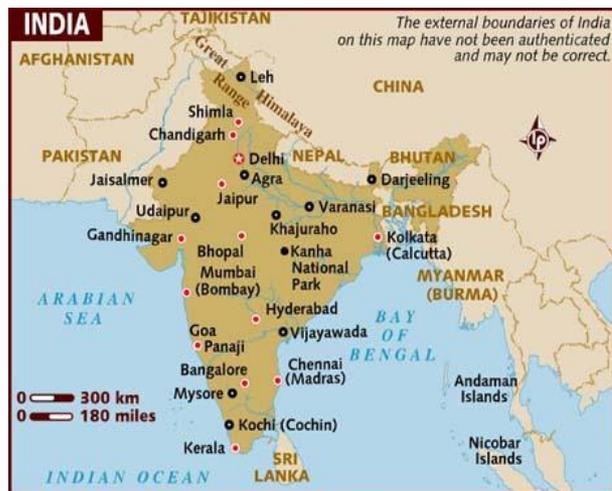




Lesson 1. An Introduction to India. Where is India located in the world and what are the main physical and human features of India?



INDIA FAST FACTS



Languages: English, Hindi, Urdu

Where in the world?



7 main regions of India

- Kashmir (region)
- Kolkotta (city)
- Delhi (city & region)
- Mumbai (city)
- Gujarat (region)
- Bangalore (city)
- Goa (region)



Capital: New Delhi

7th largest country in the world



Most common occupation: farming

Currency: rupees

Total population: 1.2 billion

Religions:



India facts:

- OFFICIAL NAME: Republic of India, Bharat.
- FORM OF GOVERNMENT: Federal republic.
- CAPITAL: New Delhi.
- POPULATION: 1,236,344,631.
- OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: Hindi, English, 21 others.
- MONEY: Rupee.
- AREA: 3,287,590 square kilometres.
- MAJOR MOUNTAIN RANGE: Himalaya.
- MAJOR RIVERS: Ganges, Yamuna, Indus, Brahmaputra.



Lesson 2. What are the main types of landscapes in India and how diverse is the country?



The **Himalayas** are mountains reaching across northern India and bordering countries. India has the largest area of snow and glaciers in the world covering 248,000km.

The **Deccan Plateau** is an area of raised land occupying much of central India. It is bordered by two hill ranges.



The **Western Ghats** are hills that are often called the 'backbone of India'. They stretch from the tip of the country for 1000k along the west coast.

The **Thar Desert** is also known as the 'Great Indian Desert'. It forms the border between India and south eastern Pakistan.



The **River Ganges** rises in the Himalayas and flows into the Bay of Bengal.



The **Bay of Bengal** is a bay that borders India, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Thailand.

India's main physical features are the Deccan plateau the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats, the River Ganges, the Himalaya mountains and the Thar desert.

The main rivers are the Ganges and the Brahmaputra,

Because of India's size its climate depends not only on the time of year but also the location. It ranges from tropical in the south to temperate and alpine in the Himalayas.

India has three seasons - summer, rainy or monsoon, and winter.

The town of Cherrapunjee is famous for being the wettest place on Earth. It has 12 metres of rain a year - 15 times the amount of the UK. The total average rainfall for London is 752.1 mm for Bangalore it is 859.6 mm.



Lesson 3. What is the Indian Monsoon Season and How do They Form?

What is India's Monsoon Wind System?

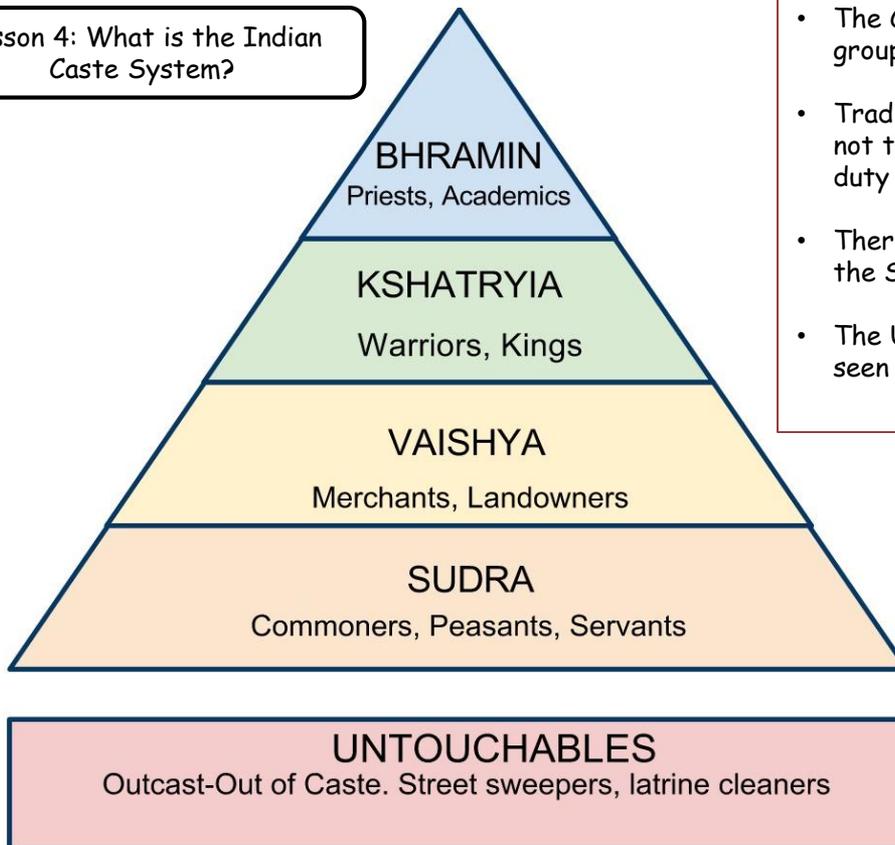
This is the name of the wind system which dominates the Indian climate. It's completely different from wind systems which dominate many other countries in the world. This is because the monsoon changes direction at different times of the year, whereas other wind systems tend to always blow in the same direction. The monsoon lasts from June to October. From June to October the monsoon arrives from the southwest. On some mountain ranges facing the sea, rainfall can be very heavy indeed. The coolest, driest time over most of the country is from December to February, then from March to May the climate gets hotter and hotter until the monsoon arrives. From June to October the monsoon arrives from the southwest. On some mountain ranges facing the sea, rainfall can be very heavy indeed. The coolest, driest time over most of the country is from December to February, then from March to May the climate gets hotter and hotter until the monsoon arrives.



Why is the monsoon season so important to people in India?

- The monsoon rains are really important for farmers - if their crops do not get enough water then they will die, and then there will not be enough food for people to eat.
- It is also important to people in the cities because it helps provide their drinking water for the rest of the year.
- The economy revolves around the monsoon. If there isn't enough rain, there are less crops for farmers to sell. A lot of the country's economy is based upon farming.

Lesson 4: What is the Indian Caste System?



- The Caste system in India is a system of dividing up society into different groups. The groups that people are put in affect all aspects of their lives.
- Traditionally in India people should marry someone of the same caste (if not their children will be outcastes) and should do a job which follows the duty of their caste.
- There are 4 castes in India - the Bhramin are the highest up in society and the Sudra are the lowest caste in society.
- The Untouchables are outcasts that do not belong to any group and are seen as 'lesser beings' by some in Indian society.

- The first and most important group are the **Brahmins**. These are the priests and holy men of society.
- The second group are the **Kshatriyas**, the soldiers and rulers of the country, whose job it is to protect the rest of society.
- The **Vaishyas** were shop-keepers, merchants and farmers. These were the people who kept the economy going and met the materialistic needs of society.
- The lowest caste is the **Shrudras**, who serve the other groups and provide a labour force. They sell their services.



Incredible India Topic Glossary

Keyword	Definition
Himalayas	The Himalayas are mountains reaching across northern India and bordering countries. India has the largest area of snow and glaciers in the world covering 248,000km.
Deccan Plateau	The Deccan Plateau is an area of raised land occupying much of central India. It is bordered by two hill ranges.
Western Ghats	The Western Ghats are hills that are often called the 'backbone of India'. They stretch from the tip of the country for 1000k along the west coast.
Thar Desert	The Thar Desert is also known as the 'Great Indian Desert'. It forms the border between India and south eastern Pakistan.
River Ganges	The River Ganges rises in the Himalayas and flows into the Bay of Bengal.
monsoon	This is the name of the wind system which dominates the Indian climate, bringing persistent rainfall during the months of June to October. From October to April, the monsoon winds bring dry weather.
caste system	The Caste system in India is a system of dividing up society into different groups. The groups that people are put in affect all aspects of their lives.