

Visit this website to complete the gaps in the text below

Where is India?

India is located in south _____. The capital is _____, and the language most people speak is _____. A person who is from India is Indian. India is the seventh largest country in the world, and it has the second highest population after _____. A large portion of India is surrounded by the Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea. The _____ Mountains stretch along India's northern border, and countries around India include Pakistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh.

Top 10 facts

About 1.2 _____ people live in India.
The capital of India is New Delhi, but the largest city is _____.
Hindi is the main language in India, and most people speak _____ as well.
The currency in India is the _____.
The main religion in India is _____. The next most popular religion is _____; Sikhs and Christians also live in the country. (A Hindu \neq an Indian \neq Hindi)
One of the most important Hindu festivals is _____, also called the 'festival of lights'.
Women in India wear _____, and men wear dhotis. Both are long pieces of cloth draped around the body in a certain way.
_____ are seen as sacred in India – nobody eats beef, and most people are vegetarians.
India has a very large film industry called _____.
Animals found in India include _____ tigers, elephants, flying foxes, lions and macaques.

Did you know?

People in India greet each other by saying ' _____ ' (pronounced na-ma-stay) which means 'I bow my head to you'.
Indian Independence Day is celebrated on 15 August. India became independent after _____ rule on 15 August 1947.
A popular instrument in India is the _____, which is like a guitar but with a much longer neck.
The _____ season in India is the time when the country has the most rain, and it can last from July to September.
The money that people in India use is called _____ – £1 is worth about the same as 85 rupees.
One of the main festivals in India is Diwali – it takes place around the end of October, and signals the start of the new year in the Indian calendar. Everyone lights lamps in their homes during Diwali, so it is also called the 'festival of _____'.
There are three bodies of water around India: the _____ Ocean, Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal.
The main river in India is the _____, in the northeast of the country.
_____ are considered sacred in India, and must not be harmed. They are allowed to go where they want, and may even cause traffic jams when they walk through cities!
India is the _____ country in the world where both lions and tigers live.
_____ in India begin school in April or June.

About

The Indian _____ has to be made from a special fabric called khadi. The colours and symbol each represent something – _____ represents courage and sacrifice, _____ represents truth and purity, _____ represents peace and prosperity, and the symbol in the centre (Ashoka Chakra) stands for the laws of virtue (dharma).

Four religions began in India – _____, Hinduism, Sikhism and Jainism. Most people in India today follow Hinduism or Islam.

A paste made from henna plants is used to paint intricate designs on the skin. This is usually done for festivals, or for _____.

The Himalayas extend across the top of India, and are about 2,400 kilometres long. The tallest mountain in the world, Mount _____, is part of the Himalayas.

India has a variety of terrain, including jungles, coastal plains and a desert (Thar Desert). There are 12 main rivers that flow across India, and the longest is the _____.

There are two archaeological sites in northwest _____ that are thought to be the earliest civilisations known in the country. They existed about 5,000 years ago, and are located in the region called the Indus Valley.

The period of time when India was ruled by Britain is called the British Raj. It lasted for almost a _____. India was given its independence in _____, following a nationalist movement led by Mohandas _____.

Social classes in India are called _____. People who do not belong to any caste are called 'untouchables'.

India's form of government is a _____ – it is the world's largest _____.

Indian food is characterised by lots of _____, such as cinnamon, turmeric, coriander, anise and cardamom. Each region of India produces different kinds of food.

The _____ in Agra is one of India's most famous sights. It is actually a tomb built in the 17th century to honour the wife of Shah Jahan, who died in childbirth.

India has a high level of _____ – over 30% of people in India have very little money to buy food and supplies. Poor children may have to work at a very young age to help their parents. There is a huge _____ between richer people, who tend to live in the cities, and the rural poor who live in the countryside.

Names to know

Gautam _____ (563-483 BC) is the founder of Buddhism. During his life, he was known for being a spiritual teacher.

Guru Nanak (1469-1539) founded Sikhism. Leaders of Sikhism are called _____ in honour of Guru Nanak.

Mohandas _____ (1869-1948) led a nationalist movement in India that supported independence from British rule. He was also called _____, which is a title of honour. Ghandi was known for supporting non-violent forms of protest.

Rudyard _____ (1865-1936) is an English author who spent some of his life as a child and young adult in India. His time in India and the culture there inspired much of his writing. He is most known for his Just So Stories and The _____ Book.