Ancient India

1. Make a 3-D map of India constructed, painted and labeled by the students in teams.

2. Have an Indian food feast.

3. Present the 4 castes, then have each student choose the one s/he would like to be and discuss why.

4. Invite Buddhist monks or followers of the Buddhist faith to visit the classroom and talk about life in an ashram, etc.

5. Design and construct a colored sand mandala, then have a “release” ceremony and gently brush it away.

6. Present the Buddha’s 8-fold path then ask each student to select one of the “deeds” and write about when s/he or someone else followed that path.

7. Have each student choose one of the 8 fold path dictates and adopt it for a week. After trying to follow that path for a week, write about his/her experience.

8. Guide students in the making of a clay model of Ganesh as a present for their homes.

9. Act out one of the scene’s from the Ramayana.

10. Invite a yoga teacher class and ask him/her to lead the class in some basic yoga and relaxation techniques- if possible, do this as your warm up/movement activity every morning during the block.

11. Incorporate Lloyd Alexander’s book The Iron Ring into the block, either by reading it to the students during free times or as a reader.

Ideas for 5th grade reviews/assignments:
1. Use removable names/labels on maps so that you can remove them and have students replace them.
2. Review the story by proper nouns, nouns or verbs- as they appear chronologically.
3. Write out a summary of the story leaving blanks and have the students fill in the blanks (you can choose to provide possible answers in a list or not).
4. Divide the class into small groups- give each group part of the story to act out- give them a basket full of possible props to use and 10
minutes to come up with their part- act it out.
5. “Around the World” – Have a number of questions about the lesson the day before (at least 50% more than you have students).
6. Ask the students to write review questions- what s/he thought was an important part of the lesson- ask the class the ?s.