

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## The Taj Mahal

The Taj Mahal is a sparkling jewel in the crown of India! It is one of the most famous buildings in the world and a symbol of love, beauty, and history. Located in the city of Agra in northern India, this magnificent white marble mausoleum attracts millions of visitors every year.

The Taj Mahal was built by Emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife, Mumtaz Mahal. They shared a deep love, and when she passed away in 1631, Shah Jahan wanted to honor her with something extraordinary. It took over 20 years and the work of thousands of skilled craftsmen to complete this masterpiece. The Taj Mahal was finished in 1653, and it remains a stunning example of Mughal architecture, blending Indian, Persian, and Islamic styles.

The Taj Mahal sits on the southern bank of the Yamuna River, surrounded by lush gardens, reflecting pools, and red sandstone gates. The centerpiece is the marble tomb, with its gleaming white domes and intricate carvings. Look closely, and you'll see the walls decorated with floral patterns and verses from the Quran written in calligraphy. At sunrise and sunset, the marble changes colors, glowing pink, golden, or pure white, depending on the light.

This amazing monument isn't just beautiful-it's also packed with meaning. The four tall minarets around the main dome stand as symbols of balance and harmony. The gardens represent paradise, a peaceful and perfect place in many cultures. For Shah Jahan, the Taj Mahal was more than a building-it was a tribute to eternal love and a way to keep Mumtaz Mahal's memory alive forever.

Today, the Taj Mahal is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of the New Seven Wonders of the World. It reminds people everywhere about the power of love, art, and human creativity. Visitors from around the globe come to admire its beauty and feel the magic of standing in a place built with so much care and devotion.

The Taj Mahal isn't just a treasure of India-it's a treasure for the whole world. Wouldn't you love to see it for yourself one day?

