

Teaching Guide -The Vadar People

Instructions for Leaders or Teachers

- Study all the material yourself before sharing it with others.
- Introduce the people group to the children.
- Listen to the audio information that describes the people group.
- Listen to any additional information provided.
- Do these things in the order listed. Some points can be skipped over if not usable.
- Use a map of globe to locate the area where the people group lives.
- Have children do map work that is age appropriate.
- Talk about the location of the Vadar people group in relation to the equator.
- Ask “Do the Vadar people live close to the equator?” If the answer is “Yes”, this indicates a hot/tropical climate.
- Ask, “Do the Vadar people live in a mountain area?” If the answer is “Yes”, this will indicate a colder/cooler climate.
- Have the children name the countries surrounding the country where the Vadar people group live.
- Look at the map included and see if the country has any access to an ocean or a river which would allow transport of goods.
- Talk about the ways the Vadar people group provide for basic human needs:
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Shelter
 - Human relationships
 - Compare the answers with the way your own people provide these needs.
 - Are these customs of the Vadar people different from the way you live?
 - Talk about the importance of color and the meaning of color.
 - Talk about festivals and music.

- Talk about the animals that live in this country where the Vadar people live. Are the animals helpful to the people? Are the animals a danger to the people?
- What are the main spiritual beliefs of the Vadar people?
 - Have any of these people placed their faith in Jesus Christ?
 - Is there a church where these people may gather together to worship and study?
 - Do any Christians in this group face persecution, (treatment in a harsh or cruel way) for their beliefs?
- Ask your group of children if the Vadar people have any part of God's Word (The Bible), translated into their own language?
- Ask if they have any other Christian material?
 - Bible stories
 - Christian radio
 - Christian music Christian drama
 - Christian audiocassettes
- Pray for the Vadar people group using the prayer points you have heard. Are the children able to think of other things for which to pray?
- Are there people groups in your country who are still waiting to hear the message of God's love for all peoples? Pray for them too!
- Are there children or adults in your group who might like to train as Bible Translators? A Bible Translator put the words of the Bible into the words of a different language.
- Review the names and countries of other people groups you have already studied.
- If a craft or color page is included this week and is useful for your group of children to work on, do it now.

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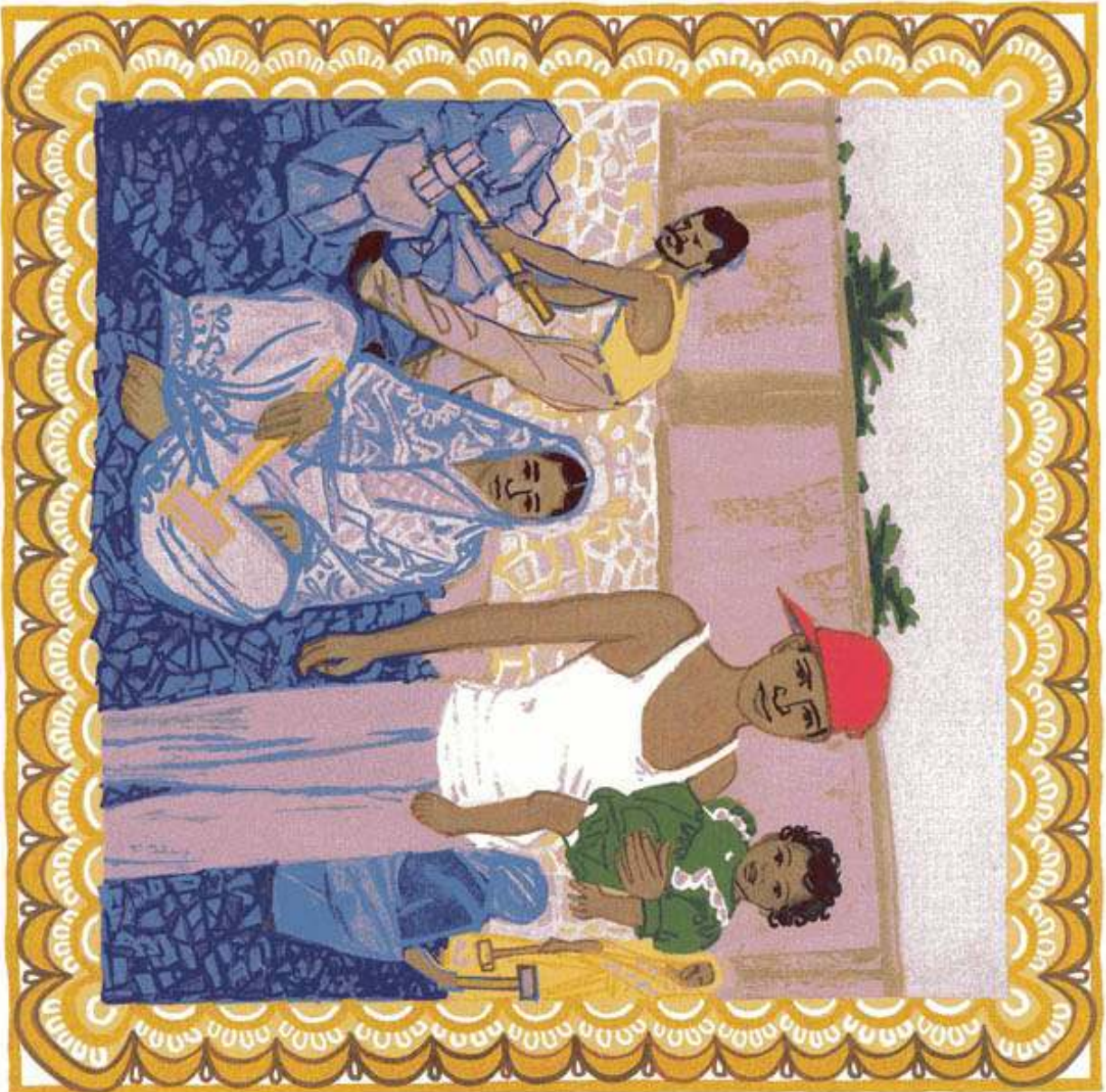
Vadar

(VAH-der)

Hi! We are Vadari people from India. This is my big brother holding me. Every day I play in this yard. Here we all work hard from dawn to dusk. My strong father swings a huge sledgehammer at rocks big enough for me to sit on. My mother and aunts sit cross-legged and chip and chip and chip the broken rocks. Just to join in, sometimes I bang teeny' rocks too. Bang! Bang! Thud! Chink. Bang and thud! Bang and chink! Close your eyes. Can you hear it? Each rock sings out differently when the hammer strikes. We are a rock percussion band. Its sound echoes in our eardrums.

Day after day we make chips to build roads, and that's how we make our living.

The Vadari people do not have the Bible in their own language.



INDIA



The Vadar People

Continent: Asia

Country: India

Geographical Information:

The Vadar people live in India

- India is a large country that has 26 states. It lies in South Asia between Pakistan, China and Nepal.
- To the north sit the highest mountains in the world.
- Further south there are plateaus, rain forests and sandy deserts.
- Palm fringed beaches line the many miles of shoreline on the Indian Ocean.

Can you find India and its neighbors on the map of Asia?

- There are many poisonous snakes in India. One of the most feared is the King Cobra. God has provided some protection against these snakes by the little fearless mongoose, who is willing to fight and kill the cobra.
- Sometimes the mongoose will die trying to kill a cobra.
- Large numbers of Vadar people live in most of the 26 Indian states.
- Their work is hard but pays them little.
- They work in earth and stone.

Facts about the Vadar people:

- The Vadar people are a dark skinned people.
- They are from a low caste* (see explanation).
- Even today the only job they are allowed to do is breaking stones down into small chips.
- The chips of stone are used for building roads in India.
- They must use heavy hammers to do this work.
- Both Vadar men and women do this job all over India.
- They don't make much money and their lives are very hard.
- The Vadar people often suffer and die from a special lung disease.

- The sickness comes from breathing tiny, unseen dust from the rocks they break up.
- They do not have enough money to pay for doctors and treatment. So many suffer and die.
- There are about 300 million Vadar stone workers in India.
- Most of the Vadar people believe in the Hindu gods and goddesses.
- They worship thousands of false gods.
- A small number of Vadar people have heard about Jesus and his love.
- They have accepted the message of love and forgiveness.
- They have formed a small fellowship of Vadar believers.
- It is wonderful when they learn that the one true God loves them.
- They are happy to learn that they are important to God!
- The Vadar people have very little Scripture or other Christian material translated into their own language.
- Many Vadar cannot read or write.
- Folksongs telling about Jesus and stories told aloud have helped many Vadar learn the truth about God.

You can pray for the Vadar people:

- Pray that the leaders of India will work hard to change the old evil ways of caste.
- Pray that more Vadar will learn they do have self-worth because God made and loves them.
- Pray that Vadar believers will have courage to share the message of Jesus with their own people.
- Ask God to send people who can translate Scripture, write and sing songs and tell stories of Jesus in the Vadari language.

India Animal Studies

Mongoose

Mongoose are small, meat-eating animals with smooth shiny bodies. They are found in forests, marshy areas, grasslands and areas with bushes and low trees. They live in Africa, southern Europe and Asia.

- Mongooses vary in size from about 8 to 25 inches (20 – 64 cm) long, plus a tail which is 6 to 21 inches (15 –53 cm) long.
- They have tapered snouts, very sharp teeth, short feet and long tails.
- They use their sharp claws to dig burrows (homes) under ground.
- Mongooses also use their claws to scratch the ground for insects to eat and use those claws for catching prey.
- Mongooses eat small animals like rodents, snakes, frogs, and insects.
- Some will also eat eggs, fruit, seeds and nuts.
- Mongooses live near streams, in thickets, hedges and fields.
- The Indian mongoose is famous for killing cobras. They have very fast movements and can jump straight up in the air.
- They also have thick hides and thick hair which protects them from the poison (venom) of the cobras.
- They are often kept as pets in India because they protect their owners from the dangerous cobras.



King Cobra

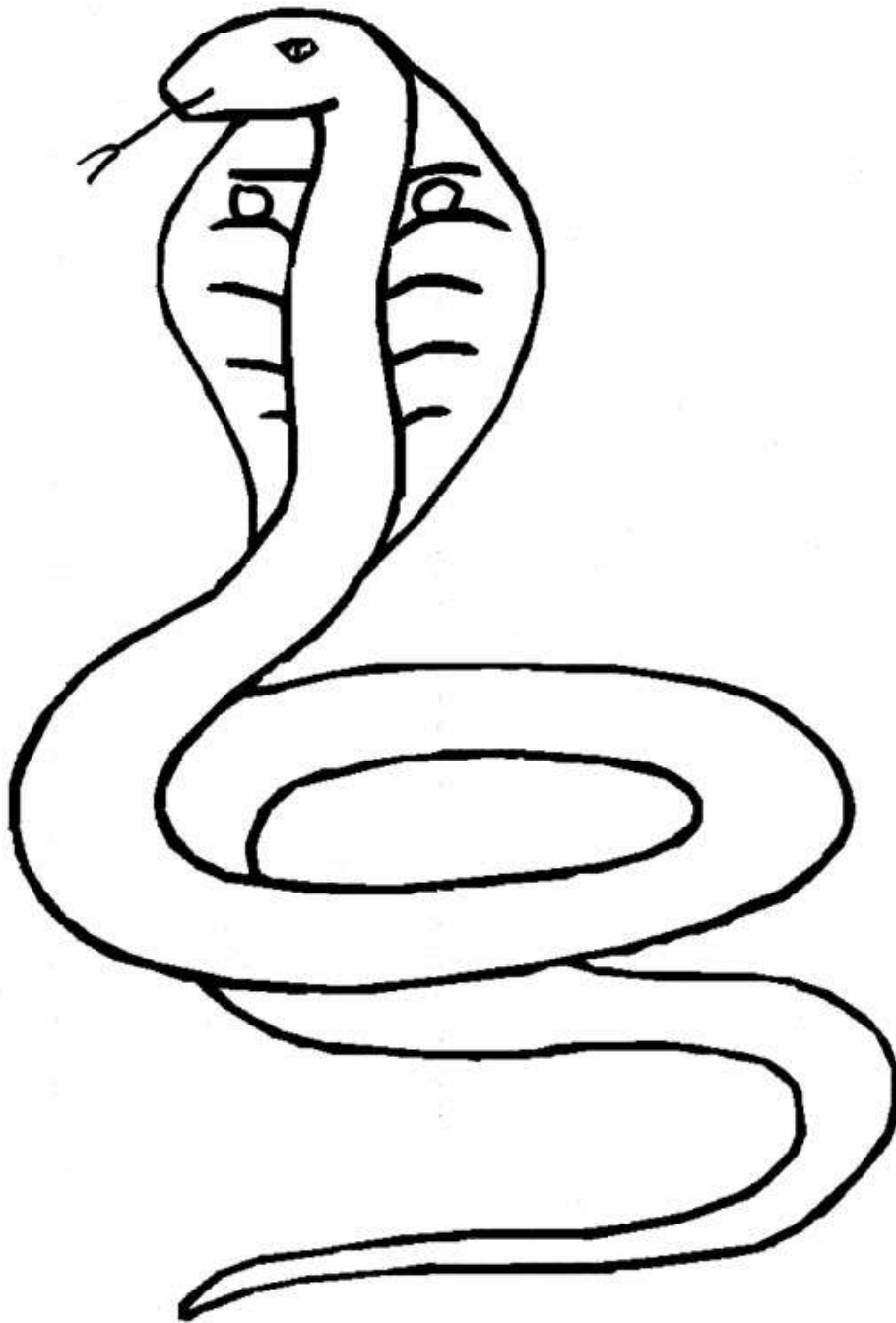


Mongoose



King Cobras live in rainforest and tropical grasslands in India and in Africa.

- They are the longest poisonous snakes in the world. One cobra found in India was 18.3 feet (5.58 m) long.
- Each year some people are bitten and they die. The poison is so strong it can kill a large elephant.
- King Cobras have heads as big as the hand of a man. The big ones can rise up and stand as tall as a man.
- Cobras have long ribs in their necks that can spread out into a hood. The hood has large false eyespots. This is very frightening.
- They can move forward in this upright position.
- Sometimes they rise up without spreading their hood. This is done so the snake can see over bushes or tall grass. They have very good eyesight!
- The deadly fangs of this snake are almost half-an-inch long. The venom (poison) makes people and animals stop breathing. Then they die!
- Like all snakes, cobras swallow their prey whole, head first. They can't chew it up but they have strong acids in their stomachs to digest the food.
- After eating, they must rest until the food is used by their bodies (digested). While they rest they don't have to eat again for a long time.
- The cobra can also spit their venom as far as six feet (1.8 m) or more. The spit doesn't hurt unless it hits a person or animal in the eye. Then the poison can cause blindness.
- King Cobras make a sound like a dog's growl.
- They smell with their forked tongues.
- They hear by sensing vibrations like footsteps.
- They can slither on land, climb on trees or swim in water.
- They like to live near water and can live about 20 years.
- Adult cobras are yellow, green, brown or black. The throat is light yellow or cream colored. Young cobras are black with yellow or white bars on the body.
- The female cobra lays between 20 – 40 eggs in a nest she makes from leaves and small sticks. While she is guarding them for two months she is very dangerous.
- Just before the babies come out of the eggs the mother leaves and the new babies can immediately take care of themselves. They are just as poisonous as the adult snakes.



The Caste System of India

- For thousands of years, India used a caste system.
- The Hindu religion divided people into four groups.
- They were born into a group and stayed in it until death. There was no way to change it.
- People were born into a social group and their children were part of the same social group.
- The caste of a person decided his or her job.
- A person's caste also allowed them to eat only certain foods. It allowed them to be friendly with only certain people.
- There were 3,000 castes in India.
- Members of a high caste enjoyed more wealth. They had chance for a good life.
- Members of a low caste worked at difficult, dangerous and unpleasant jobs.
- They had no way to change their life for the better.
- The leaders of India tried to end this way of life about 50 years ago. But India still struggles with the problems of this caste system.

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