

India 2027

Challenge Pack



Girlguiding Anglia
India 2027



Girlguiding
Anglia



This pack has been designed by us for your girls and is designed to be informative, fun and at the same time help raise funds for our trip.

Our Trip

During Summer 2027, 12 girls (between 14 – 18) alongside 4 leaders will undertake an exciting adventure for two and a half weeks to India – That's a long way for a long time with no parents – we are excited and nervous!

We each come from different Counties throughout Anglia and have each been through the selection process to gain our place on this Region trip – we are proud to be representing Girlguiding abroad.

Between our selection in 2025 and flying off to India in 2027 there is much work to be done. We have already met each other, designed our badge, planned this challenge pack and have all been involved in agreeing what we want to do and see on the trip. We all also have the task of fundraising £3000.00 to pay for our trip.

During our trip we all want to explore:

The local Community | The Indian Culture | Indian Food | Wildlife and nature

During our trip we will also stay at SANGAM – One of the world Guiding Centres – where we hope to meet guides from all over the world.

Our Challenge Pack

Who? – The activities in this pack are based around our four aims and are suitable for all groups to complete – Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Rangers and Adults – we hope you enjoy them and learn something new.

How? – Simply complete one challenge from each of the four areas to earn one of our super India 2027 badges! – Don't forget you can do more!!! You can organise this yourself or why not invite the Ranger/Guide / Leader you know who is going on this trip to come and run the evening for you.

When? – You can complete this challenge anytime between now and Summer 2027 – You can complete one activity each week or use it to run an India themed evening with four activities to move between – it's up to you. Be creative and have fun!

What next? – When you have completed at least one activity from each section you can buy your badge, pictured on the cover. Badges cost £1.50 each.

Thank you for helping us. We hope you enjoy our challenge pack.





Community



Rangoli

Rangoli is a traditional Indian sand-painted work of art often seen during Diwali, the Indian festival of lights. Historically created on floors inside and outside of homes, Rangoli is made up of geometric shapes, often inspired by nature. Have a go at creating your own rangoli pattern using brightly coloured sand.

You will Need

Coloured sand

Squeeze bottles

Paper

Outside space or Trays

Steps

Fill the squeeze bottles with different coloured sand

Begin with a centre pile of sand and work outwards keeping the design symmetrical.

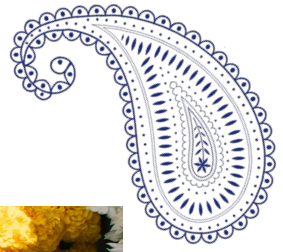
You can layer up the design as you go – continue until you are happy with your pattern.

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows – Print out Rangoli patterns and colour them in

Brownies/Guides – You may want to use stencils to help them create patterns





Marigolds

Marigolds are deeply ingrained in Indian culture, symbolizing auspiciousness, purity, and passion. Their vibrant orange and yellow hues, representing the sun's energy, make them indispensable in Hindu worship, weddings, and festivals like Diwali. Have a go at creating your own Marigold flower.

You will Need

Orange and yellow tissue paper 4 square of each colour

Black or green pipe cleaners

Pencil

Pair of scissors

Steps

Alternate colour stack the tissue paper squares

Fan fold the stack of tissue paper

Cut a notch from each end. Cut a 'V' or round them off.

Wrap a piper cleaner around the middle and twist the pipe cleaner together to secure.

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows – Print out a stem and stick crumpled up tissue paper onto the stem

Rangers – Make multiple marigolds and string them together





Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal is an ivory-white marble mausoleum in Agra, India, commissioned in 1631 by Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan to house the tomb of his favorite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. Recognized as a UNESCO World Heritage site and a wonder of the world. Have a go at building your own Taj Mahal

You will Need

Cardboard

Scissors

Glue

Tape

Paint/Pens to decorated

Steps

Display a picture of the Taj Mahal and lay out the available materials.

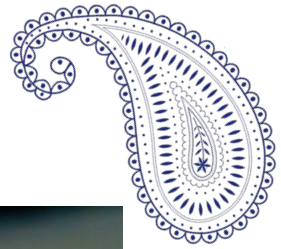
Use glue and tape to build a cardboard replica of the Taj Mahal.

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows -Provide pre-cut shapes (cereal boxes for the cube, tubes for minarets, and bowls for domes) for the girls to assemble.

Guides/Rangers - Display a photo of the Taj Mahal for a limited time. Each group must then work from memory to build the most accurate replica possible.





Diya Lamps

Clay diya lamps, typically used during Diwali, symbolize the triumph of light over darkness, purity, and the inner soul's awakening. Have a go at creating your own Diya Lamp.

You will Need

Air-dry clay

Toothpick or carving tools

Acrylic paints, glitter, and craft gems.

PVA glue

Small tea light candles or LED lights.

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows – decorate pre made Diya Lamps

Steps

Take a piece of clay and roll it into a smooth ball about the size of a golf ball.

Push your thumb into the center of the ball and gently press downward and outward to create a bowl-like shape. Keep the walls equal in thickness to prevent cracking.

On one side, pinch the rim to create a pointed tip for the wick.

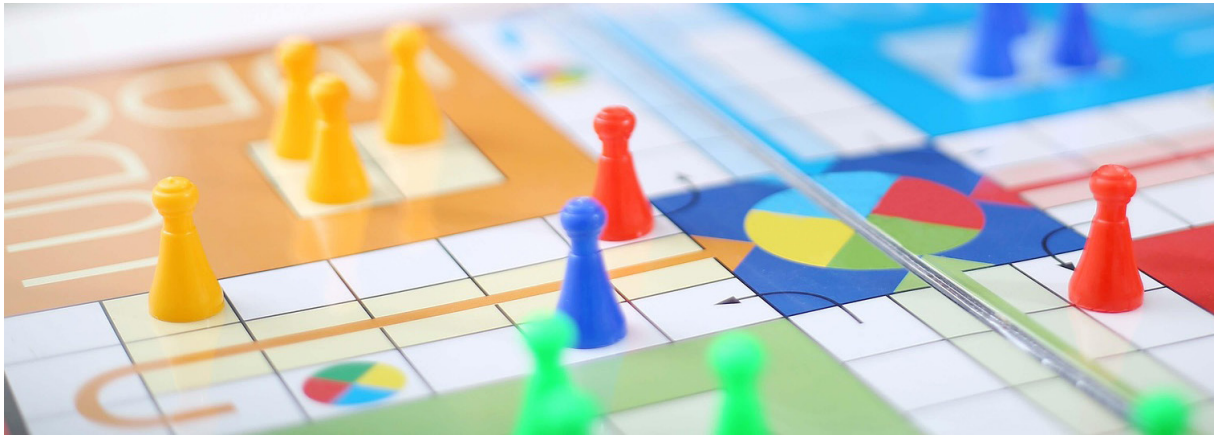
Use a little water to smooth out any cracks on the surface.

Set the diya in a safe place to air dry completely. This can take several hours or up to 72 hours, depending on the clay type.

Once dry, paint with acrylic paint and decorate with glitter, or stick on gems.

Once completely dry, place a tea light inside.



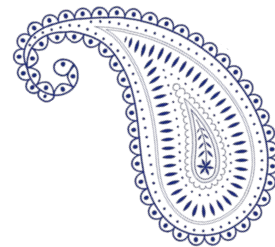


Ludo

Ludo originated from the ancient Indian game Pachisi (or Chausar/Chopad), dating back to as early as 2500 BCE, with evidence found in the Ellora Caves.

Enjoy a game of Ludo





Culture



Henna

In India, henna (known as mehndi) symbolizes joy, beauty, prosperity, and good fortune, acting as a deep cultural symbol for positive spirits. Primarily used in weddings and festivals

You will Need

Henna Cones

Steps

Clean the skin to remove oils and lotions.

Squeeze the cone gently, holding it like a pen. Start with simple dots, lines, and loops, practicing on a paper towel first

Allow the henna to dry for at least 30 minutes to a few hours.

Do not use water to remove the dried paste. Instead, gently scrape or flake it off after 4–10hr.

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows/Brownies – Have a volunteer/adult design the Henna

Make sure you gain permission and check allergies before doing the activity.





Saree

A saree (or sari) is a traditional garment for women from the Indian subcontinent, consisting of a long, unstitched piece of fabric—typically 4.5 to 8 meters in length—that is draped around the body.

Have a go at putting on a saree.





Bangles

Indian bangles are traditional, often colourful, wrist ornaments worn in sets or as single kada bracelets, essential for weddings and daily wear. Have a go at decorating your own bangles.

You will Need

Plain metal bangles

Nail polish different colours and clear

Steps

Clean the bangles to remove oil and dirt.

Thin coats of nail polish, allowing them to dry completely between layers to avoid gooey, thick patches.

Apply a clear topcoat to make the polish last longer

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows – Play dress up and let them try on bangles





Holi

Holi is a major Hindu festival known as the “Festival of Colours,” “Festival of Spring,” or “Festival of Love”. It celebrates the arrival of spring, the end of winter, and the triumph of good over evil, primarily commemorating the legend of Prahlad and Holika. Lets get festive.

You will Need

Cornstarch

Water

Food colouring

Steps

First, pour 250ml water in a bowl, and add 6-8 drops of food colouring. The more food colouring you add, the brighter the powder will be.

Mix 320g of cornflour into the coloured water until it becomes thick. Add extra cornflour if needed.

Then carefully pour the mixture into a foil tray and leave it in a cool dry place for at least 24 hours.

Optional Adjustments

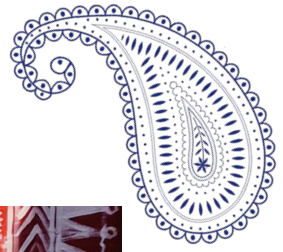
Rainbows/Brownies

Instead of making the powder, you can buy pre-made and have a Holi party.

Once the mixture is completely dry, use your fingers to carefully crumble the mixture to become a fine powder. Repeat these steps using different colours of food colouring to create different coloured powders.

Have fun throwing your powder.





Warli Art

Warli art is a vibrant 1,000-year-old tribal folk art form originating from Maharashtra, India, characterized by simple geometric shapes—circles, triangles, and squares—to depict daily life, nature, and community.

You will Need

Red/Brown & White Paper

Scissors

Glue

Steps

Cut out shapes in the white paper

Use your shapes to create a picture to tell a story

When you are happy with your design, stick down on your red/brown paper

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows/Brownies – Can provide pre cut white shapes



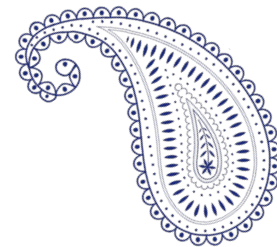


Hindi Writing

Have a go at writing Hindi chartures.

अ	आ	इ	ई	उ	ऊ	ऋ
A	AA	I	EE	U	OO	REE
ए	ऐ	ओ	औ	अं	अः	
E	AI	O	OU	AN	AHA	
क	ख	ग	घ	ङ	च	
K	KH	G	GH	ANGA	CH	
छ	ज	झ	ञ	ट	ठ	
CHH	J	JH	NYA	TA	THA	
ड	ढ	ण	त	थ	द	
DA	DHA	N	TA	THA	D	
ध	न	प	फ	ब	भ	
DHA	N	P	PHA	B	BH	
म	य	र	ल	व	श	
M	YA	R	LA	VA	SHA	
ष	स	ह	क्ष	त्र	ज्ञ	
SHHA	SA	H	KSH	TRA	GYA	





Food



Tea Tasting

Masala chai (spiced tea) is a staple Indian beverage made by simmering black tea, milk, sugar, and spices like ginger, cardamom, cinnamon, and cloves. It is a daily ritual and cultural symbol of hospitality, consumed nationwide.

You will Need (Serves 2)

200ml-250ml milk (dairy or other)

1-2 tbsp sugar

3 green cardamom pods bashed and husks removed

½ cinnamon stick

2 cloves

3 black peppercorns

½ tsp ground ginger

2 tsp loose leaf black tea leaves, such as Assam

Steps

For the infusion, put the cardamom seeds in a pestle and mortar, along with the cinnamon, cloves and peppercorns, and bash to release the oils – you don't want to make a powder. Tip into a pan and stir in the ginger and black tea leaves.

Pour in 400ml water and bring to a very gentle simmer over a low heat, to allow the tea to infuse before it starts to boil. Stir in the milk and sugar or syrup to taste, and remove from the heat. Leave to infuse for 2 mins before straining into mugs.

Optional Adjustments

You can purchase a premixed infusion bag.

Make sure you check allergies before doing the activity.





Spice-ometer

Indian spices are the soul of Indian cuisine, defining its flavor, aroma, and color through a rich, traditional combination of turmeric, cumin, coriander, and chili. Beyond taste, they are deeply rooted in Ayurveda for health benefits like improved digestion and immunity.

You will Need

A variety of curry sauces
Naan Breads

Steps

Layout the curry sauces allow them to dip the bread and taste test.

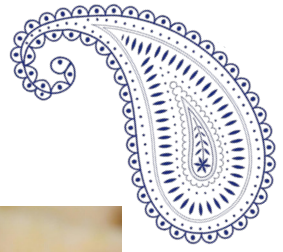
You could get them to rate them on:

- Taste
- Spiciness
- Smell
- Texture

Notes

Make sure you check allergies before doing the activity. Think about the spice levels you offer, make sure it is not too hot for young children.





Poppadoms and Dips

Poppadoms are thin, crispy Indian crackers made from lentil or rice flour, traditionally served as a starter with a variety of chutneys and dips.

You will Need

Poppadoms

Variety of chutneys &
Dips

Our recommendation:

- *Mango chutney*
- *Raita*
- *Mint & Coriander Chutney*
- *Lime pickle*

Steps

Layout the chutneys & dips and allow them to dip the poppadoms and taste test.

You could get them to rate them on:

- Taste
- Smell
- Texture

Notes

Make sure you check allergies before doing the activity. Think about the spice levels you offer, make sure it is not too hot for young children.





Spice Identification

Indian spices are the foundation of Indian cuisine, offering vibrant colors, intense aromas, and deep flavors. Essential spices include turmeric, cumin, coriander, cardamom, and garam masala.

You will Need

Bowls

Variety of Indian spices

Our recommendation:

- Turmeric
- Cumin
- Coriander
- Garam Masala
- Cardamon

Steps

Layout the spices in different bowls

Try and identify the spice using smell, sight and touch.

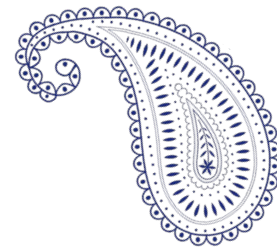
Notes

Turmeric will stain fingers and clothing.

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows/Younger Brownies –Run as sensory activity where they get to smell and touch the spices.





Wildlife/Nature



Animals

India recognizes several “national animals,” each representing a specific facet of its vast biodiversity and cultural heritage. Indian wildlife also holds deep symbolic, religious, and ecological meanings, with the primary national animal being the Bengal Tiger.

You will Need

Print outs of the cards on page 21 & 22 with the images of the animals, names and meanings.

Steps

For this activity match the national animal to its name and meaning.

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows – Matching only using the image of the animal and the name.

Rangers – Find out additional facts about the animals (e.g. region, population, diet, size) and see if they can correctly match them to each animal.





Lotus Flower

The lotus (*Nelumbo nucifera*), or Kamal, is the National Flower of India and a sacred emblem of beauty, purity, and spiritual enlightenment in Hinduism and Buddhism. It represents rising above obstacles, as it blooms in muddy water. It is essential to Indian culture, art, and religion

You will Need

Green Card

Pink Paper

Yellow Tissue Paper

Glue

Scissors

Print out the templates on page 23 & 24

Steps

Trace the templates onto the coloured card/paper

Cut out the pieces.

Bend the flower into a circle, overlap two petals, and glue.

Curl petals over a pencil to shape them.

Layer flowers inside one another, offsetting the petals.

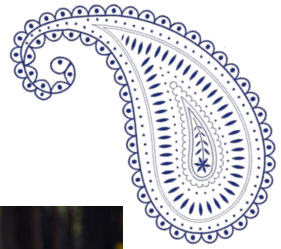
Glue the flower onto the green leaf.

Glue crumpled yellow tissue paper in the centre.

Optional Adjustments

Rainbows/Younger Brownies – Pre cut the template shape outs. Skip the “Curl petals over a pencil to shape them” step.





Elephants

Decorated Indian elephants symbolize majesty, royalty, strength, and divine power (Ganesha), often featuring elaborate, traditional painted designs. They are revered in Indian culture, representing the removal of obstacles, prosperity, and good luck, commonly used in festivals (like Holi) and weddings.

You will Need

Print outs of elephants on page 25

Colour pencils

Paints

Sequins

Steps

Decorate a elephant for a festival.

Optional Adjustments

Guides/Rangers – Make a 3D Elephant to decorate.



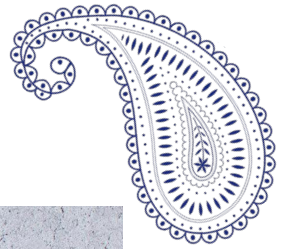


Snakes and Ladders

Snakes and Ladders originated in ancient India as a moral-based game called Moksha Patam or Gyan Chaupar, dating back as early as the 2nd century B.C.. It was designed by Hindu spiritual teachers to teach children about karma, virtue, and vice, with ladders representing good deeds and snakes representing vices.

Enjoy a game of Snakes & Ladders.





Nature mandalas

Nature mandalas in India combine the ancient Sanskrit concept of the “mandala” (circle) with locally sourced organic materials to create symmetrical, impermanent art.

You will Need

Collect fallen leaves, petals, twigs, and stones.

Steps

Place one striking object (a flower or stone) as your starting point.

Arrange your items in concentric circles moving outward.

Repeat patterns on all sides to create a balanced circle.



PRINT OUTS



Bengal Tiger

**Strength, grace,
and power.**



Indian Elephant

**Royalty, divinity,
fertility, and intellect.**



Indian Peafowl

**Beauty and
spirituality.**



Cow

**Sanctity, motherhood,
wealth, and sattvic
(pure) nature.**

PRINT OUTS



Hanuman
(Monkey)

**Intelligence, loyalty,
and strength.**



Indian Rhino

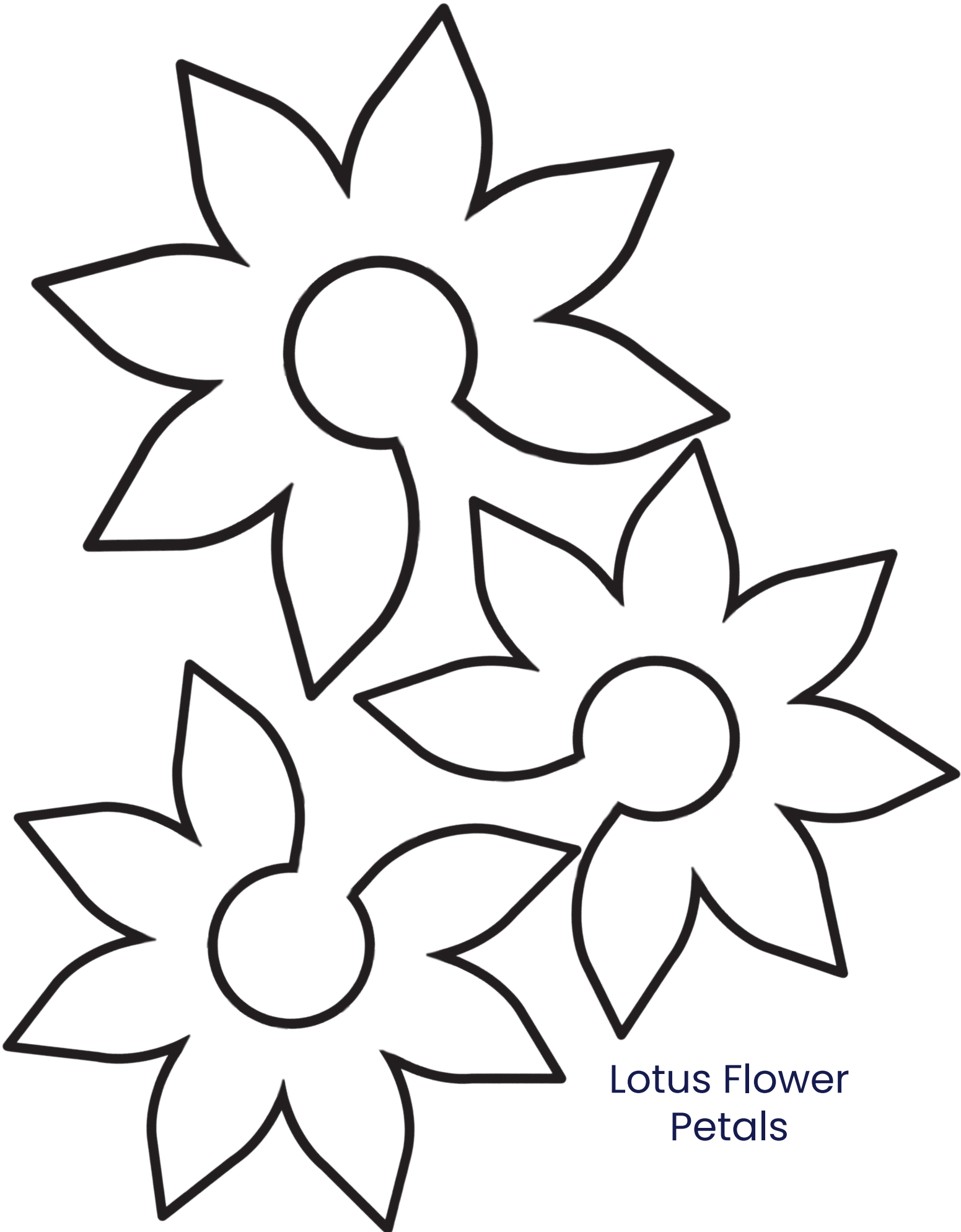
**Resilience and
conservation success.**



Serpent
(Sheshnag)

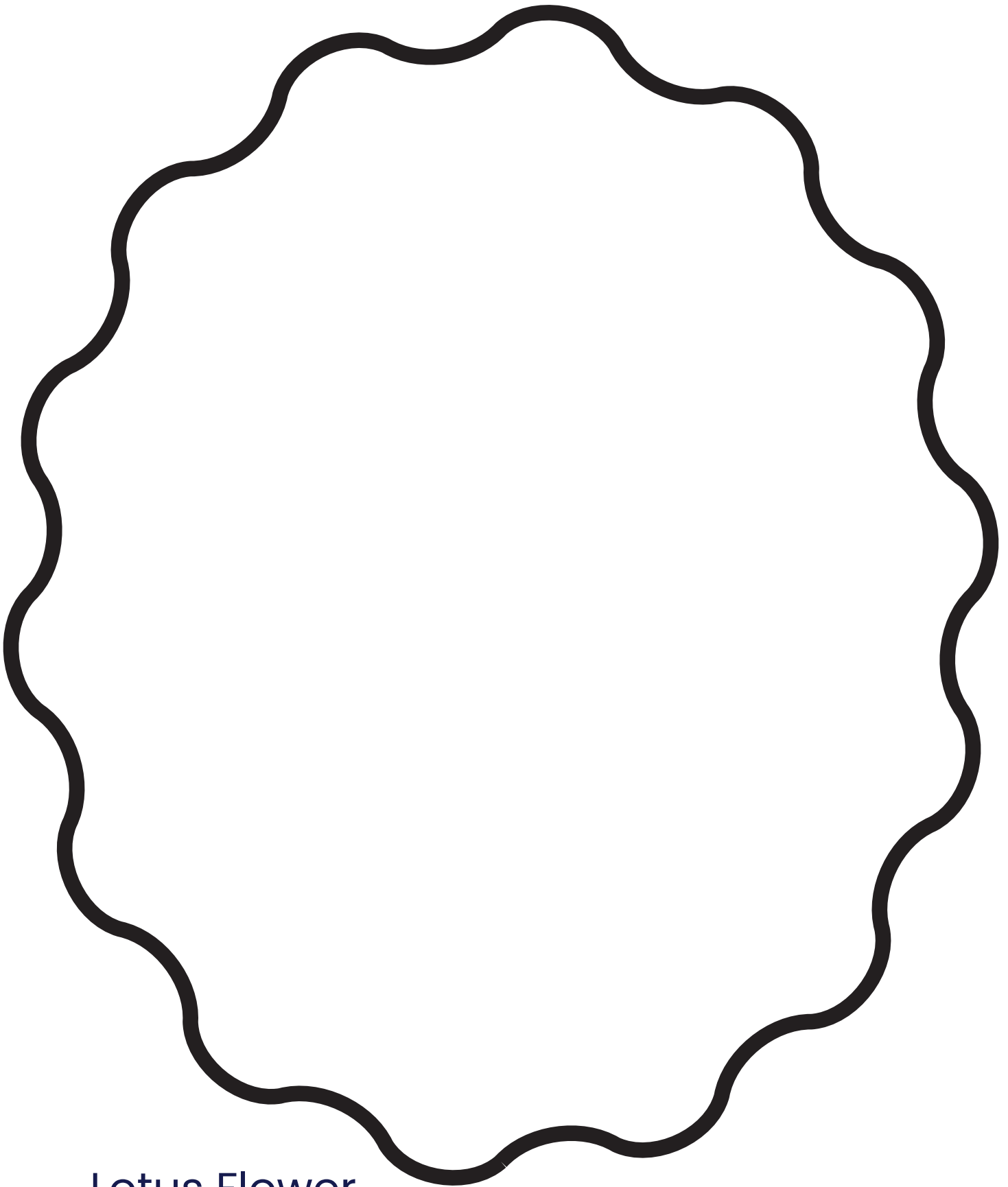
**Protection and
the divine.**

PRINT OUTS



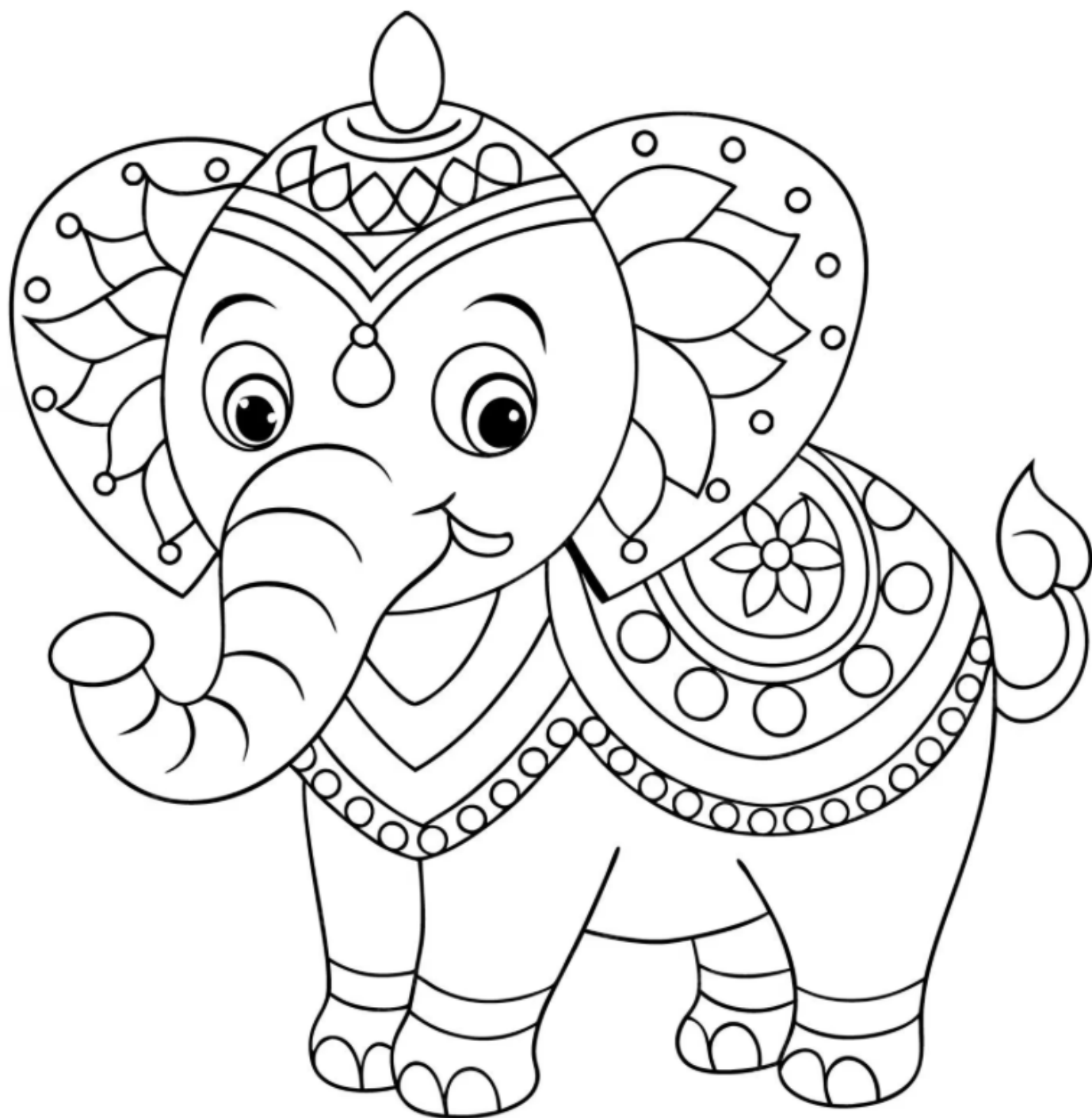
Lotus Flower
Petals

PRINT OUTS



Lotus Flower
Leaf

PRINT OUTS





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