

# India



## Did you know:

- ✓ About 1.2 billion people live in India.
- ✓ The capital of India is New Delhi, but the largest city is Mumbai.
- ✓ Hindi is the main language in India, and most people speak English as well.
- ✓ The currency in India is the rupee.
- ✓ The main religion in India is Hinduism. The next most popular religion is Islam; Sikhs and Christians also live in the country.
- ✓ One of the most important Hindu festivals is Diwali, also called the 'festival of lights'.
- ✓ Women in India wear saris, and men wear dhotis.
- ✓ Both are long pieces of cloth draped around the body in a certain way.
- ✓ Cows are seen as sacred in India – nobody eats beef, and most people are vegetarians.
- ✓ India has a very large film industry called Bollywood.
- ✓ Animals found in India include Bengal tigers, elephants, flying foxes, lions and macaques.

## India's Culture:

The people of India have many languages, religions, and cultures. Religion has been very influential in the music, dance, festivals, and clothing of India. The unique sound of India's music is often created with an Indian instrument called a sitar. This instrument looks similar to a guitar, except that it has a very long neck. There are 18 official languages, but over 1,600 languages and dialects spoken in India. English is commonly spoken in India.



## India's Holidays and Celebrations:

Diwali is a joyous celebration that takes place on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar. This is usually at the end of October. During this five day holiday, people light oil lamps and set off fireworks. The holiday is also to worship the goddesses Kali and Lakshmi. People thank them for their good fortune and strength. Diwali is also the beginning of the new year. It is a time for people to reflect on the importance of their lives. They begin the new year with good habits.



## Indian Food:

Many of India's people are vegetarians, meaning they don't eat meat. Hindus believe that the cow is a sacred animal and never eat beef. Much of the food in India is flavored with spices such as cinnamon, garlic, and cumin. Most meals include rice, vegetables, bread, and yogurt.



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## Craft

### Draw and Craft an Indian Elephant

Within Indian culture elephants are highly treasured. Painted elephants are common at celebrations and festivals and make their appearance across many Indian art forms. You can complete this art project with any symbol of India, but the elephant makes for a stunning result.

#### Materials:

- Scrap Fabric (We used white cotton)
- Pencil
- Gel Glue
- Acrylic Paint
- Cardboard or mat for underneath fabric

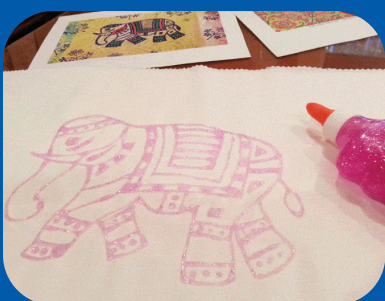
1. Search online for a visual reference for your art project. Pick some lovely images of Indian elephants to inspire you!



2. Using a pencil, draw your image onto your fabric



3. Place a piece of cardboard under your fabric then trace your outline with gel glue. Set aside to dry or set up a quick drying station with hair dryers.



4. Get your acrylic paint ready in the meantime.



5. Fill in your picture with different brightly colored paints.

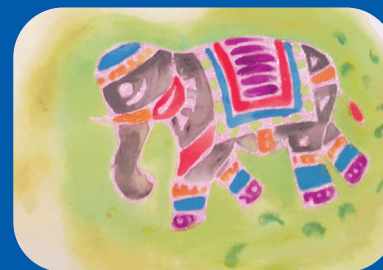


7. Once dry, soak your fabric in a tub of warm water. Gently peel off the glue. Allow your fabric to dry.

ALL DONE!!



6. Add in a background if you like, using water to blend colours into the fabric. Let your painting dry completely.



8. This is the white cardboard we had underneath our project. The paint transferred through the fabric and onto the board giving us a second beautiful piece of art to share.

