Reading Assessment - Non-Fiction

India

India is a country in the contienent of Asia. It is home to the Himalayan Mountains, the highest mountain range in the world. It is also home to the world's second largest population.

Food

Many people in India, who practise Hinduism, don't eat beef because cows are seen as sacred animals. In fact, many people are vegetarian. People use their fingers, rather than cutlery, to eat their food. Look at these rules to find out more about eating in India.

1. It is considered impolite if the food reaches past the first joint of the finger when eating.
2. The fingers should not touch the mouth whilst food is being eaten.
3. Only the right hand should be used when eating.

Many people in northern India eat chapatis with their meal. These are flat pieces of bread used to soak up or scoop food. Lentils, fish and coconut milk are used in many meals all over India. Meals often use many delicious spices to add flavour to food.

Wildlife

One of the world's rarest animals lives in the Indian Himalayas. The snow leopard can be found in its mountains, in very cold conditions. Their thick fur acts like a winter coat whilst its huge paws behave like snow shoes. The most likely prey for these speedy and powerful animals comes in the form of birds, hares, goats and sheep. When they stray into farms, hunting for prey, they risk being killed by local people. This, as well as other factors has led to dramatically reduced numbers of the big cats in the wild.

The People and Their Religions

More than a billion people live in India. The population continues to grow at a rapid rate, which makes some worry about how the country will manage to feed its people. This means that growing crops and looking after animals is very important to the future of the country.

Many people in India have relgious beliefs. The two main religions in India are Hinduism and Islam, although there are other religions in the country.

Glossary

- Population - the people who live in a place.
- Lakshmi - Hindu goddess of good luck.
- Sacred - something or someone that is special to a religion.

Diwali - The Festival of Light

Diwali is a Hindu festival famous for light and colour. It usually happens around the end of October and symbolises the beginning of a new year. The celebration welcomes the goddess Lakshmi to people's homes. Every home burns special clay lamps to light the way for the goddess to their homes. In preparation for her visit, homes are cleaned and decorated whilst many people make Indian sweets, sharing them with family and friends. Indians use jasmine flowers to decorate their homes and visit temples to worship. People dress in fine clothes made of beautiful silks, eat delicious foods and celebrate good luck. The cities and homes are decorated with lights and firework displays whilst firecrackers are used to frighten off evil spirits. Presents are exchanged and parties are held.

Capital: New Delhi

Language: Hindi (most common)

Flag

Longest river: Ganges

Currency: Rupees