

12

Kolkata—The City of Joy

Lesson Plan

Contents

- › Location, Extent and Background of Kolkata
- › Government Offices
- › People – Their Clothes, Languages and Culture
- › Eminent People
- › Industries
- › Transportation
- › Tourist Attractions

Objectives

- › Learning about the location, extent, background and importance of Kolkata.
- › Important Government Offices in Kolkata
- › The life of the people – their dress, languages, food, culture, etc.
- › Two very eminent people from Bengal
- › Industries – in and around the city
- › Transportation – underground Metro – road, rail, air and inland waterways
- › Tourist attractions in Kolkata

Teacher's Aids

- › Map and atlases
- › Pictures, internet

Tips for Teacher

- › Share pictures and stories about the various places and people and institutions of Kolkata

Gear Up, Background and Reading

- › Gear Up shows four popular sweets from Bengal: 1. RASOGULLA 2. SANDESH 3. RAJ BHOG 4. MISHTI DOI
- › Read the lesson and points to remember aloud and explain.

Kolkata

- ▶ Nicknamed: 'City of Palaces' because of many mansions – earlier Calcutta – capital of Bengal
- ▶ On banks of Hugli River – to be crossed to enter city
- ▶ Was India's capital under British till 1911.

/// Location & Climate

- ▶ A few kilometres from sea – Bay of Bengal - mild climate throughout the year – neither hot in summer nor cold in winter – heavy rainfall in June –September – generally warm and humid.

/// State Government offices

- ▶ Governor, Chief Minister, other ministers and senior government officers – public utility services : Kolkata Municipal Corporation.

/// Dress

- ▶ Simple cotton clothes – men : dhoti-kurta – women : saree worn in a typical style – young boys/girls: jeans, T-shirt, tops, salwar-kameez.

/// Languages

- ▶ Bangla, English, Hindi.

/// Culture

- ▶ Singing, dancing, painting, sports – Rabindra Sangeet – football and cricket – Food : rice with fish curry ; sandesh, rasogulla.
- ▶ **Festivals** – Diwali, Christmas, Eid, Kali Puja, Durga Puja – this is the most important festival – pandals for the worship of Goddess Durga.

/// Eminent Persons

- ▶ Rabindranath Tagore – wrote India's National Anthem – writer, poet, dramatist, actor, painter, educationist – first India to receive Nobel Prize.
- ▶ Subhash Chandra Bose – lived in Kolkata – Indian National Army – to fight the British.

/// Industries

- ▶ Kolkata main industrial city of the east
- ▶ Important industries in and around Kolkata : jute mills, cotton and silk textiles, paper, tea packing, automobiles, machinery, rice mills, electrical goods, leather goods, food processing, etc.

/// Transportation

- ▶ First underground Metro in India – tram and buses
- ▶ Other cities connected through roads, railways, airways and inland waterways, Main railway station : Howrah Station : linked by Howrah Bridge to Kolkata – Main airport : Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport [earlier Dum Dum]
- ▶ Main seaport : Diamond Harbour on River Hugli few kilometres from the coast.

/// Tourist Attractions

- ▶ Rabindra Setu [earlier Howrah Bridge]
- ▶ Vidyasagar Setu : longest cable bridge in India and one of the longest in Asia; Victoria Memorial : museum opened in 1921 [paintings, books, weapons, etc.] Indian Museum : oldest museum in India [antiques, armour, ornaments and Mughal paintings, etc.]
- ▶ Fort William : a riverside fortress on east bank of River Hugli
- ▶ Birla Planetarium : largest in Asia
- ▶ Maidan [also called Brigade Parade Ground] –largest urban park in Kolkata : Eden Gardens [cricket stadium] and a racecourse : main cultural and sports centre Others : Botanical Gardens [an ancient banyan tree]; Alipore Zoo; Belur Math [Ramakrishna Mission]; Salt Lake Stadium; etc. – Temples : Dakshineswar Kali, Kalighat, Birla, Nakhoda Masjid, Tipu Sultan Mosque; etc. – Shopping centres : New Market, Park Street, Chowringhee Road. Howrah & Kolkata twin cities connected by four river bridges : oldest and most famous Howrah Bridge.