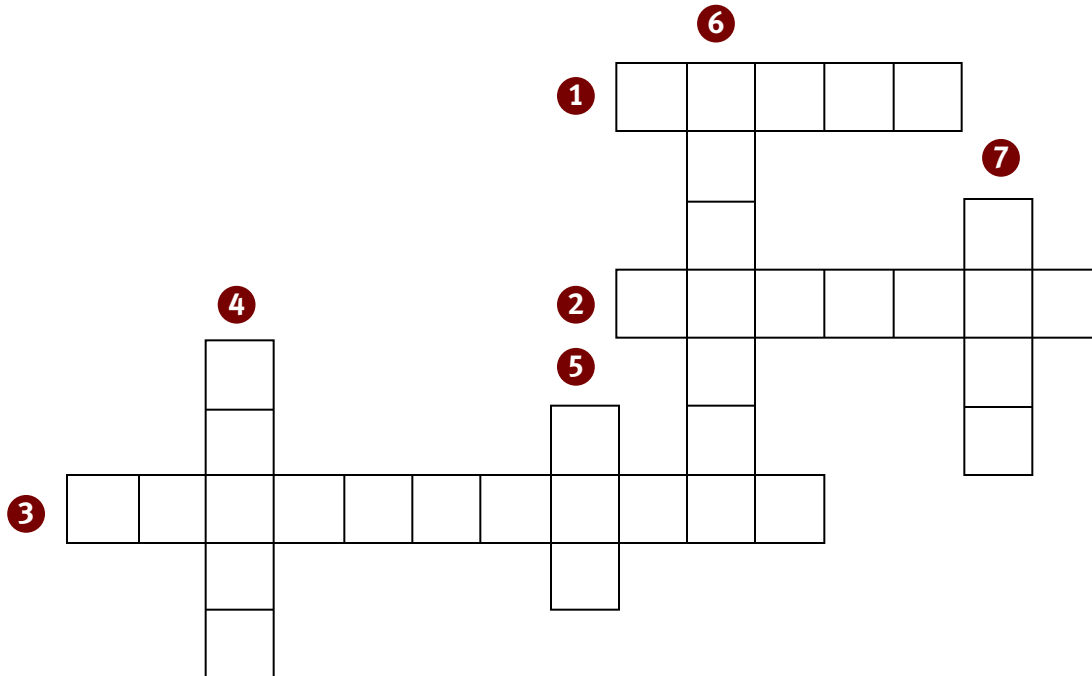


## CROSSWORD: SOUTH ASIAN DIVERISTY

This is a crossword puzzle about South Asia. To complete the puzzle, read the brief essays on the following pages on each person/topic. All the answers are in the essays.



### ACROSS

- 1** Ravi Shankar is a virtuoso of this instrument
- 2** This region is under dispute between India and Pakistan
- 3** The principle that Gandhi embraced and others world-wide have emulated

### DOWN

- 4** Which goddess does the Ganges River in India personify?
- 5** Sri Lanka is known for this agricultural product
- 6** The Taj Mahal represents this style of architecture
- 7** How many basic castes are there in the caste system?

# CROSSWORD: SOUTH ASIAN DIVERISTY - ESSAYS

These essays are designed to accompany the South Asian Diversity crossword puzzle.

## TAJ MAHAL

The Taj Mahal was built by the Mughal Emperor Shahjahan as a memorial to his wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Work started on this monument in 1634 and continued for almost 22 years. Situated in the city of Agra on the banks of the Yamuna, the Taj is enclosed in a garden amidst fountains and ornamental trees. The walled complex includes two mosques and an imposing gateway. Without doubt, the Taj Mahal ranks as amongst the most perfect buildings in the world, flawlessly proportionate, built entirely out of marble and a marvelous example of Islamic architecture. Both the Emperor and his wife are entombed there.

## GANGES

The holiest of the rivers of India, the Ganges rises in the Himalayas, home of the gods. The river is personified by the goddess Ganga. Pilgrims come to the Ganges to visit holy sites, such as Benares, birthplace of Shiva. To die on the banks of the Ganges and to have one's ashes float away on its current is the best of deaths for a Hindu.

## MOHANDAS KARAMCHAND GANDHI

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was the leader of India's drive for independence from Britain. Gandhi, a devout Hindu, espoused a moral philosophy of tolerance, brotherhood of all religions, non-violence (ahimsa) and simple living. Under his leadership India's Congress launched a series of mass movements, including boycotts and hunger strikes, to influence British rulers. He was assassinated in 1948, just after India secured its independence.

## SRI LANKA

Sri Lanka, an island off the southern coast of India, is known for its tea production and precious gems. Beginning in the 16th century, the island was ruled sequentially by Portugal, Holland and Britain. Ceylon, as it was then called, became independent in 1948. In 1972 its name was changed. The majority of Sri Lanka are Buddhists (mostly Sinhalese), with a smaller percentage of Hindu (mostly Tamil), Christian and Muslim. Tensions between the Sinhalese majority and Tamil separatists erupted in violence in the early 1980s. Tens of thousands have died in an ethnic war that continues to fester. While many Sri Lankans have hoped for peace, extremists on both sides have to date made it difficult to achieve a compromise. As a result many Sri Lankans have fled the island fearing for their own security.

# CROSSWORD: SOUTH ASIAN DIVERISTY - ESSAYS

## PAKISTAN

Pakistan is located between India, Iran, Afghanistan and China and borders the Arabian Sea. In 1947 British India was separated into a central, largely Hindu region retaining the name India, and a Muslim East (present-day Bangladesh) and West Pakistan. The announcement of the boundaries sparked widespread carnage and one of the largest migrations of people in history. Kashmir, though, wanted no part of India or Pakistan. When India and Pakistan sent troops into the recalcitrant state, war erupted between the two countries. In 1949 a U.N.-brokered cease-fire gave each country a piece of Kashmir to administer, but ultimate control still remains unclear.

## CASTE

The pattern of social classes in Hinduism is called the caste system. There are basic castes as well as many subcastes, known as the Varna and Jati systems. These are determined by birth and cannot be changed. The Indian caste system has been in use for many years, and today the values of it are still held strongly. It is believed that the system has kept a sense of order, and peace among the people.

The top caste level are the Brahmins, or Priests and Teachers, the next caste level are the Kshatriyas, Warriors and Rulers, then the Vaishyas, Farmers, Merchants and Artisans, the Shudras, Laborers. At the bottom of this system are the Harijan or Untouchables, who are outside the caste system.

## RAVI SHANKAR

Ravi Shankar is a legendary musician. He is world famous for his sitar concerts and recordings and he is well known for bringing Indian music to the West. In the 1960s he played at three memorable concerts - the Monterey Pop Festival, Concert for Bangla Desh and Woodstock. He has written concerts for sitar and orchestra, including compositions for violin and sitar for Yehudi Menuhin and himself; music for flute virtuoso Jean Pierre Rampal; and he has collaborated with Phillip Glass. This performer, composer, teacher and writer has won numerous awards and honors all over the world.