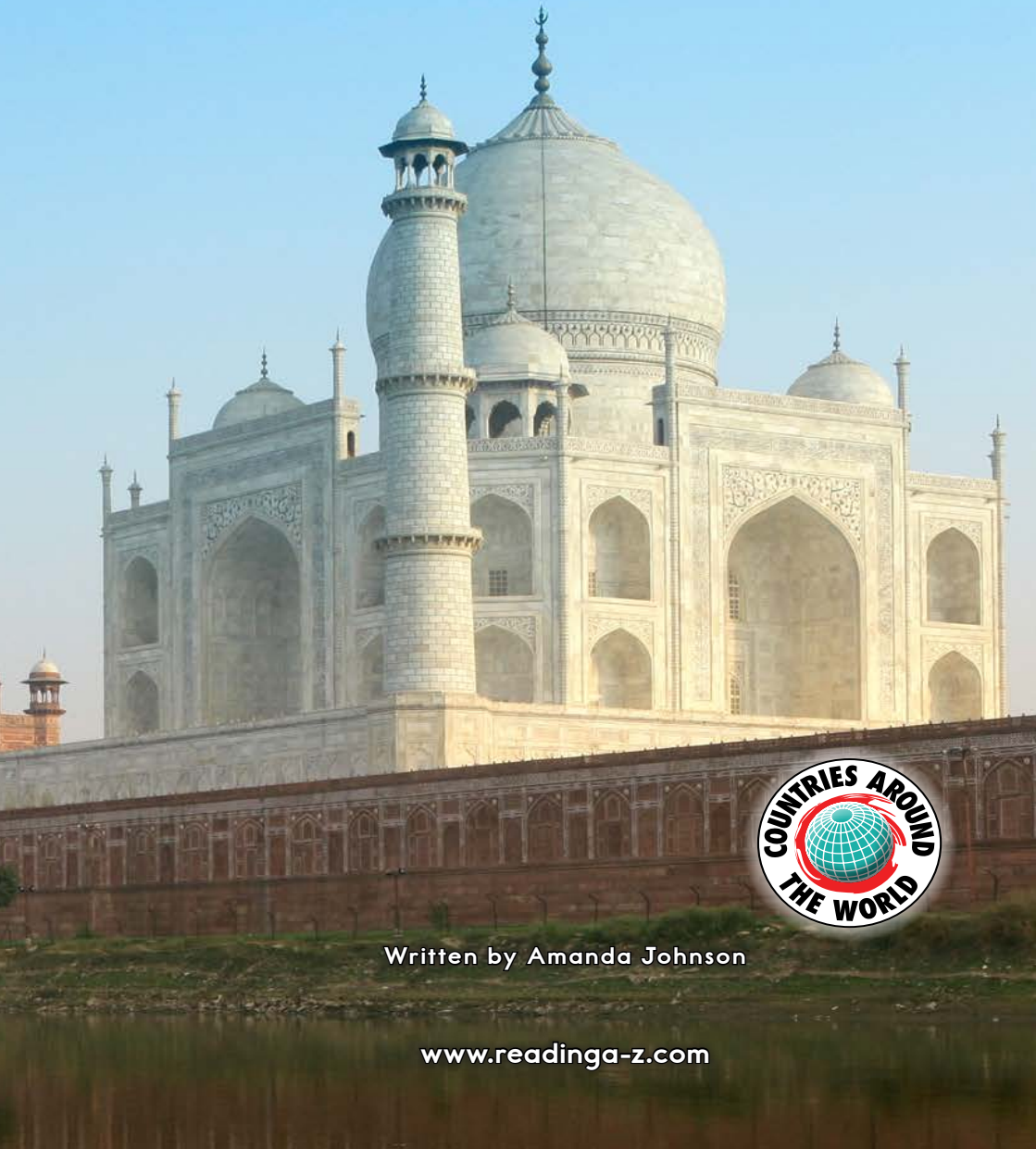


LEVELED BOOK • K

India



Written by Amanda Johnson

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India



Where Is It?

India is a country in Asia. Much of it is surrounded by water. To the south and west is the Arabian Sea. To the south and east is the Bay of Bengal.

The capital of India is New Delhi (DEL-ee). It is part of the much larger city of Delhi. More than twenty million people live in Delhi and New Delhi.



New Delhi has wider streets than the rest of Delhi.



Many people in the countryside must carry water from a well to their homes.

People

More than one billion people live in India. Only China has more people than India.

Most Indian people live in the countryside. The cities do not have as many people. They are very crowded, though.

Around half of the people in India make their living from growing food. They grow crops or raise sheep, goats, and chickens for meat. They do not raise cows for meat. Most Indians are **Hindu**. Hurting a cow is against the Hindu religion.



People in India have used elephants to carry crops and do other kinds of work for a long time.

India's Landforms



Land

India has many mountains and different kinds of flat land. The mountains are in the north. They are the highest in the world.



The Thar Desert in northern India is sandy and very large. The wind forms the sand into dunes that are always changing.

Rich land covers the north of India. It was formed long ago as rivers flooded over and over. In the west is the dry **desert**.

In the south is raised, flat land. This land takes up more than half of India.

In May or June every year, winds bring a large amount of rain. This is called the **monsoon** season. Most of India's rain falls during this season.



Diwali is the Festival of Lights. It honors the Hindu goddess of wealth.

Celebrations

People in India celebrate many special days. Diwali (dih-WAH-lee) lasts for five days. During this **festival**, people light small candles. They shoot **firecrackers** and give sweets to family and friends.



Holi is a colorful celebration.

Holi (HOH-lee) is a spring Hindu festival. During Holi, people celebrate the end of winter. They throw colored water and powder on each other.



Monkeys are found all over India, even in large cities.

Animals

Many kinds of animals live in India.
It is the only country in the world
with both lions and tigers.

Elephants live in the flat lands and
forests. The mountains are home to
bears, foxes, sheep, and wild goats.



Bengal tigers live in the mangrove forests along the Bay of Bengal.

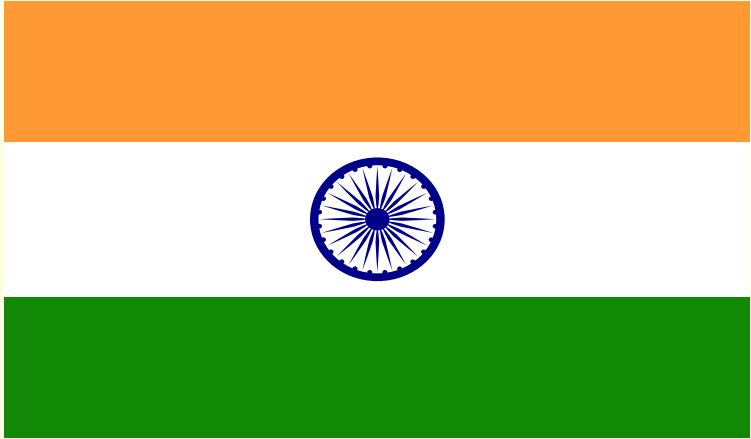
India is also home to the world's largest **mangrove** forest. Here, tigers swim with sea turtles, sharks, and crocodiles.



In many schools in India, children wear uniforms.

Conclusion

India is a country of many people. People farm its rich soil to feed the nation. Its mountains and forests are home to many animals. Which part of India would you like to see?



Population: 1,236,344,631

Land: 2,973,193 sq km (1,147,956 sq. mi.)

Capital City: New Delhi

Primary Language: Hindi

Currency: Rupee (ROO-pee)



Source: Central Intelligence Agency (July 2014),
World Bank

Glossary

desert (<i>n.</i>)	an area of land that does not usually get much rain (p. 9)
festival (<i>n.</i>)	a celebration (p. 10)
firecrackers (<i>n.</i>)	small paper tubes with explosive powder inside that make a loud noise (p. 10)
Hindu (<i>adj.</i>)	of or relating to the major religion in India that includes many gods (p. 7)
mangrove (<i>n.</i>)	a tropical tree that grows in swamps or shallow salt water (p. 13)
monsoon (<i>n.</i>)	a seasonal storm that brings heavy rain (p. 9)

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Front and back cover: Many people think the Taj Mahal is one of the most beautiful buildings in the world.

Title page: Indian women who are Hindu usually wear a long colorful cloth called a sari (SAHR-ee).

Page 3: Elephants are used in India for many parades and festivals such as the Elephant Festival in Jaipur (JEYE-poor).

India
Countries Around the World
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Correlation

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India

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Discussion Questions

Compare and Contrast:

How is the land in northern India different from the land in the rest of the country?

Evaluate:

Do you think the festivals in India would be fun to attend? Explain why or why not.



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