



## Annex 3: A complete GRT experience – a lesson on India, adapted with the use of all tools

### The original lesson plan

<b>Title of the group of lesson plans/unit:</b>	Geography of the Indian Subcontinent
<b>School subject</b>	Geography / English
<b>Teacher/school/country proposing the lesson plan:</b>	Roberta Turchi / Susanna Pelagatti I.C. Pier Cironi – Prato Italy
<b>Grade level</b>	6

### Learning objectives and outcomes

- Students will learn the names of countries, cities, mountains, rivers, and bodies of water on the Indian subcontinent.
- Students will draw a map of India.
- Students will be able to locate all the places and features on the map.

### Language objectives

- Students will learn to pronounce and spell about 20 proper names.

### Background/rationale

The study of ancient India is one of the standards for 6th-grade social studies. Learning the current geography of India, Pakistan and the surrounding region serves a useful educational purpose for understanding current world events, and makes their studies of the ancient world more relevant.

### During the class

*“Ok guys, open the geography textbook at page 84. Today we will be speaking about India”:*

Using the overhead projector, the teacher draws a quick and messy map on a transparency, starting with a large V shape. Then, using a real map of India as a guide, the teacher draws geographical features and writes in their names. The students follow and teacher and make their own maps at the same time. For some features, the student learns two different names, which are shown between in parentheses.



*“India is a vast peninsula in Southern Asia extending into the Indian Ocean and lying between latitudes 8°4’ and 37°6’ north and longitudes 68°7’ and 97°25’ east. It is part of an area often referred to as ‘The Sub-continent’. India’s land borders are in the north with Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burma, and China. To the west, east and south it is surrounded by seas: The Arabian Sea and The Bay of Bengal both of which are part of the Indian Ocean.*

*India has an area of 3.3 million square km. The area of the UK is 250,000 square km. The name India comes from the River Indus which is now entirely within Pakistan. The Hindi word for India is Bharat. India accounts for the bulk of the Indian subcontinent, lying atop the Indian tectonic plate, a part of the Indo-Australian Plate. India's defining geological processes began 75 million years ago when the Indian Plate, then part of the southern supercontinent Gondwana, began a north-eastward drift caused by seafloor*



spreading to its south-west, and later, south and south-east. The original Indian Plate survives as peninsular India, the oldest and geologically most stable part of India. It extends as far north as the Satpura and Vindhya ranges in central India. India's coastline measures 7,517 kilometers (4,700 mi) in length; of this distance, 5,423 kilometers (3,400 mi) belong to peninsular India and 2,094 kilometers (1,300 mi) to the Andaman, Nicobar, and Lakshadweep island chains. According to the Indian naval hydrographic charts, the mainland coastline consists of the following: 43% sandy beaches; 11% rocky shores, including cliffs; and 46% mudflats or marshy shores. The Indian climate is strongly influenced by the Himalayas and the Thar Desert, both of which drive the economically and culturally pivotal summer and winter monsoons. The Himalayas prevent cold Central Asian katabatic winds from blowing in, keeping the bulk of the Indian subcontinent warmer than most locations at similar latitudes. The Thar Desert plays a crucial role in attracting the moisture-laden south-west summer monsoon winds that, between June and October, provide the majority of India's rainfall. Four major climatic groupings predominate in India: tropical wet, tropical dry, subtropical humid, and montane. Temperatures in India have risen by 0.7 °C (1.3 °F) between 1901 and 2018. Climate change in India is often thought to be the cause. The retreat of Himalayan glaciers has adversely affected the flow rate of the major Himalayan rivers, including the Ganges and the Brahmaputra. According to some current projections, the number and severity of droughts in India will have markedly increased by the end of the present century.

These are the main features:

- Countries: Sri Lanka (Ceylon), Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet, China.
- Cities: Bombay (Mumbai), Calcutta, New Delhi, Agra, Calcutta
- Rivers: Krishna, Narmada, Godavari, Ganges, Indus, Brahmaputra
- Bodies of water: Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea
- Other features: Himalayas, Mount Everest, Eastern Ghats, Western Ghats"

### Teaching method

Teacher can use mnemonics to help students in the remembering process:

- Ganges (sounds like Gandhi);
- Krishna (sounds like Christmas);
- Bhutan (it's in the mountains, so you need to wear boots there);
- Narmada (sounds like Narnia);
- etc.

### Formative assessment

Teachers can use a hand-drawn map with none of the names inserted so that the students could be quizzed on the names and redraw their maps from memory. The next day, the teacher could give a test, in which each student has to start from a blank sheet of paper. Most of them will surely remember all or most of the names.



## Materials

- detailed map of the Indian subcontinent (from book)
- blank transparencies
- extra paper
- overhead projector
- whiteboard
- dry markers (for writing down names and mnemonics)

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