



Chhattisgarh High Court, Bilaspur

CIVICS

1

COUNTRY AND STATE

India and other countries

India is a large country. It has many states and is surrounded by several other countries. In this lesson we shall learn about our country and its states.

Look at Map 1 below. Darken the outline of India with a colour pencil. The places outside the outline are India's neighbouring countries. Remember that marks the boundary line between India and the other countries.



(The teacher should show the political map of India to the students and introduce them to the symbol for the boundary line.)

Write the names of India's neighbouring countries:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Colour these countries in different colours. While colouring make sure the colour of one country does not cross the boundary of another country.

Hope you have not forgotten Bhutan.

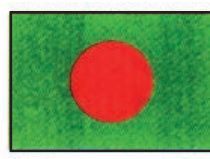
Bhutan is an independent country. Locate it. You had learned about several countries in Class VI. Which countries were they? If you remember their names share them with your friends.



India



Indonesia



Bangladesh

FLAGS OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

The *rupiya* is the currency of Indonesia. It is different from India's currency. Every country has its own flag.

States of India

India is a large country. It is divided into smaller states. You live in Chhattisgarh state. There are other states in India like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, Kerala, Rajasthan, Punjab, Assam and so on. India has a total of 28 states and 7 Union Territories.

Look at Map 1.2 Count how many states are shown in the map. Besides Chhattisgarh, write the names of any five states.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Along the boundary lines of the states whose names you have listed here. Cities and villages within the boundary line of a state belong to that state. Hope you have not written the names of Nepal and Bangladesh in your list. They are independent countries and India's neighbours.

Identify West Bengal and Bangladesh.

Which one of these two would you consider a part of India and which is a separate country? Give reasons for your answer.

The Andaman and Nicobar group of islands are to one side of your coloured outline. They are also part of India. Find them and colour them too.

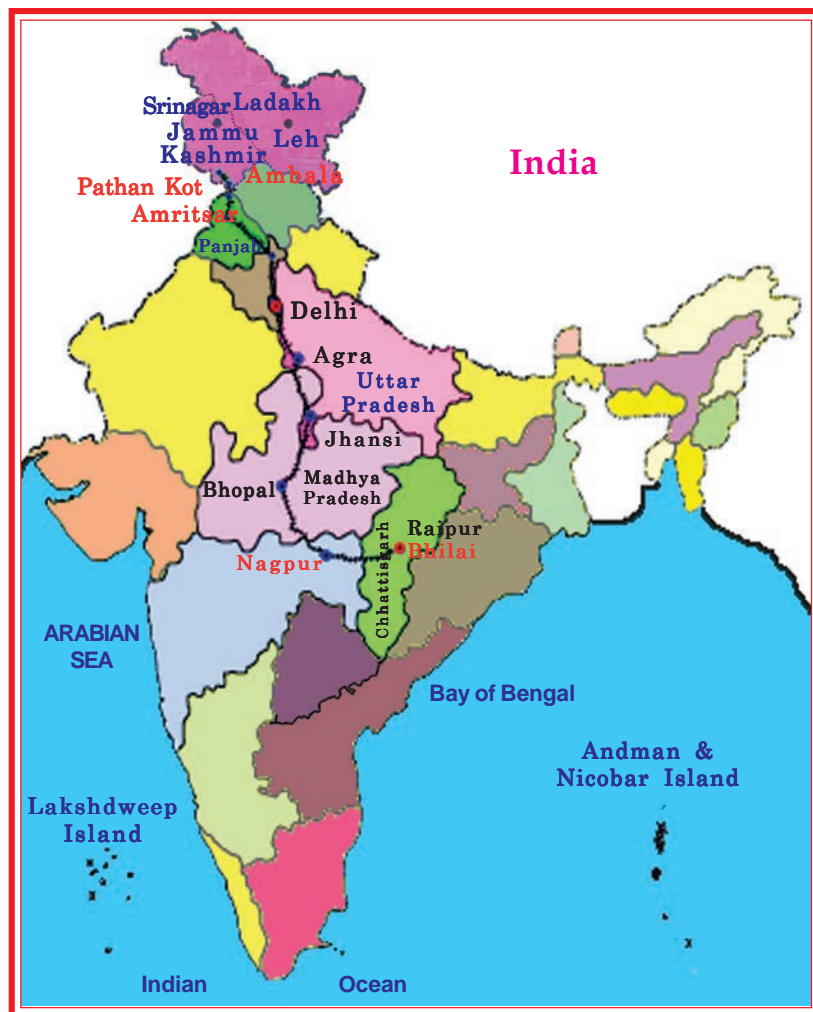
Compare Map 1.1 and Map 1.2 Map 1.1 shows India and its neighbouring countries. In Map 1.2 shows India and its states.

Can you identify the states adjoining Chhattisgarh? Write their names.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Identify Rajasthan in Map 1.2 and write the names of any five states adjoining it.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____



Map-1.3 Bhilai to Jammu Railway line

Union Territories :-

There are some regions in India which are called Union Territories. Central government governs these regions. These regions are- Delhi, Chandigarh, Daman-Diu & Dadra-Nagar haveli, Pondicherry Lakshdweep, Andaman & Nicobar, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir. Recognise these regions in an atlas, with the help of your teacher.

By now you must have recognised all the states of India. Let us now solve an interesting puzzle, draw a map of India.

In the table given below write the names of the state surrounding Assam in your notebook.

- | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|----------------------|
| 1. Nagaland | 2. Kerala | 3. Manipur | 4. Arunachal Pradesh |
| 5. Bihar | 6. Meghalaya | 7. Tripura | 8. Himachal Pradesh |

Write the names of the state surrounding Assam (map 1.1 and map 1.2).

- | | |
|----------|----------|
| 1. _____ | 2. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 4. _____ |

Chhattisgarh's kho-kho team goes on a trip

The national kho-kho competition for schoolgirls is to begin from 16th November at Srinagar, the capital of Jammu and Kashmir state. Chhattisgarh has selected its team for the competition. Sharada and Sonu of Class VIII of Government School No 4 in Bhilai are members of the team. They will leave for Srinagar with the other team members by the Chhattisgarh Express on 12th November.

1. Where is the kho-kho competition being held ?
2. If the Chhattisgarh government holds a state level kho-kho competition, which teams will participate? Where will they come from? Discuss with your teacher.
3. Can a team from Bangladesh participate in this competition? Give reasons for your answer.

Trace the rail route from Bhilai to Jammu in Map 1.3. The train in which the Chhattisgarh team is travelling starts from Bilaspur. The map shows the important stations the train will cross during its journey. Cities are shown by using this symbol (....). Read their names. It will take the Chhattisgarh team more than 45 hours to reach Jammu. You are familiar with the names of the different states.

Write the names of the states the train will pass through.

1. Chhattisgarh
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. Jammu and Kashmir

Seeing map 1.3 which are the main stations along the way and to which states do they belong? Use the map to find their names and fill the information in the table below.

S. No.	Name of station	Name of state
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

The kho-kho team began its journey on 12th November from Bhilai. The team coach, Seema teacher, was also travelling with the team. All the girls were excited. They would get the chance to see snow covered mountains.

Sonu said, “It will be fun to row boats in the Dal Lake.”

Sharada said, “I have seen Himachal Pradesh with my parents. We went to Kulu Manali. There was snow everywhere. When snow falls it feels like cotton.”

When the train reached Gondia one girl said it was the first big station in Maharashtra. Nagpur would come later.

When the train reached Nagpur, the girls heard the voices of vendors selling oranges at the station. They were surprised that 20 oranges cost only Rs.10! Jayshree wondered how oranges could be so cheap here. Another passenger in the train told her that Nagpur is famous for its oranges. They grow in abundance here so that is why they are so cheap.

Maharashtra’s kho-kho team also boarded the same coach at Nagpur. The girls were all speaking in Marathi. Sharada explained to her team members that just as we speak Chhattisgarhi in Chhattisgarh, the girls from Maharashtra speak Marathi.

The train continued its journey after half an hour's stop at Nagpur. All the girls went to sleep for the night. They woke up in the morning just as the train was crossing a bridge on a river near Hoshangabad. The girls enjoyed watching the waters of the Narmada river from the train.

An hour later, the train reached Bhopal. Several people got down at this station and many others boarded the train. The girls had tea and breakfast here. Seema teacher told them that Bhopal is the capital of Madhya Pradesh, just like Raipur is the capital of Chhattisgarh.

The next station was Jhansi. Everyone had lunch there. Sonu asked, "Is Jhansi in Madhya Pradesh?" A passenger told her it was in Uttar Pradesh.

How many states had the Chhattisgarh Express crossed by now?

After a couple of hours the train reached Agra. Seema teacher told the girls that Agra was famous for the Taj Mahal, which is made of marble.

By evening, the train reached New Delhi station. The Chhattisgarh and Maharashtra teams alighted from the train. They then boarded the Jhelum Express, which starts at night for Jammu. Another team also boarded the train here. It was the Delhi team.

The Jhelum Express reached Jammu Tawi station the following day after crossing cities like Panipat, Kurukshetra, Ambala, Ludhiana and Jalandhar.

At Jammu Tawi station, the teams from different states boarded buses to go to Srinagar. The buses reached Srinagar after crossing places like Patnitop, Barot, Udampur and Banihal. Srinagar is the capital of Jammu and Kashmir state.

The next day the kho-kho competition was declared open by the Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. The first match was between the teams from Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh. The Chhattisgarh team won. Its next match was against the Jammu and Kashmir team. It won this match too.

The Chhattisgarh team reached the finals after winning five matches. The final was played against the team from Tamil Nadu. The Chhattisgarh team beat the Tamil Nadu team and was declared the national kho-kho champion. The girls from the other state teams congratulated the Chhattisgarh team on their victory.

After the competition, the girls from several teams went sight seeing together. They went around the Dal Lake in a *shikara* and took a lot of photographs. The *shikara* is a houseboat. The girls also visited the Shalimar and Nishat gardens.

Beena asked Seema teacher, “Do all the states have the same currency?” Her teacher replied, “What do you think? We have not left India and gone to another country. Chhattisgarh is a state of India. So is Jammu and Kashmir. Look at any currency note. On one side you will find writing in several languages of India. One of these languages is spoken in Jammu-Kashmir.

How can we say whether a note or coin is from India? Discuss in class.

The girls visited several other places during the day. After their sight seeing, they caught a bus from Srinagar to Jammu. They boarded the Jhelum Express at Jammu Tawi station that night to reach Delhi the following morning. They spent the day sight seeing in Delhi, visiting many important places. The next day, the team boarded the Chhattisgarh Express and returned to Bhilai.

In this lesson we learned about India and its neighbouring countries. India has many states. We learned the names of these different states from the maps. Chhattisgarh is also a state. In the next chapter we shall learn about the state governments.

EXERCISES

I. Fill in the blanks

1. India has _____ states.
2. _____ is the capital of Chhattisgarh state.
3. Bhilai is famous for _____.
4. Jhansi is in _____ state.
5. Pondicherry is a _____.

II. Answer the following questions

1. Write the names of India’s neighbouring countries.
2. Write the names of the Union Territories.
3. What is the difference between a country and a state?
4. Name some important places in Srinagar where you can go for sight seeing.
5. Discuss with your teacher about the sight seeing places of chhattisgarh.

Activity :

JOIN STATES OF INDIA WITH THE HELP OF MAP AND
WRITE THEIR NAMES :-

