

Enquiry Grid 4

Animals in ancient India

Chapter/s and section/s used: Early Hinduism Explore, Buddha Explore

Individual project: Ask pupils to collect information using the following sheet about animals in ancient India, or ask them to brainstorm a list of questions about animals in ancient India. Ask them to collect information using the web site, then write a short illustrated guide to the ancient Indian animals they found.

Class project: Print out a copy of the Indus seals or scenes from the Amaravati stupa reliefs. Instruct each pupil to choose one animal. Brainstorm a list of questions, creating a class guide for collecting information about the animals. Instruct the pupils to collect information about their animals using the site, then ask them each to write a paragraph about their animal on an index card. Create a display about the animals and include the children's reports, detailing where they gathered their evidence.

Extensions: Ask pupils to find out what other animals existed in ancient India. Have them learn about what they looked like, where they were from and why they were important. Suggestions: tigers, crocodiles, zebu, fish, lions, boars and rhinos. Pupils could also learn about the Hindu gods, goddesses and avatars associated with these animals.

Teacher notes: Many different types of animals lived in ancient India. Some were indigenous to the Indus valley and the surrounding areas. Many animals had religious significance, or were associated with gods or

deities. Thus, when animals appear in ancient Indian art, they are often symbolic of something as well as being representative of a particular type of animal.

Background Information:

Seals

Writing

Trade

Environment

Cities of the Indus

Agriculture

Vishnu

Animals in ancient India

| What is it called? | What does it look like? | Where was it from? | Why was it important? |
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