

# Exploring India

## Rural life in India

Video summary	Before watching the film	During the film
<p><b>Thirteen-year-old pupils Dua and Nayan are on a trip of a lifetime to explore India.</b></p> <p>They meet a local expert to find out about life in rural India and learn that the majority of the population live in villages and are subsistence farmers. They hear how India's extreme climate can be hazardous for subsistence farmers due to drought and flooding.</p> <p>They travel to a village 50km south of Patna and meet local farmers. They learn that women do most of the work in the fields and also discover that new techniques are being introduced to increase yield and profits. They learn that there are two growing seasons and that the monsoon can force people to move to the cities each year to work.</p> <p>They then meet more local farmers and hear from local children about what life is like living in rural India.</p> <p><a href="#">Download / print a transcript of the video.</a></p>	<p>Using a world map, locate India. Ask students to write a locational description of where India is.</p> <p>Discuss with students why farming is important and what they know about farming in the UK - for example, what types of crops do we farm here.</p> <p>Then ask students what might be farmed in India and how it might be different to the UK.</p> <p><b>Introduce key terms such as:</b></p> <p><b>Subsistence farming:</b> farming to feed yourself and your family.</p> <p><b>Drought:</b> a prolonged period without rainfall.</p> <p><b>Surplus:</b> more than is needed.</p>	<p>You may wish to stop at relevant points during this short film to pose questions and check understanding or wait until the end. Useful questions might include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How many people live in rural areas of India?</li> <li>• What is subsistence farming?</li> <li>• What challenges do subsistence farmers face?</li> <li>• What types of crops are grown?</li> <li>• What impacts does flooding have on the farmers?</li> <li>• What are monsoons?</li> <li>• What farming techniques are being used?</li> <li>• How do the farmers work together to help each other?</li> <li>• What impact has technology had?</li> </ul>

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## *Rural life in India*

### After watching the film

Discuss with students what farming techniques they could see in the clip and why farming is important in rural India. Students might consider the availability of food and how the techniques may differ to ones they have seen in the UK.

Ask students to make a list of all of the factors that could affect farming in India and how they could be overcome - for example drought is one issue, and this could be overcome by planting drought tolerant crops which don't require much water.

Task students with investigating ways in which to improve crop yields for subsistence farmers and the impacts that these strategies might have. A starting point could be the Green Revolution and the impacts this had on farming in India.

#### Where next?

Using GapMinder's website [Dollar Street](#) investigate the lives of other families around the world. This website gives you an insight into their lives and looks at different products that families have in their homes.

Students could look at families across India and see how their lives differ, this could then branch out to other families around the world.

#### Links to Bitesize

Brief introduction to India:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zc72frd/revision/1>

Changes in farming:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/zgjf6sg/revision/8>

Farming techniques:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/guides/ztwvk2p/revision/3>