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India—They Enriched Our Thoughts

Lesson Plan

Contents

- ▶ Great Indians who influenced the country
- ▶ Religious reformers
- ▶ Social reformers
- ▶ Great kings
- ▶ Great scientists

Objectives

- ▶ Learning about some of the people who have influenced Indians.
- ▶ Religious reformers – from various religions
- ▶ Social reformers – what impact they had
- ▶ Great kings – what was special about them
- ▶ Great scientists – how they affected modern India

Teacher's Aids

- ▶ Internet, pictures, film clips, etc.

Tips for Teacher

- ▶ Introduce students to biographies – Amar Chitra Katha has several to start with.
- ▶ Tell them stories about interesting Indians other than the ones in the lesson to whet their curiosity.

Gear Up, Background and Reading

- ▶ Gear Up is about texts sacred to different religions: 1. d 2. c 3. e 4. a 5. b
- ▶ All religions and scriptures teach us to be better human beings and good to others and to respect the world we live in.
- ▶ There are individuals in many fields who have worked to make the world a better place to live by spreading the message of brotherhood, reforming society, governing well, and making life more comfortable by their work, discoveries and inventions.

Religious Reformers

- ▶ Hinduism – scriptures – Vedas, Puranas, Upanishads, Ramayana, Mahabharata and

Bhagavad Gita – karma, ethics and the lives of Lord Rama and Lord Krishna – teachings of Adi Shankaracharya and Swami Vivekananda.

- ▶ Buddhism – Gautam Buddha – truth and non-violence – Dhammapada – holy book.
- ▶ Jainism – Lord Mahavira – 24th Tirthankara – Live and let live – ahimsa or non-violence.
- ▶ Muslims /Islam – Prophet Mohammad – Quran – holy book – universal brotherhood – they pray five times a day – namaz.
- ▶ Sikhism – Guru Nanak – One God – Guru Granth Sahib or Adi Granth – tenth Guru – Guru Gobind Singh – founded Khalsa Panth.
- ▶ Christianity – Jesus Christ – love and forgiveness – the Bible – holy book – St Thomas brought Christianity to India.
- ▶ Parsis/Zoroastrianism – founded by Zarathustra in Iran – Zend Avesta – holy book – be good and help others – most Parsis live in India.
- ▶ Social Reformers
- ▶ Many evil social customs existed in our country and many still do – caste system, sati, dowry, child marriage, etc. Many men and women worked to change these customs and are still doing so [like Kailash Satyarthi fighting for the rights of children and against child labour and trafficking of children, etc.].
- ▶ Kabir – saint poet – fought against caste system and blind faith – all are equal – love and brotherhood – through his dohas and bhajans.
- ▶ Raja Rammohan Roy – lived in Bengal about 250 years ago – fought against sati and child marriage – forced British to pass a law against sati – founded Brahmo Samaj.
- ▶ Sir Syed Ahmed Khan – fought for the education of Muslims – improved lives of Muslim women – founded college at Aligarh, now Aligarh Muslim University.
- ▶ Ramabai Ranade – Maharashtra – founded Poona Sewa Sadan to find employment for women and orphans.

/// Great Kings

- ▶ Many Indian kings worked for the welfare of people, like
- ▶ Ashoka – about 2200 years ago – fought and won many battles – Battle of Kalinga – turned Buddhist – spread message of Buddha – carved on rocks and pillars – built wells, tanks, roads, shelters for travellers – planted trees along roads.
- ▶ Akbar – Mughal emperor – about 400 years ago – built big empire – navaratnas in court helped work for welfare of people – treated Hindus and Muslims alike – fond of art, music, literature – kind-hearted ruler – peaceful reign.
- ▶ Krishna Deva Raya –Vijayanagara empire in South India – built water tanks, dams, canals, for irrigation – learned, wrote poems in Telugu – temples at Hampi – encouraged trade with Portuguese for prosperity – encouraged arts and crafts.

/// Great Scientists

- ▶ Various branches of science developed in ancient India – astronomy, mathematics, medicine, surgery, etc. – encouraged by kings – growth and development

- ▶ Number system one to ten – concept of zero – decimal system –Arabs learnt from India and spread to the world.
- ▶ Aryabhatta and Varahamihira – astronomers and mathematicians – first satellite of India named after Aryabhatta
- ▶ Charaka – medicine; Sushruta – surgery; Ayurveda – developed and used still – Unani medicine introduced during period of Mughals; still used.
- ▶ Jagdish Chandra Bose, Sir C V Raman, Homi J Bhabha, Vikram Sarabhai, S Chandrashekar, S Ramanujan, APJ Abdul Kalam – modern day Indian scientists in different fields of science and mathematics – Homi J Bhabha: Father of India's Atomic Energy programme.