

# Untouchables

## Instructions

1. Login to a chrome book and go to Canvas
2. In the Asia unit, click on “Untouchables Survey”
3. Complete the 5 question Google Form
4. Once you have finished with Canvas, read the “UNTOUCHABLES” document in the folder.
5. Read the information and fill out the Untouchables section in your notes. Describe what their lives are like, their jobs, and why they are not officially a caste level.
6. Table discussion: thinking about reincarnation, how might an Untouchable feel hopeless about eternity?

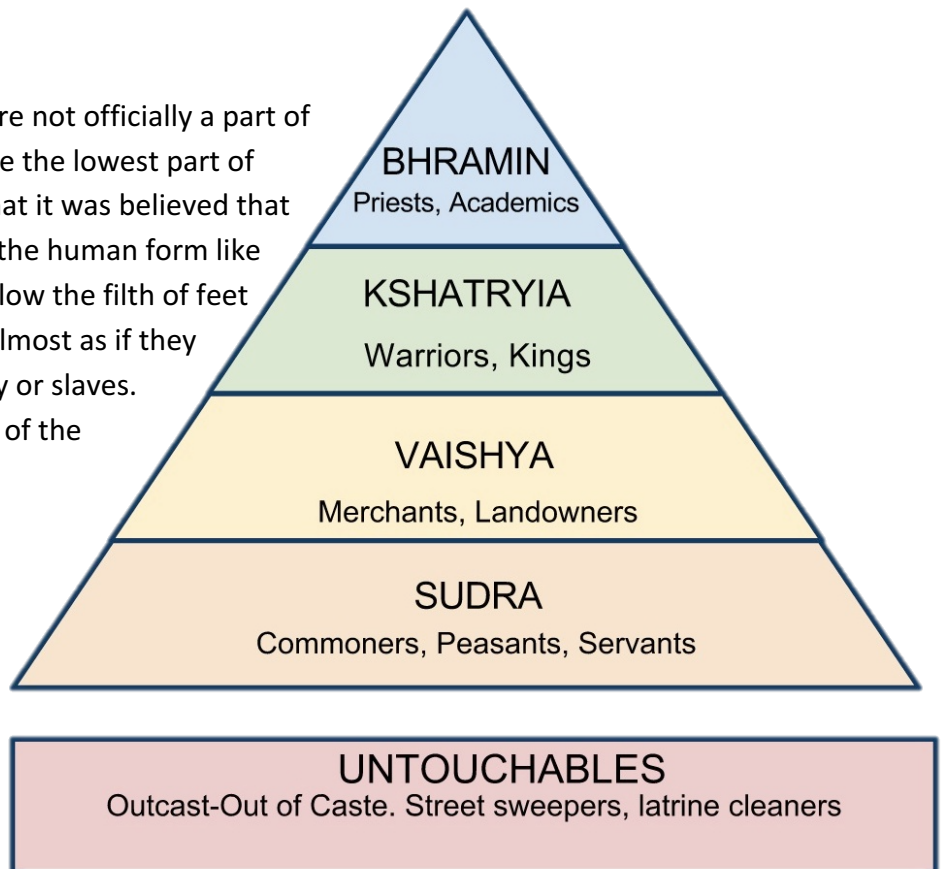
# UNTOUCHABLES

## Level in the Caste:

The Untouchables in Hindu India are not officially a part of the caste system. These people are the lowest part of society and are so filthy and vile that it was believed that they could have never come from the human form like the other four castes. They are below the filth of feet which represent the Sudras. It is almost as if they aren't human but actually property or slaves. Untouchables make up about 60% of the population.

## Jobs and Tasks

- Sewage
- Garbage
- Dead bodies
- Cremation fires



## Term "Untouchable"

This term comes from an ancient Sanskrit word, Dalit, that means broken people. They are literally thought of as broken off and different from the rest of society. A part of the term is quite literal. Untouchables were not allowed to touch members of other castes, unless working on a dead body for cremation. Even the shadow of an untouchable is so dirty that many cities and regions didn't allow untouchables into their communities and streets during the day. People didn't want even their shadow to cross them. If someone of an upper caste was touched by an untouchable, they were now considered impure and would need to go through a cleansing ritual.

Canvas link for activity:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSrmYvRQQrI3zOLSAEuCFOXMKny1JQEMXFaDiBIDIGqt0G9g/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScSrmYvRQQrI3zOLSAEuCFOXMKny1JQEMXFaDiBIDIGqt0G9g/viewform?usp=sf_link)

This will need to be added to your canvas as an assignment so that kids can access to the google form.