



Environment & Geography 4-6

Rajiv's Letter

Learning Objectives

Learn some basic new facts about India.

Reading comprehension.

Materials

Rajiv's letter handout

Time One hour

Student work

Complete the handout on the following page.

Supplementary questions the teacher can ask:

- 1) What village does Rajiv come from?
- 2) How many people does Rajiv have in his family?
- 3) How many animals did Rajiv see on the walk to his village?
- 4) Name one difference between Rajiv's life and your life.
- 5) What does Rajiv say is the most extraordinary thing about India?
- 6) What is Rajiv's least favourite thing about India?
- 7) Why do you think there are so many beggars in India?
- 8) Name three things Rajiv finds hard about his school.



RAJIV'S LETTER

Instructions: Can you help Rajiv insert the following 13 words in the correct place?

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|-----------------|------------|
| 1) Hinduism | 2) Bye for now | 3) 13.5 million | 4) Delhi |
| 5) 2 dollars | 6) 14 | 7) erasing | 8) monkeys |
| 9) beggars | 10) Canada | 11) 1.2 billion | 12) Ganesh |
| 13) desks | | | |

Hello,

My name is Rajiv, and I'm from the village of Purrapalli in India. Do you know about India? More than _____ people live in my country. Eleven people live in my house: my mother, my father, my uncle, my aunt, my grandmother, my two cousins, my brother, my two sisters, and me. In India, not all people speak the same language. The other day, I went with my father and uncle to sell oranges in India's capital city, _____. When we arrived, the people were speaking a language I did not understand. My uncle explained to me that in India there are more than ____ different languages! There were lots of animals on the way to the city. We saw cows, wild boars, elephants, _____, dogs, snakes, and goats. These animals are also found in the village. For example, when I walk through my village, there are always monkeys who try to steal my food from me. Fortunately, my father has shown me how to defend myself.

Perhaps the most extraordinary thing in India is the celebrations. Every week, there is a celebration in my village or in a neighbouring village. My aunt has told me that these are religious celebrations, and that there are many different religions here. But the most popular religion in India is _____. It is a very different religion from most religions in Canada. For example, Hindus have a number of gods. My favourite is _____, who has a huge elephant head!

What I like least about India is the people who beg in the street for money. My mother has told me that these are _____, and that in India more than 250 million people (nearly nine times the population of Canada) live on less than _____ a day. That's the price of one chocolate bar in Canada! What I like even less is when I see children like me working as shoe shiners, fruit vendors, or in factories near my village. In India, some _____ children do not attend school regularly. Fortunately, my father sends me to school every day. Sometimes I find it boring and would rather play with my friends, especially since we don't have chairs to sit on or _____ to write on. I spend long days sitting on the ground listening to the teacher speak. Ants constantly bite us, and the dust from the ground makes us cough. But the hardest thing is writing on the ground. My teacher is always scolding me for _____ my work, but it's not easy to write on the ground!!!

I have also heard that some schools in _____ are willing to help by providing us with desks and seats. Being able to sit comfortably would be wonderful, and make it easier to pay attention in class. If you can think of other ways to help, be sure to share them with your teacher.

I've enjoyed writing to you. I hope you're doing well and having lots of fun with your friends, as I am...

_____.

Rajiv