

SECTION  
**3**

# Reading for Understanding

## ▶ Key Ideas

### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

India's rich history and culture have contributed to its present diversity.

### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Out of India's diversity, a robust democracy has developed.

## ▶ Vocabulary

### TERMS & NAMES

**parliamentary** relating to a government with the parliament form of legislature

**prime minister** the head of the cabinet and chief executive of government in a parliamentary system

**Kashmir** a region in the northwestern part of the Indian subcontinent; India and Pakistan dispute control of Kashmir

**Green Revolution** the use of special seeds, irrigation, fertilizers, and pesticides to produce high crop yields and food production

**cottage industry** a small business in which the workers manufacture items in their homes

**Bangalore** Indian city that is home to many high-tech industries

### BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

**legislature** the law-making body of a government

**monarch** a king or queen who rules a country or territory



**Visual Vocabulary** Kashmir: boats on Dal Lake

## ▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to note the main ideas about India's government and economy.



Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4

### FIND MAIN IDEAS

GOVERNMENT	ECONOMY	ISSUES AND TRENDS
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.



**GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS**

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# The World's Largest Democracy

## Connecting to Your World

Imagine what the United States might be like if it had 20 political parties. It might be difficult for any party to win control of government. Countries with a large number of political parties sometimes use a **parliamentary** system. This is a system in which the party with the most seats in the **legislature**, or Parliament, selects the head of government. India has a parliamentary system with many political parties.



### Indian Elections

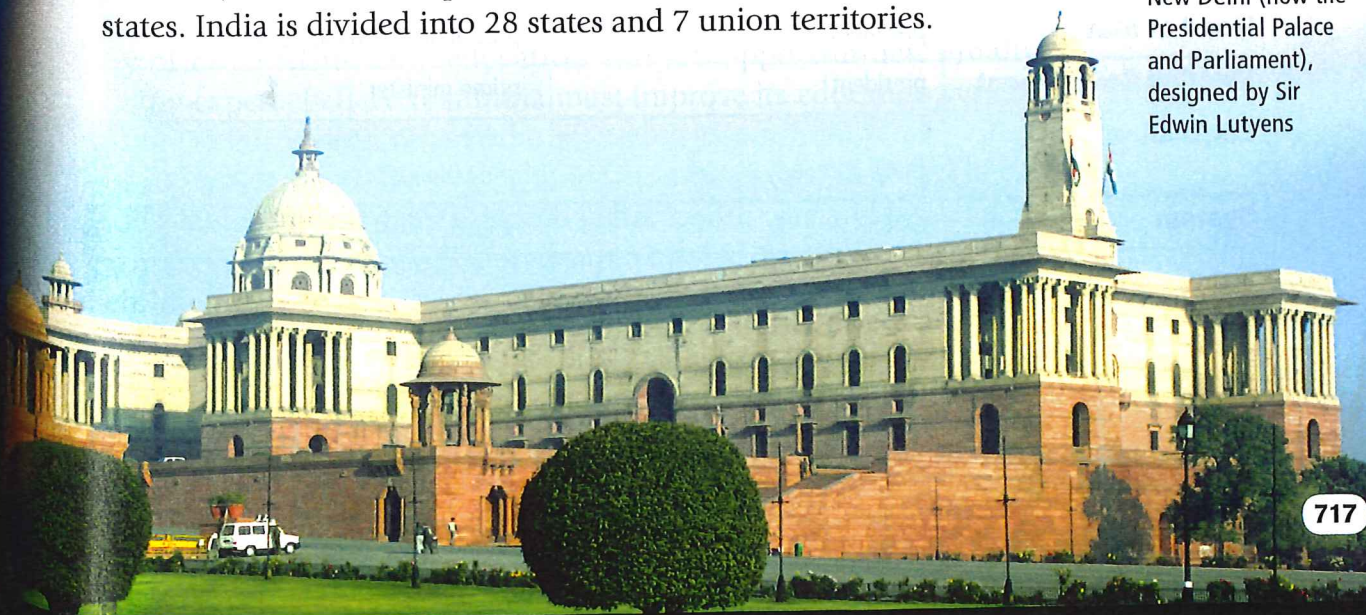
Government official shows voters how to use a voting machine.

## A Giant Republic

**KEY QUESTION** What are some of the challenges faced by the Indian government?

After India gained independence, its leaders decided that it should be a representative democracy. In fact, because India is the second most populous nation, it is the world's largest democracy. The structure of the national government is similar to that of Great Britain, except that India does not have a **monarch**. Like the United States, India has a federal system of government, which divides power between the central government and the states. India is divided into 28 states and 7 union territories.

**New Delhi** The Viceroy's House in New Delhi (now the Presidential Palace and Parliament), designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens





**Government Structure** The Parliament of India consists of two houses. The first is the Lok Sabha (LAWK SUHB•hah)—House of the People. The second is the Rajya Sabha (RAHJ•yuh SUHB•hah)—Council of the States. The people of India vote for the members of the Lok Sabha, who serve five-year terms. The state and territorial legislatures choose almost all the members of the Rajya Sabha.

Parliament is led by a president, who is chosen by the elected members of Parliament and the state and territorial legislatures. In India, the president is the head of state, which is a largely ceremonial position of limited power. The president's duties are to give his assent to all bills before they become law, to name the prime minister, and to appoint 12 members of the Rajya Sabha.

The head of government and most powerful person in India is the **prime minister**. Usually, the prime minister is the leader of the party with the most seats in Parliament. The prime minister heads a Council of Ministers, which oversees the daily work of government. The prime minister and council usually serve for five years. But if the prime minister loses the legislature's support, the president may dissolve the Lok Sabha and call for new elections. In that case, a new parliament is formed and a new prime minister chosen.

**Indian Flag** In the center of the flag of modern India is a Buddhist symbol—the wheel of dharma.



**Government Challenges** As you read in Section 1, when the British colony of India gained independence, it was divided into India and Pakistan. The partition triggered mass migrations of refugees and outbreaks of violence between Muslims and Hindus. Since then, India and Pakistan have worked to resolve problems such as the conflict over Kashmir and the expanding populations in both countries.

## COMPARING U.S. and Indian Governments

	UNITED STATES	INDIA
<b>Type</b>	representative democracy	parliamentary democracy
<b>Head of State</b>	president	president (symbolic position)
<b>Head of Government</b>	president	prime minister
<b>Legislature</b>	two-house congress (both popularly elected)	two-house congress (only one popularly elected)
<b>System</b>	federal	federal

### CRITICAL THINKING

**Make Inferences** How would you explain India's preference for a parliamentary system of government rather than a presidential system?



**Kashmir** An ongoing source of tension between the two nations is the region of **Kashmir** (KASH•meer) in the northwestern part of the subcontinent. The region is important because through it flows the Indus River, an important water source for both nations.

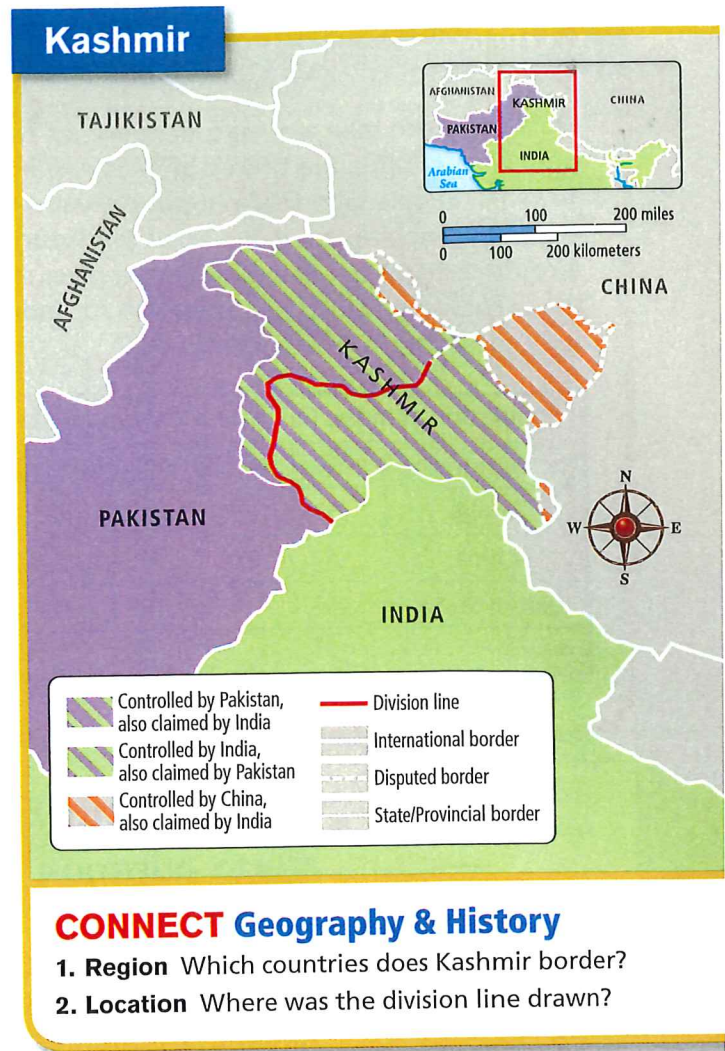
Kashmir was one of the princely states, which Britain had allowed to be ruled by a local prince. As such, it had the right to decide whether to join India or Pakistan. The ruler of Kashmir was Hindu, but most of the people were Muslims who wanted to join Pakistan. Some of those Muslims started an uprising, and Pakistani forces invaded Kashmir. The prince then announced Kashmir would join India, causing war to erupt between India and Pakistan. Eventually, the two countries divided Kashmir, but since then, fighting over the region has broken out several times.

The simmering tension between the two countries is a source of concern. During the late 1990s, India and Pakistan each tested nuclear weapons. Other nations worry that if a new war starts between India and Pakistan, they might resort to using those weapons.

**Population Explosion** In 2005, India had 1.1 billion people. Experts estimate that by 2050, India will have 1.6 billion people, the world's largest population. Providing for all those people will be a challenge. They will need housing, food, water, jobs, health care, and government services.

The Indian government is taking several steps to deal with this challenge. First, it has run publicity campaigns to persuade people to have fewer children. Second, it has tried to improve women's lives by offering them more education and job opportunities. Finally, many experts believe that India must improve its education system. Many children drop out of school to work, so only about 60 percent of Indians can read and write. Education helps people to get better jobs, which enable them to afford better health care and housing. As families gain more wealth, they tend to have fewer children and their children tend to stay in school longer.

**FIND MAIN IDEAS** Describe challenges faced by the Indian government.







Most countries take a census, or count, of their population. For example, the United States takes a census every 10 years. People who study population also use mathematical formulas to predict what the future population of a country might be. The table below gives statistics about the actual and predicted population for India, China, and the United States from 1950 to 2050.

Country	1950	1970	1990	2010*	2030*	2050*
India	357	554	849	1,183	1,449	1,592
China	554	830	1,155	1,354	1,446	1,392
United States	157	210	255	312	360	394


Sources: World Population Prospects \* Estimated Figures

## Activity

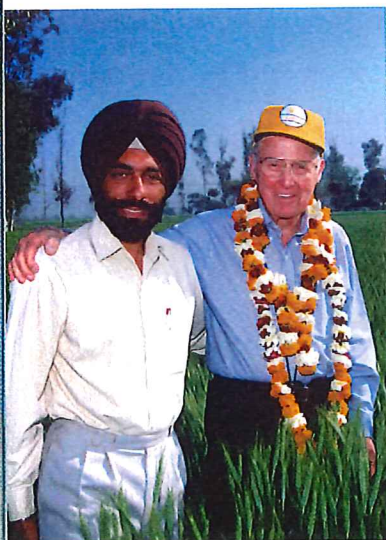
### Make a Line Graph

1. Draw the horizontal axis of your graph. Along that axis, make six marks at even intervals. Label them 1950, 1970, 1990, 2010, 2030, and 2050. 
2. Draw the vertical axis of your graph. Along that axis, make 17 marks at even intervals. Label them 100, 200, and so on up to 1,700.
3. Choose a different colored pencil for each country. Using the color for India, place dots on the graph to mark the population for each year listed on the chart. Using your ruler, connect the dots with lines. Label the line "India." Then repeat for China and the United States. 

## A Booming Economy

 **KEY QUESTION** What resources does India have to help its economy?

**Food for Peace** Norman Borlaug won the Nobel Peace Prize for his work as an agricultural scientist in developing new seeds to feed the world's people. Here he stands with Pradeep Singa, a progressive Indian farmer, in a wheat field.



As you just read, creating jobs helps a country to slow population growth and reduce poverty. In recent years, India has succeeded in promoting economic growth, which in turn led to the creation of new jobs. One reason for the growth is that the government lessened its control of the economy and encouraged private ownership of companies. This decision caused foreign investment to increase, and the inflow of money helped business to boom.

**Agriculture** In spite of the growth of business, most people in India make their living from farming. About half of all the land in India is used for agriculture. Farms are generally small. The average size is five acres, with more than half of all farms less than three acres. Many farmers cannot afford machinery, so they use plows that are pulled by oxen. Some of the main crops of India are rice, wheat, oilseed, cotton, tea, sugar cane, and a fiber called jute. Most farm families struggle to survive on what they grow for themselves.

One solution being considered for this problem is land reform—a more balanced distribution of land among farmers than now exists. Around the year 2000, 5 percent of India's farm families owned nearly 25 percent of India's farmland. Because the large landowners have great political influence, land-reform proposals have never made much progress.



After a series of famines in the 1960s, scientists introduced new farming techniques. India underwent a **Green Revolution**, which was the introduction of seeds that yielded more crops per acre. This increased food production, especially of wheat and rice. In addition, better methods of farming, fertilizers, pesticides, and irrigation have helped farmers to grow more. Today, India produces enough crops to feed all its people.

**Industry** Although agriculture is the main economic activity in India, industry is also an important element. Cotton textiles are a major product of India. In the early 20th century, other industries began to develop.

India has a number of natural resources that can help its economy grow. It has iron ore and coal to make steel, and other minerals such as manganese, bauxite, and chromite. Besides steel, India manufactures cloth, chemicals, processed foods, transportation equipment, and cement. The map on this page shows where some of India's industries are located. The main industrial regions are centered around Kolkata in the east, Mumbai and Ahmadabad in the west, Chennai in the south, and Delhi in the north.

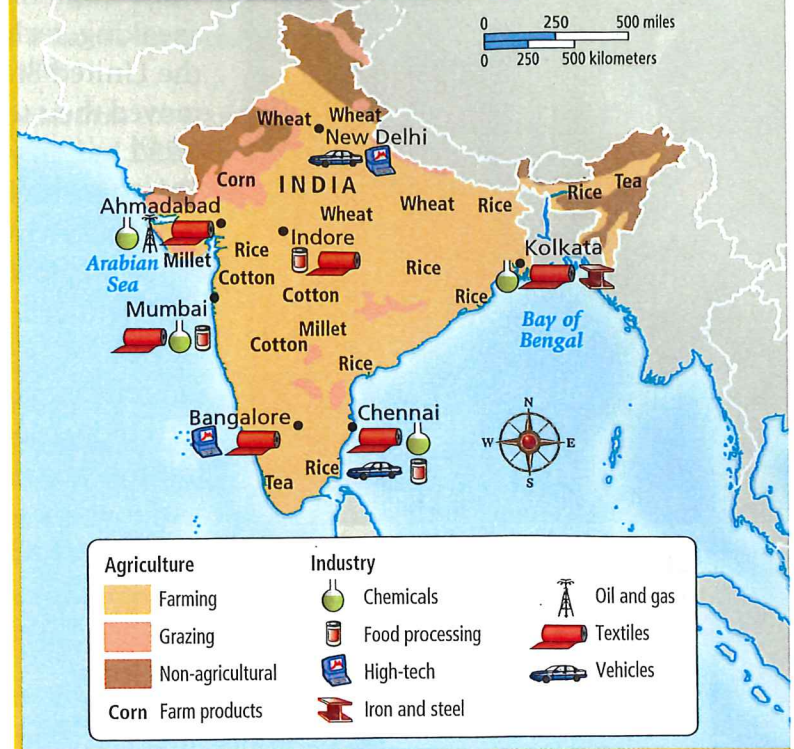
In addition, India has a very large number of **cottage industries**, businesses in which workers produce goods in their homes. Millions of craftspeople create textiles, brassware, jewelry, leather goods, matches, and incense in these industries.

In addition to manufacturing, India benefits from the mining industry. India exports some of its iron ore to other countries. Indian mines also produce precious metals and gemstones, such as silver, diamonds, and emeralds. India exports many cut diamonds to various parts of the world.

**High Tech** Perhaps the fastest growing industry in India is the information technology industry. During the period from 1991 to 2000, the computer software industry increased its earnings from \$150 million to \$5.7 billion. That is an increase of 38 times!

**Agriculture and Industry**

[Click here](#) to compare the ancient and modern resources of India @ [ClassZone.com](#)



**CONNECT Geography & Economics**

**Location** Why might most of India's industrial cities be on the coasts?





**Software** A chip designer looks through a microscope in Bangalore.

One reason for the rapid growth of high-tech industries is that a large percentage of Indians speak English, which has become the international language of business. India has the second-largest number of English-speaking, technically skilled workers in the world (after the United States). In fact, some U.S. companies have moved their technical support departments to India and hired Indian workers to help customers over the phone. This outsourcing of American jobs to India, as well as to other places in the world, is an increasingly controversial aspect of global economic interdependence.

High-tech industries are spread across India in many cities such as Hyderabad, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Delhi. One city in particular, **Bangalore**, is home to many high-tech industries. Bangalore is a large city of more than 6 million people located in southern India. Many international and Indian high-tech businesses have offices there. It is home to over a thousand computer software

companies that are taking advantage of India's low wages and highly skilled workers. To some observers, Bangalore represents the future of the Indian economy.

**SUMMARIZE** Describe India's resources.

**ONLINE QUIZ**  
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**Section 3 Assessment**

**TERMS & NAMES**

- 1. Explain the importance of**
- parliamentary
  - Kashmir
  - Green Revolution
  - Bangalore

**USE YOUR READING NOTES**

- 2. Find Main Ideas** Use your completed chart to answer the following question:  
What challenges does India's expanding population present?

GOVERNMENT	ECONOMY	ISSUES AND TRENDS
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
4.	4.	4.

**KEY IDEAS**

- 3.** What happens if the Indian prime minister loses the support of the legislature?  
**4.** Why is Pakistan so interested in controlling Kashmir?  
**5.** How did the Green Revolution help Indian agriculture?

**CRITICAL THINKING**

- 6. Compare and Contrast** In India, how do the positions of president and prime minister differ?  
**7. Analyze Causes** Why do other countries consider the Kashmir conflict a global problem rather than just a South Asian problem?  
**8. CONNECT to Today** What modern technologies have made it possible for U.S. high-tech companies to hire Indian workers to do their customer support?  
**9. SCIENCE Prepare an Educational Poster** With a partner, research the Green Revolution. Prepare a poster that shows what crops scientists developed high-yielding seeds for and how much more they produced than regular seeds.



## CHAPTER SUMMARY

### Key Idea 1

India is the dominant country of South Asia, and it has a rich and complicated history.

### Key Idea 2

The culture of India is a blend of all of the many influences that have shaped its history.

### Key Idea 3

Out of India's diversity, a robust democracy has developed.

## NAME GAME

Use the Terms & Names list to complete each sentence on paper or online.

- I am a region that India and Pakistan have fought over. Kashmir
- I am the state of wisdom that breaks the cycle of reincarnation. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am the chief executive of government in a parliamentary system. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am an ancient language of India. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am one of the people living in India before the arrival of the Aryans. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a city in southern India that is home to many high-tech industries. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am the sum of a person's actions, which determines his or her fate in the next life. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a small business in which the workers manufacture items in their homes. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am a method of protest that draws attention to a problem without using violence. \_\_\_\_\_
- I am the rebirth of the soul in another body. \_\_\_\_\_

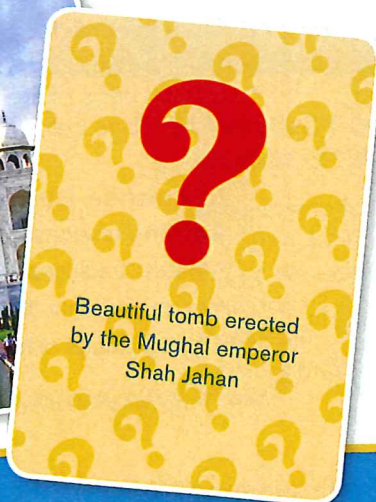
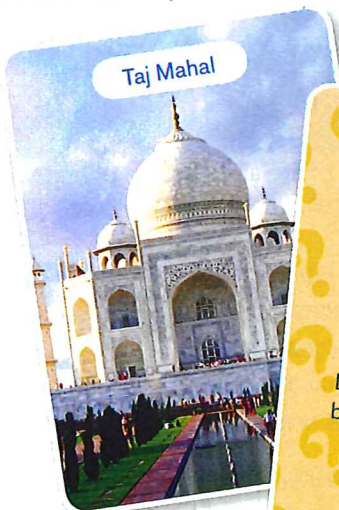
Aryan  
Bangalore  
Buddhism  
cottage industry  
Dravidian  
Hinduism  
karma  
Kashmir  
nirvana  
nonviolent resistance  
parliamentary  
prime minister  
reincarnation  
Sanskrit  
Vedas

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## Activities

### Flip Cards

Use the online flip cards to quiz yourself on the terms and names introduced in this chapter.

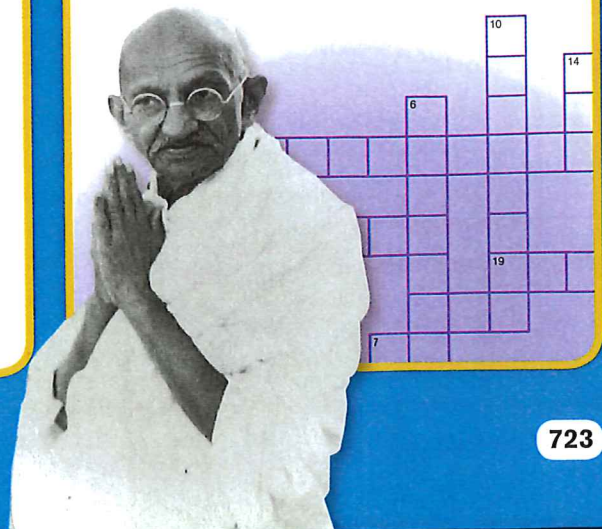


### Crossword Puzzle

Complete an online puzzle to test your knowledge of India's path from early societies to a modern nation.

#### ACROSS

- leader of Indian independence movement





## VOCABULARY

Explain the significance of each of the following.

1. Buddhism
2. cottage industry
3. golden age
4. Green Revolution
5. Hinduism
6. Kashmir
7. Mohandas Gandhi
8. nonviolent resistance
9. parliamentary
10. prime minister



Explain how the terms in each group are related.

11. karma, reincarnation, and nirvana
12. Aryan, Sanskrit, and *Bhagavad-Gita*

## KEY IDEAS

## 1 Empires and Independence

13. How were the Aryans and Dravidians different?
14. How did converting to Buddhism affect Asoka?
15. Why are Akbar and Shah Jahan famous Mughal rulers?
16. Why did partition lead to violence?

## 2 A Rich and Ancient Legacy

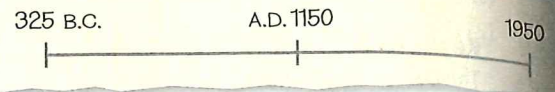
17. What religions are practiced in India?
18. According to the Buddha, how does a person stop suffering?
19. How is village life changing?
20. How are Indian movies different from most American movies?

## 3 The World's Largest Democracy

21. In what way does India have a federal system?
22. How are the members of the parliament chosen?
23. How is the Indian government trying to deal with the population explosion?
24. What are India's main crops?

## CRITICAL THINKING

25. **Sequence Events** Create a time line showing the various empires and major powers that ruled India.



26. **Analyze Causes** Why do you think Indians objected to British rule?
27. **Compare and Contrast** How is Indian government similar to and different from British government?
28. **Connect to Economics** Having many English speakers gives India an economic advantage. Why do you think so many Indians speak English?
29. **Connect Geography & History** What geographic difficulty did the new nation of Pakistan face?
30. **Five Themes: Movement** More Dravidian-speaking people live in southern India than in the north. What might explain that pattern?

Answer the  
ESSENTIAL QUESTION

## How is India's traditional way of life changing in response to modern forces?

**Written Response** Write a two- or three-paragraph response to the Essential Question. Be sure to consider the key ideas of each section, as well as specific ideas about traditional ways of life and modern changes. Use the rubric below to guide your thinking.

## Response Rubric

A strong response will:

- discuss traditional ways of life
- examine the modern forces for change
- give examples of how Indian culture blends the two



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- Test-Taking Strategies and Practice at the front of this book

**THEMATIC MAP**

Use the map and your knowledge of India to answer questions 1 and 2 on your paper.

**Languages of India**



1. In what states are the Dravidian languages mainly spoken?
2. What language would you hear spoken in the state of Rajasthan?

3. What language would you hear spoken in the state of Kerala?

**PRIMARY SOURCE**

Use the following quote from Gandhi to answer question 4 on your paper.

I do not want my house to be walled in on all sides and my windows to be stuffed. I want the cultures of all lands to be blown about my house as freely as possible. But I refuse to be blown off my feet by any.

Source: Mohandas Gandhi

4. Which of the following choices best restates Gandhi's opinion?
  - A. He believed that people of all nations should integrate, or mix, cultures.
  - B. He believed that it is dangerous for people to try to mix cultures.
  - C. He wanted to appreciate other cultures, yet he didn't want people of a foreign culture to rule him.
  - D. He wanted to keep elements of his culture in the privacy of his home, and not to display it in public.

**GeoActivity**

**1. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY-MATH**

Using textbooks, encyclopedias, or the Internet, look up information about the decimal system—how it represents fractions and how numbers are written. Create a poster that illustrates this by converting fractions into decimals.

**2. WRITING FOR SOCIAL STUDIES**

Research to learn more about the life of Mohandas Gandhi. Focus especially on the methods he used to protest British rule. Then write a longer "History Maker" about him.

**3. MENTAL MAPPING**

Create an outline map of India and label the following:

- Mumbai
- Kolkata
- Hyderabad
- Chennai
- Bangalore
- New Delhi