

**WORLD CULTURES**  
**Learning Unit No. 3**  
**Indian Subcontinent - Geography**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT OUTCOME:** To develop a basic knowledge of the geography of the Indian Subcontinent and its implications.

- I. Countries (subcontinent = a vast and self-contained subdivision of a continent  
The Indian Subcontinent stretches northward into the Himalayas and  
comprises all of the Indian Peninsula including Pakistan)

- |  |                                       |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| A. India                               | D. Bhutan                             |
| B. Pakistan (formerly West Pakistan)   | E. Sri Lanka (formerly Ceylon)        |
| C. Bangladesh (formerly East Pakistan) | F. Nepal                              |
|  | G. Jammu/Kashmir (disputed territory) |

II. Size

India = 1,266,595 square miles  
Bangladesh = 55,598 square miles  
Pakistan = 310,403 square miles

TOTAL = 1,632,596 square miles  
(United States = 3,540,939 square miles)

III. Peripheral Countries

- |                             |                                     |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A. Iran                     | D. Tajikistan (former Asian S.S.R.) |
| B. Afghanistan              | E. China (P.R.C.)                   |
| C. Myanmar (formerly Burma) |                                     |

IV. Bodies of Water

- A. Indian Ocean
- B. Bay of Bengal
- C. Arabian Sea

V. Rivers

- A. Ganges (Jumna, Hooghly)
- B. Indus
- C. Brahmaputra

VI. Major Landforms

- A. Himalayan Mountains (Mt. Everest 29,028 ft.)
- B. Khyber Pass
- C. Eastern and Western Ghats
- D. Vindhya Mountains

VII. Cities

- |               |                       |                     |
|---------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| A. Islamabad* | E. Kathmandu*         | J. New Delhi*       |
| B. Karachi    | F. Bangalore          | K. Mumbai (Bombay)  |
| C. Colombo*   | G. Calcutta           | L. Amritsar         |
| D. Dhaka*     | H. Varanasi (Benares) | M. Chennai (Madras) |

### VIII. Geographic Regions

- A. Himalayan Mountain Region
- B. Indo-Gangetic Plain
- C. Deccan Plateau
- D. Southern Coastal Region

### IX. Climatic Factors

- A. little temperature variation
- B. the monsoon factor (Assam rainforest - 400 inches per year)

### X. Natural Resources - iron ore and manganese

### XI. Location

- A. the Indian Subcontinent lies in a subtropical zone (10 to 30 degrees north latitude)
- B. although having an extensive coastline it has few natural ports
- C. the northern region of the subcontinent is on a natural line of transportation between east and west

### XII. Population (you are not responsible for these numbers, however, we will draw conclusion based on the statistics)

#### A. size (est. July 2000)

India	=	1,014,000,000	(second largest in the world , 2020 projection = 1,320,000,000*)
Bangladesh	=	129,000,000	
Pakistan	=	142,000,000	
TOTAL	=	1,285,000,000	(Nepal = 24 mil., Sri Lanka = 19.2 mil., Bhutan = 2 mil.)

United States = 276,000,000 (India = 800 people per sq. mile, U.S. = 78 )

China = 1,262,000,000

\* India's population growth rate is over 1.58% (Australia has a population of 19 million)

United States = .9%

#### Population Conclusions:

#### B. Ethnic Diversity

#### C. Social Diversity

1. urban/rural - India is a country of villages (India = 28% urban, U.S. 76%)
2. educated/illiterate (India = 52% literacy, U.S. 97%)
3. caste system

#### D. Linguistic Diversity

- India:
1. 1,600 mother tongues and countless dialects
  2. 16 constitutionally approved official languages
  3. English is the communications network among India's educated
  4. Hindi (the lingua franca of northern India) is one of the five most spoken languages in the world

#### E. Religious Diversity

- A. India - "Officially a secular state, it is the Hindu homeland, with a half-billion people embraced in the Hindu system."

- It is one of the four largest Muslim countries (75 million in 1981) following Indonesia and ranking with Pakistan and Bangladesh.
- "It also includes between 10 and 20 million Christians and nearly as many Sikhs, along with a few million Buddhists and Jains and a few hundred thousand Parsis."
- 80% Hindu, 14% Moslem, 2.4% Christian, 2% Sikhs, .7 Buddhist, .5 Jains

B. Pakistan - 97% Moslem

C. Bangladesh - 88% Moslem, 11% Hindu

D. Nepal - 90% Hindu, 5% Buddhist, 3% Moslem

E. Sri Lanka - 69% Buddhist, 15% Hindu, 8% Christian, 7% Moslem

F. Physical Diversity

G. Government Divisions - 25 states, 7 union territories