# 03A Divide and Describe

Below is a short extract from a book about India.

1. Divide the text into four paragraphs.
2. Sum up the main idea in each of the four paragraphs in one sentence.

**Gitanjali Kolanad. *Culture Shock! India*, 2006**

India was never just a country; it has always been a dream, an idea, an elusive vision that attracted travellers from all over the world for thousands of years. The mystique of India impelled the journeys of Alexander the Great, Marco Polo and Vasco da Gama. The images that the word 'India' conjures up are diverse and often contradictory, suggesting that one must be the real India, and it's only a matter of finding out which one. If only it were that simple! To understand India at all, you must be able to hold on to completely contradictory images, and realise that both represent the true India. I remember vividly coming to India when I was 16. I was born in India but I do not remember leaving when I was six, and I also do not remember arriving on an earlier trip when I was ten. But when I was 16, with long black hair, and brown skin, looking like an Indian girl and feeling like a Canadian teenager, India was an exotic foreign land to me. I arrived with my father at Bombay airport and the first sensation that hit me as I stepped off the plane was the air: it felt like a wall. The heat and humidity gave the air a substance that air does not have in Canada. I felt as if I had to make an extra effort to draw it into my lungs, to move through it.

