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India—The National Symbols

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ What are national symbols and why are they important?
- ▶ India's National Flag and National Anthem and other symbols

Objectives

- ▶ Understanding the significance of national symbols
- ▶ Knowing India's national symbols

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Currency notes using the documents national emblem.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ A chart can be made with a collage of the national symbols and displayed.
- ▶ India is called by three different names: India, Bharat, Hindustan. Explain the reasons why this is so.

Gear Up, Background and Reading

- ▶ The correct option is (c) Nepal.
- ▶ Ask the students what they know about India's national symbols.
- ▶ Then read aloud the lesson, including points to remember, and explain.
- ▶ National symbols: unique to country; represent its freedom, strength, unity – they inspire a feeling of pride and loyalty in the nations – refer to movies like Chak De! India, or Roja, where national identity is associated with the national flag and anthem.

National Flag

- ▶ Tricolour – symbol of independence and sovereignty

- ▶ Rectangular with three bands of colour – saffron for courage and sacrifice; white for truth and peace; green for prosperity; navy blue chakra or wheel with 24 spokes for 24 hours of a day for motion and progress.
- ▶ Hoisted on government offices, offices of India abroad, carry it on national festivals, sports events, etc.
- ▶ Rules for use – saffron on top; never hoisted after sunset; unfurled at top of mast; carried in front of procession; on right shoulder; never dirty or torn; stand to attention and salute.

▄▄▄ **National Emblem**

- ▶ Seal of Government of India – four lions
- ▶ The four lion are guarding the four directions; three visible; stand for power and courage; base has a horse and a bull – stand for speed and energy and hard work, respectively; Wheel of Law in the centre; Satyameva Jayate [truth alone triumphs]
- ▶ Government documents, currency notes and coins
- ▶ Taken from Ashoka's Pillar at Sarnath, near Varanasi.

▄▄▄ **National Song**

- ▶ 'Vande Mataram' from the book 'Anand Math', written by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
Translated into English by Aurobindo Ghosh

▄▄▄ **National Anthem**

- ▶ 'Jana Gana Mana', written by Rabindranath Tagore in praise of India
- ▶ Sung or played on important occasions; in a proper way and in the authorised tune.
- ▶ Takes 52 seconds to sing
- ▶ We should stand up when it is played/sung.

▄▄▄ **National Animal**

- ▶ Royal Bengal Tiger – stands for beauty, grace, power and strength.
- ▶ Now a protected animal – in national parks and wildlife sanctuaries.

▄▄▄ **National Bird**

- ▶ Peacock – blue-green velvety with gorgeous tail feathers
- ▶ Stands for beauty, grace and joy.

▄▄▄ **National Flower**

- ▶ Lotus – important in Indian mythology, sacred
- ▶ Stands for truth, knowledge and wealth.
- ▶ Other symbols – national tree – Banyan – spread of Indian culture; national fruit – mango – richness of our taste; national river – Ganga – continuity; national game – Hockey;