

# India

## In this Bag:

- 1 sheet of cardstock with 5 Elephants
- 1 blank sheet of cardstock
- 54 beads
- 1 tassel
- 1 silk cord

## What you Need at Home:

- Scotch tape
- Markers or pens
- Scissors



Learn about India and craft with us by following the instructional video on our virtual hub:

<http://www.creativeartsguild.org/events/annual-events/festival1/childrens-hill>

## Fun Facts about India:

- India is officially known as the Republic of India.
- India has the second largest population in the world, with over 1.2 billion people (1,205,073,612 as of July 2012).
- India is the seventh largest country by total area.
- Mahatma Gandhi is famous for the important part he played in gaining India's independence. In the late 1400s, Europeans arrived in India and began setting up trading companies. In 1757, Britain gained control over most of the country. Uprisings against British rule began in 1856. In 1920, the famous Mahatma Gandhi began nonviolent protests to push the British out. In 1947, India had independence.
- The National Flag of India: is a horizontal rectangular tricolour of India saffron, white and India green; with the Ashoka Chakra, a 24-spoke wheel, in navy blue at its centre. Gandhi first proposed a flag to the Indian National Congress in 1921. In the center was a traditional spinning wheel, symbolizing Gandhi's goal of making Indians self-reliant by fabricating their own clothing, between a red stripe for Hindus and a green stripe for Muslims. The design was then modified to replace red with saffron and to include a white stripe in the centre for other religious communities, and provide a background for the spinning wheel. Subsequently, to avoid sectarian associations with the color scheme, the three bands were assigned new meanings: courage and sacrifice, peace and truth, and faith and chivalry respectively. The National flag of India is a horizontal tricolor of deep saffron (kesari) at the top, white in the middle and dark green at the bottom in equal proportion. The ratio of width of the flag to its length is two to three. In the centre of the white band is a navy blue wheel which represents the chakra.
- People in India greet each other by saying 'Namaste' (pronounced na-ma-stay) which means 'I bow my head to you'.
- Cows are considered sacred in India, and must not be harmed. They are allowed to go where they want, and may even cause traffic jams when they walk through cities!
- India is the only country in the world where both lions and tigers live.
- A popular instrument in India is the sitar, which is like a guitar but with a much longer neck.
- National bird is the peacock!



# India

## Highlights in Indian Arts and Culture:

- India has one of the world's largest collections of songs, music, dance, theatre, folk traditions, performing arts, rites and rituals, paintings and writings that are known, as the 'Intangible Cultural Heritage' (ICH) of humanity.
- The Ministry of Culture is the Indian government ministry charged with preservation and promotion of art and culture of India. In order to preserve these elements, the Ministry of Culture implements a number of schemes and programs aimed at providing financial support to individuals, groups and cultural organizations engaged in performing, visual and literary arts etc. Through this Ministry of Culture, artisan crafts are passed down through generations of people and this process is supported and well respected by the country as an important to keep the rich and historical culture of India art forms alive!



- Hand-Painted Elephant Strings are hand-painted elephants which are bonded into strings for hanging on your doors. It is said when you keep elephants in your home, it brings in prosperity and good luck protecting you from everything evil and negative. Elephant strings are often hung on bedroom doors, doors for shops, and even in the entrance of your home.

- Mehndi, otherwise known as henna, is a paste associated with positive spirits and good luck. Indian Wedding tradition calls for a Mehndi ceremony to be held the night before the wedding as a way of wishing the bride good health and prosperity as she makes her journey on to marriage. The core significance of applying Mehndi is to utilize its natural medicinal herbal remedies, cooling the body and relieving the Bride of any stress before her big day. Henna is applied to both the hands and the feet as a means of cooling the nerve-endings of the body, preventing the nerves from tensing up



- Garba is a form of dance which originates in the state of Gujarat in India. Garba is performed in a circle as a symbol of the Hindu view of time. The rings of dancers revolve in cycles, as time in Hinduism is cyclical. As the cycle of time revolves, from birth, to life, to death and again to rebirth, the only thing that is constant is the Goddess, that one unmoving symbol in the midst of all of this unending and infinite movement. The dance symbolizes that God, represented in feminine form in this case, is the only thing that remains unchanging in a constantly changing universe.

