

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 it is surrounded by water on three sides - the Arabian Sea, the Indian Ocean and the Bay of Bengal.

India has a varied landscape, including rainforests, mountains and grasslands.

The Thar Desert is in the northwest, covering around 200,000 square km.

The Taj Mahal in Agra is a famous landmark, built in the 1600s. It is listed as one of the New Seven Wonders of the World.

Key vocabulary/knowledge:

1) Himalayas: A larger mountain range in northern India; includes Mount Everest, the world's highest mountain.

2) Ganges: A major river in India and Bangladesh; important for water, wildlife, and Hindu religion.

3) Climate: The average weather in a place over a long time. Temperature, rainfall, snowfall, and wind all make up a location's climate.

4) Terrain: What the 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.

6) Population density: How many people live in a certain area.

7) Colonise: When one group of people take control of another group of people and their land.

8) Independence: When a country gets to rule itself.

9) Partition: To divide a place (country) into two or more places.

British Empire

In the 1600s, Britain began expanding beyond its borders. This is called **colonialism** (taking control of other countries). Britain used resources from other countries for its own benefit, which came at the expense of indigenous people.

Britain built its empire based on trade. British trading companies, such as the East India Company, 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. These materials were used in factories to make goods that were sold for profit, making Britain very wealthy.

By 1945, the British Empire began to decline, as lots of countries wanted independence. Over time, British colonies achieved independence, including India in 1947.

