

11/26/23

Country Quiz

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes
Number of players: Unlimited
Supplies needed: Scoring board/pad; noisemakers
Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

In this series of quizzes, posted every so often, we test your knowledge of world countries. This week, it's **INDIA**.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or in teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a player/team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give an answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may "buzz" in and answer.
4. Scoring: Give 10 points for each correct answer.

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Instructions: This week we test your knowledge of INDIA.

QUESTIONS

1. India is a peninsula bounded by the Indian Ocean on the south, the Arabian Sea on the southwest, and the Bay of Bengal on the southeast. On the north, India shares land borders with six nations. How many can you identify?
2. This island nation, once known as Ceylon, lies only a hundred miles off the southern tip of India.
3. What mountain range stretches across the north and northeastern border of India?
4. In mid-2023, India overtook this country as the most populous nation on Earth.
5. At 1.27 million square miles, India is the seventh-largest country on earth by area. Can you name the six countries that are larger?
6. Four world religions originated in India. How many of them can you name?
7. By the early 1700s, powerful trading companies were beginning to gain considerable political control over large parts of India. The East India Company, for example, was a corporation formed in 1600 by this European nation.
8. Born in 1869 in the British Indian Empire, he led India in its fight for independence from 1921 to 1948. His chief political enemy in Britain was Winston Churchill, who ridiculed him as a "half-naked fakir."
9. In 1914, Gandhi was given this title of honor, which translates as "Great Soul."
10. Long-standing religious tensions among Muslims, Sikhs, and Hindus led to the partition of India into these three nations.
11. This large, brightly colored, flamboyant bird is the national bird of India.
12. This magnificent mammal, native to India, Nepal, and Bangladesh, has become a symbol for endangered animals. At the beginning of the 20th century, an estimated 20,000 to 40,000 of them roamed South Asia; today there are fewer than 2,000.
13. India has a jaw-dropping 45 cities with populations over one million. Can you identify the two largest cities, both of which have more than ten million residents?
14. Mumbai, formerly known as Bombay, is the center of the Hindi language film industry. By what nickname is Hindi cinema known?

15. This board game is believed to have originated in northwest India during the sixth century. Some historians theorize that Muslim traders first exported the ornamentally carved pieces before they included the game board.
16. Today, millions of people around the world practice this ancient Hindu spiritual and ascetic discipline, which includes breath control, simple meditation, and the adoption of specific bodily postures.
17. This famous palace in Accra, India, which took twenty-two years to complete, was built by a 17th-century Indian emperor for his beloved wife.
18. This British-born actor, whose birth name was Krishna Pandit Bhanji, won his first Academy Award for playing the title role in the 1982 film *Gandhi*.
19. This Indian-American CNN medical journalist and neurosurgeon was reportedly offered the position of Surgeon General of the United States in the Obama administration, but he withdrew his name from consideration.
20. In the 1960s, the influence of this sitar virtuoso on the Beatles' George Harrison helped popularize the use of Indian instruments in Western pop music.
21. Born in Bombay (now Mumbai) into an Indian Muslim family and educated in England, this author of the controversial novel *Satanic Verses* has lived under a *fatwa* issued by Ayatollah Khomeini, calling for the writer's death, for more than three decades.

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ANSWERS

1. Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Myanmar (Burma), Nepal, and Pakistan
2. Sri Lanka
3. The Himalayas
4. China. India now has roughly 1.4286 billion people, while China has just above 1.4 billion (just under three million fewer people).
5. Russia (6.3 million square miles), China (3.6 million), Canada (3.53 million), United States (3.51 million), Brazil (3.2 million), Australia (2.9 million)
6. Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Sikhism. While Sikhism is about 500 years old, the others are all significantly older than Christianity.
7. England. Ultimately the East India Company was dissolved, and India was ruled directly by Britain.
8. Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi
9. Mahatma
10. India and Pakistan in 1947, and Bangladesh in 1971
11. The peacock
12. Bengal tigers
13. Mumbai (12.4 million) and Delhi (11 million)
14. Bollywood
15. Chess
16. Yoga
17. The Taj Mahal
18. Ben Kingsley
19. Dr. Sanjay Gupta
20. Ravi Shankar, who was the recipient of five Grammy Awards, including Album of the Year for *The Concert for Bangladesh* in 1973.
21. Salman Rushdie. In 2022, Rushdie was stabbed and gravely wounded in New York by a 24-year-old supporter of Iran and the terrorist group Hezbollah.