



#8770

# INDIA: CITY GIRL

Grade Levels: 5-10

13 minutes

BENCHMARK MEDIA 1999

## DESCRIPTION

Richa Jha is a teenaged member of New Delhi, India's growing middle class. Her parents are college-educated professionals and send their two daughters to private schools. Follows Richa through a typical school day and after-school and evening activities of homework, shopping, and television. Contrasts her middle-class life with that of New Delhi's poor.

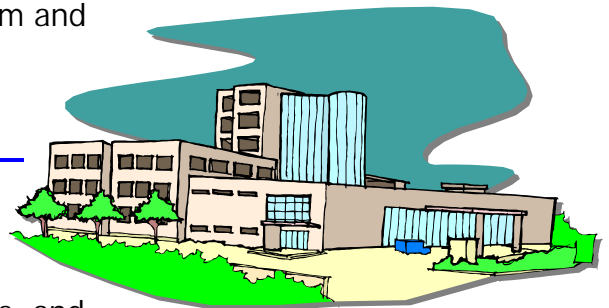
## ACADEMIC STANDARDS

### Subject Area: Geography

- ◆ Standard: Understands the physical and human characteristics of place
  - Benchmark: Knows the human characteristic of places

## INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To depict the way a girl, Richa, and her professional parents, live in a large Indian city.
2. To demonstrate how the growing middle class is changing urban India's economic and social structure, even while the country's poor remain an enormous challenge.
3. To illustrate how the legacy of British colonialism and traditional Indian culture have blended.



## BEFORE SHOWING

1. Using a wall map, have students locate India. How far is it from where they live? Note the locations of the subcontinent's major bodies of water and rivers, mountain terrain and lowlands, and major cities. Locate the city of New Delhi, where Richa—the girl in the video—lives. Note that the Himalayas, the highest mountains in the world, form a barrier between the Indian subcontinent and the rest of Asia. How do these physical geographic features and climate compare with those of the United States?
2. Discuss elements that define a culture, such as: big city versus village, religion, education, language, sports and leisure activities, foods, music, art, clothes, family, socioeconomic status, and other elements. Ask students to make a list of how different cultures have shaped their lives. How would their everyday life be different if it had not been influenced by other cultures?

3. Discuss how geography, educational opportunities, local commerce, available transportation, and the accessibility of communications affect the way people live and work in your local area. What changes in local commerce and culture has been the result of modern communications? Expand the concept to various regions of the country. When viewing the video, ask students to notice the specific links between these factors and the way people in New Delhi live and work.

## AFTER SHOWING

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### Discussion Items and Questions

Stimulate a class discussion about physical geography and climate of New Delhi, and how it compares to the rest of India. Where are the other large cities located, such as Bombay and Calcutta? Why? How do the mountains of India affect where the monsoon rains fall?

### Applications and Activities

1. Divide the class into two groups, and assign one to a city girl like Richa, of middle-class professional parents, and the other to a village girl like Kaushalya, who is attending school although her parents are illiterate farmworkers (as in the companion video *India: Country Girl*). Ask the students to prepare a class presentation on a typical day in the life of their subject. Compare those typical daily events with similar daily events in the students' lives. What trends do they see for village girls? What trends do they see in their own lives?
2. Ask students to plan a trip to rural and urban India, using maps, tourist information, information from the Internet, books or articles, and the video. Reports should address how they would travel; where to visit; what to see, do, and buy; which time of year to travel and why; what clothing to bring; and what the weather and landscape would be like.

## SUMMARY

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India is home to huge cities like Bombay, Calcutta, and the capital, New Delhi. More than a quarter of the 900-odd million people in India live in cities like New Delhi. Richa and her family are typical of India's large and growing middle class, most of which live in the cities. Her parents are professionals, and both she and her sister attend private schools. Classes are taught in English, a legacy of colonial Britain. Students wear uniforms, have eight class periods a day in the same classroom—the teacher changes rooms. Electives include courses such as computers, home economics, dance, or music. Popular school sports are cricket (introduced by the British), soccer, and basketball.

After school, Richa helps her mother shop at a neighborhood outdoor market. Weekends, the family shops at a huge outdoor bazaar. A delicious afternoon snack is "aloo tikki," made of potatoes, peas, and peanuts. Typical meals include rice or a bread



called "chappati," and heavily spiced vegetables. Evening television programs are usually Indian films, a major industry here.

The urban poor, in stark contrast, lack running water, sewage facilities, and many sleep in the streets. Yet thousands of country people continue to arrive, seeking a better life. Some find it, others never escape poverty.

Richa will undoubtedly continue with higher studies, and become a professional like her parents. She will become a member of India's growing middle class, which is slowly changing the social, economic, and political structure of India.

## RELATED RESOURCES



### Captioned Media Program

- Ashok by Any Other Name #3333
- Assignment: India #3106
- Bengal Tiger #8631
- India: Country Girl #8771
- My World Calcutta #3384



### World Wide Web



The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and "kid-safe" sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **WELCOME TO INDIA**

<http://www.welcometoindia.com/index.asp>

Read about India's basic facts, culture, cuisine, calculate the monetary exchange rate using the converter, and other topics related to India.

- **APPU KIDS**

<http://www.appukids.com/>

Learn about Indian arts, dance, festivals, celebrities, mythology, an Indian safari and more.

- **NETFUNDU**

<http://www.netfundu.com/myindia.htm>

Discover Indian games, Indian states and many more facts about this country.