


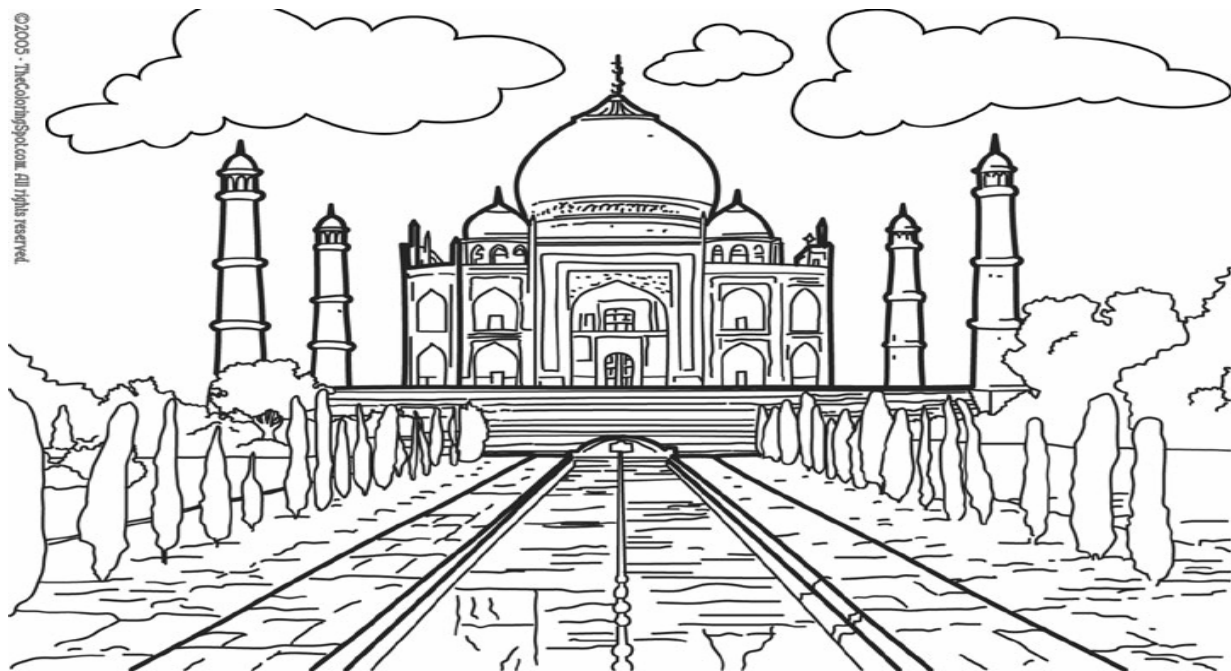
	2008 Karl Kübel Stiftung	 	
	Unterrichtsmaterial Indien	Indian School Text: Taj Mahal	

A. This text is from an Indian school book. The simple English is typical for school lessons. Read and do the lessons at the next page:

Source: Steps to English, Samba publishing

The story of the TAJ MAHAL



Shah Jehan was a great emperor of India. He had a beautiful queen. Her name was Mumtaz. The emperor loved her very much.

Mumtaz fell ill. She was on her deathbed. The emperor sat by her side. He was in tears. The queen said to the emperor: "When I die, build over my grave a tomb that will have no equal in the world." The emperor promised to carry out her wish. The queen died and she was buried. It was in the year 1630.

Shah Jehan invited builders and architects from India, Persia and Turkey. The finest white marble pieces were brought from Tibet, Arabia and Egypt. More than 20.000 men worked hard for nearly 18 years. Many million of rupees were spent. The most beautiful tomb in the world was constructed. It was called the Taj Mahal. The Taj Mahal is counted as a great wonder of the world. When Shah Jehan died he was also buried by the side of Mumtaz.

The Taj Mahal is in Agra. It stands on the bank of the river Yamuna on a large marble platform. The platform is a square measuring ninety-six metres on each side. It is nearly seventy metres high. The tomb is sixty metres high and it has eight sides. It has a large dome. There are flower-designs on the walls. These designs were inlaid with gems and precious stones. At each corner of the raised platform is a tall minaret or tower. The minarets increase the charm of the Taj Mahal.

There is a beautiful garden and a lovely pool of clear water in front of the tomb. The garden contains some rare and beautiful plants. Tourists from all parts of the world come to see the Taj. The Taj looks like a fairy palace in moonlight. Indians are very proud of the Taj Mahal.

B. Do the exercise

I. Answer the following questions. Build whole sentences:

1. Who built the Taj Mahal?

The Taj Mahal was built by.....

2. Who was buried inside the Taj Mahal?

3. Where did the builders and the architects come from?

4. From which places were the marble stones brought?

5. How long did it take to construct the building?

II. Vocabulary:

Fill in the blanks with suitable words:

1. The emperor promised to carry out her _____ .
2. The most beautiful _____ in the world was constructed.
3. The Taj Mahal is _____ as a great wonder of the world.
4. The Taj Mahal stands on a large marble _____ .
5. There are flower _____ on the wall.

III. Match the following:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. The emperor | measuring ninety six metres on each side. |
| 2. Build over my grave a tomb | the graves of Shah Jehan and Mumtaz. |
| 3. The Taj Mahal contains | that will have no equal in the world. |
| 4. The platform is a square | loved his wife very much. |

IV. Fun with words.

In the following words one or two letters are left out. Supply the missing letters:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. emp - r - r | m - rbl - |
| 2. bu - ld - rs | min -- r -t |
| 3. w - nd -r | g - rd -- n |