

19

India—Our Rich Heritage

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ What constitutes culture?
- ▶ Some elements of Indian culture: Languages, dances, music, painting, architecture.

Objectives

- ▶ Understanding culture
- ▶ Learning about Indian culture
- ▶ Some elements of Indian culture

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Show pictures, film clippings, magazines, etc., of different aspects of Indian culture.
- ▶ Postage stamps have pictures of all aspects of Indian culture.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Ask students what things they consider as elements of Indian culture, apart from what is given in the lesson.
- ▶ **Clues:** food, textiles and dress, [variety in different states]; literature; way of addressing people [like 'namaste']; manners, rituals, [like touching older people's feet]; festivals, films, sports and games [like kabaddi, seven stones, chausar, etc.]; sculpture; even the level of cleanliness, caring for others before oneself [as in Japan]; etc.

Gear Up, Background and Reading:

- ▶ Gear Up shows a picture of a Madhubani painting.
- ▶ Explain how vast and varied Indian culture is and how it is enriched by the variety.
- ▶ Explain that the lesson only touches the tip of the iceberg; culture includes even our day-to-day behaviour with family, neighbours, strangers, etc. See the tips above for many more aspects of culture.
- ▶ Read the lesson aloud, including the points to remember, and explain.

Languages

- ▶ The Constitution recognises 22 languages in India – Assamese, Bangla, Bodo, Dogri,

Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Tamil, Telugu and Urdu.

- ▶ Hindi – largest spoken – therefore, official language. English spoken everywhere.
- ▶ More than 800 languages and dialects in India.
- ▶ Different forms of one language – called dialect.
- ▶ Style of writing – called script. All Indian scripts – left to right, except Kashmiri, Sindhi and Urdu.

/// Dances

- ▶ Folk and Classical
- ▶ Folk and tribal – in groups – on special occasions like festivals, birth of child, weddings, arrival of seasons, harvesting, sowing, etc. – costume and jewellery – Bhangra [Punjab], Ghoomar {Rajasthan}, Bihu [Assam], Garba [Gujarat], Lavani [Maharashtra], etc. Also of Santhals, Gonds, Nagas, Bhils, Mizos, etc.
- ▶ Classical – began as form of worship - later in courts – most states have different styles – Bharatnatyam [Tamil Nadu], Kathakali and Mohiniattam [Kerala], Kuchipudi [Andhra Pradesh & Telangana], Kathak [Uttar Pradesh], Odissi [Odisha], Manipuri [Manipur], Sattria [Assam], Yakshagana [Karnataka].
- ▶ Kathakali and Yakshagana – dance-dramas.

/// Music

- ▶ Two styles - Hindustani in North India and Carnatic in South India
- ▶ Vocal and instrumental music
- ▶ Instruments – sitar, veena, sarod, shehnai, nadaswaram, flute, mridangam, table, pakhawaj, dholak, sarangi, santoor, etc. Western instruments also used – like violin, guitar [converted by Pt. Vishwa Mohan Bhatt into the Mohan-Veena]
- ▶ In Hindustani – harmonium, tabla, pakhawaj, dholak, sitar, sarod, shehnai, sarangi, santoor, flute, etc.
- ▶ In Carnatic – violin, veena, nadaswaram, flute, mridangam, ghatam, ganjira, etc.
- ▶ Tradition of great singers and composers – Sant Haridas, Tansen, Baiju Bawra, Thyagaraja, Purandaradasa, Mutthuswami Dikshitar, Swati Tirunal, etc.
- ▶ Music Maestros – [Hindustani] Pandit Jasraj, Ustad Zakir Hussain, Hari Prasad Chaurasia, Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, Pt. Bhimsen Joshi, Kumar Gandharva, Kishori Amonkar, Gangubai Hangal, Siddheswari Devi, etc. [Carnatic] M.S. Subbulakshmi, D K Pattamal, Balamuralikrishna, T M Krishna, etc.

/// Painting

- ▶ Expression of ideas and feelings – early humans – wall paintings – Bhimbetka [near Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh]; Ajanta Caves [Buddhist period – we learn about their lifestyle]
- ▶ Miniature paintings – Kangra, Rajasthan [Kota, Bundi, Kishangarh], and Deccani.
- ▶ Other styles – Bengal, Raja Ravi Varma, wall paintings of Madhubani, Warli, Shekhawati.
- ▶ Modern art also – Amrita Shergill, Anjolie Ela Menon, Hussain, Raza, Satish Gujral, Maity.

/// Architecture

- ▶ Indian architecture of the Indus valley civilisation [Mohenjodaro, Harappa in Pakistan, but various sites like Kalibangan, Lothal, etc., in India].
- ▶ Through the ages we see the architecture: Sarnath, Sanchi Stupa, various Buddhist stupas and viharas and diggings in various states, temples – in the north and south, rock-cut temples of Mamallapuram, Elephanta Caves, etc.
- ▶ Forts, palaces, temples, mosques, churches, etc. – Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, etc., and practically all the states.
- ▶ Temples – Meenakshi at Madurai; Kailash at Ellora; Dilwara at Mt Abu; Sun Temple at Konark; Lakshmi Narayan at Khajuraho; Somnath in Gujarat; others at Belur, Thanjavur, Halebir, Ranakpur, etc.
- ▶ Other famous structures – Taj Mahal [Agra]; Humayun Tomb, Red Fort, Jama Masjid, Purana Qila, Qutub Minar, Tughlakabad etc [Delhi]; Gol Gumbaz [Bijapur]; Vijayanagar-Hampi [Karnataka]; forts at Gwalior, Agra, Golconda, Amer, Chittaurgarh, Jaisalmer, Udaipur, Jodhpur, Kumbhalgarh, etc.
- ▶ European architecture – Portuguese in Goa; Lutyens in New Delhi, and British architecture in Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Shimla, etc. – Victoria Memorial [Kolkata]; Rashtrapati Bhavan, Parliament House, [New Delhi], Gateway of India [Mumbai]; Churches in Goa.
- ▶ Modern buildings – Bahai Lotus Temple at New Delhi; Akshardham at New Delhi and Gandhi Nagar; Vidhan Soudha at Bengaluru; India Gate at New Delhi.