

**THEME: Ancient India / Native Tree identification**

**Teachers: Jenny Armocida/Justin Pilla**

**Dates: September 2014**

**GOALS: Students will gain understanding of the societal structure, system of governance, major empires, architectural styles, language and culture of India from 5000 BCE to 500 CE.**

**Students will utilize binary classification systems to identify native trees of Western North Carolina.**

Spiritual	MENTAL		SOCIAL	NATURAL	EMOTIONAL	CREATIVE		PHYSICAL
	(Linguistic)	Logical/Mathematical	(Interpersonal)		(Intrapersonal)	(spatial)	(musical)	(kinesthetic)
<p>Discuss and reflect upon the origin and philosophy of Buddhism and the story of Siddhartha Gautama.</p> <p>Identify symbolism and strengths of major Hindu deities.</p> <p>Read and discuss Hindu and Buddhist myths, legends and fables.</p> <p>Discuss ways in which the yogic view of chakra points can be viewed as a metaphor for different aspects of the human body.</p>	<p>Read and discuss texts describing the structure, culture and geography of Ancient India.</p> <p>Research and write a 5-paragraph essay about an important element of Ancient India.</p> <p>Practice scientific writing and observation through describing characteristics of native tree species.</p>	<p>Create linear timeline for the major events and empires of India from 5000 BCE to 500 CE.</p> <p>Discuss important mathematical contributions made by scholars in Ancient India, such as the concept of decimals.</p> <p>Use a binary system of classification to identify plant species.</p>	<p>Explore the structure of ancient Indian caste system through a classroom simulation, reflect upon what daily life was like for different levels of society.</p> <p>Collaborate in small groups to present elements of the geologic timeline.</p> <p>Work in teams to complete tasks in a Civilization game.</p>	<p>Identify and describe qualities of common plants of Western North Carolina.</p> <p>Read about the geography and natural landscape of India, and reflect upon how this shaped societies.</p> <p>Create a visual and narrative guide to trees of the local area (Rainbow School playground and surrounding areas).</p>	<p>Respond orally and in writing to the teachings of Buddhism, and how those tenets can influence one's life today.</p>	<p>Use techniques of scientific drawing to create visual images of leaves of common tree species.</p> <p>Create chalk Rangoli (geometric patterns) and learn about their significance and symbolism in Hindu worship.</p> <p>Sculpt clay pillars with inscriptions, modeled after the edicts of Ashoka.</p>	<p>Explore the role of music as a form of worship in Indian society,</p> <p>Listen to musical forms from Indian, such kirtan.</p>	<p>Create a visual/spacial "human timeline" of geologic time, using distance to represent time.</p> <p>Practice yoga asanas, and learn the myths and symbolism behind the postures.</p>

**UNIT SEQUENCE**

September 2-5: Geologic timeline and Civilization simulation game  
 September 8-12: Ancient India timeline, map and major geographic features.  
 September 15-19: Origin, philosophy, myths and deities of Hinduism. Begin Hindu deities project.  
 September 22-26: Origin of Buddhism and reign of King Ashoka.  
 September 29-30: Summary and wrap-up, complete deities project.

**Notes:** special materials or equipment needs, field trip(s), feast or other parent involvement  
 Field trip volunteers needed for NC Arboretum field trip.  
 Knowledge of local plants needed for nature walks around campus.