

Monsoons: A Three Season Play

Kathy Sundstedt – School not available

Grade Level (Req.): 6th-8th grade	Content Area (Req.): Physical Geography, English/Reading	Unit (Opt.):
Connections to Other Disciplines (Opt.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • 		
Time Frame (Req.): 1 class period (may take a little longer)	Goal (Req.): To learn about natural disasters through interactive ways.	
	Objective (Req.): Students will enact and understand the causes of South Asia’s monsoon.	
Materials Needed (Req.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12-15” rope; 3-12’ pieces of yarn – 2 yellow, 1 red • Enlarged map of South Asia – on butcher paper with these labels drawn: Himalaya Mountains, Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean • Sun – large cutout labeled “sun” on yarn, suitable for student to wear around neck • Raindrops (50 cut blue papers cut in the shape of a rain droplet about 3” tall. You may wish to laminate for reuse.) • Calendar Pages (twelve colored pieces of 8x11 paper. Write the name of the month on each. Use yellow for March, April, May, and ½ of June; use green for ½ of June, July, August, Sept.; use white for Oct, Nov, Dec.) • Scripts • 	New Vocabulary (Opt.): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • • • • 	
Anticipatory Set/Introduction [Inquiry Question is required] (Req.): What causes India’s monsoons? Though India has a variety of climates, most parts have three seasons: a cool season, a hot season, and a wet season. The wet season is the monsoon, brought by seasonal moisture-laden south winds.		
Instructional Sequence/Procedure (Req.): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Teacher preparation: Read through play and consider students for roles. Find yarn and string. Using overhead transparency, make an enlarged map of South Asia with labels. Photocopy and cut out rain droplets. Make calendar pages; you may wish to hole punch and put on rings. 2. Select students for roles: a) the narrator (the only speaking role), b) one sun (the director of the play and director of the monsoon), c) two students to hold ends of the rope (monsoon curtain) which is stretched across map, d) calendar turner (holds and turns calendar pages; follows sun on its path), e) raindrops – a group of five students with 10 or so raindrops each (one is the “lead raindrop”). 		

3. Push chairs or desks back for using the floor and position large map of South Asia on floor.
4. (use atlas) Position the red yarn on the floor to represent the location of the equator and two yellow pieces to represent the tropics. (Review that the tropics get more direct sunlight throughout the year than anywhere on Earth.)
5. Position the raindrops on the floor map, all over the Indian Ocean.
6. Read through script once with students.
7. Have students enact the monsoon.
8. Debrief activity: During which months would you like to visit India? Why? During which months would you NOT like to visit India? Why? How does India's climate differ from ours? How is it similar?
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Formative Evaluation (Req.): Class participation

Assessment (Req.): Reaction paper to the interactive lesson – maybe their answers to the debriefing questions.

Iowa Core Curriculum Standards Used (Req.):

- Geography, grade 6-8: Understand how physical processes and human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans.
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Common Core Curriculum Standards Used (Opt.):

- Writing, grade 6-12: Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.
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NGS Standards Used (Req.):

- How earth-sun relationships affect physical processes and patterns on Earth
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Five Themes of Geography Used (Req.): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Place••••	School District Standards and Benchmarks (Opt.): <ul style="list-style-type: none">•••
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21st Century Universal Constructs (Opt.): Collaboration, Creativity

- Other Disciplinary Standards (Opt.):
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Other Essential Information (Opt.):

- Other Resources (Opt.):
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(Stage directions are written in bold italics)

Act One: Winter

Narrator: The act opens in one of India's three seasons, Winter. (*calendar turner sets calendar page to December; the rope holders stay behind the sun, and move slowly north with the sun*) In late December, the sun is directly overhead at the Tropic of Capricorn (*Sun stands in middle of that line*) This is as far south as the sun is directly overhead at noon. The sun (*creeping, or stepping slowly*) creeps northward slowly as the month changes to January and February. Flowers bloom and places are alive with color (*calendar turner turns pages*) The days continue to warm and people are delighted.

Act Two: Summer

Narrator: By March, the sun is directly overhead the Equator (*sun stands at Equator, flexing his/her muscles, looking very strong*) and people in India feel the approaching sun's heat. In April the sun continues (*the sun creeps slowly northward*) its northward journey during April (*page turner keeps turning pages*) it gets hotter. By May, the sun scorches everything. It is so dry that rivers dry up and plants wither. People and animals search for shelter from the heat.

Act Three: Wet Monsoon

Narrator: By June the sun (*moves to Tropic of Cancer—looks wicked now and threatening*) is directly overhead at the Tropic of Cancer. This is as far north as it is ever directly overhead. A hot wind starts to blow and people become dizzy and numb with heat.) The sun melts snow in the Himalayas and rivers are swollen. As the subcontinent of India bakes, with temperatures rising over 100 degrees, heat rises and the sky begins to fill with threatening clouds. People hope and pray that the rains will start. Finally the rains come first in southern India, (*At this point the rope holders, starting from over the Indian Ocean, raise the rope above their heads, and move northward to the Himalayas: the raindrops follow the rope holders. One by one they pick up 10 droplets each. In southern India, the lead rain drop drops two raindrop. Other raindrops do the same, following the lead raindrop north as the months of July and August are turned*) then across the whole of India. People are excited to hear that the rain is coming northward. During July and August the rain moves further north and temperatures cool slightly to the 90's, because of cloud cover. (*rain drops release all of their droplets covering the map on the floor.*) Crops like rice are planted and everything turns greens again! Rivers fill too, sometimes to flood levels. (*Rope holders continue north into what would be China. They drop the rope and wait there. The "empty" rain drops stand behind (north of) the rope holders.*)

Act Four: Return to fall and winter

Narrator: (*calendar holder flips to September*) In late September the sun begins its journey southward again and the rains stop. During October and November (*calendar holder flips*

through these months) the sun moves south again and high temperatures move are in the 70's. By December the sun is once again overhead on the equator. (*Sun moves to equator and continues moving south*) As the sun moves further south to the Tropic of Capricorn, and heats up the southern hemisphere. Air rises over the heated southern hemisphere and north winds blow across China and north India. Unlike the monsoon, these are cool dry winds because they pass over land, not water. (*Rope holders lift the rope again and move south, "empty" raindrops whistling like a cold north wind follow behind the rope to the southern hemisphere.*) Northern areas of India may find frost and even snow, while southern areas have temperatures in the 60's.

Narrator: And so another year has passed in India.