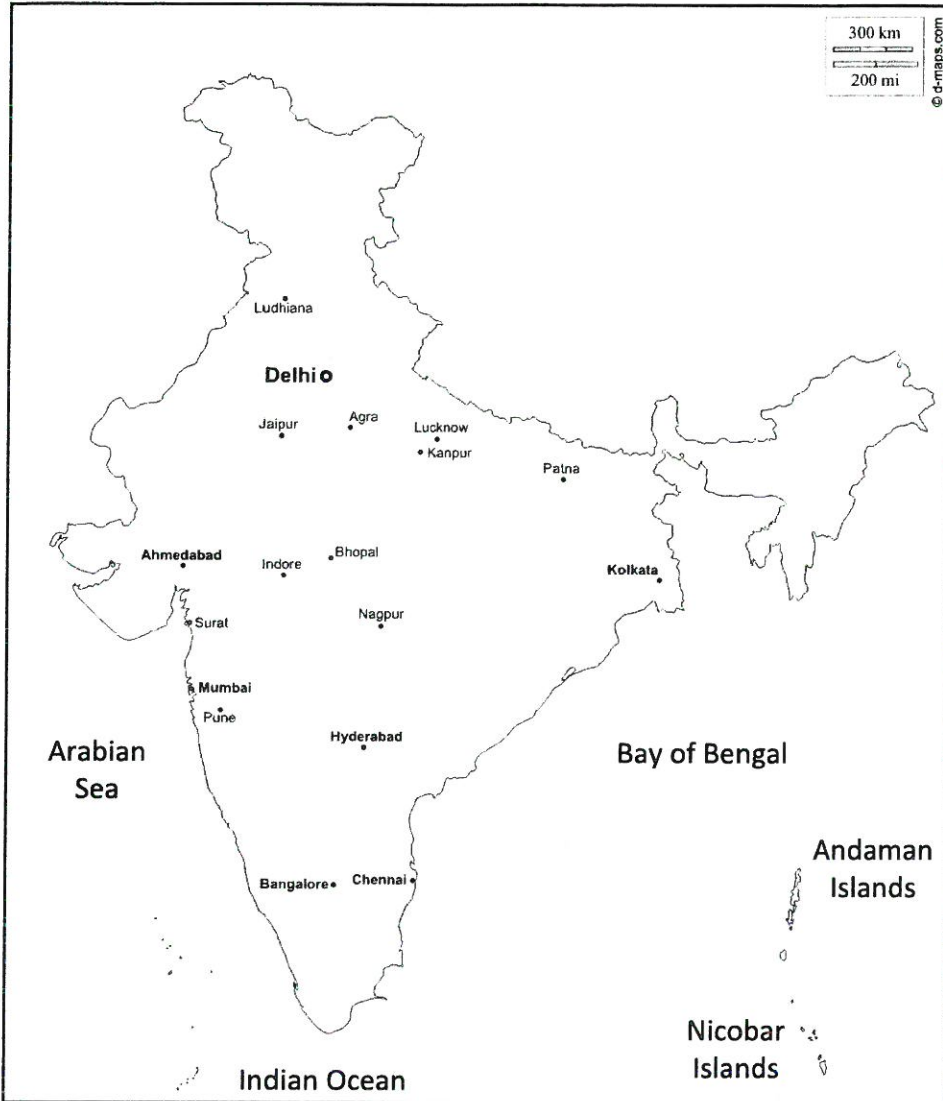


INDIA

Name: _____



1. What is the capital of India?

2. If you traveled from Lucknow to Surat, which direction would you be going?

3. Which ocean is south of India?

4. Which body of water borders India to the west?

5. If you traveled from Hyderabad to Ludhiana, which direction would you be going?

6. India has 1,208 islands, although not all of them are inhabited. Which two groups of islands are shown on this map?

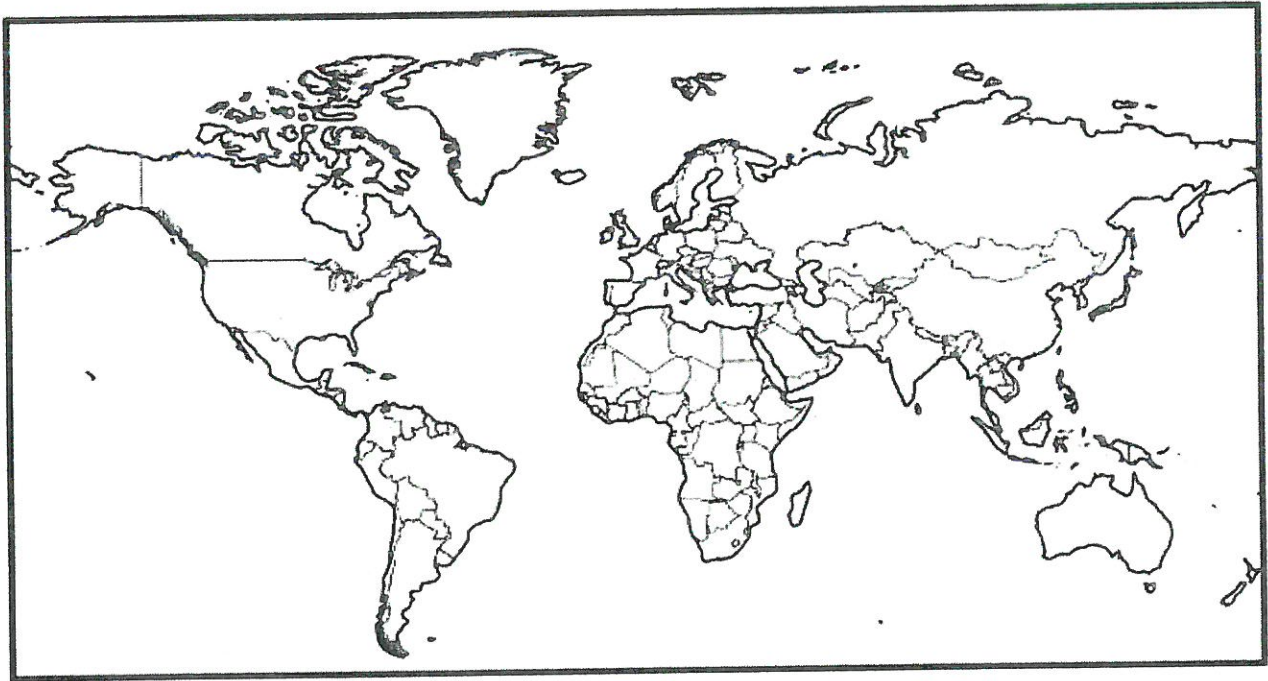
7. To travel from the Taj Mahal in Agra, to the Gateway of India in Mumbai, which direction would you travel?

8. To travel from the Red Fort in Delhi, to a hot air balloon safari in Jaipur, which direction would you travel?

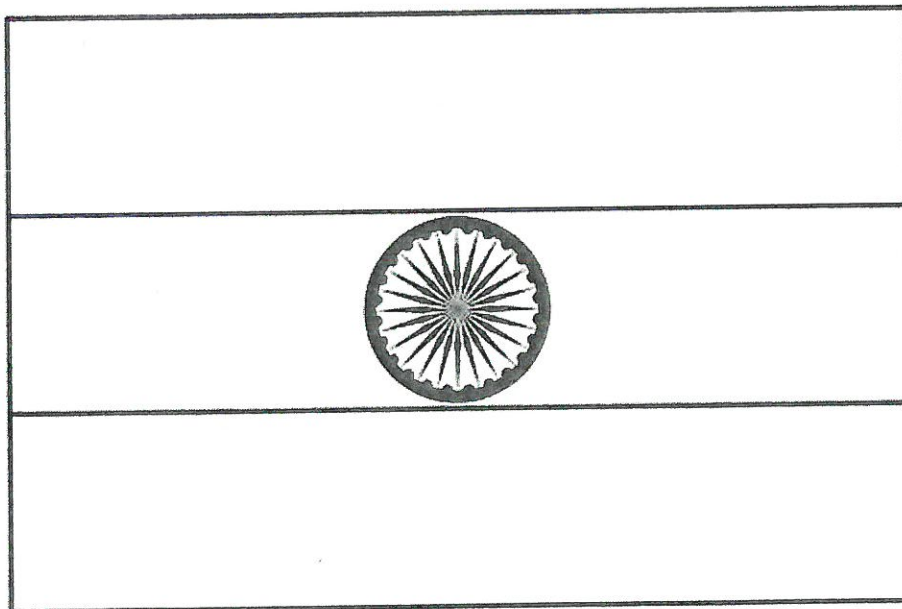
INDIA

Name: _____

Color India on the World Map:



Color India's Flag



orange

white
with a blue
symbol

green

INDIA

Name: _____

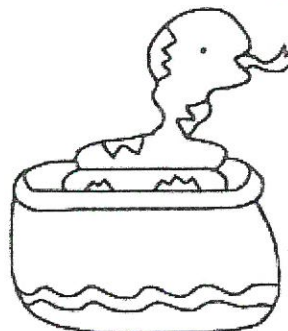


HOW TO SAY MERRY CHRISTMAS:
(Hindi)
Krisamasa kī badhāt
(kriss mus Key bud hi)

Gift Giver:

An Indian Tradition:

TRADITIONAL HOLIDAY FOOD:



Christmas Around the World: India

Name: _____

India has over one billion people, with a variety of religions and beliefs. Although Christmas is one of the smaller festivals in India, it is still a national holiday. Since India was a British colony until 1947, some of the Christmas traditions can be traced to England. Other traditions are uniquely Indian.

The Christmas season starts on advent Sunday. People clean their homes and prepare them for the holidays in a number of ways, depending upon where they live. Many people have Christmas trees, but these are either artificial or consist of banana or mango trees. The leaves of the mango tree are sometimes brought inside and used for decorations too. Trees are filled with ornaments, lights, and fake snow made out of cotton wool.

India is a country that loves color and Christmas decorations reflect that. Colorful lights, paper streamers, and flowers are only a few of the pretty decorations. Large paper stars are also hung between the homes and in southern India, small oil burning clay lamps add light to homes with flat rooftops. Nativity scenes are also an important part of decorating and neighbors often have friendly competitions to see who can create the best display. Caroling around the neighborhood and sending Christmas cards are other traditions that are enjoyed.

One of the favorite traditions for many people is holiday baking. Families get together and bake for a whole weekend or two. Lots of sweets are made like kulkuls (sweet fried dough), neureos (fried pastry stuffed with coconut or dried fruit), nankaties (cardamon cookies) and more!

On Christmas Eve, families often walk to a midnight mass (church service) and find the church decorated with poinsettias and candles. When the service is over, it is officially Christmas Day and the church bells ring to celebrate. Families return home and have a special dinner with foods that may include chicken curry, pork curry, duck, roast turkey, mutton stew, vindaloo (pork with a slivered almond/raisin rice), and steamed rice cakes. Christmas pudding (fruited cake) and an assortment of sweets finish the meal.

On Christmas Day, Santa may leave a few gifts for good children but the emphasis is not on gifts, but on spending time together. Christmas lunch is usually leftovers from the night before and then boxes of homemade sweets are gathered and delivered to each neighbor, whether they are Christian, Hindu, or Muslim.

1. Why are some of the Christmas traditions in India from England?

2. Make an inference. The author stated that, "Many people have Christmas trees, but these are either artificial or consist of banana or mango trees." Why don't the people in India use traditional pine trees for Christmas? _____

3. In the fourth paragraph, the author stated that it takes one to two whole weekends to bake Christmas treats. Why do you think it takes so long to bake all of the Christmas goodies?

4. Out of all of the foods listed (including desserts), which one would you want to try? Explain why.

5. Compare and contrast Christmas day in India to Christmas day in your country. How is it alike? How is it different? _____
