

SHREE VASISHTHA VIDHYALAYA

Date: 07/07/2025

Std: VI

Subject: Social science

Chapter: 5. India is called Bharat

➤ Introduction

India, a land of diverse cultures and rich history, has been known by various names throughout its existence. From ancient texts to modern-day usage, the country's names reflect its complex identity and the influences it has faced over time.

➤ Ancient Names of India

- A. **Septa Sindhava:** Meaning "land of seven rivers," this name was used in the Rig Veda to refer to the northwestern region of the Indian subcontinent.
- B. **Bharatavarsha:** Mentioned in the Mahabharata, this name refers to the entire Indian subcontinent and means "the land of the Bharatas".
- C. **Jambudvipa:** Used by Emperor Ashoka around 250 BCE, this name describes the Indian subcontinent as the "island of the jamun tree".
- D. **Hindustan:** This name was first used by Persians around 1,800 years ago and later became popular among invaders to describe the Indian subcontinent.

Foreign Influences on India's Names

- A. Persian Influence:** The Persians referred to India as "Hind" or "Hindu," derived from the Indus River.
- B. Greek Influence:** The Greeks called India "Indoi" or "Indike," dropping the initial "H" sound due to linguistic differences.
- C. Chinese Influence:** The Chinese referred to India as "Yintu" or "Yindu," also derived from the Indus River, and "Tianzhu," meaning "heavenly master".

Evolution of India's Names

- A. Ancient Texts:** Names like "Sapta Sindhava" and "Bharatavarsha" were used in ancient texts like the Rig Veda and Mahabharata.
- B. International Recognition:** The name "India" eventually became the internationally recognized name, while "Bharat" remains widely used in Indian languages.

Flowchart: Evolution of India's Names

1. Ancient Texts

- Rig Veda (Sapta Sindhava)
- Mahabharata (Bharatavarsha)

2. Foreign Influences

- Persian (Hind/Hindustan)
- Greek (Indoi/Indike)

→ Chinese (Yintu/Yindu/Tianzhu)

3. Modern-Day Usage

→ India (internationally recognized name)

→ Bharat (widely used in Indian languages)

➤ Objectives:

- To understand the diverse names of India and their historical context
- To analyze the influences of foreign cultures on India's identity
- To appreciate the richness and diversity of India's cultural heritage

➤ Conclusion

The chapter "India is Called Bharat" helps students understand the diverse names of India and their historical context. By learning about the evolution of India's names, students can develop a deeper appreciation for the country's rich cultural heritage and diversity. The chapter also promotes critical thinking and analytical skills, enabling students to understand the complex identity of India and its place in the world.

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