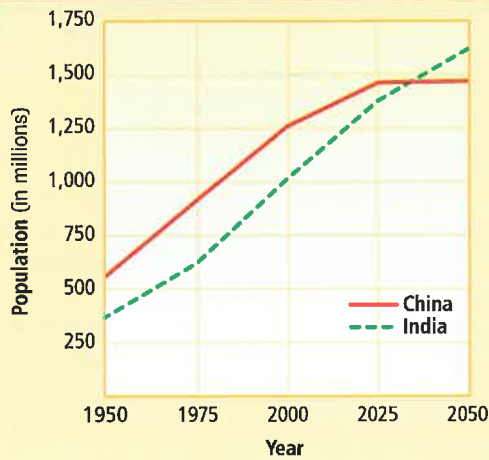


In Mumbai (Bombay), some 20,000 people known as *dhobis* make a living washing clothes. The *dhobi* identifies the laundry's owner with marks most people cannot see. Sometimes police identify bodies by tracing *dhobi* marks on the clothing.

Kolkata (Calcutta), former capital of British India from 1773 to 1912, is one of India's largest cities. It has a very high population density of about 85,500 persons per square mile, and overcrowding is a major problem. Yet, Kolkata continues to attract new immigrants, particularly from nearby rural areas of eastern India.



Population Growth in India and China



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

INTERPRETING THE GRAPH This graph shows past population growth and future projections for the world's two most populous countries. Which country has a larger population today? Which country is projected to have a larger population in 2050?

Because of improved sanitation and health care, the death rate has dropped much faster than the birthrate. The result is a high population growth rate. In addition, more than a third of the people are 14 or younger. Therefore, as this group enters the child-bearing years the population will continue to grow even if the birthrate drops. Government programs encouraging smaller families have had limited success.

The large population often overwhelms services, from communication to transportation. Millions of Indians in both rural and urban areas are still dreadfully poor. Many people never attend school, and this lack of education limits their opportunities.

Environmental Concerns A major challenge for India is to clean up and protect its environment. As much as 70 percent of India's surface water may be polluted. Poorly regulated industries and inadequate sewer systems are partly to blame.

India's large population has strained the country's land resources. Deforestation, overgrazing, and soil erosion have caused serious environmental damage. In fact, half of India's forests have been cut down since the country became independent. The government does, however, support conservation. It has created 80 national parks, 440 wildlife sanctuaries, and 23 tiger reserves. Once on the brink of extinction, India's tigers now number in the thousands. Their future is not secure, however. Illegal trade in tiger skins and bones continues.

The States and Territories of India



INTERPRETING THE MAP India's political geography has changed greatly since independence in 1947. Over time, India's states have been reorganized to better reflect the country's major language and culture regions. For example, in 1960 the state of Bombay was divided into Gujarat and Maharashtra based mainly on language differences. In 1961 Nagaland became a state for the Naga people after an armed struggle with the national government. Three new states were created in 2000, and India's internal borders seem likely to change further in the future. How have forces of conflict and cooperation affected India's political geography?

Political Issues India faces challenges from neighboring countries and its own citizens. Ever since the partition, India and Pakistan have clashed over the region of Kashmir in the far northwest. At the time of partition, most people in Kashmir were Muslims. However, unrest in the region led Kashmir's ruler to seek a union with India. This decision led to an armed struggle between India and Pakistan over control of the disputed region. Today Pakistan controls the northern and western areas of Kashmir. India controls southern and southeastern Kashmir as part of the state of Jammu and Kashmir. A line of control separates the two areas of Kashmir. This line was agreed to in 1972 after several clashes between Indian and Pakistani troops. Many Muslim Kashmiris want the entire region to be part of Pakistan. Their movement and the government's efforts to crush it have resulted in the deaths of about 10,000 civilians since 1989. Because both India and Pakistan have nuclear weapons, this tension creates concern around the world. The two countries also disagree over how much water India should take from the upper Indus River. India has border disputes with China as well. China had never accepted the boundaries of northeastern Kashmir. In the 1950s Chinese forces entered Ladakh, a region in Kashmir. This led to border clashes between India and China. Today China controls the northeastern part of Ladakh. However, India does not recognize Chinese claims in the region.



A Sikh elder prays at the Golden Temple in Amritsar, India. The Golden Temple is the spiritual center for the world's Sikhs and has figured prominently in their struggles with India's government. In 1984, Indian troops attacked Sikh extremists who were using the temple as a fortress and refuge.

Conflicts between India's Hindus and Muslims sometimes erupt into violence. Leaders from each group have accused the government of favoring the other. Sikhs have also demanded more political power in Punjab. In the early 1980s some Sikh extremists began to call for an independent country of their own called Khalistan, or "Land of the Pure." They began a campaign of terrorism against India's government and people. Ethnic groups in other parts of India have also demanded more autonomy, with violence the frequent result.

✓ **READING CHECK:** *Environment and Society* What issue underlies several of India's challenges?



Review

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.com **Homework Practice Online**
Keyword: SW3 HP25

Define cottage industries, jute

Working with Sketch Maps

On the map you created in Section 2, label Kolkata (Calcutta), Bangalore, Mumbai (Bombay), Chennai (Madras), and Varanasi. Why is Mumbai sometimes called Bollywood?

Reading for the Main Idea

1. **Environment and Society** In what ways was the Green Revolution unsuccessful?

2. **Human Systems** What types of goods are produced in India's cottage industries? In its commercial industries?

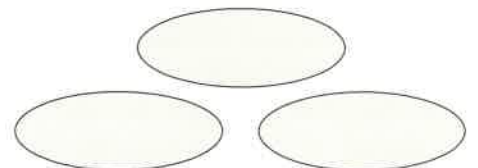
3. **Human Systems** Why do geographers consider India a developing country even though the country's industrial production is among the highest in the world?

Critical Thinking

4. **Analyzing Information** Why is control of Kashmir disputed? Why do you think this conflict has lasted for more than 50 years?

Organizing What You Know

5. Copy the graphic organizer shown below. Fill in each oval with one of the major challenges facing India. Then draw arrows among the ovals to show how the issues are related. Write sentences or phrases near the arrows to describe the connections.



CITIES & SETTLEMENTS

Bangalore

Places and Regions Located on the Deccan Peninsula, Bangalore is India's sixth-largest city. With nearly 5 million people, it is one of the fastest-growing cities in Asia. This tremendous growth has brought much change to the city. Bangalore's development illustrates some of the forces that shape a city and its culture. It also shows how a rapidly changing urban environment can affect people's lives.

Garden City to Silicon City

Bangalore may have the most pleasant climate of any Indian city. Humidity is low, and summer temperatures average in the 80s. Even in winter it seldom gets colder than 60°F (16°C). Rainfall is also moderate, averaging less than 40 inches (102 cm) per year. These conditions inspired Bangalore's former Indian and British rulers to create many gardens, lakes, and parks throughout the city. Trees were planted along many streets to shade and beautify them. Because it had such a lovely environment, Bangalore was often called the Garden City. It became a popular vacation and retirement spot for wealthy Indians. It was also a headquarters for British officials during part of the colonial era. Many of these wealthy Indians and British officials built grand mansions in the city.

In the 1950s and 1960s Bangalore's pleasant environment helped to make it India's scientific research center. Indian leaders believed the city would provide a relaxed atmosphere in which scientists could be creative. To support scientific research in Bangalore,



A chip designer inspects a computer chip in Bangalore. The city is home to hundreds of technology companies employing an estimated 75,000 people.

India's government invested heavily in the city. As a result, Bangalore now has three universities, 14 engineering colleges, 47 technical schools, and many research institutes. These include India's most advanced military and space research centers and several private industrial training institutes. These developments brought a large number of highly educated people to Bangalore. Eventually, they helped transform the Garden City into an Indian version of Silicon Valley in the United States.

Booming Bangalore

Because a large percentage of India's population does not use computers, the country is generally not thought of as a high-tech leader. For this reason, you

may be surprised to know that India is second only to the United States in computer software exports. Most of this software comes from Bangalore. At first, the city's major export was not software. It was people. In the 1980s American companies began to computerize their operations on a wide scale. Yet there were not enough American software engineers and programmers to fill all the jobs in those fields. As a result, many of Bangalore's computer science graduates left to take high-paying jobs in the United States. However, two developments soon turned Bangalore into a boomtown. American companies found that computer science salaries in India were one fourth the size of those elsewhere. In addition, improved telecommunications made it easier for American companies to contract with Indian software firms.



Bangalore's booming high-tech economy has created an increase in traffic congestion and air pollution.

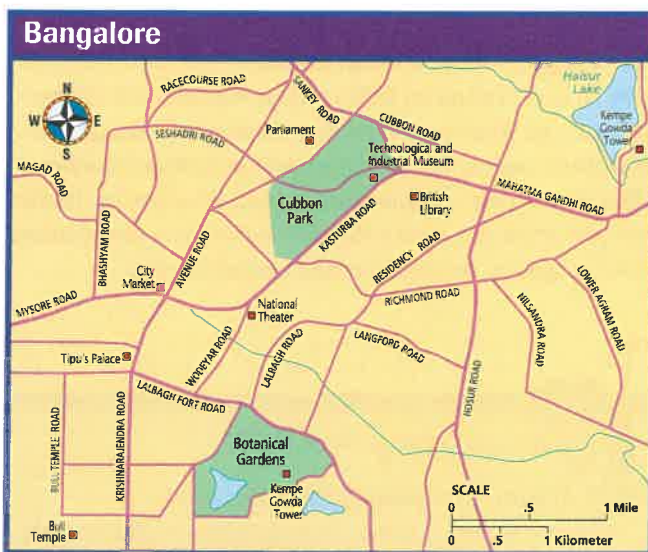
They could also set up their own computer operations in India. Soon more than 100 Indian, American, and multinational computer firms sprang up in Bangalore.

A Changing City

Bangalore changed quickly. Some of the grand old homes were torn down to make room for new high-rise office buildings. Others were gutted and filled with cubicles to become offices. Still others were divided into apartments for the flood of people who

came to fill new software jobs. Thousands of cars and motorcycles soon clogged once quiet streets where horse-drawn carriages had traveled as late as the 1970s. The air became more polluted. Bangalore's explosive growth put a strain on its other systems as well. An overloaded electrical system began causing power outages, sometimes several times a day. In addition, the demand for housing and office space caused living and business costs to skyrocket.

Some of the high-tech companies have left Bangalore. Many are now located in so-called technology parks that have sprung up in nearby suburbs. These parks have their own water, power, and communication systems. Some also provide housing, schools, stores, and recreational facilities. Company employees thus have little need to go into the city. In fact, many buildings within Bangalore stand empty. In some ways, the Garden City's rapid growth has wilted. The city government is looking at ways to revive the city's glory.



INTERPRETING THE MAP The heart of Bangalore includes important governmental and cultural buildings, as well as parks, gardens, and lakes. What features on the map do you see that might have inspired people to call Bangalore the Garden City?

Applying What You Know

- 1. Comparing** How does Bangalore's experience compare to cities or communities in your region that have grown rapidly? How have the political, economic, social, and environmental relationships in those places changed?
- 2. Problem Solving** What actions might Bangalore's government take to revive the city?

Review the video to answer the closing question:
How might population density affect a country?

Building Vocabulary

On a separate sheet of paper, explain the following terms by using them correctly in sentences.

subcontinent	partition	caste
pantheon	reincarnation	cottage industries
sepoys	dharma	jute
boycott	karma	

Locating Key Places

On a separate sheet of paper, match the letters on the map with their correct labels.

Himalayas	Western Ghats	Brahmaputra River
Ganges River	Eastern Ghats	Thar Desert
Gangetic Plain	Narmada River	Kolkata (Calcutta)



Understanding the Main Ideas

Section 1

- Places and Regions** What geographic features, such as river systems and climates, characterize India's three major landform regions?
- Physical Systems** At what time of the year do monsoons bring rainfall to India, and where are the rains the heaviest?

Section 2

- Human Systems** In what ways have invasions, trade, and outside control affected Indian society and culture?
- Human Systems** What is India's main religion? Which other religions are found there?

Section 3

- Places and Regions** What conflicts does India have with Pakistan?

Thinking Critically

- Drawing Inferences and Conclusions** How does the timing of the summer monsoons relate to the tilt of Earth on its axis?
- Comparing and Contrasting** How does Indian village life compare to city life?
- Making Generalizations and Predictions** How might rapid population growth make it hard for India to develop its economy?

Using the Geographer's Tools

- Analyzing Maps** Study the map of India's states and territories in Section 3. What are some of India's largest states? What are some of the smallest? What might this indicate about the distribution of political power in India?
- Analyzing Graphs** Study the graph of population growth in India and China in Section 3. What was the combined population of India and China in 2000?
- Preparing Graphs** Create a pyramid graph of India's four major castes, using the information in Section 2. At the top of the pyramid, list India's highest caste. At the bottom, list the lowest caste. Which group is below the lowest caste?

Writing about Geography

Write an article comparing India's cottage industries and commercial industries. What types of goods are produced in cottage industries? Who makes up the workforce? How are cottage industries different from India's commercial industries? When you are finished with your article, proofread it to make sure you have used standard grammar, spelling, sentence structure, and punctuation.



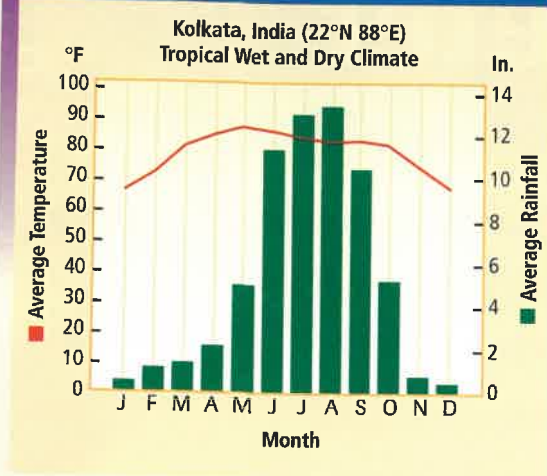
SKILL BUILDING

Geography for Life

Skills Activity: Analyzing Political Instability

Places and Regions Review the discussion of political issues in Section 3. Which areas in India are politically unstable? How is religion a factor in the country's internal and external conflicts? How does political instability in India compare to political instability in other areas of the world that you have studied? Generally, what are some of the forces that affect political stability?

Climate Graph for Kolkata



Interpreting Graphs

Use the climate graph to answer the following questions.

- During which months is the average rainfall above 12 inches?
 - June, July
 - April, May
 - August, September
 - July, August
- Which three months would be the least favorable to explore Kolkata by car? Why?

Analyzing Primary Sources

Read the following excerpt from an article that Geoffrey C. Ward wrote after visiting India during the 50-year anniversary of its independence from Britain. Then answer the following questions.

“For all its newfound modernism India remains steeped in religion. The pious cacophony [discordant sounds] I hear from my window each dawn attests to that. First comes chanting from a Sikh gurdwara [temple], which is soon partly drowned out by the sound of temple bells and the voice of a priest offering prayers from a Hindu temple dedicated to Siva. Then, louder than the rest, comes the wobbly tenor of a Muslim muezzin [crier], proclaiming the greatness of Allah from a mosque.”

- Which religion is not mentioned in the excerpt?
 - Islam
 - Judaism
 - Hinduism
 - Sikhism
- In what ways does the writer imply that the past and traditions are still important to modern India?

Alternative Assessment

PORTFOLIO ACTIVITY

Learning about Your Local Geography

Individual Project: Research

Plan, organize, and complete a research project on population growth in your community. In your report answer the following questions: What is the history of population growth in your community during the last 50 years? How many people live in your community today? Is the population increasing or decreasing? What are the reasons for the trend? What do you think will happen in the next 20 years? How has population change affected life in your community?

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Internet Activity: go.hrw.com
KEYWORD: SW3 GT25

Choose an activity on India to:

- explore the regions of India.
- take the India GeoMap Challenge!
- learn about economic and social issues in India today.

