



A day to discover...

THE WATERY WORLD OF BANGLADESH!

Bangladesh is a country full of surprises! It has six seasons, not four like we do. It has animals and plants that are very different from ours. Its coastline has one of world's longest beaches and most unusual forests. Most of all, Bangladesh has lots and lots of water – let's explore!

Dhaka (Dah-kah) The capital is the most crowded city in the world!



MORE THAN 700
rivers flow through Bangladesh!

FISH CURRY
is many people's favourite meal.

164 MILLION
people live in Bangladesh.

The Sundarbans
(Shun-dar-bans) Full of islands, forests and rare animals!



The national flower is a beautiful white
WATER LILY.

FLOODS
affect millions of families every year.

INDIA

BANGLADESH

Dhaka

The Sundarbans

INDIAN OCEAN

MYANMAR

The rainy season

Barsa (Bar-sha) is the rainy season in Bangladesh. It comes between summer and autumn. During Barsa, so much rain falls that rivers can be up to 3.6 metres higher. That's almost as high as a double decker bus!



Most of the rain Bangladesh gets in a year falls during Barsa. By the end of it, almost a third of the country is under water. Houses and farms can be damaged or even destroyed. It's a big worry for families who live in places that are likely to flood.

Climate change is making the rainy season even rainier, too. People are finding it harder to predict the weather. As more heavy rainstorms come, more families will be affected by floods, and more children won't be able to go to school.

Meet Adori

Adori is 13 and lives in northern Bangladesh. After rainstorms caused a big flood, Adori says, "It was like the river came into our house. Everything was floating."

To be safe, she and her family had to stay in a camp. The flood also closed Adori's school and destroyed the road to it. She says, "I love school and I missed it so much. When our school reopened I walked extra miles through knee-deep water to get there!"

ActionAid is helping children like Adori by building safe spaces to study, when the floods come.



BE A NEWS REPORTER

Pretend you are a reporter, and tell your family about what it's like during the rainy season when the floods come.

Make yourself a microphone from things you have at home. Maybe you could use some empty kitchen or loo roll tubes, or a wooden spoon.

If it's OK with the grown-ups you could even give your report while standing in water, in the bath or a paddling pool.



DID YOU KNOW?

Children in Bangladesh plant trees to help reduce the risk of their schools flooding.

Floating forests

It's time to head to the Sundarbans! That means 'beautiful forests' in Bengali, the main language of Bangladesh. The Sundarbans are full of green mangrove forests, amazing wildlife and, of course, water!



Mangroves are shrubs or small trees that grow in **swampy** places where the ground is full of water. Mangrove **roots** grow in big, tough, tangled clumps which help to hold the ground in place, and **protect** the land from being flooded by the sea.

Mangrove forests are great at soaking up climate-changing carbon dioxide. And there are some animals living in the Sundarbans that you won't find in many other places in the world. Let's take a look at what we might find...



Macaque

As you float on a **boat** along the shore, you may see macaque monkeys looking for crabs to eat.



Crocodile

A **marsh** crocodile is big and fast. It can grow up to 4.8 metres long and weigh more than 450 kilograms!

SEARCH!

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid below?

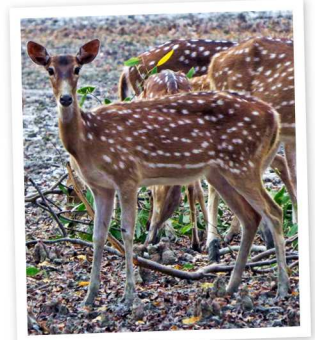
HINT
Look for the words in green on this page

C	Y	A	W	A	T	E	R	S	W
R	P	M	E	R	C	F	E	A	T
O	M	A	C	A	Q	U	E	F	C
C	A	N	O	B	T	Y	D	O	E
O	W	G	W	Z	P	O	L	R	T
D	S	R	O	O	T	S	A	E	O
I	B	O	A	T	U	Q	T	S	R
L	I	V	F	X	A	W	I	T	P
E	B	E	M	A	R	S	H	E	I
F	I	S	H	I	N	G	C	A	T



Fishing cat

About twice as big as a pet cat, this fishing cat is a good swimmer – it can even dive under the **water** to catch its dinner!



Chital deer

Stay very still if you see these beautiful spotted deer. If you startle them, they'll run away fast and hide in the **forest**.

DID YOU KNOW?

There are 102 islands in the Sundarbans, and lots of people live here.

Hop onboard

With 700 rivers flowing through Bangladesh, a boat can be the best way to get around!

The most traditional boats are flat-bottomed. They're usually made of wood and they come in all shapes and sizes. A Kosha (Koh-sha) is one type of small boat that people often use during floods. Because boats are so important in Bangladesh, knowing how to build one is a very good skill to have!



LET'S BUILD A BOAT!

All you need is a big piece of square paper – you could colour it in before you start!

1 First, fold the paper in half, bringing the bottom edge up to meet the top.



2 Fold in half again, then unfold so you can see the crease.



3 Take the top corners of the top layer of paper and fold them in towards the middle crease so they create triangles.



4 Flip the sheet over and repeat step 3 with the other top corners.



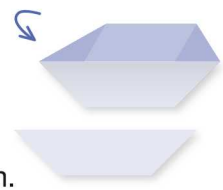
5 Next, fold both the bottom corners up to meet the middle.



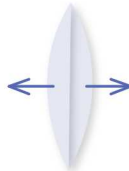
6 Take the top layer and fold down so the top edge meets the fold at the very bottom.



7 Flip the sheet over and repeat step 6. You should now have a long edge at the top and a short edge at the bottom.



8 Hold the paper so the long edge is facing you and carefully pull the sides apart so the points start to fold inwards.



9 Fold the bottom point towards the centre. This will make a new smaller point at the bottom. Do the same to the other big point.



10 Fold the new small points up a little on both sides. Pull the big points back out and hey presto, you've built a boat!



DID YOU KNOW?

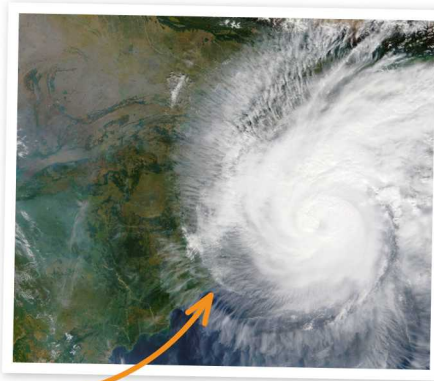
In Bangladesh, there are hundreds of songs and stories about boats!

Why is it so wet?

We've heard you're a good detective! So can you look back at everything you've discovered today and find all the reasons why Bangladesh floods? To start you off, here are a few more clues...

Cyclones

A cyclone is a type of big storm that starts out in the ocean. When it hits land, the strong winds and heavy rain can cause a lot of damage, and flood large areas. Cyclones often hit Bangladesh. In this picture you can see a cyclone from space.



Climate change

Bangladesh is one of the countries most at risk from climate change. Climate change is making rainy seasons and cyclones worse there. It's also slowly making the sea rise. Most of the land in Bangladesh is less than five metres above the sea.

BE A FLOOD DETECTIVE

Now you've learned lots about the watery world of Bangladesh, can you write or draw three reasons why floods happen here? Look back at the clues on the other pages to help you... good luck finding them all!

HINT
Go right back
to page 1 to
look for
clues!



Clue

Reason



Clue

Reason



Clue

Reason

We hope you've had fun discovering Bangladesh today. See you again soon – on your next Discovery Day you'll learn more about the lives of refugees.