

INDIA: LAND OF THE TIGER - TEACHER'S GUIDE

The sweeping six-hour miniseries showcasing the richly diverse wildlife of the Indian subcontinent, highlights the 17th season of NATURE is known to all by now. Many Indians have seen the programme on BBC, Doordarshan and possibly on the videos that have been made of it.

Fish that "walk" on land, elephants that swim in the ocean, night-prowling giant cats with laser-beam eyes? these are but a few of the wonders of this documentary which has made Indian the "Land of the Tiger" in everyone's eyes. Indian wildlife writer Valmik Thapar narrates INDIA: LAND OF THE TIGER. The series combines extraordinary breadth and detail of information to create a riveting portrait of the natural world.

The segments of the programme cover different ecosystems of India's vast biotope.

"The Tiger's Domain" explores the connection between religion and wildlife on the Indian subcontinent and features rare Asiatic lions of the Gir Forest, tigers stalking deer and langur monkeys, peacocks squaring off against deadly cobras.

"Sacred Waters" focuses on the wildlife of two of India's sacred rivers, the Ganges and the Brahmaputra, and the great floods that both devastate and nurture life along the shores

"Unknown Seas" takes viewers to the Indian Ocean, whose sparkling waters teem with living treasures from the Arabian Sea to the Bay of Bengal. Coral reefs are ablaze with jewel-like fish and the sharks, rays and tuna that prey on them.

"Desert Kingdom" features the abundant wildlife of the Great Indian Desert, which sweeps across the northwest corner of India and west into Pakistan.

"Mountains of the Gods" explores the stark Himalayas, sacred to both Buddhists and Hindus, with monasteries perched on high peaks.

"Monsoon Forests" features the lush monsoon rainforests of Assam, full of giant hornbills and rare primates, including the hoolock gibbon, the lion-tailed macaque and the nilgiri langur.

A special initiative of several commercial organisations and foundations in the USA, e.g. the Park Foundation, Canon U.S.A., Inc., Ford Motor Company and TIAA CREF (Teacher's Insurance and Annuity Association and College Retirement Equities fund) have put together an excellent workbook and map into an attractive packet, based on the six part series. This packet was assembled specifically for a special showing of the series in November 1998. There are special lessons for every segment of the series. First there is a Programme Overview, introduction of the Theme and then instruction for conducting lessons 1) Before viewing the programme (e.g. Introduction of the programme and distribution of the Worksheets or "Naturalist's Guide") and 2) After viewing the Programme -- activities encouraging children to discuss the programme and share their observations.

Some of the material is designed for American teachers to use with American children, relating the issues in Land of the Tiger with local issues in the USA but much of the material is suitable for India also. The methodology used for teaching is exciting

and thorough. At different points of the series, appropriate Web Site addresses are given.

There are a variety of worksheets which can be xeroxed or made up fresh by the teacher. There are games and quizzes.

We have a quantity of these packets which we can give away to zoos or NGO's which want to organise a Teacher's Training Workshop about tigers, using the series of Land of the Tiger along with the appropriate information in this packet.

These packets are designed for teachers and we would like them to go to teachers. Teachers can't use every word in the packet, but can modify it suitably and have a very nice lesson plan based on Land of the Tiger.

Participation in this programme will lead to offers to participate in other education programmes on tigers.

If you are a teacher and want to order a packet, or a zoo or NGO and want to order several packets for a Teacher Training Workshop, please write to us here at ZOO requesting a packet(s) and giving a proposal of how you intend to use it. Please send Rs. 10/- (can be stamps) to cover the cost of each packet.

Send to Tiger Packet
 c/o Zoo Outreach Organisation
 Box 1683, Peelamedu
 Coimbatore 641 004 Tamil Nadu



CIVETS IN GWALIOR CITY

Dr. Rajiv saxena

MIG-853, Darpan Colony, Thatipur, Gwalior 474 011, M.P.

In the morning of 4th March 1996, the crushed body of a Small Indian Civet *Viverricula indica* was found on Gandhi Road of Gwalior in north Madhya Pradesh. According to Prater (1980), Small Indian Civet shelters in holes or under rocks or lies up in grass or under bushes. Many live near villages and some straggle into crowded towns finding refuse in drains and outhouses. The road on which it was found, is flanked on the both sides by the rows of typical officers' bungalows with well-wooded large compounds. This is the first record of the species from this region.

Earlier in 1992, a pair of the Common Palm Civet *Paradoxurus hermaphroditus* was sighted on four occasions in Motimahal Complex in Gwalior. Many of this species are known to have forsaken their arboreal existence to live in an outhouse or on its roof in the city. Motimahal is a large palatial building now converted into a office complex which is surrounded by gardens and sparsely wooded areas.