

## **Partition of India – Pakistan – Comparison**

### **Essential Question:**

**What causes people, products and ideas to move from place to place?**

### **Part 1**

#### **Reading 1: Abdul**

The British left India in 1947 under the agreement that it would be Partitioned. India was divided along religious lines. Areas where a majority of Hindus lived were given to India. Areas where mostly Muslims lived became the new country of Pakistan. After Partition millions of people found themselves on the “wrong” side of the border. The city of Calcutta and the surrounding area, whose population was 75% Hindu, were awarded to India. The Muslims who lived there had to decide whether to remain or to leave and start new lives in Pakistan.

1. My name is Abdul, and I am a Muslim boy. I once lived in a village near Calcutta, which is now in the new country of India. I lived in a large house with my mother and father and six sisters and brothers.
2. Now we live in my uncle’s home in a town in Pakistan. The house is very crowded, and every day my father worries about finding work so our family won’t be such a burden to my uncle.
3. After Partition, we heard stories of trouble in nearby villages. Other Muslim families in our village started to send their children away to Pakistan. At first, my father refused to budge. There was too much at stake – we owned a lot of property and everyone in the family was comfortable. My father owned the most popular clothing shop in the area. My older brothers also worked there. Our family also ran the high school in the village. No one wanted to leave behind our property, so we decided to wait and see.
4. Soon, some troublemakers came into our village and started to cause problems. They came and stood outside our house in the middle of the night and yelled things. They threw rocks at our windows and broke them. We were afraid that they might break down our door and come inside to hurt us.
5. The next day we found out that the mob had wrecked my family’s store and closed down our school. All of our money was invested in the store, and we lost it all in one night. Our Hindu friends and neighbors in the village tried to help us, but they became scared for their own safety and so they urged us to leave.
6. I miss my old home and friends. But there is nothing left for us in our village. Now we must start a new life in Pakistan.