

Indian Music



The word for music in India is SANGITA. As well as music, it also means dancing and drama.

There are three main ways in which Indian people hear music:

1. at the cinema
2. on the radio
3. at concerts.

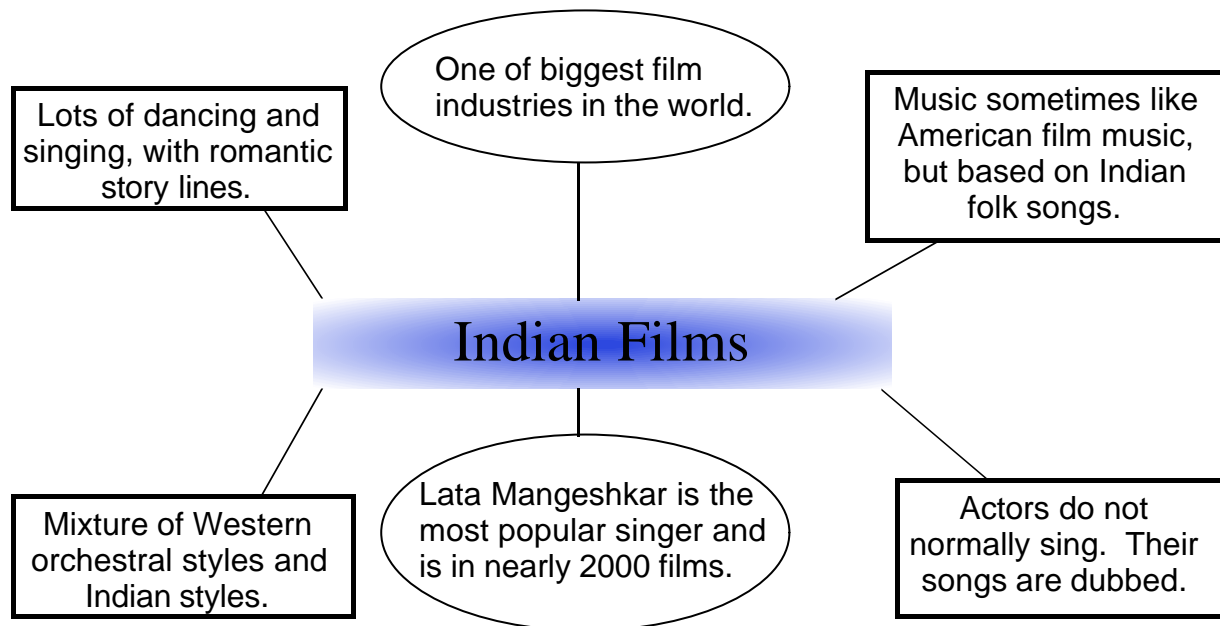
However before we look at the music in lots of detail it is important to study the country it comes from.

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India's History

1. One of the oldest cultures in the world existed in India near the river Indus around 3000 BC. Indians were a highly civilised nation who traded with ancient Sumerians and Egyptians.
2. About 2000 years ago the country was ruled by Hindu and Buddhist princes, some who were very rich.
3. The Hindu and Buddhist religions spread to other countries such as Indonesia, Thailand, China and Tibet.
4. In the 11th Century, India was invaded by Muslims from Turkey and Afghanistan, and many Hindus were forcibly converted to the Muslim religion.
5. In the 14th and 15th Centuries, India was ruled by Muslim emperor called MOGHULS. They introduced a new kind of music, art, religion and architecture into India. The Taj Mahal was built by a Moghul.
6. In the 17th Century the British became the rulers of India.
7. India became independent in the 1940's.
8. Indian people have travelled and settled in other parts of the world. They usually follow their own religion and way of life, but they also respect the customs of countries they have settled in.





QUESTIONS

1. What is the name for music in India?
2. What is the oldest culture in the world?
3. Which religions spread to other countries?
4. Why is the Taj Mahal so important?
5. Who invaded India in the 11th century and what happened?
6. When did Britain become the rulers of India and when did this end?
7. Write a paragraph describing music in Indian films.

EXTENSION TASK

Make a timeline showing the important events in India's history.

Why do you think it is important to look at the history of India when studying Indian music.