

12th century, it was largely because of Sufism and its message of love for the poor. Consider how this could be a stronger force than the strength of an army.

- In the Hindu religion, destruction and preservation are not contrary but rather are complementary parts of life. How can this be?

- Research the beliefs and customs of the Hindu religion. Are all of them still followed today? What effect did they and do they have on Indian society?

- Hindus believe in reincarnation and that the things one does in this life affect how one will be reborn. What does this mean about how a person should lead his or her life?

- Research the caste system. What has its effect been on India? Is it still in force today? How has it changed over the years?

Internet Resources

india.indiagov.org/states/raj/raj.htm -- The Indian government's website on Rajasthan, giving statistical information and describing the major cities and sites.

www.lonelyplanet.com/dest/ind/raj.htm -- A travel guide to the region, including its history and attractions.

<http://www.rajasthan-tourism.com/rajtourism/> -- A guide to the history, sites, and culture of Rajasthan.

www.rajgovt.org -- The government of Rajasthan's official website.

Other Resources

FOR STUDENTS:

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Ganeri, Anita. Exploration Into India. New Discovery Books, 1994.

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Delhi, Jaipur, Agra: India's Golden Triangle. APA Publications, 1991.

Glen, David A. Rajasthan: India's Crown Jewel. Visual XS, 1998.

Jain, M. S. Concise History of Modern Rajasthan. South Asia Books, 1993.

Johnson, Gordon. Cultural Atlas of India. Andromeda Oxford Ltd. and Facts on File, 1996.

Sinclair, Toby and Samuel Israel. Insight Rajasthan. Insight Publications, 1998.

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After studying the map and reading about India and Rajasthan's place in the world, read the sections on vocabulary and important people, places, and dates to provide a focus while viewing the program. After viewing the program, review the sections listed above and consider the Things to Think About. Research topics further using the Internet and other resources provided.

Context in the World

Rajasthan, once called Rajputana, is the second largest state of the Indian Union. It is largely an arid region dominated by the Thar, or Great Indian Desert, punctuated by a few fertile tracts. India as a whole was ruled by Britain beginning in the 18th century. Nationalism grew after World War I, but while the rest of India struggled for independence, the Rajput kings of Rajasthan entered into alliances with the British and were thus allowed to function relatively autonomously. When India achieved independence in 1947, most of the Rajput kept their property and titles, but the latter were abolished in 1970. Since independence, India--a democratic republic--has faced internal problems of poverty and overcrowded cities. Rajasthan is not immune to these issues, with a population of 50 million and a literacy rate of only about 40%. The nation of India also faces ongoing external problems with Pakistan, which borders Rajasthan on the west.

Vocabulary

ashram -- A resting place or retreat for Hindu pilgrims.
Brahma -- The Hindu god of creation.
Brahmin -- The priest caste in Hinduism.
caste -- The social group one belongs to, based on birth. A component of Hinduism.
fakirs -- Wandering beggars who deny themselves worldly goods as a form of spiritual discipline.
ghat -- The sacred steps that are descended during the Hindu rite of purification.
haveli -- The internal courtyard of the typical house of the Marwari.
Hinduism -- The prevalent religion in India.
karma -- The Hindu relationship between cause and effect, where past deeds determine future rebirth.
maharajahs -- Princes of the various autonomous kingdoms in Rajasthan.
Marwari -- The merchant caste in Hinduism.
Moguls -- The Muslim people, descended from Turks, who ruled Rajasthan beginning in the 16th century.
moksha -- Spiritual salvation ultimately achieved in Hinduism.
Rajput -- The "sons of princes," the Hindu warrior caste that ruled Rajasthan.
sati (or suttee) -- A Hindu ritual where women commit suicide after the death of their husbands.
Shiva (or Siva) -- The Hindu destroyer god.
Sufism -- A Muslim mystical sect.
untouchable -- The lowest group in the Hindu caste system.
Vishnu -- The Hindu preserver god.

Important People

Akbar -- Powerful Mogul emperor who established the Mogul empire and entered into agreements with the Rajput.
Hamir Deva -- Rajput who let himself be beheaded rather than surrender to the Muslim army at the fortress of Rathambhor in the late 16th century.
Jai Sing II -- Maharajah who founded Jaipur and brought lasting peace to Rajasthan.
Khwajah Mu'in-ud-Din Chishti -- First holy man to spread Islam in India.
Muhammad Ghuri -- Rajasthan's first imperial commander, in the late 12th century.
Pratap Sing -- Leader of a military coup who built a new independent Rajput kingdom at Alwar in the 18th century.
Prithviraj -- Maharajah who was defeated by the Muslims in 1100 AD.

Important Places

Ajmer -- A city in Rajasthan and the site of an important mosque and the burial place of Khwajah Mu'in-ud-Din Chishti.
Alwar -- A city in Rajasthan that was a center of art and culture.
Amber -- A city in Rajasthan and the site of a beautiful palace.
Bala Quila -- A fortress that fell to Pratap Sing.
Jaigarh -- A fortress that provided defense for the city of Amber.
Jaipur -- The capital city of Rajasthan, known as the "pink city."
Pushkar -- One of Hinduism's sacred cities.
Rathambhor -- A fortress that fell to the Mogul Akbar when he was establishing his empire in the 16th century.
Shekhavati -- Region from which the Marwari merchants came.

Important Dates

c. 1500 BC -- Hinduism begins in India
c. 1100 AD -- Prithviraj fails to defend Ajmer from the Muslims
12th century -- Khwajah Mu'in-ud-Din Chishti founds Sufism
late 16th century -- Mogul Emperor Akbar conquers Rajasthan and enters into agreements with the Rajput
172 -- Jai Sing II founds Jaipur
18th century --Mogul Empire declines, and wars break out between the royal houses of Rajasthan
1947 -- India gains independence
1970 -- Rajput titles are abolished

Things to Think About

- Jaipur is known as the "pink city." Why is pink--the color of grace--emblematic of Rajasthan in the past and today?
- It was once said that "a Rajput who knows how to read will never ride a horse." What does this mean? Has it always been true?
- How did all of the different castes contribute to the splendor of Rajasthan?
- Research how the Rajput have coped with the challenges and realities of modern life, economically and socially.
- When the Islamic faith penetrated Rajasthan in the