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Middle School: 3rd place  
winner



## IndiaFEST 2011– Essay Contest

### What can the Indian Community offer the United States?

"India is the cradle of the human race, the birthplace of human speech, the mother of history, the grand mother of legend, and the great grand mother of tradition. Our most valuable and most instructive materials in the history of man are treasured up in India only." said the great Mark Twain. What an appraisal of India! In the past, India has offered the world a myriad of presents that are inscribed into the world permanently. India can continue to give more. The Indian community is saturated in culture, and ambitious individuals that could be of benefit to the United States. Let's embark on a sojourn through the great resources that the great India can offer the great United States.

What can I say about the diverse, rich culture of India? India already has influenced most of the Western world, including America. Karate, yoga, food, and various Indian and Bollywood musical movies and styles have been popular throughout America. There is, however, a vast world that America still has to uncover from India. The philosophy that India's religion is based on, can travel to the open country of America. The Bhagavad-Gita, Mahabharata, and Ramayana, are some of the epics that are starting to be introduced to America. The messages within these sacred texts are just beginning to be understood by Americans. For example, Karma is one of the key principles in the Hindu culture and it has been spreading throughout America. Many more similar principles are offered by India.

Meditations and therapies can also be offered to the United States. Yoga is already very popular in America but Indian meditation is not limited to yoga. The Vedas and many other scriptures must be learned in addition to this. There are a lot of spiritual connections with these types of therapies and India can offer this to America.

Indian food is immensely popular in America. India, however, is home to many more foods that America has yet to discover. The different regions of India offer a different flair of food. For example, curries have been brought from India to the United States but

a lot of Gujarati and South Indian food has not. As more areas of India open up to America, a lot more cuisines can be offered to the United States.

Bollywood music and movies as well as the arts of India are also being introduced into America. The movie *Slumdog Millionaire* showed America a glimpse of Indian acting and music. The movie was very popular and India can offer even more. From traditional dances and music to the new pop, Indian music can appeal to all audiences and offers America a whole new dimension of music. New radio stations are opening their categories to Indian music. As this begins to gain popularity, more Indian music can be introduced to America.

India can offer America a whole new country's own definition of art. From drawings to paintings to sculptures, India's art is a whole new aspect of that Americans can view. Architecturally, India's many temples and buildings can offer the United States different images of buildings. The Taj Mahal for example has influenced many American creations. India can give America a whole new way of creating art.

Moving on, India can offer the wonderful gift of being an industrial partner with the United States. The economic recession is depressing the nation and industries and businesses are needed in America to turn it around. India can help out. Ambitious Indians open many businesses that create jobs in the United States. This in turn, would jumpstart the economy back into what it once was. Indians come to America with new ideas which also help create jobs. More minds make more concepts. India and America could also trade resources that benefit both countries from many standpoints. This could definitely help the economy by creating jobs. The United States could have a mutual bond with India.

In summation, Mark Twain honored the country with an illustrious quote that complimented the history and wonder of India. America is a country that is not just a country. It is an idea. It is an idea of greatness, and India can offer much of its past to help the future of America from culture, to commerce. Above all, however, India can offer America a partner, an acquaintance, a friend.