

INDIA EDUCATIONAL RESOURCE BOX  
(includes Pakistan, Nepal, & Sri Lanka)

(all items are from India unless otherwise noted)

- ED.1985.2.62 a-e Five miniature classical Indian musical instruments: (a) a vina (alternatively spelled veena) (b) a tabla (a type of drum) (c and d) tambura (e) a sarod.(lute).  
“Orchestras” using these instruments have been popular entertainment in India for centuries.
- ED.1985.25.3 a-c Samples of block printed Indian cotton fabrics. The people of India are generally credited by historians with being the inventors of color-fast textile printing hundreds of years ago, using carved blocks of wood to put the colors on fabrics. This method is still in use today in many parts of India.
- ED.1992.1.97 Miniature lute-like instrument called a “sarod” (see #ED.1985.2.62 a-e above)
- ED.1993.24.19 This patchwork cotton banner is from Sri Lanka and is a type of flag used by those of the Buddhist faith. They are often hung in front of Buddhist temples or shrines.
- ED.2004.3 Woman’s necklace made of braided cotton thread with gold-colored beads. Note how the “closure” of the necklace slides to expand or contract the necklace to fit over the head. This style of closure is still extremely popular in costume jewelry from India today.
- ED.2004.19.1 Square of cotton fabric hand embroidered with silk “pulkari” work embroidery and mirrors (shisha work). This may have originally been used as a food cover (to keep flies off serving trays/dishes) or as a wall decoration. This type of textile with mirrors on it is very popular in the western regions of India.
- ED.2004.19.4 Patchwork cotton bedcovering from India, hand quilted to a block printed cotton backing.
- ED.2005.1.59 a-c Man’s three piece white cotton outfit consisting of kurta (long tunic-like shirt), shalwar (trousers) with a drawstring waist and a small head cap made famous by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century Indian politician Jawaharlal Nehru- hence it is called a “Nehru hat” by westerners. This type of outfit (minus the hat) is also commonly worn by men in Pakistan.
- ED.2005.1.60 a,b A little girl’s two piece silk outfit with woven floral designs at the border and scattered across the fabric. It consists of a choli (blouse) and a gathered skirt.
- ED.2005.1.69 Silk chiffon “dupatta” or woman’s headscarf with a commercially woven metallic ribbon edging. These head scarves are especially popular in northern India and can be stylishly draped in many ways. They are usually worn with matching “suits” consisting of a kameez (long tunic) and shalwar (baggy, drawstring pants). It is considered proper etiquette for women to cover their heads in the presence of non-family members.
- ED.2005.1.79 Woman’s nose ring. This is a very inexpensive piece of costume jewelry made of wire and fake plastic pearls. Nose rings are a very popular form of jewelry with women in India and can range from expensive ones covered in diamonds and other precious stones to cheap ones like this.
- ED.2005.1.213 Woman’s choli (short blouse) of white silk (or possibly acetate) fiber with woven silver metallic floral motifs scattered throughout. This type of blouse is worn with either a sari or an ankle-length gathered skirt. The closure is at the center front with hooks and eyes.
- ED.2005.1.217 White polyester crepe sari with a border of commercially woven red and gold

- floral patterned ribbon. Saris are anywhere from 5 to 9 yards long. They can be draped in any number of regional styles, though currently the most popular is the Nevi style which is that used by many of the popular Indian TV soap opera actresses. The choice of draping may also be related to the age of the wearer, as well as where she comes from.
- ED.2005.1.322 a,b Pair of young girl's bangle bracelets made of celluloid plastic. Bangles are worn by girls and adult women alike, often dozens at a time on both lower arms or pushed up past the elbow onto the upper arm. They are a very popular type of jewelry in India and can be made in a variety of materials, from enameled glass, ivory, silver, gold, etc.
- ED.2005.1.325 Fragment of a dupatta (head scarf) made of tie-dyed silk. The word for tie-dye in Hindi is "bandhani" and this type of fabric decoration has been popular for hundreds of years. In the time of George Washington, thousands of scarves decorated with this method were imported into the U.S. from India. Over time, headscarves became known as "bandannas", though the designs are now printed instead of using the labor intensive method of tie dyeing to decorate them.
- ED.2005.3.16 a-c: Cardstock figures produced by UNICEF of children in traditional dress from:
- (a) India: This girl is from the western regions of India and wears a choli (blouse) with a long gathered skirt called a ghagra (often with mirror-work like #ED.2004.19.1) and a head scarf. She wears bangles on her arms and ankles as well as nose rings, necklaces and head ornaments.
  - (b) Nepal: This boy is wearing a long kurta (shirt) with a vest, long trousers and a type of hat called a topi. He is carrying an elephant mask.
  - (c) Sri Lanka: This boy is dressed in a lungi (hip-wrapper made of a couple of yards of fabric wrapped about the hips), kurta (tunic) and scarf
- ED.2005.51.10 Stuffed cloth doll with embroidered face and sequin nose ornaments. This is an example of simple folk-type doll common throughout India. The woman wears a long gathered skirt called a "ghagra".
- ED.2006.1.25 Carved wood bird hanging ornament, covered with a thick coating of a gesso-like material into which bits of mirror, coiled wire and seed beads have been pressed to make an all-over pattern.
- ED.2006.9.12 Poster showing the Hindi and English writing/words for various transportation vehicles. This is typical of educational posters used in classrooms in the Hindi speaking areas of India. Not all Indians speak Hindi as there are dozens of native languages used throughout the country. The English language, brought by British colonial administrators starting in the early 1700s is now one of the official languages and is often used to communicate between linguistic groups. India now has one of the largest English printing industries on the planet.
- ED.2006.9.42 A map of the "Peoples of South Asia" from the National Geographic Society.
- ED.2007.4.18 a,b A pair of cast brass finger cymbals with corded loops to hold them on the fingers. Instruments such as these, used on each hand, are used by dancers to keep the beat while they are dancing. Percussion instruments such as these have been used in India for centuries.