

Indian Artefact Collection (G-IND)

A great collection of artefacts to discover different aspects of India's rich culture. Bring geography learning to life and use these items as discussion prompts for a range of everyday topics, including Indian history, religion, festivals, family life and more! Create opportunities for hands-on learning experiences.

Contents: -

1. 1 x Bangle Pack
2. 1 x religious Story Book
3. 1 x Damru Drum
4. 1 x Musical Stick Pack
5. 1 x Scenic Postcard Books
6. 1 x Religious Postcard Pack
7. 1 x Steel Thali Set
8. 1 x Set of Child's Clothing
9. 1 x Play Rupee Banknotes
10. 1 x Wedding Hat
11. 1 x traditional Bedspread
12. 1 x rice Sack Bag to store contents

Please note contents and designs may vary.



This resource can be used to:

- Explore Indian cultures and life with real life artefacts and high-quality replicas.
- Create cross-curricular links and cover elements of the Geography, RE, History and Art and Design curriculum.
- Introduce the resources during whole class teaching and provide time for hands-on exploration in small groups.
- Encourage questioning and research.
- Use as starting points for 'compare and contrast' activities.
- Enhance classroom displays and promote discussion by displaying the items.
- Add the resources to tabletop areas and promote independent investigation.



Questions you could ask children about the artefacts

Initial Discussion

- What is this object?
- Does it resemble anything the children have seen?
- What do you think the item was used for and by whom?
- Does anyone know what it is called?

Collect any other questions the children might have about the artefacts and display them as you try to find the answers through your learning sessions.

Other questions to consider:

- Where does the object come from?
- Who might have made this object? And how were they made?
- Why were they made?
- **What do the objects tell us about life in India?** *This last question can be returned to at the end of the investigation.* Use a world map to locate India. Research India and create a fact file including the flag, culture, food, history and significant landmarks. Plan an Indian themed day.

All About the Artefacts

1. Bangles

The bangles show traditional craftsmanship and are a popular ornament worn on the wrists. They are not just decorative but carry symbolic meaning and are deeply tied to traditional Indian customs. Specific colours are chosen to represent different things. Artisans used resources from the environment such as seashells from coastal regions, local clay (terracotta) and mined metals like copper and bronze. The bangles are both aesthetically and musically charming.

Create your own bangles and wear them for dancing to create sounds.

2. Religious Story Book

Teaching India through stories helps to bring it to life. Through the stories you can explore Indian culture, traditions, history, wildlife and landscapes. Stories can help us to understand the customs and celebrations. There are many assorted stories that involve gods. Vishnu is one of the most beloved figures in Hinduism. In the story of Lord Vishnu, Vishnu is persuaded to come down to earth as Krishna because the earth was being terrorised by the evil powers of the demons. There are many stories that involve Krishna, tales of his childish pranks, his adventures and battles with evil.

Retell the stories through art, drama and music (dance).

3. Damru Drum

The Damru is a small traditional hourglass-shaped (because it narrows in the middle) drum from India. It is used in religious rituals and storytelling. Use an atlas or digital map to find India and the Himalayan mountain range and explain how handheld communication tools and instruments like the Damru are vital in these areas.

Create your own replica Damru using recycled materials. Replicate fast rhythmic beats and try to simulate a tropical Indian monsoon storm.

4. Musical Sticks

Dandiya sticks are traditional wooden percussion instruments common in western India. They are primarily used during the autumn festival of Navratri to perform the high-energy Dandiya Raas dance.

Create and decorate your own sticks from wooden dowels or rolled recycled cardboard tubes and explore rhythms together.

5. Scenic Postcards

Using postcards and physical artefacts will help to understand more about India. They can give visual facts that can be used as part of the research. Locate India on a map and identify neighbouring countries and the capital city New Delhi. Locate physical features like the Himalayan mountain range along with famous landmarks such as the Taj Mahal.

Make own postcards, drawing one of the Indian artefacts and research the geographical region where it is made or used. Write postcards pretending you have visited this part of India.

6. Indian Religious Postcards

Postcards are excellent for looking closely at religion and sacred spaces in India. They can be used to explore the Hindu gods and goddesses, festivals and celebrations. You can talk about sacred places such as the River Ganges, The Golden Temple and the Taj Mahal.

7. Steel Thali Set

The Thali is a traditional metal dining platter and bowl collection used to serve a balanced multi-dish meal. Thali is the Hindu word for a large round plate or tray with raised edges. It is designed to hold six distinct tastes- sweet, salty, bitter, sour, astringent and spicy.

Map out the compartments in a thali, drawing and labelling where the different food items go.

8. Clothing

The clothes serves as a fascinating geographical artefact. The choice of fabrics, styles and colours reflect India's varied tropical climate, regional natural resources and local artisan industries. Learn about the weather and the environment and look closely at the garments and ask questions. The textiles can tell us about cultural identities, for example, a Lehnga is a traditional costume that is worn by many women in India today. This type of costume would be worn on special occasions such as birthdays and weddings, as well as during festivals such as Navaratri. A Shalwar Kameez is a traditional type of everyday cotton clothing worn by men. It consists of a shirt called a Kameez; a pair of trousers called a Shalwar, and also a scarf.

9. Rupee Banknotes

Every banknote shows a unique historical artefact, monument or scientific achievement on its reverse side. For example, the 10 note has a sun temple wheel, the 500 note the red fort of Delhi. Use these with maps to locate the landmarks and research to find out more information.

Learn about global trade and work out currency conversions.

10. Wedding Hat

India is incredibly diverse and the wedding hat changes from one state to another. Observe this wedding hat and compare it to pictures of other wedding hats. Use the artefact to learn about culture, traditions and about the climate.

11. Traditional Bedspread

The bedspreads are designed to keep people cool during India's intensively hot summer months. We can learn about the material it is made from (most traditionally made from cotton). India's hot tropical climate and rich volcanic soils are perfect for growing cotton plants. Look closely at the bedspread- what symbols can you see? What can we learn about the climate?

Try creating a class sheet using potato-block printing and learn about symmetry.

12. Rice Sack Bag

India is one of the world's largest exporters of rice. Use the bag to talk about rice, upcycling and sustainability. The bag can also be used as a container to hide the other artefacts in, pulling them out one by one to observe and talk about. It can also be used to store the artefacts in and to keep them safe.

Design an eco-bag with Indian patterns and pictures.

Other artefacts

Tuk-Tuk

A tuk-tuk is a vehicle that is common across many of the major cities in India as well as many other parts of Asia. Although they can be quite varied, they are generally three wheeled vehicles, small in size with a small motor engine, with the ability to move about in busy traffic with more ease. A general description of a tuk-tuk could be that it is a type of motorised rickshaw.

Taal - Bollywood Film

This helps to represent one of the major industries in India, the film industry, and also to show the type of films the young people in India like to watch. The film helps to show the Hindi language, religious aspects of Indian life, Indian culture, and the contrasts in India in the village and the technology. Another point of interest is the different kind of advertisements and promotions that are part of the video.

Food Packaging Labels

The food packaging items could include examples of Gram Flour, Fennel Seeds, and Mung Dal Yellow. These specific labels have been manufactured in the UK, but the things that can be learnt from them are the different ingredients that are used in Indian cooking when compared to English cooking. Look at the different styles of writing on the packaging and compare the different designs to food labels from other countries.

Monkey Drum & Snake Headed Cymbals

These are example of two musical instruments that are in use in the villages in India. To use the Monkey drum, hold it in the middle and sharply rotate it through 180 degrees so that the knot at the end of the piece of string hits the skin of the drum. The best way to use the symbols is to place your thumb through the ring at the top, hold the base in your hand, and shake.

The items in this pack have been sourced by a supplier who is a member of BAFTS (British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers).

Fair Trade

Fair Trade is a worldwide movement that aims to help producers in less economically developed countries, whether they be handicraft producers or farmers. The term Fair Trade means that producers receive a fair price for the goods they produce.

Teaching the principles of Fair Trade provides learning opportunities in many areas of learning, including PSED/PSHE, Understanding the World and Geography.

The suppliers of the items in this pack are small family businesses employing only a few people keeping them in continuous work and enabling their businesses to grow.

Nearly everything in this pack is handmade with materials being sustainably sourced, and traditional skills being kept alive.

Explore further – What are the 10 Principles of Fair Trade? How does Fair Trade help producers? Research the many organisations around the world, including Fairtrade Foundation, the British Association for Fair Trade Shops and Suppliers (BAFTS) and World Fair Trade Organisation (WFTO).