

India: Monsoon

Web Quest Challenge

Water in India is a matter of extremes, veering between drought and floods, life and death. There is no other place on the planet with such wide vacillations between wet and dry. Water weighs so heavily on the Indian mind that the Hindu faithful see the country's rivers as sacred. Yet, at the same time, mastery of these holy rivers has been vital to India's existence.¹

Against this background this is a Web Quest Challenge for students to explore many aspects of the monsoon in India, begin to understand the importance of the monsoon to the very existence of the people, its place in the culture and some of the current issues in its management on the macro scale in the day to day lives in rural and urban areas.

➤ Explore the links and information provided in the Monsoon lesson on the Teach India Project website at this link

➤ Listen to music

The monsoon is celebrated with song and dance in the popular culture aka bollywood movies and pop music as well as in classical music traditions.

Suggested search terms: Raag Megh Malhar or bollywood rain songs

¹ The Damned

Water Wants: A History of India's Dams



An engineer at work in India's Sardar Sarovar dam. Photo: Karen Robinson

By Diane Raines Ward

September 14, 2003

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/wideangle/episodes/the-damned/water-wants-a-history-of-indias-dams/3098/>

- Do you know any other songs about rain?
- How do you feel when it rains?
- What season is most important to you and why?

➤ 2012 Floods and Drought

As the above author mentions India veers between drought and floods – but 2012 saw both extremes at around the same time in different parts of the country.

Suggested search terms: India Monsoon floods 2012 and India drought 2012

Also watch the videos mentioned in the lesson.

➤ What are the problems and issues?

This is a collection of articles, photographs and videos about water issues in India titled - [Thirsty Giant: India's Water Crisis](#)

- What are problems India faces when it comes to water? Too much rain, too little rain?
- How are people in rural areas affected? Do urban dwellers fare better?
- How would you cope with either too much rain or not enough drinking water?

➤ Can big dams solve the problem?

Some places have too much water and some none at all.

- What can we do? Explore issues around building big dams to manage water at this [link](#)
- Other countries have also dammed rivers to try and manage the water supply. Can you find examples from other countries and compare outcomes?

➤ The Challenge

- Are there any solutions to weathering an unpredictable monsoon?