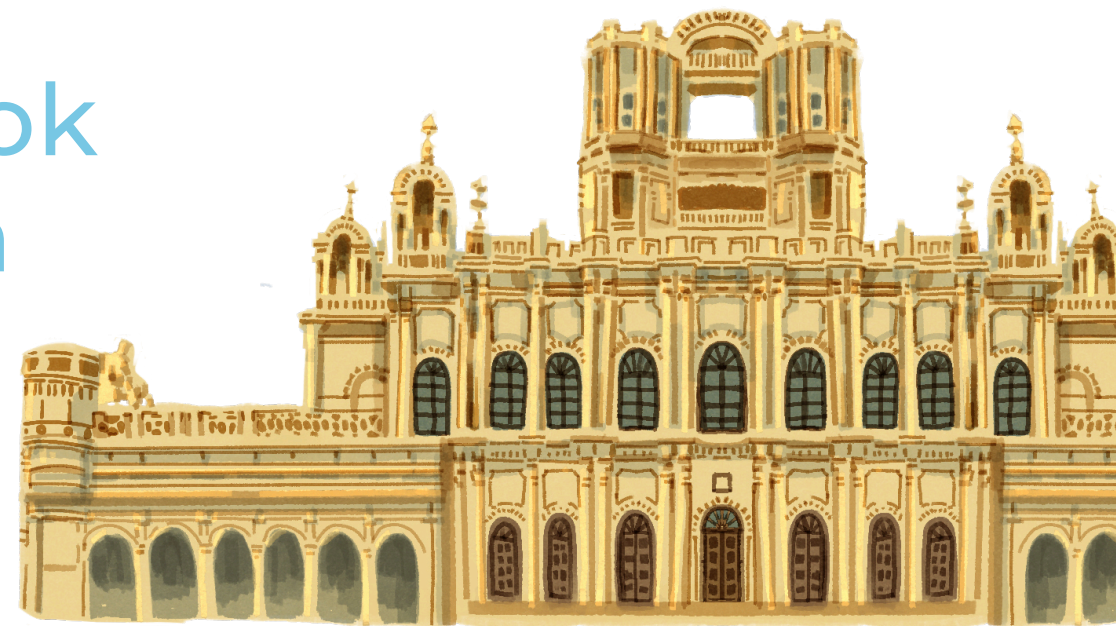


My City  
My Heritage My  
Lucknow

# Explorers Book ✖

Activity Book  
for Children



Lucknow, the capital of Uttar Pradesh, is the city of the Nawabs of Awadh whose **indelible** stamp marks the city's landscape, language, kitchens, and performance traditions. Its handover to the British in 1856 contributes to the city's complex inheritance, with colonial-era promenades, clock towers, and schools remaining important down to the day.

From world-renowned kebabs to myriad embroidery traditions, imambaras to churches, and *kathak* to *qawwali*, Lucknow's cultural wealth is inexhaustible! This activity sheet will try to capture some of it through interesting quizzes, puzzles, and illustrations. Think of these less as a test of your knowledge, but more as a tour of the city from a distance. And whether you're a talented chef, nerdy linguist, or budding performer, Lucknow—and the book—has something for everyone!

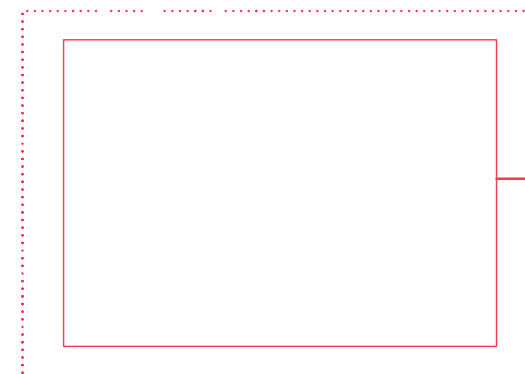


#### Discover More:

Learn about Lucknow with curated articles, numerous recommendations with the **MCMH My Lucknow Booklet** and **2 heritage trails** on [www.sahapedia.org/my-city-my-heritage/celebrating-lucknow](http://www.sahapedia.org/my-city-my-heritage/celebrating-lucknow)



\* **indelible** | in·deh·luh·bl  
Something that can't be erased. Hint: have you seen that people who vote often have a line of ink on one finger nail? It's called indelible ink!



#### Size:

A3 (29.7 cm x 24 cm)

This document  
(25cm x 35.3 cm)

#### Title:

My City My Heritage My Lucknow:  
Explorers' Book

#### Publisher:

Sahapedia

#### Supported by:

InterGlobe Foundation (IGF)

#### Copyright:

©Sahapedia and InterGlobe Foundation (IGF), 2025. All rights reserved.

#### Contributors:

Meenakshi Vashisth and Adit Shankar

#### Photos:

Monis Khan and Wikimedia Commons

#### Design and Illustrations:

Bhavya Magdziarz

We welcome suggestions and corrections for future editions.

#### Contact:

Sahapedia

#### Website:

[www.sahapedia.org](http://www.sahapedia.org)

#### Email:

[contact@sahapedia.org](mailto:contact@sahapedia.org)

# Lucknow Through Time

Lucknow's rich and vibrant past continues to colour its present. So, here is an exercise for the history buffs! Listed here are some important events in its history, but the years are all wrong. Your task is to match the event to the correct year, forming an accurate timeline. The first one gets you off to an easy start (surely there were no Prime Ministers more than two millennia ago!), but other options are trickier. Let's see if you can look beyond your years!





The awe-inspiring Bara Imambara was constructed during a famine as a food-for-work relief initiative.

Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula shifts the capital of Awadh from Faizabad to Lucknow, bringing prosperity and grandeur.

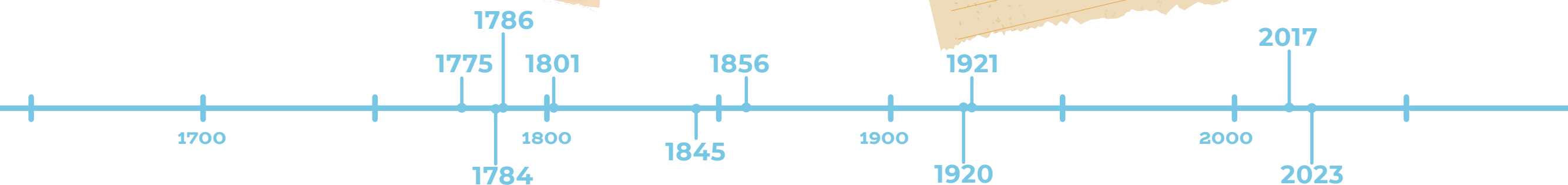


The Rumi Darwaza, now an iconic symbol of Lucknow, is built with inspiration from Turkish architecture.

The British East India Company annexed Awadh, ending the Nawabi era.



The establishment of La Martinière College, one of the most prestigious schools in India.



The foundation of the Rifah-e-Aam Club, fostering artistic, intellectual and literary exchange.



The foundation of the Lucknow Zoo, originally called the "Prince of Wales Zoological Gardens."

The Bharatendu Natya Akademi is established to promote theatre and performing arts.

The All India Kisan Sabha was formed in Lucknow to give voice to India's farmers.

The Lucknow Metro is launched, modernizing public transport in the city.



Match the events to the correct years.



# Lucknow Trivia

Whether in its syncretic festivals, intricate *chikankari*, or aromatic street-food, the entire city of Lucknow is a breathing heritage landmark. Here's a quiz that tries to take you through the many alleys and bylanes of Lucknow.

The questions range from easy to somewhat tricky. But don't sweat it even if you don't get something right! The point is to showcase and imbibe as much information as you can.



# Heritage Quiz



## Easy

- According to the mythological legends, who is credited with the founding of Lucknow, and what was its original name?
  - Babur; Babarnagar
  - Lakshmana; Lakshmanapuri
  - Akbar; Akbarpur
  - Asaf-ud-Daula; Asafnagar
- What geographical feature played a significant role in the continuous human settlement and development of Lucknow, and how did it contribute to the city's early economy?
  - The Himalayan mountains; providing timber.
  - The Gomti River; supporting agriculture and trade.
  - The Thar Desert; supplying minerals.
  - The Deccan Plateau; enabling mining.
- Who was the first Nawab of Awadh, and what was the political context of his appointment in 1722?
  - Wajid Ali Shah; appointed by the British East India Company.
  - Asaf-ud-Daula; appointed by the Marathas.
  - Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk; appointed by the Mughal Empire.
  - Ghazi-ud-Din Haider; appointed by the Delhi Sultanate.
- Which architectural landmark, commissioned by Asaf-ud-Daula, served as both a relief project during a famine and a significant cultural and architectural achievement?
  - Qaiserbagh Palace
  - Bara Imambara
  - Rumi Darwaza
  - Chattar Manzil
- Which historical figure played a pivotal role in the 1857 Revolt in Lucknow, leading resistance against British forces after the exile of her husband?
  - Begum Hazrat Mahal
  - Qudsia Begum
  - Malka Jahan
  - Bahu Begum
- Who was the last Nawab of Awadh, and what significant cultural contributions did he make to Lucknow despite his short and politically tumultuous reign?
  - Asaf-ud-Daula; known for building the Bara Imambara.
  - Ghazi-ud-Din Haider; known for his European architectural influences.
  - Wajid Ali Shah; known for his patronage of arts, poetry, and Kathak.
  - Saadat Ali Khan II; known for his pro-British stance.

- What was the primary significance of the Lucknow Pact of 1916 within the context of India's freedom struggle?
  - It symbolized a historic moment of Hindu-Muslim unity against British rule.
  - It established Lucknow as the capital of British India.
  - It marked the beginning of British colonial rule in Lucknow.
  - It led to the annexation of Awadh by the Mughal Empire.
- How does the term 'Nawab' reflect the socio-political and cultural context of Awadh's rulers?
  - It signifies a military leader and conqueror.
  - It denotes a religious scholar and theologian.
  - It indicates a deputy or viceroy, highlighting the semi-autonomous status of Awadh under Mughal influence.
  - It describes a trade merchant and economic reformer.

## Intermediate

- What evidence from archaeological excavations at Hulaskhera indicates the presence of a thriving society in the region during the early historical period?
  - Roman-era coins and pottery.
  - British colonial maps and documents.
  - Mughal-era manuscripts and textiles.
  - Terracotta figurines, shell beads, and structured dwellings.
- The Mahi Maratib symbol in Qaiserbagh represents:
  - Military strength
  - Trade prosperity
  - Royal identity and divine favor
  - Religious tolerance
- What is 'Begamati lakhnowi zabaan' primarily known for?
  - Its military commands
  - Its poetic expressions and idioms
  - Its scientific terminology
  - Its business jargon
- What role did the 'rakabdars' play in the royal kitchens of Awadh?
  - They were specialized chefs, each mastering a particular dish.
  - They were military strategists.
  - They were financial advisors.
  - They were religious scholars.
- What is 'dum pukht' and how does it relate to Awadhi cuisine?
  - A type of street food.
  - A slow-cooking technique used to enhance flavors.
  - A fast-food preparation method.
  - A dessert made with fruits and nuts.
- How did the decline of Delhi's cultural influence in the 18th century contribute to the linguistic refinement of Lucknow?
  - It led to the suppression of Urdu in favor of Persian.
  - It caused an influx of poets and wordsmiths to Lucknow, enriching its literary scene.
  - It resulted in the adoption of British English as the primary language.
  - It had no impact on Lucknow's linguistic development.
- Which national park near Lakhimpur Kheri is mentioned as a natural heritage site?
  - Dudhwa National Park
  - Corbett National Park
  - Kaziranga National Park
  - Sundarbans National Park
- How does the theatrical nature of Lucknowi speech, as seen in forms like Dastaan-goi and Qissa-goi, reflect the city's cultural values?
  - It emphasizes the importance of factual accuracy over dramatic flair.

\* **jargon** | jah·gn  
technical or  
specialised terms  
understood only  
by a few people





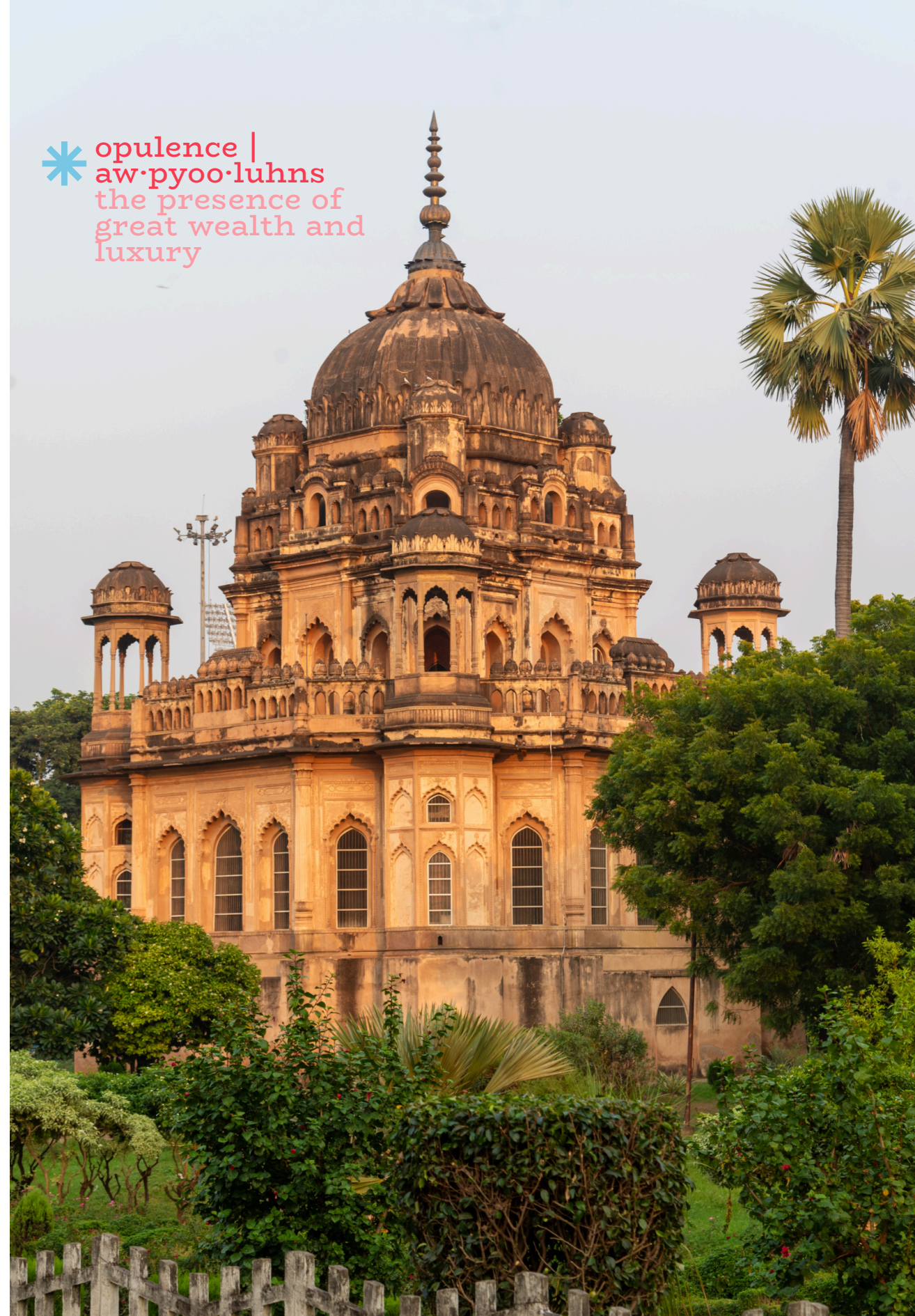
# Heritage Quiz

- b. It highlights the city's preference for silent contemplation over oral performance.
- c. It underscores the value placed on performance and storytelling as a means of cultural expression.
- d. It demonstrates a lack of interest in traditional art forms.

## Difficult

17. Which architectural feature is a hallmark of Awadhi buildings and involves intricate stucco decoration made from lime plaster?
  - a. Lakhori Brickwork
  - b. Araish Plaster
  - c. Jharokha
  - d. Minarets
18. Which 19th-century court poet of Awadh was also a significant figure in Urdu literature and wrote *Marsiyas* (elegies)?
  - a. Ghalib
  - b. Mir Taqi Mir
  - c. Mir Anis
  - d. Josh Malihabadi
19. Discuss the role of Begums like Hazrat Mahal and Bahu Begum in shaping the political and cultural narrative of Awadh, challenging the conventional view of them as mere consorts.
  - a. They had no significant influence beyond their domestic roles.
  - b. They primarily served as symbols of royal **opulence**.
  - c. Their influence was limited to religious institutions and charitable works.
  - d. They were powerful figures who influenced politics, patronized arts, and led resistance movements.
20. Discuss the role of 'mushairas' (poetry recitals) in Lucknow's cultural life, as depicted in films and historical accounts, considering their significance beyond mere entertainment.
  - a. They were primarily social gatherings with no cultural significance.
  - b. They served as platforms for artistic expression, social commentary, and intellectual discourse.
  - c. They were limited to the elite and had no impact on the lives of ordinary people.
  - d. They primarily focused on religious themes and had no secular relevance.

\* **opulence |**  
**aw·pyoo·luhns**  
**the presence of**  
**great wealth and**  
**luxury**





# Lucknow's Natural Canvas

## Create Your Own Nature Postcard!

Lucknow, a city known for its grand architecture and rich culture, also holds pockets of natural beauty that weave into its history. Imagine you are on a journey through its serene gardens and riverbanks. You have discovered a place so peaceful and beautiful that you want to share it with a friend, family member, or a relative! Choose a place that speaks to you—the calm of a garden, the flow of the Gomti River, or the shade of ancient trees.

### Your Task:

1. **Draw Your Scene:** On the blank side of the postcard, create a vivid illustration of your chosen natural location in Lucknow. Pay attention to details: the colors, the textures, the atmosphere.
2. **Describe Your Experience:** On the lined side of the postcard, write a short message sharing your experience and why this place resonates with you.





## Hints for Your Postcards

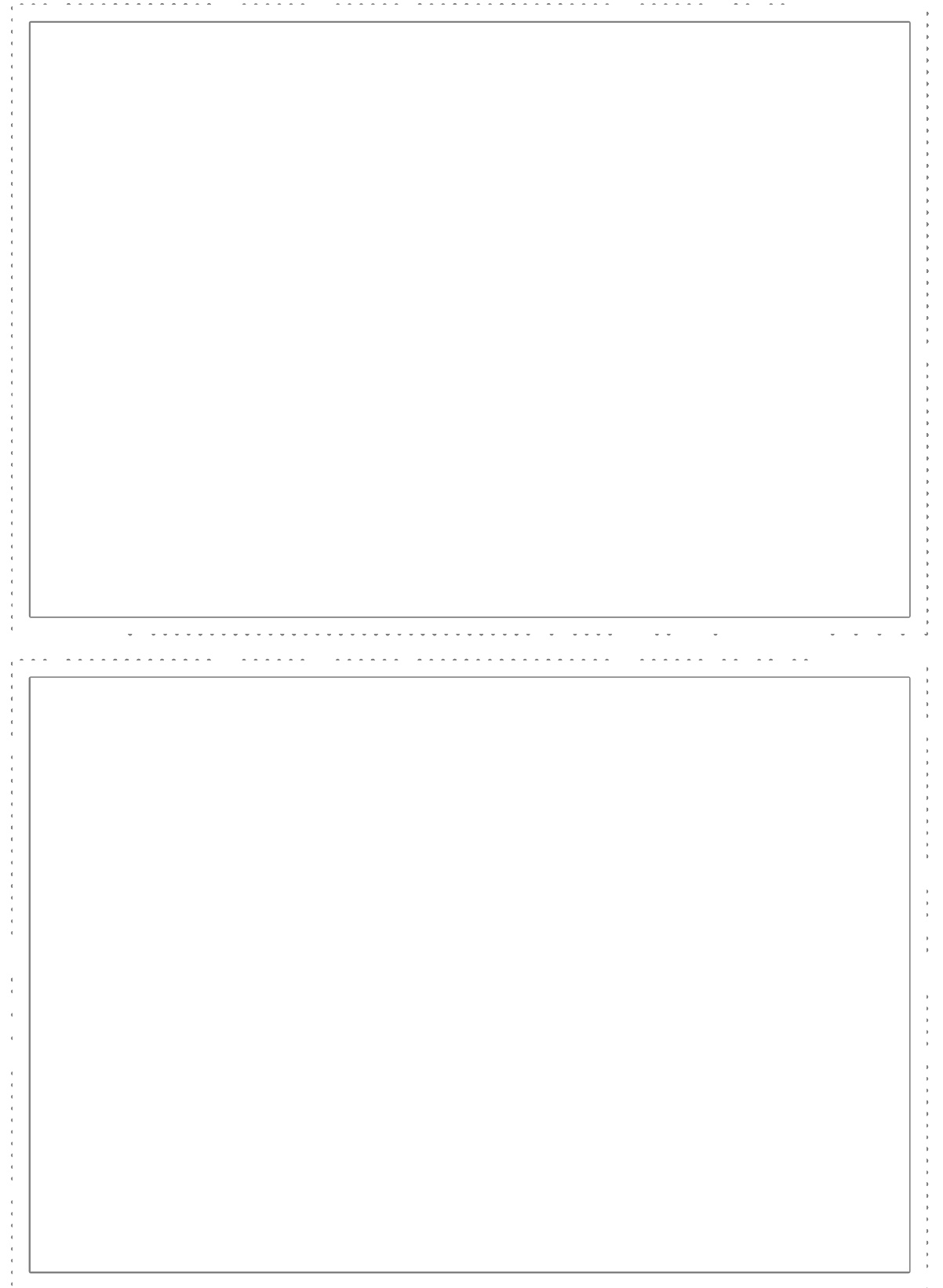
### Kukrail Forest Reserve:

- Depict the dense Sal forests, home to various deer species and the Gharial Rehabilitation Centre.
- Illustrate the Gomti River's tributaries winding through the reserve.
- Include local birdlife, like peacocks or kingfishers, often seen in the area.
- Imagine the sounds of the forest, the calls of deer, and the rustling of leaves.

### Gomti River Ghats (near historical sites):

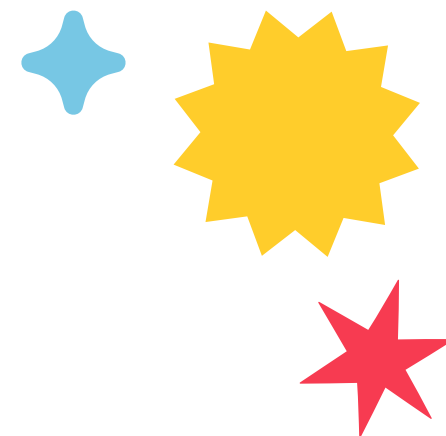
- Draw the river flowing alongside historical buildings like Chattar Manzil or the Residency.
- Illustrate the traditional river ghats (steps) leading down to the water.
- Include the local migratory birds, such as ducks or waders, that visit the river.
- Imagine the serene atmosphere of the river, especially during sunrise or sunset, with the historical backdrop.

**Draw in the inner box and cut along the dotted line.**



The image shows two identical rectangular templates for drawing postcards. Each template consists of a large white rectangle with a solid black border. This rectangle is centered within a larger white area, which is itself enclosed by a dotted black border. The dotted border indicates where to cut out the postcard. The two templates are stacked vertically, separated by a small gap.





### Don't forget to include...

- Location: Where is it? (Be specific! Example: Kukrail Gharial Sanctuary, Gomti River near Chattar Manzil, etc.)
- Subject of your illustration! What do you see? Describe what you see, hear and feel.
- Message (Why do you love this place? What makes it special and why would you like to share it with someone else?)

**Cut along the dotted lines and carefully paste the backs of the two sides together to create the final postcard.**

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



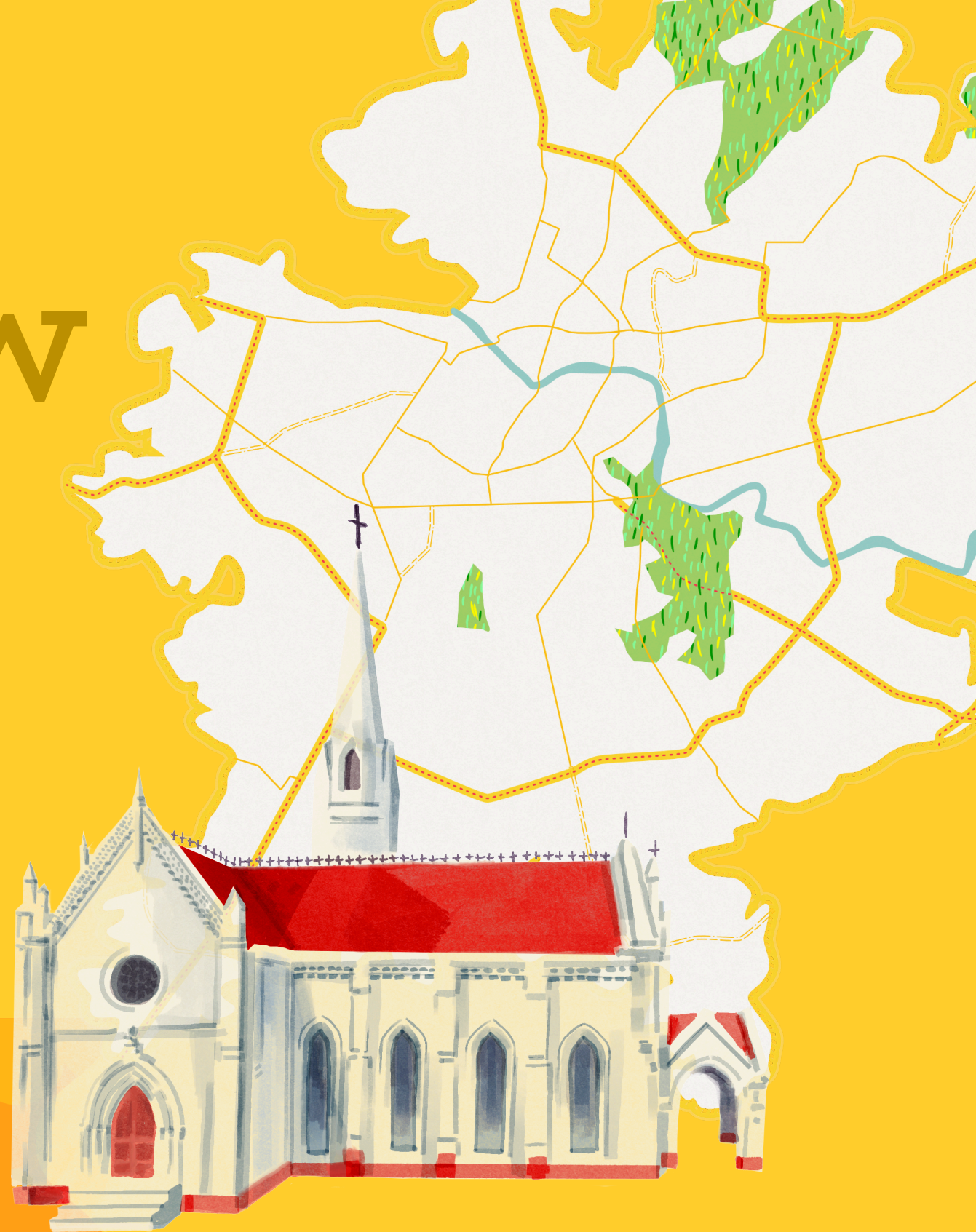
# Lucknow Mapped

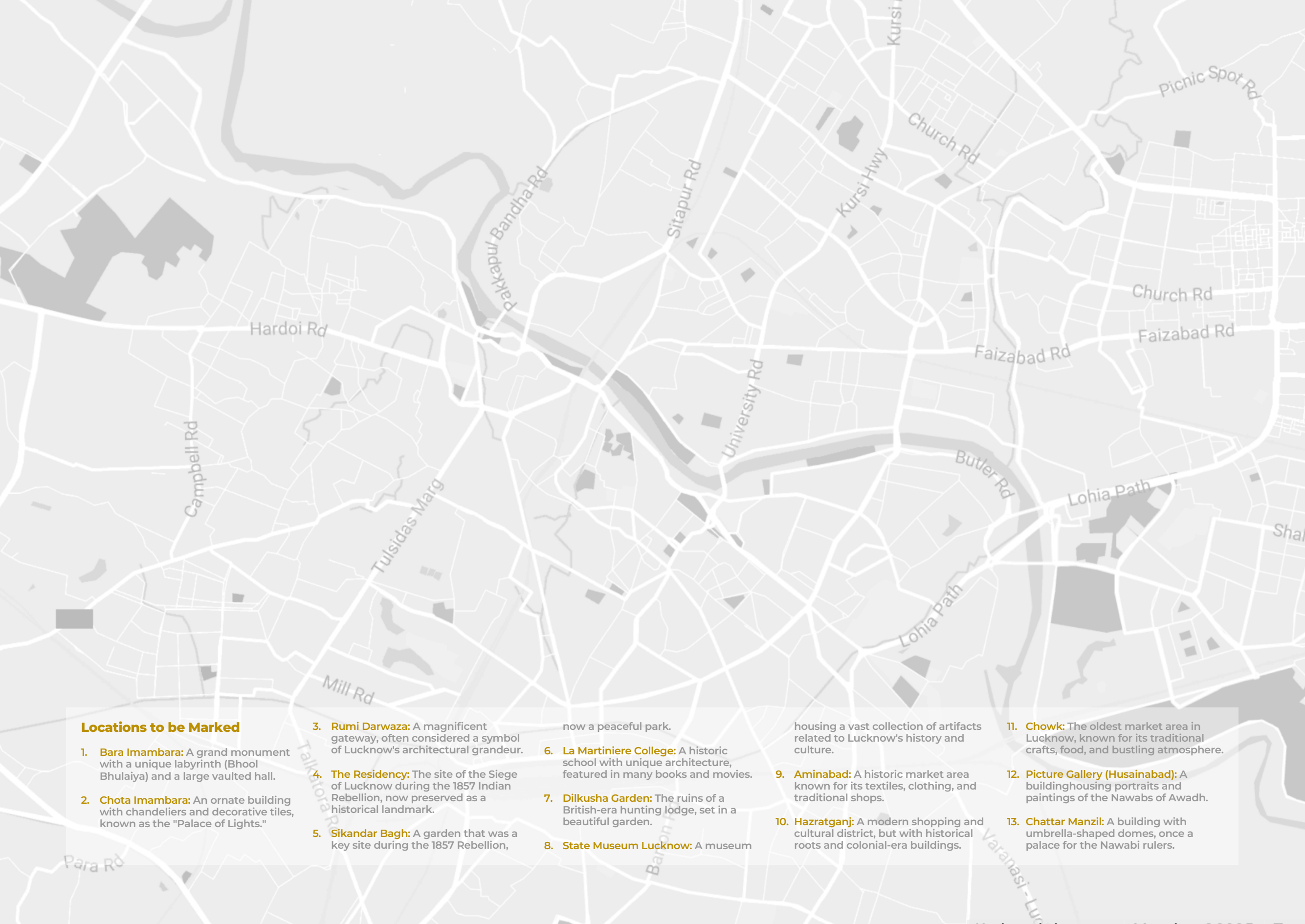
Lucknow, the city of Nawabs, has been a center of art, culture, and history for centuries. From the grandeur of the British Residency to the architectural marvels of the Bara Imambara, the city has been shaped by the rulers and people who lived within its walls. Its monuments, gardens, and bustling streets hold stories of the past, waiting to be discovered.

In this activity, we will use a map to trace Lucknow's historic sites. From the winding lanes of Chowk to the serene gardens of Sikandar Bagh, from the majestic Rumi Darwaza to the sacred Imambaras, let's uncover the places that made Lucknow a city of elegance and culture.

## Instructions

- Look at the list of historic locations provided.
- Match each location with its correct spot on the map.
- Draw a small icon or sketch to represent the landmark (e.g., a gate for Rumi Darwaza, a garden for Qaisarbagh).

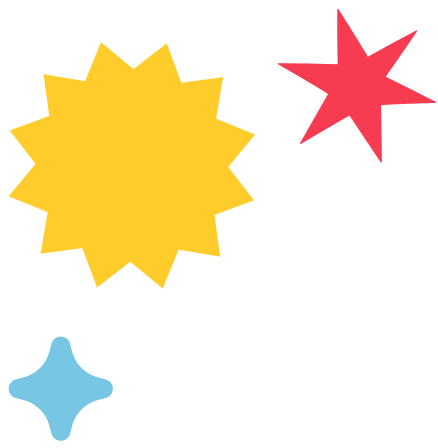




### Locations to be Marked

1. **Bara Imambara:** A grand monument with a unique labyrinth (Bhool Bhulaiya) and a large vaulted hall.
2. **Chota Imambara:** An ornate building with chandeliers and decorative tiles, known as the "Palace of Lights."
3. **Rumi Darwaza:** A magnificent gateway, often considered a symbol of Lucknow's architectural grandeur.
4. **The Residency:** The site of the Siege of Lucknow during the 1857 Indian Rebellion, now preserved as a historical landmark.
5. **Sikandar Bagh:** A garden that was a key site during the 1857 Rebellion, now a peaceful park.
6. **La Martiniere College:** A historic school with unique architecture, featured in many books and movies.
7. **Dilkusha Garden:** The ruins of a British-era hunting lodge, set in a beautiful garden.
8. **State Museum Lucknow:** A museum housing a vast collection of artifacts related to Lucknow's history and culture.
9. **Aminabad:** A historic market area known for its textiles, clothing, and traditional shops.
10. **Hazratganj:** A modern shopping and cultural district, but with historical roots and colonial-era buildings.
11. **Chowk:** The oldest market area in Lucknow, known for its traditional crafts, food, and bustling atmosphere.
12. **Picture Gallery (Husainabad):** A building housing portraits and paintings of the Nawabs of Awadh.
13. **Chattar Manzil:** A building with umbrella-shaped domes, once a palace for the Nawabi rulers.





**Choose one landmark that you find the most impressive and write more about its historical and cultural significance.**

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

**Create a scrapbook style image of your favourite monument here:**

# Time Travel To Lucknow

Imagine you have a magical time machine and you traveled back to Lucknow in the late 1700s! What amazing things would you see? Who would you meet? Draw your adventure in the comic strip below and fill in the speech bubbles with what your characters are saying!

Example Story Idea:

Panel 1: You step out of your time machine and see the grand Imambara.

Panel 2: You meet a poet who is reciting beautiful Urdu verses.

Panel 3: An artisan shows you his intricate chikankari embroidery.

Panel 4: You witness the construction of the Rumi Darwaza.

Panel 5: You help a musician tune his sitar.

Panel 6: The musician plays a farewell tune, and you step back into the time machine.

<p><b>Panel 1:</b></p> <p>You have traveled back to late 18th-century Nawabi Lucknow using a time machine. The moment you step into the city, you are surrounded by grand architecture, bustling markets, and people dressed in beautiful clothing.</p>	<p><b>Panel 2:</b></p> <p>Who Will You Meet?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A poet reciting his verses.</li> <li>2. A Nawab discussing the construction of a grand building.</li> <li>3. An artisan creating beautiful chikankari embroidery.</li> <li>4. A courtesan rehearsing her kathak performance.</li> </ol> <p>Draw what you see first! Are there grand buildings? Markets? What does the city look like?</p>	<p><b>Panel 3:</b></p> <p>A surprising discovery – What happens next?</p> <p>You meet a poet! Draw him and his audience.</p>
<p><b>Panel 4:</b></p> <p>A conflict or challenge – Do you help someone and how do you settle this?</p> <p>You meet a Nawab! Draw him and his royal court.</p>	<p><b>Panel 5:</b></p> <p>You meet an artisan! Draw him and his chikankari work.</p>	<p><b>Panel 6:</b></p> <p>You meet a musician/performer! Draw him/her and their artistic surroundings.</p>

What do you say when you arrive in Lucknow in the late 1700s?

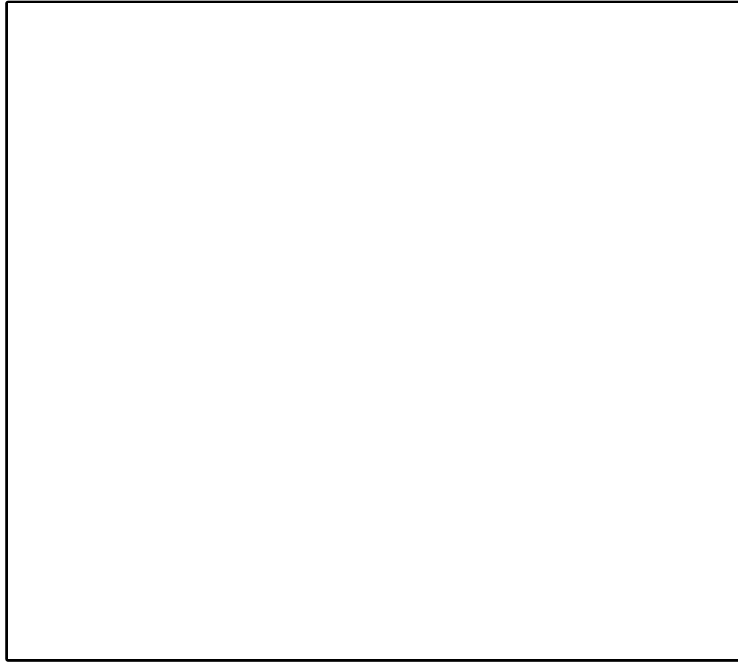
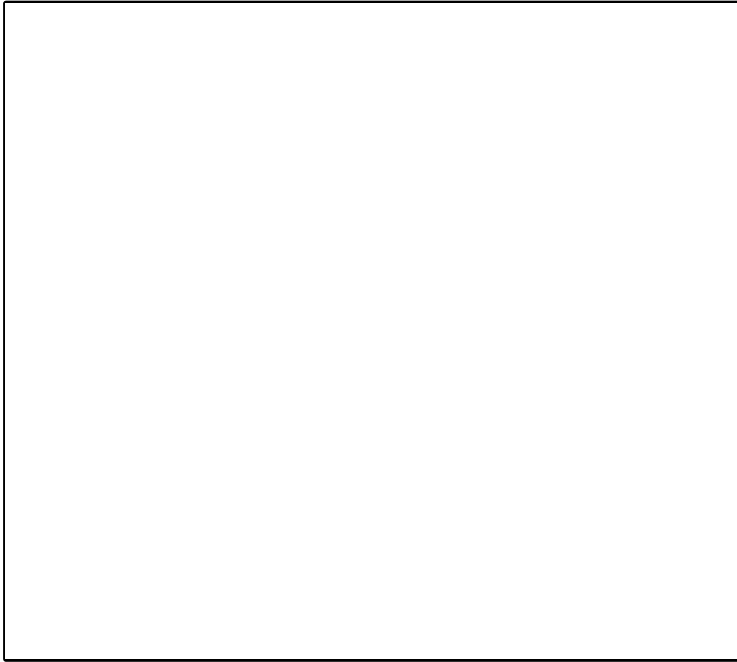
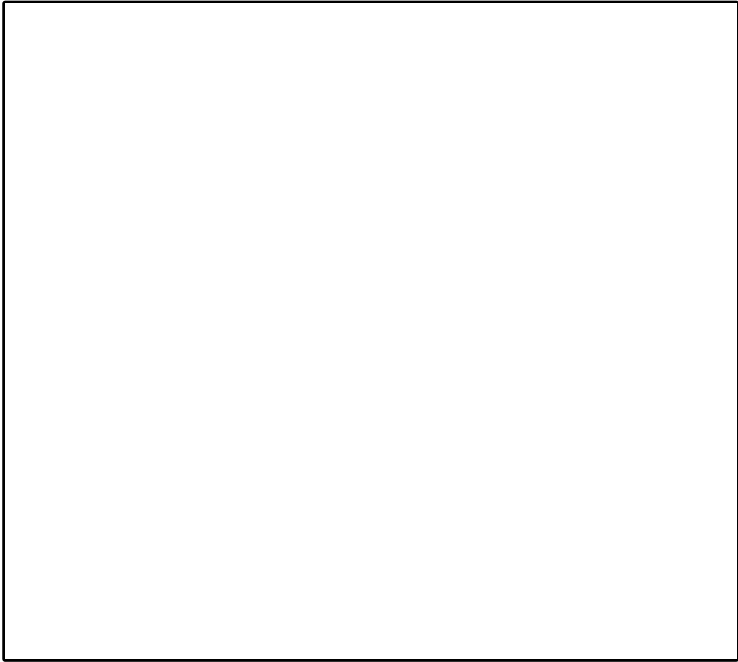
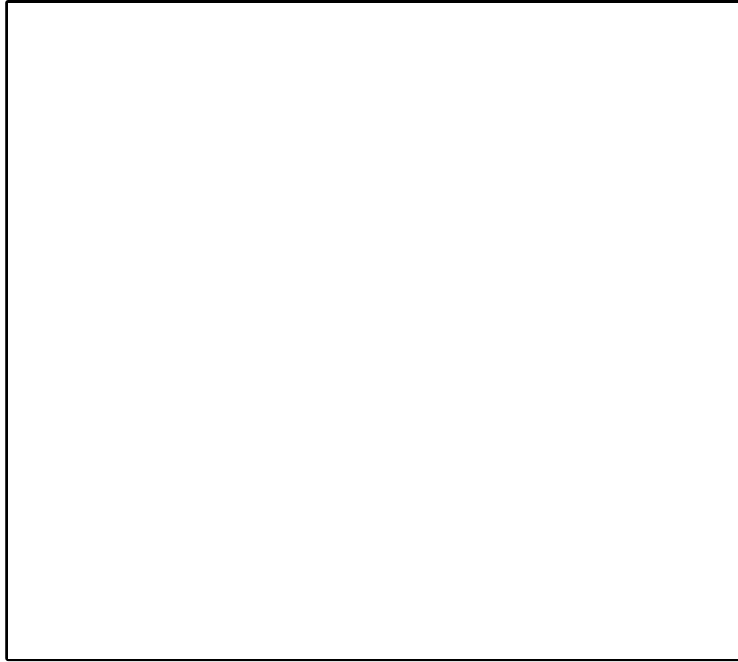
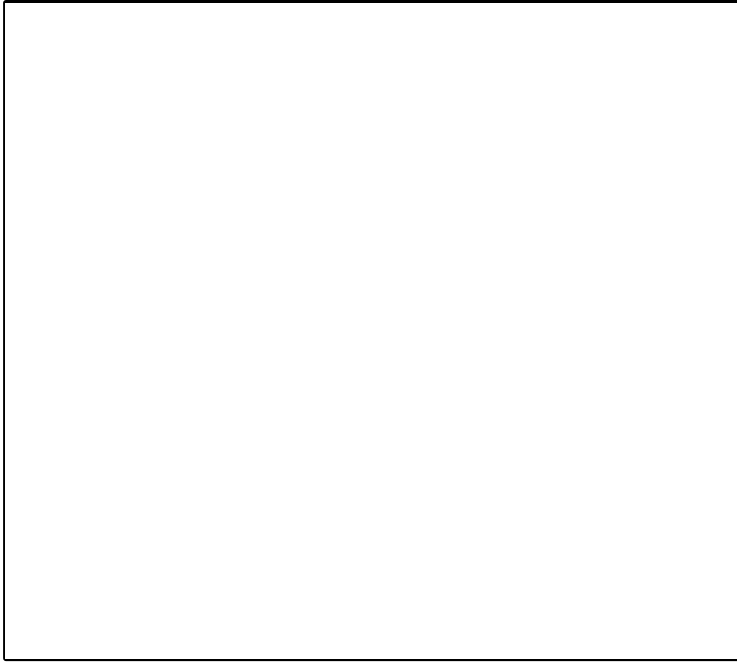
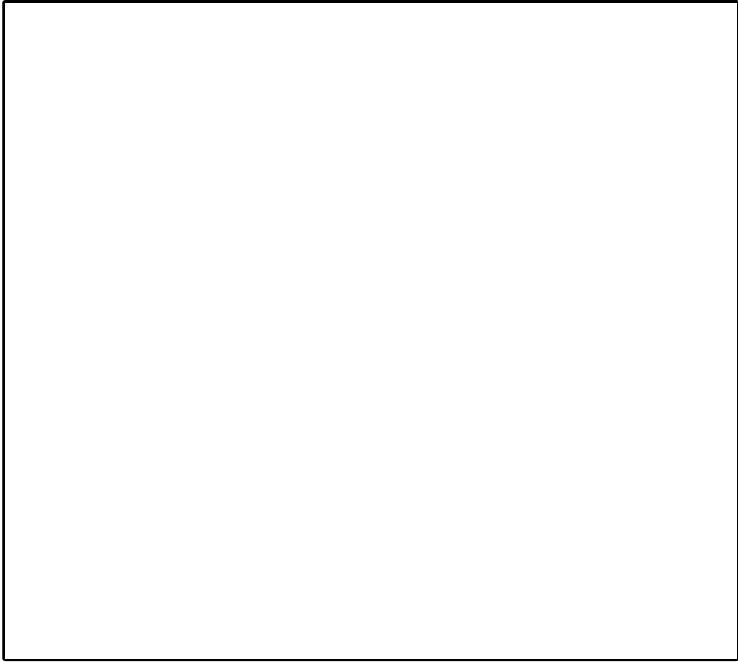
What does the poet say to you? What do you ask him?

What does the Nawab say? What do you say to him?

What does the artisan tell you about his craft?

What does the musician/artist perform for you? What do you say before you go back to your time?





# Answers

## A. LUCKNOW THROUGH TIME

1. 1775 – Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula shifts the capital of Awadh from Faizabad to Lucknow, ushering in a new era of architectural and cultural development.
2. 1784 – The grand Bara Imambara is constructed as a famine relief project and stands today as a marvel of Mughal engineering.
3. 1786 – The magnificent Rumi Darwaza is built, inspired by Ottoman architecture, and becomes a gateway to the city's identity.
4. 1801 – The British East India Company annexes Awadh, ending the rule of the Nawabs and marking the start of colonial control.
5. 1845 – La Martinière College, one of the oldest and most prestigious educational institutions in India, was founded.
6. 1856 – The Lucknow Zoo was established, originally known as the Prince of Wales Zoological Gardens.
7. 1857 – The Siege of Lucknow during the First War of Independence becomes a defining moment in the city's resistance against British rule.
8. 1916 – The University of Lucknow is established, becoming a hub for higher education and intellectual growth in the region.
9. 1920 – The All India Kisan Sabha was formed in Lucknow, marking a turning point in the farmers' rights movement in India.
10. 1921 – The Rifah-e-Aam Club was founded, emerging as a space for cultural dialogue, theatre, and progressive thought.
11. 1951 – India's Independence reshapes Lucknow's political and cultural landscape, opening new possibilities for civic life.
12. 1963 – The State Museum of Lucknow is established to preserve and celebrate the city's rich historical and artistic heritage.
13. 2017 – The Lucknow Metro is inaugurated, offering modern and efficient public transportation to residents and visitors.
14. 2023 – The Bharatendu Natya Akademi is established, honoring the legacy of Bharatendu Harishchandra and promoting the performing arts in Lucknow.

## B. HERITAGE QUIZ

1. b) Lakshmana; Lakshmanapuri
2. b) The Gomti River; supporting agriculture and trade
3. c) Saadat Khan Burhan-ul-Mulk; appointed by the Mughal Empire
4. b) Bara Imambara
5. a) Begum Hazrat Mahal
6. c) Wajid Ali Shah; known for his patronage of arts, poetry, and Kathak.
7. a) It symbolized a historic moment of Hindu-Muslim unity against British rule.
8. c) It indicates a deputy or viceroy, highlighting the semi-autonomous status of Awadh under Mughal influence.
9. d) Terracotta figurines, shell beads, and structured dwellings.
10. c) Royal identity and divine favor
11. b) Its poetic expressions and idioms
12. a) They were specialized chefs, each mastering a particular dish.
13. b) A slow-cooking technique used to enhance flavors.
14. b) It caused an influx of poets and wordsmiths to Lucknow, enriching its literary scene.
15. a) Dudhwa National Park
16. c) It underscores the value placed on performance and storytelling as a means of cultural expression.
17. b) Araish Plaster
18. c) Mir Anis
19. d) They were powerful figures who influenced politics, patronized arts, and led resistance movements.
20. b) They served as platforms for artistic expression, social commentary, and intellectual discourse.
21. c) Kaima



# સર્વિસ

