

India

Living in India

India's population is around one sixth of the world's total population. India has a mix of different cultures and people. India is a very crowded and busy place.

School

The number of children who can read and write has grown since compulsory school attendance for all children up to the age of 14 was introduced.

Children attend pre-primary school at the age of five and then primary school. At the age eleven, students in India go to middle school. After four years, at the age of fourteen, they take exams. Students who want to continue their education go to a higher secondary school which prepares them for college. Students can also enrol in a university programme after college.

Work

Farming is the largest employer in India's economy. Due to the large English-speaking population, India provides lots of services for other countries around the world, such as support call centres. The IT industry is one of the largest employers in India. The Indian auto mobile industry is one of the largest in the world with an annual production of 21.48 million vehicles. It also employs many people in India.

Transport

India's public transport systems are among the most heavily used in the world. Public transport is the main mode of transport for most of the population. Buses, cycle-rickshaws, auto-rickshaw taxis, boats and trains provide transport around India's cities. The number of cars in India is low compared to other countries, with only 10.3 million cars on the nation's roads.

India's rail network is the fourth longest and the most heavily used system in the world. In 2014/15, Indian Railways carried more than 23 million passengers a day!

Sport

Across India many different sports are played. Cricket is the most popular sport, while football is also popular. The country has won eight Olympic gold medals in field hockey, another game enjoyed in India.

India has hosted and co-hosted several international sporting events, including

the Asian Games, the Cricket World Cup, the Hockey World Cup and the Commonwealth Games. From 2011 to 2013, India hosted the Indian Grand Prix Formula 1 race. The National Games of India has been held in the country since 1924.

Food

When people think of Indian food, they think of curry! Wheat, basmati rice and pulses like chick peas are important in the Indian diet. Indian food is rich with spices, including ginger, coriander, cardamom, turmeric, dried hot peppers and cinnamon. Chutneys made from fruits and vegetables are used in Indian cooking. Many dishes are for vegetarians, but lamb and chicken are common in main dishes for non-vegetarians. Much of Indian food is eaten with your fingers or with bread to scoop it up. There is a wide range of bread served with meals, including naan (an oven-baked flatbread) or poppadum (disc shaped, fried, crispy bread).

Bollywood

India is well known for its film industry, which is often referred to as Bollywood. The country's movie history began in 1896 in Mumbai. Today, the films are known for their amazing singing and dancing. Indian dance, music and theatre traditions go back more than 2 000 years.

Traditional Dress

Indian women often wear colourful silk saris. The traditional clothing for men is the dhoti, a piece of cloth that is tied around the waist and legs. Men also wear a kurta; a knee-length loose shirt.

Religion

Religion is very important in the life of many people in India. The most common religion is Hindu (approximately 80%), followed by Muslim (12%), Christian (2%) and other religions such as Sikh, Buddhist and Jain.

Festivals

The country celebrates Republic Day (26th January), Independence Day (15th August) and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday (2nd October). Diwali is the largest and most important holiday for India. It is a five-day festival known as the festival of lights. Lights or candles are lit during the celebration to symbolize the inner light that protects people from spiritual darkness. Holi, the festival of colours, is celebrated in the spring.

Questions

1. What fraction of the world's total population is India's population?

2. What school do children in India go to after primary school?

3. Which three industries provide a lot of employment in India?

4. How do most people travel in India?

5. What might it be like to travel on an Indian Railways train?

6. What sports are popular in India?

7. What spices can you find in Indian food?

8. What traditional clothes do Indian women sometimes wear?

9. What percentage of the population of India are Hindu?

10. What happens during the Hindu festival of Diwali?

Answers

1. What fraction of the world's total population is India's population?
India's population is one sixth of the world's population.
2. What school do children in India go to after primary school?
Children go to middle school after primary school.
3. Which three industries provide a lot of employment in India?
Farming, IT and the auto mobile industry provide a lot of employment in India.
4. How do most people travel in India?
Most people travel by public transport in India.
5. What might it be like to travel on an Indian Railways train?
It might be very busy.
6. What sports are popular in India?
Cricket, football and field hockey are popular sports in India.
7. What spices can you find in Indian food?
You can find ginger, coriander, cardamom, turmeric, dried hot peppers and cinnamon.
8. What traditional clothes do Indian women sometimes wear?
Indian women sometimes wear colourful silk saris.
9. What percentage of the population of India are Hindu?
Around 80% of the population are Hindu.
10. What happens during the Hindu festival of Diwali?
Lights or candles are lit during the five day festival.

India

Living in India

India is a country whose population currently represents around one sixth of the world's total population. It is a bright and vibrant country with a mix of different cultures and people. However, despite the large numbers of people living in India, the country itself covers only 2% of the world's total surface area. This makes India a very crowded and busy place.

School

The number of children who can read and write has increased since compulsory school attendance for all children up to the age of 14 was introduced. However, only about 50% of all school children actually go to school, since enrolment in schools is checked but not attendance.

Children attend pre-primary school at the age of five. Pre-primary school is followed by primary school. At the age of eleven, students go to middle school. After four years, at the age of fourteen, they take exams. At this point, their ten years of compulsory education is finished. Students who want to continue their education go to a higher secondary school which prepares them for college. Students can also enrol in a university after college.

Work

The farming sector is the largest employer in India's economy. Due to the large English-speaking population, India provides lots of global services, such as IT support call centres. The IT industry is one of the largest employers in India. The Indian auto mobile industry is one of the largest in the world with an annual production of 21.48 million vehicles. It also employs many people in India. Unemployment is also a serious issue in India.

Transport

India's public transport systems are among the most heavily used in the world. Public transport is the main mode of transport for most of the population. Buses, cycle-rickshaws, auto-rickshaw taxis, boats and urban trains provide transport around India's cities.

The number of cars in India is low compared to other countries, with only 10.3 million cars on the nation's roads.

India's rail network is the fourth longest and the most heavily used system in the world. Indian Railways has 115 000 km of track and 7 112 stations. In

2014/15, IR carried more than 23 million passengers a day!

Sport

Across India many different sports are played. Cricket is the most popular sport, while football is also popular. The country has won eight Olympic gold medals in field hockey, another game enjoyed in India.

India has hosted and co-hosted several international sporting events, including the Asian Games, the Cricket World Cup, the Hockey World Cup and the Commonwealth Games. From 2011 to 2013, India hosted the Indian Grand Prix Formula 1 race. The National Games of India has been held in the country since 1924.

Food

Cooking styles vary from region to region across the country and curry is the dish commonly associated with India. Wheat, basmati rice and pulses like chick peas are important parts of the Indian diet. Indian food is rich with spices, including ginger, coriander, cardamom, turmeric, dried hot peppers and cinnamon. Chutneys made from fruits and vegetables such as tamarind, tomatoes, mint, coriander and other herbs, are used in Indian cooking. Many dishes are for vegetarians, but lamb and chicken are common in main dishes for non-vegetarians. Much of Indian food is eaten with your fingers or with bread to scoop it up. There is a wide array of bread served with meals, including naan (an oven-baked flatbread), poppadum (disc shaped, fried, crispy bread) and bhatoora (a fried, fluffy flatbread).

Bollywood

India is well known for its film industry, which is often referred to as Bollywood. The country's movie history began in 1896 in Mumbai. Today, the films are known for their elaborate singing and dancing. Indian dance, music and theatre traditions span back more than 2 000 years.

Traditional Dress

Indian clothing is closely identified with the colourful silk saris worn by many of the country's women. The traditional clothing for men is the dhoti, a piece of cloth that is tied around the waist and legs. Men also wear a kurta; a knee-length, loose shirt.

Religion

Religion has an important role in the life of many people in India. The most common religion is Hindu (approximately 80%), followed by Muslim (12%), Christian (2%) and other religions such as Sikh, Buddhist and Jain.

Festivals

The country celebrates Republic Day (26 January), Independence Day (15 August) and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday (2 October). Diwali is the largest and most important holiday for India. It is a five-day festival known as the festival of lights because of the lights lit during the celebration to symbolize the inner light that protects people from spiritual darkness. Holi, the festival of colours, is celebrated in the spring.

Tourism

Tourism in India is important for the economy and is growing rapidly. It supports around 39.5 million jobs. About 22.57 million tourists arrived in India in 2014, compared to 19.95 million in 2013. In 2014, The Taj Mahal, Thar Desert, Himalayan Mountains and many beaches are just some of the attractions which draw people to visit India.

Questions

1. Large numbers of people live in India, but the country itself covers only 2% of the world's total surface area; what does this tell you about life in India?

2. At what age does compulsory school attendance end in India?

3. Why are many global support call centres based in India?

4. How do you know that Indian Railways trains are very busy?

5. Why are breads often served with an Indian meal?

6. In which Indian city did the country's movie history begin?

7. What traditional clothing is often worn by men in India?

8. Why is the most common religion in India?

9. Why is the Hindu festival of Diwali known as the festival of lights?

10. What places do tourists visit in India?

Answers

1. Large numbers of people live in India, but the country itself covers only 2% of the world's total surface area; what does this tell you about life in India?
OPEN answers may state - These statistics tell you that in India it must be very busy and overcrowded.
2. At what age does compulsory school attendance end in India?
Compulsory school attendance ends at age 14.
3. Why are many global support call centres based in India?
Many global support call centres are based in India because many of the population can speak English and communicate with people across the world.
4. How do you know that Indian Railways trains are very busy?
We know this because in the past the network has carried more than 23 million passengers per day.
5. Why are breads often served with an Indian meal?
Breads like naan, poppadum and bhatoora are often also served to help you eat it with your fingers.
6. In which Indian city did the country's movie history begin?
It began in Mumbai.
7. What traditional clothing is often worn by men in India?
Men sometimes wear the dhoti, a piece of cloth that is tied around the waist and legs. Men also wear a kurta; a knee-length, loose shirt.
8. Why is the most common religion in India?
Hindu is the most common religion in India. Around 80% of the population are Hindu.
9. Why is the Hindu festival of Diwali known as the festival of lights?
It is known as the festival of lights because of the lights and candles lit during the celebration.
10. What places do tourists visit in India?
Tourists visit the Taj Mahal, deserts, mountains and beaches.

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Children attend pre-primary school at the age of five. Pre-primary school is followed by primary school. At the age of eleven, students in India go to middle school. After four years, at the age of fourteen, they take exams. At this point, their ten years of compulsory education is finished. Students who want to continue their education go to a higher secondary school which lasts two years and prepares them for college. Students can also enrol in a university programme after college.

Work

The agricultural sector is the largest employer in India's economy. Due to the large English-speaking population, India provides lots of global services, such as IT support call centres. The IT industry continues to be one of the largest employers in India. The Indian auto mobile industry is one of the largest in the world with an annual production of 21.48 million vehicles. It also employs many people in India. Unemployment is also a serious issue in India.

Transport

India's public transport systems are among the most heavily used in the world. Public transport remains the primary mode of transport for most of the population. Buses, cycle-rickshaws, auto-rickshaw taxis, boats and urban trains provide transport around India's cities. The number of cars in India is low compared to other countries, with only 10.3 million cars on the nation's roads.

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Sport

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Food

Cooking styles vary from region to region across the country and curry is the dish commonly associated with India. Wheat, basmati rice and pulses like chick peas are important staples of the Indian diet. Indian food is rich with spices, including ginger, coriander, cardamom, turmeric, dried hot peppers, and cinnamon. Chutneys made from fruits and vegetables such as tamarind, tomatoes, mint, coriander and other herbs, are used generously in Indian cooking. Many dishes are for vegetarians, but lamb and chicken are common in main dishes for non-vegetarians. Much of Indian food is eaten with your fingers or with bread to scoop it up. There is a wide array of bread served with meals, including naan (an oven-baked flatbread), poppadum (disc shaped, fried, crispy bread) and bhatoora (a fried, fluffy flatbread).

Bollywood

India is well known for its film industry, which is often referred to as Bollywood. The country's movie history began in 1896 when the Lumière brothers demonstrated the art of cinema in Mumbai. Today, the films are known for their elaborate singing and dancing. Indian dance, music and theatre traditions span back more than 2 000 years.

Traditional Dress

Indian clothing is closely identified with the colourful silk saris worn by many of the country's women. The traditional clothing for men is the dhoti, an unstitched piece of cloth that is tied around the waist and legs. Men also wear a kurta; a knee-length loose shirt.

Religion

Religion plays a central role in the life of many people in India. The most common religion is Hindu (approximately 80%), followed by Muslim (12%), Christian (2%) and other religions such as Sikh, Buddhist and Jain.

Festivals

The country celebrates Republic Day (26 January), Independence Day (15 August) and Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday (2 October). Diwali is the largest and most important holiday for India. It is a five-day festival known as the festival of lights because of the lights lit during the celebration to symbolize the inner light that protects people from spiritual darkness. Holi, the festival of colours, is celebrated in the spring.

Tourism

Tourism in India is important for the economy and is growing rapidly. It supports around 39.5 million jobs. About 22.57 million tourists arrived in India in 2014, compared to 19.95 million in 2013. In 2014, The Taj Mahal, Thar Desert, Himalayan Mountains and many beaches are just some of the attractions which draw people to visit India.

Questions

1. One sixth of the world's population live in India but India covers only 2% or one fiftieth of the surface area of the world; what do these figures tell you about life in India?

2. Why do you think compulsory school attendance was introduced in India?

3. Why does the large English speaking population mean that India can provide many global services?

4. What do you think it would be like to travel on an Indian Railways train?

5. What ingredients might be in an Indian curry and what could it be served with?

6. What are the key features of a Bollywood film?

7. What traditional clothing is often worn by women in India?

8. Why is the Hindu festival of Diwali the largest and most important holiday for India?

9. Why is the Hindu festival of Diwali known as the festival of lights?

10. Why do you think tourism is growing so rapidly in India?

Answers

1. One sixth of the world's population live in India but India covers only 2% or one fiftieth of the surface area of the world; what do these figures tell you about life in India?
OPEN answers may state - These statistics tell you that in India there are many people living in one small area and that it must be very busy and overcrowded with the infrastructure of the country under a great deal of pressure.
2. Why do you think compulsory school attendance was introduced in India?
OPEN - Compulsory school attendance was introduced to improve literacy and to make sure all children could have an education.
3. Why does the large English speaking population mean that India can provide many global services?
English is used to communicate throughout the world and because many of the population can speak English, services can be based in India to help and support people across the world.
4. What do you think it would be like to travel on an Indian Railways train?
OPEN - It would probably be very busy as in the past the network has carried more than 23 million passengers per day.
5. What ingredients might be in an Indian curry and what could it be served with?
A curry might be made with chick peas or lamb or chicken. It might have lots of spices, including ginger, coriander, cardamom, turmeric, dried hot peppers, and cinnamon. It might be served with basmati rice and chutneys made from fruits and vegetables such as tamarind, tomatoes, mint, coriander and other herbs. Bread like naan, poppadum and bhatoora might also be served to help you eat it.
6. What are the key features of a Bollywood film?
A Bollywood film features lots of singing and dancing.
7. What traditional clothing is often worn by women in India?
The sari is often worn by women in India.
8. Why is the Hindu festival of Diwali the largest and most important holiday for India?
This is because around 80% of the population are Hindu and therefore observe this festival.
9. Why is the Hindu festival of Diwali known as the festival of lights?
It is known as the festival of lights because of the lights and candles lit during the celebration to symbolize the inner light that protects people from spiritual darkness.
10. Why do you think tourism is growing so rapidly in India?
OPEN - possible answers may indicate that there is much to see and do e.g. Taj Mahal, mountains, beaches as well the English-speaking population being able to communicate with and encourage visits from tourists from around the world.