

Date: _____

Indian Culture

The Taj Mahal

- Emperor Shah Jahan (5th ruler of the Mogul dynasty) built the Taj Mahal to honor his dead wife – Arjumand Banu.
- Taj Mahal was built in the 16th century and took 22 years to complete.
- Over 20,000 workers spent their lives working on it.
- The dome is 210 feet tall and the building is made of white marble, which was carried from 250 miles away.
- Thousands of jewels are set in designs on the walls.
- Shah Jahan was a Muslim, but he allowed both Hindu & Muslim styles to be incorporated into the architecture.
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The Taj Mahal Today- Answer the following from the Taj Mahal video:

- The marble Structure was built in Agra, India.
- Generally regarded as the finest example of Mughal art and architecture.
- Today, the Taj Mahal is a year round attraction with over 3 million visitors per year.

Language Facts for India

- Over 1,000 different languages and dialects in India
- Many people know more than two languages in order to communicate with other regions
- Hindi and English = official languages of India
- Government recognizes 16 different languages
- Sanskrit is the classical language of India
- Sanskrit is no longer spoken but is still written and understood by many

Art of India

- Miniature painting was popular
- Introduced through the illustration of religious manuscripts (Jainism)
- Also used to decorate annual New Year's letters

- Letters were given to friends asking for forgiveness for any wrongdoings in the past year
- Illustrations represented daily life
 - Palace scenes
 - Market places
 - Dancing women
 - Animals
 - Sacred objects