# SOUTH ASIA- HISTORY AND CULTURE



#### Hinduism



Every spring the Ganges River swells with water as snow melts in the Himalayas. The water brings life as trees and flowers bloom and crops grow. This cycle of rebirth is a metaphor for Hinduism, the religious faith of most people in India. Hinduism is a polytheistic faith, with many gods and goddesses. Hindus believe that every living thing has a soul, which comes from the creator, Brahma. They believe that people's souls live on

after death, and that all living things can be reborn. This is called reincarnation. Traditionally, a person who followed the rules of their caste would be reborn to a higher form in the next life. A Hindu who neglected their duties would be reborn in a lower form, perhaps as an animal or insect. The goal of Hinduism is to escape the cycle of rebirth by reaching Nirvana. Nirvana is a Sanskrit word that means ending. Hindus and Buddhists believe Nirvana is a state of happiness without change or pain.

Hindus believe that all living things have souls, so almost all Hindus are vegetarians. A vegetarian does not eat meat. Some Hindus are vegan, which means they will not eat any animal products, including eggs and cheese. Other Hindus will eat poultry and fish, but will not eat beef. Cows are particularly sacred to Hindus. It is not unusual to see a cow wandering through the streets of an Indian city.

Many Hindus consider the Ganges River holy. Lately, the Ganges has become very polluted, but Hindus believe the water from the Himalayas will purify the souls of those who drink or bathe in its waters. Many Hindus make a pilgrimage to the Ganges. Others travel to it near the end of their lives so they may die near the banks of the Ganges River.

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6. Use your textbook to research one of the many gods or goddesses of Hinduism. Draw a picture of the god or goddess on the back of this page with a short explanation of the god or goddess.

#### Buddhism

Siddhartha Gautama was a prince who lived in the kingdom of Sakyas, near the present day border of India and Nepal, more than 2500 years ago. The young prince was raised in great luxury, but he was not happy. He wanted to understand what caused human suffering. He did not understand why some people were rich and others were poor. Why some people were healthy and others sickly.

Siddhartha left his palace and lived as an ascetic. An ascetic is a person who has few material possessions and has given up all pleasures and comforts. He prayed and fasted. To fast is to eat little or no food. Siddhartha fasted so strictly that he nearly died, but he was still not satisfied. Finally, Siddhartha sat down under a bo tree and determined to understand why he had failed to find a satisfying way of life. Late that night Siddhartha Gautama became enlightened.

Siddhartha told other people of his enlightenment. He became well known for his teaching. Siddhartha's students called him "the Buddha," which means "the Enlightened One," and the followers of Siddhartha's teachings are called Buddhists.

The Buddha taught his followers to seek balance in their lives. The path to happiness is neither through indulgence nor denial, but a "middle way." Siddhartha taught that by putting aside your ego, you can escape the cycle of death and rebirth to reach Nirvana.

Buddhists look within themselves to find peace; they believe they can find the path to Nirvana through meditation and karma. Karma can be defined as the rewards or punishments a person faces because of their thoughts, words, and actions. A happy person who treats others with kindness and respect creates good karma. A person who mistreats others will in turn be mistreated. This is bad karma.

The Buddha did not want his teachings to replace other faiths, but today over three hundred million Buddhists in all parts of the world adhere to his philosophy. His ideas traveled to China, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia. Buddhism lost its influence in India by the 8th century, partly because its ideas were absorbed into Hinduism, and partly due to the rise of Islam. Buddhism is a major religious and moral force in the world, but it has been all but unknown in India for over one thousand years.

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# SOUTH ASK - CULTURE AND HISTORY

### South Asia - A History of Conquerors

India's diverse languages and cultures are the result of many outside influences. The subcontinent has been continuously raided from the north, despite the natural barriers provided by the Himalavas.

The Dravidians were India's first inhabitants. Archaeologists believe the Dravidians migrated to India from East Africa in prehistoric times. Aryan invaders from the north conquered the Dravidians about 1500BC. The Aryans were related to the Persians and Europeans. Their language, Sanskrit, is similar to Greek and Latin. Linguists classify Sanskrit as an "Indo-European language." Most of India's languages are rooted in Sanskrit or Dravidian languages.

During the 19th century, some Europeans concluded that people who spoke Indo-European languages were responsible for most human progress. They regarded the Germanic people as the "purest Aryans" and said they were superior to other races. Later study proved these conclusions false, but Adolph Hitler and the Nazis used these ideas to exterminate Jews, Gypsies, and other "non-Aryans."

Persians, Alexander the Great's armies from Greece, and Huns from Central Asia also invaded India in ancient times. About AD800, Muslims first began to settle near the mouth of the Indus River in modern Pakistan. Muslim warriors began to move south about AD1000 to conquer the Indians. The Indian's slow elephants were no match for the Muslim's swift war horses. Additionally, the Indians relied on the warrior Kshatriya caste to fight. Moreover, Indians from lower castes were attracted to Islam because Muslims believe that all people are equal.

About 1500, new Muslim invaders, called Moguls, arrived in India. The greatest of the Mogul emperors was Akbar, who ruled from 1556 to 1606. Unlike previous Muslim rulers, Akbar did not force Hindus to become Muslims. He ordered that Muslims and Hindus be treated equally. India became a prosperous nation under Akbar, and the emperors who followed him became some of the richest rulers in the history of the world.



Islamic art, culture and architecture became an important part of Indian culture during the Mogul Dynasty. The Taj Mahal, in the northern Indian city of Agra, is an example of Mogul architecture. Akbar's grandson, Shah Jahan, built the Taj Mahal as a mausoleum for his wife, who died in childbirth in 1631. A mausoleum is a large tomb. The Shah told builders he wanted a building as beautiful as his wife. Twenty thousand people worked daily for more than twenty years to complete the white marble structure.

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Portuguese sailor Vasco da Gama circumnavigated Africa to reach India in 1498. His journey paved the way for other European nations, including the Dutch, French and British. The Europeans came to India to trade for jute (a tropical plant used for making rope), indigo (a blue dye), sugar, tea, cotton, ginger, pepper, and other spices. Eventually, India's Mogul rulers became puppets of the British. In 1857, British troops exiled the last of the Mogul emperors after an uprising by the Indian people. Nineteen years later, the British proclaimed Queen Victoria Empress of India.

The British at first had no interest in changing the Indian way of life, but they eventually made many reforms. They outlawed suttee in 1829. Suttee was an Indian custom of a widow burning herself, either on the funeral pyre of her dead husband, or soon after his death. Sometimes, wives were sacrificed before their husband's expected death in battle. The frequency of suttee has been exaggerated, but the question of its abolition became important to the Indian people. They were unhappy that colonial rulers had no right to

change Indian customs. The British argued that in making moral decisions, rulers must consult their own consciences, not those of their subjects.

The British also built the largest railway system in Asia, constructed roads and irrigated large areas of land. They improved health care and prevented many famines.

The Indian people were not happy with British rule. They resented the harsh taxes of their colonial rulers. The British forbade the Indian people from trading with other nations. India's many ethnic groups united to evict the British and bring self-rule to the subcontinent.

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# SOUTH ASIA - CULTURE AND HISTORY

#### Mohandas Gandhi

Mohandas Gandhi was leader in the Indian nationalist movement against British rule. Many people consider him to be the father of his country, though he never held office. Gandhi is remembered for using nonviolent protest to achieve justice.

As a young man, Gandhi traveled to London to study law. He returned to India upon graduation, but was unable to find work. He accepted a job in South Africa, where many Indian people had gone to live. While on a train in South Africa, Gandhi was told to get off to make room for a European. He refused and was beaten. Gandhi considered that incident his moment of truth. He decided he would not accept injustice. He would defend his dignity as an Indian and as a man.

Gandhi decided to use his knowledge of law to help the Indian people. He spoke to groups of Indians living in South Africa about human rights. He urged them to protest laws that were unfair. Once he returned to India, Gandhi took the sides of the untouchables. Gandhi called them harijans, which means "children of god." Gandhi said that harijans had been blessed by their suffering.

Gandhi urged his followers to oppose the British through civil disobedience and non-violent protest. He urged them to boycott, or refuse to purchase, British goods. Sometimes Gandhi and his followers would sit down in factories or in the middle of streets. Women would lie across railroad tracks to stop trains. Gandhi and his followers were often beaten or jailed, but he refused to urge his followers to fight. Many Indian people began to call him the Mahatma, which means "great soul."

Gandhi stopped wearing western clothes and began to wear cloths made from yarn he spun himself. He wanted to show that he was proud to be an Indian. Gandhi devoted two hours every day to spinning, and urged other Indians to follow his example. As a result of Gandhi's spinning program and the boycott, the sale of British cloth in India dropped sharply.

#### **Partition**

After World War II, India's long independence campaign finally paid off. The British decided the cost of maintaining colonial rule was too high. They agreed to grant independence to the subcontinent. India's people had put aside their religious differences to fight the British, but with victory in sight; problems began surfacing between Hindus and Muslims. Many Muslims felt the Hindu majority would treat them unfairly once the subcontinent achieved independence. The struggle became violent.

British and Indian leaders decided that the only solution to the conflict was a partition, that separated the continent into Hindu and Muslim states. In 1947, the Indian subcontinent became the independent nations of India and Pakistan. Pakistan was made up of two regions: West Pakistan on the Indus River plain, and East Pakistan (now Bangladesh), more than 1,100 away. Important parts of what was once considered India were now in other nations. The Indus River, for which the subcontinent is named, became part of Pakistan after the partition.

Twelve million people were forced to move—Hindus to India, Muslims to Pakistan—in one of the greatest migrations of refugees in history. Both groups moved because they feared being ruled by leaders of the other faith. The journey was long and torturous. Many people were forced to leave their possession or trade them for water. Hunger, thirst and exhaustion killed others. Additionally, an estimated one million people were killed in religious warfare.

Gandhi was a Hindu, but he considered the partition of his homeland one of the greatest disappointments of his life. He fought vigorously against the separation, and tried to end the rioting and killing. Some people on both sides blamed him for the fighting. When he was unable to stop the fighting by persuasion, he went on a fast. He won at least two spectacular triumphs; in September 1947 his fasting stopped the rioting in Calcutta, and in January 1948, he shamed the city of Delhi into a truce. A few days later, on January 30, 1948, while he was on his way to his evening prayer meeting in Delhi, a young Hindu fanatic murdered him.

Gandhi may have felt he failed because he was unable to unite the subcontinent, but he inspired people around the world. African leaders used his example when demanding independence from their colonial governments. In the United States, Martin Luther King used Gandhi's example to demand better treatment for African-Americans. Today in India, Gandhi is revered as a hero, the man who used non-violence to lead his people to freedom.

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2. Define civil disobedience.
3. What name did many people call Mohandas Gandhi?
4. Why do you think the British agreed to grant independence to the Indian people?

# SOUTH ASIA - CULTURE AND HISTORY

India since Independence

More than one billion people live in India. The nation is about one-third the size of the United States, but more than ten times as crowded. India is the world's largest democracy, but it is a difficult nation to govern.

India's population has tripled since independence. Nearly one-sixth of all of the people of the earth live in India. Improved health care and increased food production has improved the Indian people's lives, but it has also increased the speed of India's growth. The size of India's population has made progress in solving other problems very slow.

Indians speak more than 800 languages and dialects. A dialect is a local form of a language. The Indian government has attempted to make Hindi the national language, but many people resisted. They felt that if they gave up their own languages, important parts of their cultural heritage would disappear. About half of the Indian people speak Hindi, English, or both.

Gandhi believed that once the subcontinent achieved independence, the Indian people should go back to their traditional way of life. Villages would learn to take care of themselves by raising their own food and learning to spin and weave. Gandhi believed that India was not ready for modernization. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru disagreed with Gandhi. He wanted India to become more like European nations. Under Nehru, India built factories, highways and railroads. Today, India is one of the world's largest industrial nations. In 1984, poison gas leaked from an American chemical plant in Bhopal, India. The gas leak killed over 2,500 people and prompted many Indians to reconsider the costs of modernization.

India's hostile relationship with Pakistan has recently gained world attention. The two nations had fought three wars in fifty years. In 1998, Indian scientists conducted nuclear testing. Pakistan followed suit two weeks later. Both nations implied they had the means to use nuclear weapons on enemy targets. Nations around the world condemned the testing; the United States, Japan and other nations imposed harsh sanctions on both nations. Many people are alarmed at the prospect of a nuclear war between India and Pakistan, but others see hope. Since the nations now have the power to destroy one another, they may come to the conclusion that settling their disputes by force is no longer an option.

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# SOUTH ASA: CULTURE AND HUTORY (7

## Pakistan and Bangladesh

When the British partitioned the Indian subcontinent, they created a nation called Pakistan for the Muslims in then region. Pakistan consisted of two regions – West Pakistan and East Pakistan – separated by 1,100 miles of Indian territory. East Pakistan seceded from the nation, causing a civil war. India joined the conflict on the side of the East Pakistanis. In 1971, East Pakistan became the independent nation of Bangladesh. Bangladesh had many reasons for separating from Pakistan:

- Bangladesh is only one-fifth the size of Pakistan, it has a larger population.
- The two nations are very different. Pakistan is a mountainous nation with many ethnic groups, while most people in Bangladesh share the same culture. 98% of the people of Bangladesh speak Bengali, yet less than ten percent of Pakistanis speak Urdu, their official language.
- By 1970, East Pakistan paid more taxes than West Pakistan, but the government was dominated by West Pakistanis.
- A violent flood in 1970 killed more than 300,000 Pakistanis. Many people in East Pakistan accused the government of delaying shipments of food and relief supplies to the victims.

Bangladesh faces some of the greatest challenges of any nation in the world. It is the ninth

most populated nation in the world. Bangladesh has half the number of people of the United States, but they are squeezed into an area less than the size of Wisconsin. Bangladesh is located on a delta formed by the Ganges and Brahmaputra rivers. The rivers often flood, killing many people. Crowded conditions and natural disasters have made famine, or great hunger, a common problem in Bangladesh.

#### Sri Lanka

Thirty-three miles southeast of India is the tear-drop shaped island nation of Sri Lanka. Sri Lanka was once covered with rainforest, but most of the forest has been cut down to make room for farming and development. Many scientists believe deforestation has caused severe droughts in Sri Lanka. More than 45,000 people have been killed in a civil war on the island since 1983. Ethnic Hindu militants are fighting a guerrilla war against the Buddhist majority. They hope to create a separate state for themselves in northeast Sri Lanka.

### Nepal and Bhutan

The kingdoms Nepal and Bhutan are two of the poorest and least developed nations in the world.

Located high in the Himalayas, Nepal and Bhutan are very isolated, in fact, Bhutan had no paved roads until the 1960s. Until recently, few people visited either nation. Bhutan continues to discourage tourists and other foreigners because they want to protect their traditional culture. Nepal encourages tourism, but only the heartiest of people are able to hike its mountains and enjoy its majestic scenery.

# THE NATIONS OF THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT

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Gross Domestic	\$1,540,000	\$296,500	\$155,100	\$26,500	\$1,300	\$69,700	
	million	million	million	million.	million	million	million
Product		\$2,146	\$1,215	\$1,094	\$667	\$3,593	<u>\$1,591</u>
GDP per capita	\$1,538	φ2,140	150,000	1,200,000	1,500,000	13,500,000	26,350,000
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Hindu pop.	800,000,000	-1,300,000	13,500,000	22,000,000		72.6 years	61.0 years
Life expectancy	62.9 years	59.1 years	56.7 years	57.9 years	52.3 years		3.44
Fertility	3.24	4,91	3.32	4.87	5.22	2.12	
	1.71%	2.2%	1.76%	2.52%	2.27%	1.12%	1.83%
Annual Growth Rate		38%	38%	28%	42%	90%	49.2%_
Total Literacy	52%		49%	41%	56%	93%	62.6%
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The area of a nation is how much land it occupies. The population is the number of people who live in a nation. Density is the population divided by the area. It describes how crowded a nation is. The Gross Domestic Product is the total value of goods and services in a nation. The GDP per capita is the Gross Domestic Product divided by the population. The religion estimates may be inaccurate, they can be used for comparison only. The beliefs of Hindus and Buddhists are often Product divided by the population. The religion estimates may be inaccurate, they can be used for comparison only. The beliefs of Hindus and Buddhists are often blurred and all of the faiths have influenced one another. Life Expectancy describes how long a typical person in that nation will live. Fertility is the number of blurred and all of the faiths have influenced one another. The Annual Growth Rate is the percent change in population. The Literacy Rate is the percentage of adults who are able to read.

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Why are North	and Bhutan very isola	tod notions?				
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			•			
**Look at a map a	nd he creative		1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	<del></del>		

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Name		<u> </u>	Date			Class	
	And the state					•	
Section 1. Indi	in In the Midet	of Chama			_		

Section 1: India: In the Midst of Change South, Southwest, and Central Asia

# **Guided Reading and Review**

## A. As You Read

Directions: As you read Section 1, fill in the following chart with information about India. Write three details for each category.

India's Population	1.
	<b>2</b> .
	3.
India's Growing Economy	4.
	5.
	6.
India's Progress and Challenges	7.
	8.
	9.

## **B.** Reviewing Key Terms

, gemstones, and jewelry:
are still problems for millions of Indian
ortant measure of how well a country is caring
shows the percentage of the population age

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Vame		Date		Class_	
	an: An Economy et, and Central A		iculture		
Guided R	leading a	nd Revi	ew		
A. As You R	lead				and the second s
Directions: As	you read Section	ı 2, answer the	following ques	tions in the sp	aces provided.
1. What did I	Pakistan do to 1	make the mos	st of its scarce	water supply	·?
2. Why is wa	ter so importat	nt in Pakistan	?		
3. Where doe	es most of Paki	stan's farmin	g take place?		
4. How did t	he green revol	ution help Pa	kistan's farme	ers?	
5. How do fa	nrmers maintai	n a steady flo	w of water?	t <sub>e</sub>	N. 200
		·	··· 	-	<u> </u>
6. How do d	ams help speed	d industrial g	rowth in Paki	stan?	
• •	<u> </u>		• • •	<u> </u>	<del></del>
	<u> </u>				
7. Why does	Pakistan's eco	nomy today o	lepend largel	y on its textile	e industry?
B. Reviewir	ng Key Terr	ns			
	rite the definition		ving key terms	in the blanks p	provided. —
8. drought :					
9. green revo	olution				
10. self-suffic	ient				
11. tributary					

Name	Date		Class
	1 4		
Section 2: Pakistan: An Economy B South, Southwest, and Central Asi		uture	
		•	
Section Quiz	-	•	
A. Key Terms		·	
<b>Directions:</b> Read the statements be provided. If it is false, write F. Rew them true.	velow. If a state vrite false stater	ment is true ments on th	e, write T in the blank e back of this paper to make
1. For countries with no	t enough wat	er, drough	t is a serious problem.
2. A tributary is a river		•	
	sufficient can	• •	e enough goods for its own
4. The green revolution	is a worldwid	de effort to	end pollution.
B. Main Ideas		٠.	
Directions: Write the letter of the	correct answe	r in each bla	nk.
5. Why is the Indus Riv	er especially i	important t	o the farmers of Pakistan?
a. They depend on t as a trade route.			se the river as a natural
b. They depend on the to irrigate their cr		•	lepend on the river for ortation.
6. What is one serious p	oroblem cause	ed by the ir	rigation of the Indus plain?
a. damaging floods	. •	c. serious	s droughts
b. a buildup of salts		d. a decre	ease in crop production
7. Why is most industry	y in Pakistan l	located on	the Indus plain?
a. It is near the coas	t.	c. It is ne	ar hydroelectric power.
b. It is a low popula	ted area.	d. It is far	from the mountains.
8. More than 60 percent	t of Pakistan's	s exports co	ome from
a. the textile industr	y.	c. cemen	t made from limestone.
<b>b.</b> the automotive in	ıdustry.	d. the ste	el industry.
9. Pakistan industries i	nclude		
a. the chemical indu	ıstry.	c. produ	cing steel.
-b. making cement.		d. all of t	he above
10. Pakistan is famous fo	or its beautifu	1	
a. glassware.		c. carpet	<b>s.</b>
b. porcelain.		d. wood	carvings.
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Name:	
Block:	BBC – Ganges River
Teacher:	
Learning Objective	
1. Locate physical features in the region including the Ganges P Mountains, and the Indian Ocean.	River, Hindu Kush Mountains, Himalaya
Documentary Questions- answer the following questions in complete sanswered in order. If you miss an answer, for whatever reason, do not the end of class you will have an opportunity to ask questions.	
	(n12
1. How far does the Ganges have to flow to reach the delta near the B	ay of Bengair
2. By the end of what month will the "icy world" begin to change?	
3. How far can the lamagya (bird similar to an eagle) fly during one day	γ?
4. What is at the heart of the awakening wilderness?	
5. What different kinds of demands are being putting on the Ganges?	
6. What is the river Ganges revered for?	
사용하다 경우 등 경우 등 경우 등 경우 등 하는 것이 되었다. 그 경우 기업 경우 등 경우	
7. What is the most feared forest predator?	
8. Why are musk deer killed even though they are protected?	
	30

9. How much are the Himalayas growing every year?	
10. What is the pull for pilgrims to visit the sources?	- •
11. What will happen in two months to the people living in the villages?	
12. How many people did a leopard kill in the 1920's?	
13. What is defining the source of the Ganges?	
	•
14. What do the rock slips (small avalanches) expose?	
15. What weather event unleashes the Ganges?	
16. By looking at the river when the documentary mentions placid, what does placid mean?	
17. How does Hinduism feel about all animals?	÷
18. What might prevent the Otters from being able to fish?	
19. How many people rely on the Ganges for nourishment?	

Name	4.0		·	- '	
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### South Asia Game Project Guidelines and Rubric

Students will create a game using what they have learned covering the region of South Asia. The game can be any format but must follow some specific guidelines. Each game will consist of at least 40 different questions and answers on facts about South Asia. All eight countries will have at least one question. The questions will cover the history, culture and geography of the region. All eleven key terms and all eleven physical features in your packet will have questions about them. The game has to be able to have a winner but you can use your own creativity to come up with the format. You can design the theme, rules, play, pieces, object and anything else as long as you follow the guidelines above. Present this rubric to Mr. Young with your project. Have fun!!! 50 points. Due \_\_\_\_\_\_

Information	All 40	Most	Half of the	Less than half of
	questions/answers questions/answers		questions are	the questions are
	are completed,	are completed,	completed,	completed,
	accurate and clear	accurate and clear	accurate and clear	accurate and clear
	20-16 points	15-11 points	10-5 points	5-0 points
Guidelines	All guidelines	Most guidelines	Half of the	Less than half of
	above have been	have been	guidelines have	the guidelines have
	completed	completed	been completed	been completed
	10-8 points	7-6 points	5-3 points	2-0 points
Creativity	The project is	The project has a	Project has rules	Game does not
	original and	clearly thought out	and ways to play	have rules or a
	clearly thought out	set of rules,	but not clear	clear motive to
	with a clear set of	guidelines and way	5-3 points	play
	rules guidelines,	to win the game		2-0 points
	way to play and	7-6 points		
	win the game			
	10-8 points			
Neatness	Game is colorful	Game is somewhat	Game is less than	Not colorful or
	and neatly outlined	neat, colorful and	colorful and neat	neat with no clear
1	with a clear mode	outlined with a	but still has a	mode of how to
	of how to use it	clear mode of how	mode of how to	use it.
	10-8 points	to use it	use it	2-0 points
		7-6 points	5-3 points	- 1

Scoring

1. Information	point
2. Guidelines	points
3. Creativity	points
4. Neatness	points
Total Points	