

# **SOUTH ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH TEACHING RESOURCE - PRIMARY**

**Multicultural Development Team**

**Telford and Wrekin Council**

**July 2022**





## South Asian Heritage Month - Introduction

South Asian Heritage Month provides an opportunity to celebrate and acknowledge the culture, history and lives of the three million people with South

Asian heritage living in the U.K. today and to provide a greater understanding of why Britain looks as diverse as it does today. It also presents an opportunity to recognise the massive contribution of those with South Asian heritage who have come to the U.K. indirectly, via other Commonwealth countries or elsewhere in the world.

South Asian Heritage Month in the U.K. was first launched in the House of Commons in 2019, although other countries (including Canada) originated the concept. Under Founding Patron Anita Rani, the first years' programme of events was presented on-line in 2020 (due to the Coronavirus pandemic).

**South Asia is formed of eight countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri-Lanka.** This resource is intended to look at the diverse links between Britain and these countries over the centuries to the present day. Moreover, although we cannot ignore the lasting impact of the British Empire, it is essential to acknowledge that the heritage, civilisation and history of this region goes back many centuries before the arrival of the first Europeans.

The timing of South Asian Heritage Month was carefully chosen to incorporate several significant dates, as follows:

*18<sup>th</sup> July - Independence of India Act gained Royal Assent (1947)*

*26<sup>th</sup> July - Maldives Independence Day*

*8<sup>th</sup> August - Bhutan Independence Day*

*14<sup>th</sup> August - Pakistan Independence Day*

*15<sup>th</sup> August - Indian Independence Day*

*17<sup>th</sup> August - Partition Commemoration Day (1947)*

For Telford and Wrekin Schools this project and workshops will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 (which actually coincides with the launch of the South Asian Heritage Month calendar this year) and last until the end of the Summer Term.

The South Asian Heritage Teaching Resource is intended as a starting point, a working document to be adapted, added to or changed to suit the individual requirements of the educational setting, as well as the practicalities and curricular considerations in place. The suggested units covered by different year groups may be altered or adapted to meet school requirements, but are intended to ensure that the pupils are exposed to the full range of topics, without repetition or omission in the same school in the longer term, as this resource has been designed for use in future academic years, not only the current one.

**Suggested Lessons/Research topics** provided for each year group may need to be adjusted to accommodate the current Coronavirus protocols in place in individual settings, with regard to social distancing and mitigations. In all likelihood any gatherings of pupils and staff (i.e. assemblies) will still be restricted to the 'bubbles' in place in school. Creativity may also be required in terms of sharing learning and accomplishments between year groups and with parents, perhaps using corridor displays, virtual platforms or the school website this term.

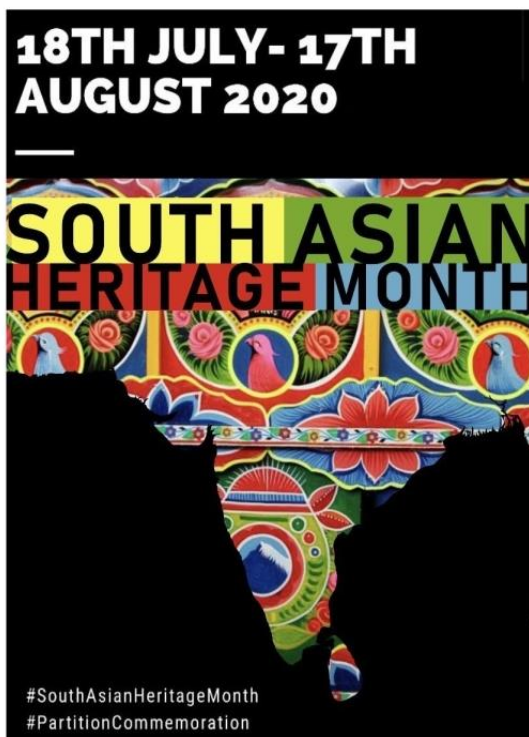
This project supports and promotes the school's delivery of the statutory requirements in terms of delivery of the Equality and Diversity elements of education, as well as the development and enrichment of Cultural Capital within the school community. Moreover, in light of the spike in racist incidents and recent events locally, in the U.K. and wider world, there has never been a better time to promote discussion, broaden all pupils' experiences and develop their understanding, respect and appreciation for the amazing contribution and achievements of people from diverse ethnic backgrounds in the past and at the present time.

**This South Asian Heritage Teaching Resource is intended to avoid tokenism and does not substitute for the inclusion of prominent South Asians, their experiences and accomplishments, in the curriculum as a whole throughout the year, including those from all spheres: history; literature; religion; politics; design and technology; science; sport; mathematics; music; media; visual and the performing arts etc.**

Nursery and childcare settings have not been included in this Teaching Resource, as it was felt that the in depth study of individual countries/subjects might not be appropriate for the younger learners. It would, perhaps, be preferable to introduce South Asian countries and people of South Asian heritage through stories, celebrations, aspects of different cultures and through the range of activities and resources provided in an Early Years setting. These might include stories and rhymes in different languages; multicultural artefacts; displays and signage; objects in the 'home corner'; clothes; foods; utensils; packaging; music; rhymes; dance; art; games etc.

We welcome all comments and feedback on this resource, as well as suggestions and other examples of successful practice in your setting which we can incorporate into future editions of the South Asian Heritage Teaching Resource!

***“There is (also) much more to South Asian identity than saris, samosas and sitars...At a time when the country appears deeply divided, South Asian History Month will help us to focus on the diverse nature of that identity as well as explore and celebrate all that makes us who we are, British and South Asian alike” – Jasvir Singh (Co-founder of SAHM)***



***Anita Rani – Founding Patron of South Asian Heritage Month  
#SouthAsianHeritageMonth***



## **SUGGESTED PROGRAMME OF STUDY R/KS1/KS2**

### **Core Themes (provided by SAHM at 2021 launch):**

**Identity; History; Creatives; Sports; Health and Well-being.**

### **Units of Study:**

Year R – Maldives

Year 1 – Nepal and Bhutan

Year 2 – Sri Lanka

Year 3 – Bangladesh

Year 4 – India

Year 5 – Pakistan

Year 6 – Afghanistan


### **General Plan (Overview):**

- **School Assembly**

Introduce South Asian Heritage Month through a whole school assembly (virtual if necessary) – this might include an introduction to the eight countries and the five key themes (identity; history; creatives; sports; health and well-being), as well as the life story of an influential South Asian figure of the past or present and what we can learn from their contribution. Relate this to the school 'Mission Statement'.

- **Classroom Introduction (link to Key Theme – Identity)**


Re-introduce South Asian Heritage Month in the classroom and briefly re-state its aims (see above). Provide a context for this unit of work by identifying the country this unit of study relates to. Ask all pupils to



share family or other connections with any other countries (their own or family members). From a list of the countries provided identify those with connections to the eight countries being studied (Afghanistan; Bangladesh; Bhutan; India; Maldives; Nepal; Pakistan). If appropriate, ask these pupils to share their own (or family) knowledge or personal experience of immigration; how they identify themselves and remain connected to their extended family in the original country of origin (e.g. visits and holidays either way; shared celebrations; letters; cards; telephone; Skype; Zoom).

- **Suggested Lesson Content / Research Topics**

1. **Brainstorm** – Provide a brief introduction to the focus country (use [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com) as a starting point for most and [www.wiki.kidzsearch.com](http://www.wiki.kidzsearch.com) or [www.kids.britannica.com](http://www.kids.britannica.com) for Bangladesh and Afghanistan). Generate pupils' own questions to discuss, explore and research.
2. **Fact-file** – throughout South Asian Heritage Month (teacher led or in groups) prepare a Fact File throughout the topic on the focus country including key information; flag (meaning); population; languages spoken; geography (mountains; rivers; forest; lakes; cities etc); occupations; foods; flora and fauna; climate, architecture and images (using books; google etc). Link provided in Resources and Links section (below).
3. **Language** – Introduce greetings and simple phrases in the official language(s) of the country being studied (see Newbury Park or Google Translate links in **Resources and Links – General** section below).
4. **History** – Provide a presentation (age appropriate) - including ancient history and civilizations of focus country; key events; significant figures; colonialization and independence. Pupils to draw; sequence; copy; label or annotate a Time-Line (images provided).
5. **Creatives** – Provide examples and select subjects from the following list: art; literature; crafts; textiles; architecture; media/cinema (e.g. Bollywood); music. Expose pupils to traditional and contemporary music of their focus country. Produce representative art works using different media (or role play/performances).



6. **Health and Wellbeing** – relating to broader theme: explore practices or traditions originating in (or related to) South Asian countries including: diet; meditation; martial arts; holistic medicine; yoga etc. Provide first hand experiences for pupils of one or more, if appropriate.

7. **Sports** – relating to broader theme: introduce popular sports played in South Asian countries (using film clips i.e. YouTube) and sporting stars, including those now resident in (or representing U.K. countries). Introduce and adapt popular sports of South Asia to P.E. lessons e.g. modified playground ‘Kabaddi’ (minimal contact) or ‘hexagonal cricket’.

- **Additional Topics to Introduce (or research KS2):**

1. **Festivals and Celebrations** (religious and secular).
2. **Famous People** (political activists; politicians; media personalities; sports women/men; historical and current influential figures).
3. **Foods** (consumed and exported from focus country, including: influence on U.K. eating habits at home, in restaurants and take-away; produce i.e. spices, fruits/vegetables, rice, tea).
4. **Geography** (including climate and weather patterns i.e. monsoons. Possible effects of global warming e.g. flooding; snow melt; rising sea levels).
5. **Occupations** (including tourism; high-tech; manufacture including clothes; extraction of raw materials; re-cycling; agriculture; fishing etc).
6. **Architecture** (housing; famous ancient monuments; places of worship; modern structures).
7. **Exports** (e.g. raw materials/natural resources; sportswear and fashion – ‘sweat shops’; manufactured goods; technology etc).

- **Celebration Assembly**

Prepare a presentation of pupil’s work for classmates and peers (virtually if necessary), or as part of a Celebration Assembly at the end of South Asian History Month.

- **Display**

Create a whole class (or corridor) display, featuring flag; map; labelled images of the country (photographs); pupils' art work and writing (including Fact Files).

### **Resources and Links – General**

- #SouthAsianHeritageMonth
- [www.southasianheritage.org.uk](http://www.southasianheritage.org.uk) - introduction to SAHM and how to participate in the organisation or organise events (including 'Tool kit').
- [https://twitter.com/SAHM\\_UK](https://twitter.com/SAHM_UK)
- [https://www.instagram.com/southasianheritagemonth\\_uk](https://www.instagram.com/southasianheritagemonth_uk)
- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South\\_Asian\\_Heritage\\_Month](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Asian_Heritage_Month) - background
- <https://m.facebook.com/southasianheritagemonth/> - links to films: 'Themes for the Launch' (1hr19mins) and 'Welcome to South Asian Heritage Month' (46mins).
- <https://www.newburyparkschool.net> – Home Page: link to **Language of the Month**.
- <https://padlet.com/oursharedculturalheritage/ActivityPacks> - wide range of free classroom resources sponsored by The British Council.
- <https://translate.google.co.uk>
- <https://www.bl.uk/asians-in-britain> - British Library historical resource.
- <https://www.britishcouncil.org/arts/culture-development/our-stories/sahm> - individual stories and experiences told by immigrants who have come to the U.K.
- <https://www.newasianpost.com/south-asian-heritage-month> - on-line publication.

### **Afghanistan – Resources and Links**

- <https://images.google.co.uk> – search Afghanistan
- [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com) – fabulous resource covering wide range of aspects.
- [www.wiki.kidzsearch.com](http://www.wiki.kidzsearch.com) - information and images of Afghanistan.
- <https://kids.britannica.com> - information and images of Afghanistan.
- <https://kids.kiddle.co> – information and images.
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/countries>
- [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) – search Afghanistan KS1/2 (numerous resources).



- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) - information and film clips.
- <https://tourism.gov.af> – official tourism website.

### **Bangladesh – Resources and Links**

- <https://images.google.co.uk> – search Bangladesh
- [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com) – fabulous resource covering wide range of aspects.
- [www.wiki.kidzsearch.com](http://www.wiki.kidzsearch.com) - information and images of Bangladesh.
- <https://kids.britannica.com> - information and images of Bangladesh.
- <https://kids.kiddle.co> – information and images.
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/countries>
- [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) – search Bangladesh KS1/2 (numerous resources).
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) - information and film clips.
- <https://www.tourismboard.gov.bd> – official site.

### **Bhutan – Resources and Links**

- <https://images.google.co.uk> – search Bhutan
- [www.wiki.kidzsearch.com](http://www.wiki.kidzsearch.com) – information and images of Bhutan.
- <https://kids.britannica.com> – information and images of Bhutan.
- [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com) – fabulous resource covering wide range of aspects.
- [www.kids.kiddle.co/Bhutan](http://www.kids.kiddle.co/Bhutan) - facts for children.
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/countries>
- [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) – search Bhutan KS1/2 (teaching resources).
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) - information and film clips.
- <https://tourism.gov.bt> – official Bhutan Tourism Council website.

### **India - Resources and Links**

- <https://images.google.co.uk> – search India
- [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com) – fabulous resource covering wide range of aspects.
- [www.wiki.kidzsearch.com](http://www.wiki.kidzsearch.com) - information and images of India.
- <https://kids.britannica.com> - information and images of India.
- <https://kids.kiddle.co> – information and images.
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/countries>
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) - information and film clips.

- [www.indiatouristoffice.org](http://www.indiatouristoffice.org) – official site
- [www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find/classroom/india-education-pack](http://www.britishcouncil.org/school-resources/find/classroom/india-education-pack) - high quality free education download (pdf format)
- [www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/india-resources](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/resources/india-resources) - organised by year groups - including Partition).
- <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/clipsz4fr87h> - KS2 India geography resource.
- [www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00g455x/clips](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b00g455x/clips) - short films covering broad range of Indian subjects.

### **Maldives – Resources and Links**

- <https://images.google.co.uk> – search Maldives
- [www.wiki.kidzsearch.com](http://www.wiki.kidzsearch.com) – information and images of the Maldives.
- <https://kids.britannica.com> – information and images of the Maldives.
- [www.kids.kiddle.co/Maldives](http://www.kids.kiddle.co/Maldives) - facts for children.
- [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com) – fabulous resource covering wide range of aspects.
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/countries>
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) - information and film clips.
- <https://visitmaldives.com> – official site
- [www.twinkl.co.uk/search/term=maldives](http://www.twinkl.co.uk/search/term=maldives) – limited number of resources.

### **Nepal – Resources and Links**

- <https://images.google.co.uk> – search Nepal
- [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com) – fabulous resource covering wide range of aspects.
- [www.wiki.kidzsearch.com](http://www.wiki.kidzsearch.com) - information and images of Nepal.
- <https://kids.britannica.com> - information and images of Nepal.
- <https://kids.kiddle.co> – information and images.
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/countries>
- [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) – search Nepal KS1/2 (numerous resources).
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) - information and film clips.
- <https://www.welcomenepal.com> – official site

### **Pakistan – Resources and Links**

- <https://images.google.co.uk> – search Pakistan

- [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com) – fabulous resource covering wide range of aspects.
- [www.wiki.kidzsearch.com](http://www.wiki.kidzsearch.com) - information and images of Pakistan.
- <https://kids.britannica.com> - information and images of Pakistan.
- <https://kids.kiddle.co> – information and images.
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/countries>
- [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) – search Pakistan KS1/2 (numerous resources).
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) - information and film clips.
- <https://tourism.gov.pk> – official site.

### **Sri Lanka – Resources and Links**

- <https://images.google.co.uk> – search Sri Lanka
- [www.kids-world-travel-guide.com](http://www.kids-world-travel-guide.com) – fabulous resource covering wide range of aspects.
- [www.wiki.kidzsearch.com](http://www.wiki.kidzsearch.com) - information and images of Sri Lanka.
- <https://kids.britannica.com> - info and images of Sri Lanka.
- <https://kids.kiddle.co> – information and images.
- <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/countries>
- [www.twinkl.co.uk](http://www.twinkl.co.uk) – search Sri Lanka KS1/2 (teaching resources).
- [www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize](http://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize) - information and film clips.
- <https://www.sltta.gov.lk> – official tourism website.

