

The River Ganges



WHERE IS IT?

- The river Ganges starts high up in the Himalayan mountains and flows through the northern part of India and into the Bay of Bengal.



HOW BIG IS IT?

- The river is 2,510 km long from its source to the sea.
- Its average depth is about 16m, but at its deepest it is 30m deep.
- At its widest it is 350km.



WHY IS IT SPECIAL?

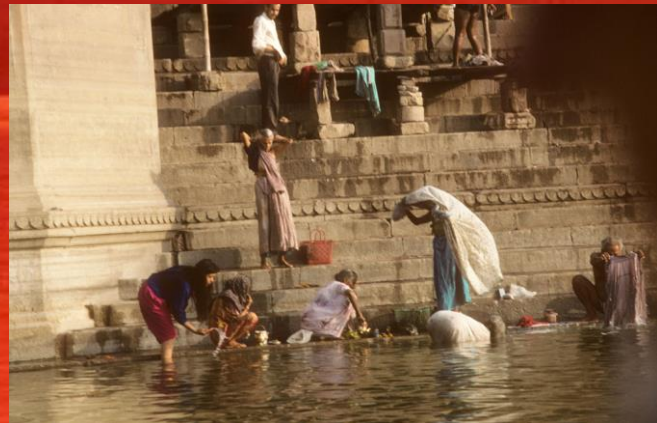
The river Ganges is special for two main reasons.



- Firstly because it provides India with an important and much needed water.
- Secondly, the river plays an important part in the believes and everyday life of the Hindu population in India

THE RIVER IN DAILY LIFE

- The land around the river and water from the river itself is used for farming.
- There are lots of industries along the river that use it for power and cleaning.
- Ordinary people who live by the river use it to bathe in, wash their clothes in and for drinking water. Over 10 million people bathe in the river every day.



HINDUISM AND THE RIVER

- The river is very important in Hinduism, they see the river as a goddess.
- Hindu's believe that bathing in the river helps to cleanse the soul- people are baptised in the river and the ashes of people who have died are poured into the river.
- Hindu legend says that the goddess of the Ganges (Ganga) was raised in the heavens and then came to earth and formed the river.

