

Rama and Sita

What makes Indian culture so special? What makes India country so creatively rich? We will be looking at a whole range of Indian customs and beliefs including:

Indian myths: Rama and Sita is a popular Indian myth that retells the story of Diwali, exploring themes of good overcoming evil. We will be studying this text alongside other Indian myths and poetry.



Indian music: We will be exploring Indian Ragas through ukuleles and a variety of class percussion to create our own pieces in an Indian classical style.

Indian Dance:

We will be visited by Lorraine Theobold, a teacher of multicultural dance.

<http://www.multiculturaldance.co.uk/> Lorraine will be sharing the traditional styles of Indian dance and bringing along traditional costumes for the children to perform in.



Geography of India: Using maps, atlases and globes we will locate India and the important features of its landscape. We will be looking at the tourist attractions available to visit in India and will link these with the history of each place such as the Taj Mahal. We will study the importance of the River Ganges to Indians, both spiritually and environmentally.



Indian Art:

We will be introducing the children to the creation of Rangoli patterns; a folk art in which patterns are created on the floor in living rooms or courtyards using materials such as coloured rice, dry flour, coloured sand or flower petals. They are usually made during Diwali.

Indian beliefs and religions:

We will be focusing on Hinduism, looking at the stories connected to the Hindu gods and goddesses

Most Hindus have a personal god or goddess such as Shiva, Krishna or Lakshmi to whom they pray regularly. We will be looking at these in some depth.

We will be visiting The Bhaktivedantar Manor in Hertfordshire where we will take part in a ceremony and meet a community of Hindus who will teach us more about their culture. If you would like to have a look at where we are going visit: <http://www.bhaktivedantamanor.co.uk/home>



Science: We will be investigating how light travels, using what we discover to help children understand why shadows have the same shape as the objects that cast them.



In DT: Linking in with our learning in science, we will be making shadow puppets; a popular form of entertainment in India.

We will also be cooking and tasting Indian food.

We would then like to invite you to our 'Indian Experience afternoon' on **Thursday 11th October.**

More details to follow nearer the time!

PE

We will be teaching Indian Dance and Invasion Games this half-term. Please ensure your child has an indoor and outdoor PE kit on a Tuesday and Wednesday (5Lh) or Tuesday and Friday (5NR)

Homework

Homework, as always, will be set and handed out on a Wednesday and needs to be completed by the following Monday.

Help at Home

We will be spending time reading the Indian Myth; Rama and Sita, as well as looking at other myths and Indian creation stories. If you would like to, you may want to visit the local library to look for Indian myths to read and enjoy. You may also like to look at a world map and see if you can find India; look at the countries that border India and find the ocean and seas that surround it.

Times tables are so important in our Maths lessons so please could you practise these and their associated facts e.g.

$7 \times 6 = 42$, $6 \times 7 = 42$, $42 \div 6 = 7$ and $42 \div 7 = 6$.

By the end of Year 4, the children should know their tables up to 12×12 and it would help your child immensely to have rapid recall of these facts. Without these, your child could find it tricky to reach their potential in Year 5.

To help you, here are some useful and fun websites to use at home:

Tables shooter:

<http://www.ictgames.com/spitfireufo.html>

Hit the button (this is also available as an app)

<http://www.topmarks.co.uk/maths-games/hit-the-button>

Learn your tables:

<http://www.learnyourtables.co.uk/en/index2.htm>

Times tables songs:

Go into YouTube and search: Mr R's songs for teaching multiplication.

The biggest thing is to make tables fun and the above websites really help to do that!

Please ensure you read regularly at home with your child. Read as many different types of text as possible to broaden their reading catalogue e.g. magazines, newspapers, menus, recipes. The Week Junior and First News are great newspapers for children. Don't forget the Summer reading challenge at Dunmow Library will be running again this year. Do pop in there for further information!

Dates to note:

Wednesday 5 th September	Back to school – welcome to Year 5!
Thursday 13 th September	Trip to Bhaktivedanta Manor
Thursday 20 th September	Indian Dance workshop
Friday 28 th September	International Day of Languages
Thursday 11 th October	Come and join us for an Indian Experience
Thursday 18 th October	End of half term
Friday 19 th October	INSET day