

# Year 5 Snapshot - Incredible India

## India

Capital City: New Delhi

Land Borders: Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar and Bangladesh

Population: Over 1.4 billion (2024)

Official Language: Hindi

Climate: Ranges from tropical monsoon in the south to temperate in the north

Currency: Indian rupee



India is known as a peninsula as most of the country is surrounded by water on three sides - the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

India has a very varied landscape. Rainforests, mountains and grasslands can all be found there. The Thar Desert in the northwest covers around 200,000 square km and many geologists believe that it is between 4000 and 10,000 years old.

Perhaps one of India's most well-known landmarks is the Taj Mahal in Agra. It was built in the 1600s and is covered by white marble on the outside. It is listed as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

## Key vocabulary/knowledge:

**1) Himalayas:** A vast mountain range that runs along the Northern edge of India, bordering with Nepal. Mount Everest (the highest mountain in the world) is in the Himalayas.

**2) Ganges:** The Ganges river runs through India and Bangladesh. It provides essential water for India, is home to endangered wildlife and is a sacred river to Hindus.

**3) Climate:** The average weather in a place over a long time, not just day to day! Temperature, rainfall, snowfall, and wind all make up a location's climate.

**4) Terrain:** The terrain means what an area of land is like. India's terrain is very mixed —mountains, jungles, deserts and coasts.

**5) Culture:** The things that are typically associated with a society such as food, art, clothing, music, religion, traditions and customs.

## British Empire

In the 1600s, Britain began to spread its rule and powers beyond its borders, and used the resources of other countries for its own gain (**colonialism**). The power and wealth it gained came at the expense of indigenous people.

Britain built its empire based on trade. British trading companies, such as the East India Company, became so powerful that they controlled much of the trade in the colonies and around the world. Colonies provided valuable raw materials, such as sugar, tea, tobacco and cotton, which were imported into Britain. Then, these were used in factories to manufacture new goods that were resold for profit. A huge amount of money was made by exporting these goods.

By 1945, the British Empire was in decline, as lots of countries wanted their independence. Steadily, over the next few decades, British colonies achieved independence, including India in 1947.

