



Social Science

Class 6

Chapter 5: India, That Is Bharat



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Questions, Activities & Projects

Q 1. Discuss what could be the meaning of the quotation at the start of the chapter.

Ans: This quote shows that spiritual and cultural unity had been established in India since ancient times. Even though India is geographically spread from the Himalayas to the oceans, a common faith, tradition and cultural expressions remained united in its life stream. This unity has been the force that binds India amidst diversity.

Q 2. True or false?

- **The Rig Veda describes the entire geography of India.**
- **The Vishnu Purāṇa describes the entire Subcontinent.**
- **In Ashoka's time, 'Jambudvipa' included what is today India, parts of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan.**
- **The Mahabharata lists many regions, including Kashmir, Kutch, and Kerala.**
- **The term 'Hindustan' first appeared in a Greek inscription more than 2,000 years ago.**
- **In ancient Persian, the word 'Hindu' refers to the Hindu religion.**
- **'Bhārata' is a name given to India by foreign travellers.**

Ans:

- The Rig Veda describes the entire geography of India. **false**
- The Vishnu Purāṇa describes the entire Subcontinent. **True**
- In Ashoka's time, 'Jambudvipa' included what is today India, parts of Afghanistan, Bangladesh and Pakistan. **True**
- The Mahabharata lists many regions, including Kashmir, Kutch, and Kerala. **True**
- The term 'Hindustan' first appeared in a Greek inscription more than 2,000 years ago. **false**
- In ancient Persian, the word 'Hindu' refers to the Hindu religion. **false**
- 'Bhārata' is a name given to India by foreign travellers. **false**

Q 3. If you were born some 2,000 years ago and had the chance to name our country, what name or names might you have chosen, and why? Use your imagination!

Ans: If I were born 2,000 years ago, I would have named my country "Suvarnabhumi" as it would reflect its prosperity, culture, knowledge and natural beauty. India was then the "golden bird" with knowledge centres like Nalanda-Takshashila and a confluence of diverse religions. This name would reflect the country's inclusive and proud identity.

Q 4. Why did people travel to India from various parts of the world in ancient times? What could be their motivations in undertaking such long journeys? (Hint: There could be at least four or five motivations)

Ans: In ancient times, people from different parts of the world travelled to India for several purposes, the main ones being:

1. For education and knowledge.
2. For trade and economic gain.
3. For religious and spiritual pursuits.
4. For the study of culture and art.
5. For political and diplomatic reasons.

For these reasons, India remained a major centre of the ancient world.