



# Nepal

Lesson 1

The Country of Nepal

## Lesson/Story:

Nepal is a little country in Asia that is about the size and shape of our state of Tennessee. If you ever went to Nepal, you would find lots of mountains and forests. In fact, the largest mountain in the whole world is found in Nepal. Have you ever heard of Mount Everest? It is almost 30,000 feet high and many people like to come see it, or even try to climb it.

Most of Nepal is covered by the very steep and rugged Himalayan Mountains and the forests and hills that lead up to the mountain range. Because the air gets colder as you climb higher, the people who live in the mountains in the northern part of Nepal are used to lots of snow and cold and severe weather during the winter months. Since it is cool there even in the summer, they need to have lots of warm clothing and animal skins to protect them from the cold.

The people who live in the forests and hills in the central part of Nepal are used to changing seasons similar to the seasons we have in the northern part of the United States. The central part of Nepal has a fairly warm summer and a cool spring and fall, and a fairly cold and snowy winter, but without the fierce storms that come in the mountains.

There is also a small strip of fertile, flat land in the southern part of Nepal that enjoys mild winters, warm spring and fall weather, and hot summer days. The capital city of Kathmandu (Kath-mondoo) is in this region, and most of the population of the country lives in this area. Which part of Nepal would you like to live in if you went there? (Show the country map of Nepal and talk about the three climate regions within this tiny country.)

If you look at Nepal on a map, you will see that it is totally surrounded by land. Many countries have at least a little bit of their border along an ocean or sea, but Nepal has no beaches; only lots of mountains. To the south of Nepal is the country of India. This is a very large country with lots of coastline and many, many people. (India is currently the second most populous country in the world, with 1.15 billion people.) To the north of Nepal is the huge country of China, which has the largest population in the world (1.3 billion people). So you can see that Nepal is a very small country with only 29 million people (about the same population as the city of Tokyo, Japan), sandwiched between two very large countries with many, many times more people. (Look at the map of Asia and show the relationships between China, Nepal and India.)

Let's pray for the country of Nepal and the Nepali people who live there. Let's begin to think of them as our brothers and sisters, and as we learn more about them, let's ask God to use us in the spreading of His Word in Nepal.

# Nepal



## Statistics\*

**Total area:** 147,181 sq. km. (56,136 sq. mi.), about the size and shape of Tennessee

**Population:** 29,519,114 (est. July 2008)

**Ethnicity:** Chhettri 15.5%, Brahman-Hill 12.5%, Magar 7%, Tharu 6.6%, Tamang 5.5%, Newar 5.4%, Muslim 4.2%, Kami 3.9%, Yadav 3.9%, other 32.7%, unspecified 2.8% (2001 census)

**Languages:** Nepali 47.8%, Maithali 12.1%, Bhojpuri 7.4%, Tharu (Dagaura/Rana) 5.8%, Tamang 5.1%, Newar 3.6%, Magar 3.3%, Awadhi 2.4%, other 10%, unspecified 2.5% (2001 census)

**Religion:** Hindu 80.6%, Buddhist 10.7%, Muslim 4.2%, Kirant 3.6%, Christianity and other 0.9% (2001 census)

**Government:** Democratic Republic (Hindu Monarchy abolished in June 2008)

**Capital:** Kathmandu

\* U.S. State Department, Gospel for Asia, and Voice of the Martyrs websites

Colors of the Flag:  
Outline – blue  
Background – red  
Stars and crescent moon - white

The red background on the flag stands for the red color of the national flower, the Rhododendron. The blue border around the outside stands for peace. The Nepali flag is the only national flag in the world that is not rectangular.



# The County of Nepal Quiz

1. What is the national flower of Nepal?
  - A. Daffodil
  - B. Marigold
  - C. Rhododendron
2. What does the blue border on Nepal's flag signify?
  - A. Water
  - B. Peace
  - C. Sky
3. Nepal is north of what country?
  - A. India
  - B. Iraq
  - C. Burma
4. How many seaports does Nepal have?
  - A. Five
  - B. None
  - C. Three
5. What mountain range covers most of Nepal?
  - A. Himalayan Mountains
  - B. Appalachian Mountains
  - C. Andes Mountains
6. Nepal is about the same size as which of our United States?
  - A. Rhode Island
  - B. Texas
  - C. Arkansas
7. What is the capital city of Nepal?
  - A. Delhi
  - B. Goa
  - C. Kathmandu
8. Nepal is South of what country?
  - A. Russia
  - B. Pakistan
  - C. China
9. What famous mountain is in Nepal?
  - A. Mt. McKinley
  - B. Mt. Ararat
  - C. Mt. Everest
10. What color is Nepal's national flower?
  - A. Purple
  - B. Red
  - C. Yellow
11. Which country has the largest population in the world?
  - A. China
  - B. Nepal
  - C. United States
12. What language do the people of Nepal speak?
  - A. English
  - B. Chinese
  - C. Nepalese