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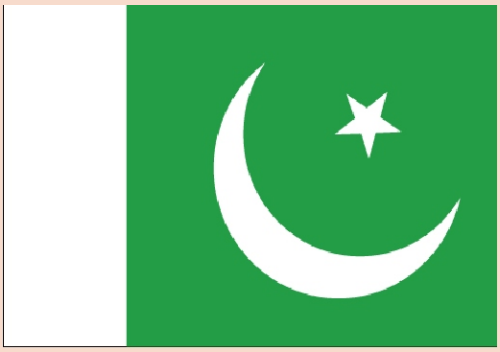
INDIA AND PAKISTAN G31C

INDIA: country profile



Capital: New Delhi
Population: About 1.2 billion
Currency: Rupee
Religion: Hinduism (80%), Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, Sikhism and Jainism
Language: 17 major languages, 844 dialects and English

PAKISTAN: country profile



Capital: Islamabad
Population: About 158 million
Currency: Rupee
Religion: Muslim (97%), Hinduism and Christianity
Language: Urdu, other regional languages and English

India and Pakistan became two independent states in 1947 when British rule came to an end. This box contains a variety of objects from both countries.

Chappals

These shoes are called chappals and are very popular across Pakistan and India. Some have straps across the foot like these and others have one strap between the toes. Traditionally they are made from leather and can be decorated with colourful dyes and patterns.



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Doll

This doll is wearing a sari, which is the traditional garment worn by women in India. It is also worn in Pakistan but only for special occasions, as the salwar-kameez (loose fitting trousers and top) is now more popular.



A sari is a very long piece of material, which can be wrapped around the body in different ways. The most common way is for the material to be wrapped around the waist and then the loose end (called the pallu or pallav) draped over the shoulder, as you can see on the doll.

In the past saris were always made of hand-woven material. The richest women could afford beautiful finely woven silk while the poorer women wore coarse cotton. It was said that the most expertly made saris could be threaded through a ring, like the one in the box.

Nowadays, saris are often mass-produced in a factory, although handmade material can still be bought and used for special occasions.

Hindu statue



This small statue might have been placed in front of a god in a Hindu temple or kept in the home.

Hinduism is the main religion of India and is also practiced in other countries around the world including Britain. It can be found in neighbouring Pakistan although most people are Muslim.

The central belief of Hinduism is that there is a soul, or God, found in everything called Brahman. Brahman can take the form of many different gods, which people worship.

This statue is sitting in a yoga position called the lotus. Yoga is a very important form of meditation in Hinduism.

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Walnut sikara



This model of a sikara (sometimes spelt shikara) boat is made of walnut wood and has some panels of carved patterns for decoration.

Sikaras are small wooden boats most commonly found on Dal Lake in Kashmir. Kashmir is an area in the north of India that has been at the centre of a fierce argument between Pakistan and India, who both want to claim it as part of their own country.



The boats come in many different shapes and sizes and are traditionally used by people to meet on the lake and sell their goods, like a floating market. They trade goods such as vegetables, cattle feed and flowers. This picture shows a boat filled with flowers for sale.

Sikaras are also used as transport between islands, for fishing on the lake and for tourism.

Joss stick holder

Joss sticks, or incense sticks, are an important part of ceremonies in many religions, including Hinduism. They are made of plant matter and essential oils and release a fragrant smoke when burnt.
The sticks are burnt as an offering to God and are placed in a holder like this or waved gently in front of an altar.



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Prayer cap

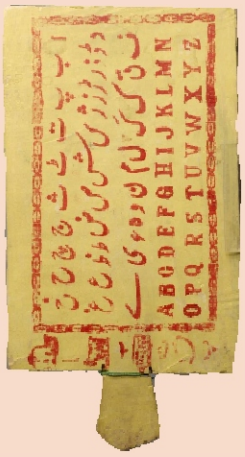
A Kufi, or prayer cap, is worn by Muslim men. The majority of people in Pakistan and a small percentage of people in India are Muslim.



It is important for Muslim men to wear a cap like this, especially when praying, as the original followers of Muhammad (the central prophet in the Islamic faith) always covered their heads.

Lesson board

This board was used in classrooms as a teaching tool, probably in Pakistan.



On one side of the board the Urdu alphabet is printed. Urdu is the official language of Pakistan and is also spoken in some areas of India. The alphabet is related to Arabic and is written from right to left. English is also an official language of Pakistan so the Roman alphabet is also given below. On the other side is a counting chart with numbers 1 to 100.

Cow ornament



This ornament is made of brass and shows a cow with a calf. Cows are used in India and Pakistan for farming and for producing milk. The breeds used are easy to identify because they have long ears, a hump on the shoulders and a bushy tail.

The cow is also a very important animal in Hinduism and is worshipped as a symbol of life. It is wrong to harm a cow and most Hindus will not eat beef.

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Wooden elephant



Carved wooden elephants are very popular ornaments.

You can tell that this is an Indian elephant because it has small ears and two humps on its head. The African species has larger ears, a smooth head and is generally bigger.

Brass elephant ornament



This elephant has an elaborate chair on its back. Traditionally in Indian history owning an elephant was a symbol of status and only people of the highest positions could ride on an elephant. Nowadays, riding an elephant is a popular activity for tourists visiting India.

Seed necklace



This necklace is made of seeds that come from a plant native to India called rattan. The rattan is a type of palm and other parts of it are used to make furniture and baskets.
Seeds are often used to make jewellery as they are not only attractive but also very strong.