

Sample Vignette Pre-IB Geography

Note the geographic question as the title.

How Does The Movement of Tibetan Refugees Into India Increased Its Poverty?

Clear thesis statement

In the last century, China has persecuted the people of Tibet. As a result of this persecution is thousands of Tibetans have fled to India following the lead of the Dalai Lama. The movement of Tibetan refugees into India has contributed to the poverty of thousands of people. The factors that have led to these conditions are the large number of Tibetan refugees, the increased population in India in general, and the strain on India's natural resources.

The Chinese Government has persecuted the Tibetans for many years. They have outlawed religious nationalistic acts which are an important part of Tibetan culture. Tibetans continued to live in their homeland until the Dalai Lama, the ruler of Tibet and the highest spiritual leader of Lamaism Buddhism, had fled to Dharamsala in the northern part of India, more than thirty years ago. Thousands of Tibetans have moved to India following in their religious leaders to a country which accepts their beliefs.

Good topic sentences.

Today, Tibet is considered a region of China, although it has very different cultural beliefs and its own form of local government. Tibet lies south of China and North of India. It extends from the most northern part of India to northeastern Myanmar. The Himalayan Mountains stretch between India and Tibet separating the two countries by a harsh and rugged boundary. The journey of the Tibetan refugees was a long hard journey across the snow covered Himalayas. Many people died as a result of that trek, but many of those who survived were in need of medical attention when they reached India.

When the refugees arrived in India, many were in need of food, shelter and medical attention as a result of the harsh conditions. Healthy people were recruited to work on roads to earn money for food, whereas the children and elderly were sent to refugee camps where they could get the attention that they needed. The camps were crowded and dirty, and many people became ill and died. Because of the conditions of these camps, the Dalai Lama convinced the Indian government to establish settlements where the Tibetans could continue their traditions and preserve their culture. A total of thirty-six settlements have been established in India and Nepal where thousands of Tibetans live.

The population of India has grown exponentially, and reaching one-billion people by the year 2000. Even though India is a large country, there is an average of 865 people per square mile. The sixty-six thousand Tibetan

refugees, which have moved to India, have tipped the scale. The over population of the land has caused India to be one of the poorest countries in the world. The previous shortage of jobs has worsened, leaving thousands of people with no money and homeless. As a result of the poverty that the migration has caused, the Dalai Lama has asked Tibetans to move from India back into Tibet. However, a new generation has been born which knows India as its homeland, and will probably never move away.

Because of the conditions in which the refugees from Tibet live in, they cannot afford to buy materials necessary for survival and are forced to scavenge in the forests. Because of the increasing population, the forests are being cut down to make land for the building of towns and for the materials from which their houses are built. Since the villages are generally near forests, people hunt for food in the forest. This has led to the over hunting of rare species of plants and animals which are now endangered, if not extinct. Only 10% of India is covered in forests, and this percentage is rapidly decreasing. Also, the overpopulation has led to the contamination of water which is used for cooking, cleaning, and drinking. If the forests are all destroyed and the clean water used up, the refugees will have none of the resources upon which they depend to survive.

The movement of the Tibetan people to India, in search of their freedom, has caused the conditions in India to become worse. Many have escaped the persecution of the Chinese, but in doing so they have caused a shortage in jobs, natural resources, and a dramatic increase in population in India. If the Tibetans do not move back to their own country, as the Dalai Lama is urging them to, India will not be able to support so many people. The impact of the immigration of so many Tibetans has affected Indian government, social structure, as well as all of their natural resources. Tibetan migration, if left unchecked and unrestricted, may produce damaging and irreversible effects on an already strained and overpopulated India.

A good reference to the theme of the vignette - Movement

So what could have been done to make it even better . . .

1. More supporting sentences with actual facts and names of people and places (examples).
2. Within each supporting paragraph, make more references to 'movement,' the theme of this vignette.

Fairly complete citations - article title, date, etc.

Current Events

<http://www.newsindia-time.com/headline01.htm> - June 1st, 2001

'New Delhi Ends Cease-fire, Invites Musharraf For Talks'

New Delhi announced that it was ending cease-fire and that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee would invite Pakistani ruler Gen. Musharraf to restart negotiations between the two countries again. Last year, the cease-fire was established during the holy month of Ramadan. It didn't stop all bloodshed, but when it is lifted the fighting will be very serious. The United Nations are supporting these peace talks, and have done so since 1989 when the situation over Kashmir escalated. The leaders have traveled to start negotiations and their troops are ready to move into the opposing country.

<http://www.newsindia-time.com/headline04.htm> - June 1st, 2001

'Gujarat Has Narrow Escape from Another Calamity'

In Gujarat, on May 28th, a huge cyclone hit in the western part of the country. It has lasted over a full week so far, but it is expected to weaken in the next 12 hours--[From when this article was written] It has moved around the coast unpredictably. It has closed over 41 ports along the coast and officials have evacuated over 10,000 people.

<http://www.newsindia-time.com/nationall4.htm> June 1st

'"Monkey Man" Creates Panic'

In New Delhi the notorious "Monkey Man" has supposedly moved throughout the country terrorizing people in densely populated areas. "Monkey man" is reported to be a monkey like creature with metallic claws or a large cat with tawny glowing eyes. Last week in New Delhi attacks have been reported at random. Three have jumped off building fearing that the monkey man was in pursuit. The first reported attack was on April 8th in Uttar Pradesh. The Indian Rationalists Association claims that the "monkey man" is a figment of peoples imaginations, but that is not a

Good general summaries

popular belief and people all over India are afraid that the “monkey man” will enter their area of the country.

<http://www.newsindia-time.com/national/5.htm> -June 1St

‘Illegal Immigration Threat To Security’

For the past five decades there has been mass illegal immigration to India from neighboring countries. So far there are: 15,000,000 people from Bangladesh, 2.2 million people from Nepal, 70,000 people from Sri Lanka, Tamils and 100,000 Tibetans. There has been demographic changes to the borders of West Bengal, Bihar, Assam, Tripura and Meghalaya. As a result of these changes there has been social, economic and political changes.

So what could have been done to make the current event section even better . . .

1. Explain how each article is somehow related to the theme of the vignette - in this case - *movement*.
2. Include articles from sources other than just internet sites. The internet is a great source, but don't make it your only one.

See the two maps . . . one is the numbskull map (which is a simple map labeled with cities, bodies of water, etc). Note that even though it has a simple purpose, a “clean” presentation can enhance the overall quality of the work.

The other is the more difficult to assemble, annotated map. Note how the use of color goes beyond making the map look good. Color is used to classify data and have meaning. Annotations (short written explanations) are used to explain the thesis. Think of this map as a repeat of what you already said in your essay, but this time your “essay” is in visual form. This sample annotated map is good, but lacks developed annotations. More annotations (beyond the four) were needed to really communicate the thesis. Also, each annotation itself could use a bit more development (some additional sentences). Otherwise this sample is really good, particularly with the use of arrows and other symbols to show *movement* - the theme of the vignette.



SOUTH ASIA

AFGHANISTAN

Kunlun Mountains
Mau-tian's
CHINA



PAKISTAN
• Islamabad
Kashmir
• Amritsar

Himalayas

TIBET

NEPAL

BHUTAN

Brahmaputra River

BANGLA DESH

MYANMAR

INDIA

Great Indian Desert
• New Delhi
• Jaipur
• Varanasi
• Madras

Ganges R.

Calcutta

• Orissa

THAILAND

Arabian Ocean

Bay of Bengal

Comba

Deccan
• Madras

Key

— Kunlun Mountains

— Great Indian Desert

— Eastern - Western Ghats (Mau-tian Ranges)

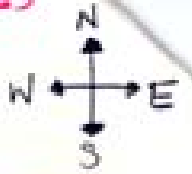
Scale

30 miles

Sri Lanka

Indian Ocean

THE CAUSES AND MOVEMENT OF TIBETAN REFUGEES INTO INDIA



AFGHANISTAN

PAKISTAN

As a result of huge migration, India's natural resources are put under even more stress. There are also very few jobs for people in INDIA.

CHINA

TIBET

Dharamsala

Thousands of Tibetans move to India following the Dalai Lama

DHARA

MYANMAR

LAOS

THAILAND

CAMBODIA

VIETNAM

KEY
Himalayas
Area under Chinese rule
shows the movement of Tibetan people

Scale
100 miles