



## What makes Asia so special?

Within this combined history and geography topic, pupils should have the opportunity to use a variety of sources in order to collect information about countries within the Continent of Asia (most particularly India and Russia). Pupils should aim to ask a range of questions and understand how to choose reliable sources of evidence to answer them. Pupils will explore effect that past people and events have had on the country. They will also research about the physical geography of the continent and the countries more specifically exploring rivers and mountain ranges.

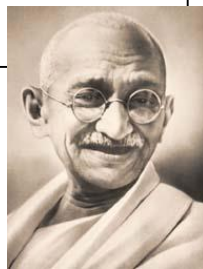
India is a country in South Asia. It is the seventh largest country by area and is the second most populous country in the world. 7 different countries border India: China, Bhutan, Nepal, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

India's capital city is New Delhi. Within the country there are a number of languages spoken such as Punjabi and Gujarati. Religions practiced in India vary including Hinduism, Islam, Sikhism, Christianity, Buddhism and Jainism.

India has a rich history with ancient civilisations such as the Indus Valley Civilisation having great impact on the country. Modern history includes India's fight for freedom and independence, with an important figure within this being Mahatma (Mohandas) Gandhi (born 1869 - died 1948).

### Important Vocabulary

| Spelling                     | Definition  |
|------------------------------|---|
| peacock                      | The national bird of India  |
| Taj Mahal                    | A famous monument in India.   |
| Diwali                       | The festival of light celebrating Rama and Sita.                      |
| Bollywood                    | The Indian film industry.   |
| rangoli                      | colourful patterns  |
| rupee                        | Indian currency   |
| sari                         | Traditional dress worn by Indian women.                               |
| Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism, | Some of the religions practised in India.                             |
| sitar                        | An Indian instrument.   |
| Bhangra dancing              | A type of dance popular in Indian culture.                            |
| rickshaw                     | Vehicle popular in India, can be powered by bicycle, human or engine. |
| Hindi, Gujarati, Punjabi     | Languages spoken in India.  |
| monsoon                      | Three month season of rain in the country.                            |



India has several rivers which run through the country including the Ganges (or Ganga River) which has great significance within the Hindu religion.

The tallest mountain range in the world, The Himalayas, pass through a number of Asian countries, with its highest peak being the famous Mount Everest.



The continent of Asia is the largest continent of our planet, both in size and population, including 48 countries and more than 4.4 billion people.

The Asian continent has a diverse climate ranging from arctic in Russia to tropical in South-East Asia such as Thailand and Vietnam. The continent is culturally diverse with around 2,300 recognised languages, a range of religions celebrated and a wide variety of landmarks and attractions to see.

Largest Country: Russia by landmass, China by population.

Largest City: Tokyo - Japan.

Smallest Country: Maldives

Longest River: Yangtze River (China).

Highest Mountain: Mount Everest



## Russia

Russia is one of few countries in the world which is located in more than one continent. It is located in Eastern Europe and in Northern Asia and is the biggest country in the world.

Population: around 142 million people.

Capital: Moscow

Language: Russian

Currency: Ruble

