

Chapter

6

Early India

David Cumming/CORBIS

The Hindu temple of Devi Jagadambika in Khajuraho, India ▼



NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

When & Where?



2500 B.C.

c. 3000 B.C.
India's early civilization begins

1500 B.C.

c. 1500 B.C.
The Aryans arrive in India

500 B.C.

563 B.C.
The Buddha is born

A.D. 500

A.D. 320
The Gupta empire begins

Chapter Preview

Like ancient Greece, early India was a land of warriors, thinkers, and scientists. Read this chapter to find out how ideas from India affect how you do math today.



View the Chapter 6 video in the *World History: Journey Across Time* Video Program.

Section

1

India's Early Civilizations

The earliest Indian civilization developed on the Indus River. Later, the Aryans arrived in northern India. A social system that determined how people lived evolved.

Section

2

Hinduism and Buddhism

Early India's two main religions were Hinduism and Buddhism. These two religions affected every aspect of people's lives.

Section

3

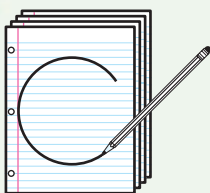
India's First Empires

Early India had two great empires: the Maurya and the Gupta. Both empires made advances in the arts, sciences, and math.

FOLDABLES™ Study Organizer

Identifying Make this foldable to help you identify and learn key terms.

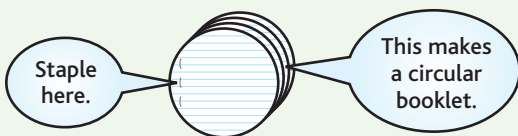
Step 1 Stack four sheets of paper, one on top of the other. On the top sheet of paper, draw a large circle.



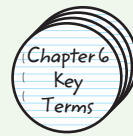
Step 2 With the papers still stacked, cut out all four circles at the same time.



Step 3 Staple the paper circles together at one point around the edge.



Step 4 Label the front circle as shown and take notes on the pages that open to the right.



Reading and Writing
As you read the chapter, write the terms from Building Your Vocabulary in your foldable. Write a definition for each term. Then turn your foldable over (upside down) to write a short sentence using each term.

Reading Social Studies

Reading
Skill

Vocabulary

1 Learn It!

Building Your Vocabulary

What do you do when you are reading and come to a word you do not know? Here are some hints:

1. Use clues in the sentence (called context clues) to help you define it.
2. Look for prefixes, suffixes, or root words that you already know.
3. Look it up in the glossary or a dictionary.
4. Write it down and ask for help with the meaning.
5. Guess at its meaning.

Look at the word *Untouchables* in the following paragraph.

Context The “Untouchables” were a “group.”

There was one group that did not belong to any *varna*. Its members were called **Untouchables**. They performed dirty work considered polluting such as collecting trash, skinning animals, or handling dead bodies.

—from page 200

Context If you know what a *varna* is, it will help you figure out the meaning of *Untouchables*.

Reading Tip

Read the paragraphs that appear before and after the word to help you understand its meaning.

Prefixes and Suffixes

You might know that the prefix **un-** means “not” and the suffix **-able** means “to be able to.” You might guess that the meaning of *Untouchable* is an Indian who was not to be touched by others.

Context The fact that they performed the “dirty” work indicates how they were viewed by others in Indian society.

2 Practice It!

Defining Words

What are three things you could do to help you understand the meaning of the word *subcontinent* in this paragraph?

Look at the map below. India looks like a diamond hanging from the bottom of Asia. India is a **subcontinent** (SUHB • KAHN • tuhn • uhnt) because even though it is part of Asia, huge mountains separate it from the rest of Asia. These mountains are the **Himalaya** (HIH • muh • LAY • uh), the highest mountains in the world.

—from page 195

Read to Write

Take one word from the vocabulary bookmark that you make in the **Apply It!** activity. Find its definition. Then create a cartoon strip. Have one of the characters in your cartoon strip use the word correctly.



3 Apply It!

Make a vocabulary bookmark using a 2-inch-wide strip of paper. As you read the chapter, write down words you do not know or want to find out more about.

India's Early Civilizations

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

In India, just as in Egypt and Mesopotamia, the first civilizations developed in fertile river valleys.

Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- Climate and geography influenced the rise of India's first civilization. (page 195)
- New ideas and technology influenced the development of India. (page 198)
- The Aryans created a caste system that separated Indians into groups. (page 199)

Locating Places

Himalaya (HIH•muh•LAY•uh)

Ganges River (GAN•JEEZ)

Indus River (IHN•duhs)

Harappa (huh•RA•puh)

Mohenjo-Daro

(moh•HEHN•joh DAHR•oh)

Meeting People

Aryans (AR•ee•uhnz)

Brahmins (BRAH•muhns)

Building Your Vocabulary

subcontinent
(SUHB•KAHN•tuhn•uhnt)

monsoon (mahn•SOON)

Sanskrit (SAN•SKRIHT)

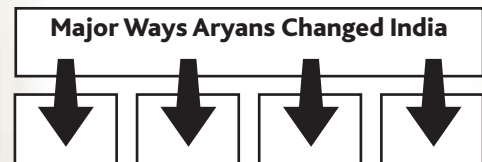
raja (RAH•juh)

caste (KAST)

guru (GUR•oo)

Reading Strategy

Organizing Information Complete a diagram like the one below showing how the Aryans changed India.



When & Where?



3000 B.C.

- **c. 3000 B.C.**
India's early civilization begins

2000 B.C.

- **c. 1500 B.C.**
Aryans arrive in India

1000 B.C.

- **c. 1000 B.C.**
Aryans control northern India

The Land of India

Main Idea Climate and geography influenced the rise of India's first civilization.

Reading Focus Do you have tornadoes or hurricanes where you live? Read to find out how geography and weather affected India's first civilization.

Look at the map below. India looks like a diamond hanging from the bottom of Asia. India is a **subcontinent** (SUHB•KAHN•tuhn•uhnt) because even though it is part of Asia, huge mountains separate it from the rest of Asia. These mountains are the **Himalaya** (HIH•muh•LAY•uh), the highest mountains in the world.

Today, there are five nations that make up the Indian subcontinent: India; Pakistan in the northwest; Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh in the northeast.

India has two very fertile river valleys. Both are fed by the mountains in the north. When the snow in the Himalaya melts, water flows into the **Ganges River** (GAN•JEEZ) and the **Indus River** (IHN•duhs). If the water is controlled, the land near these rivers can be used for farming.

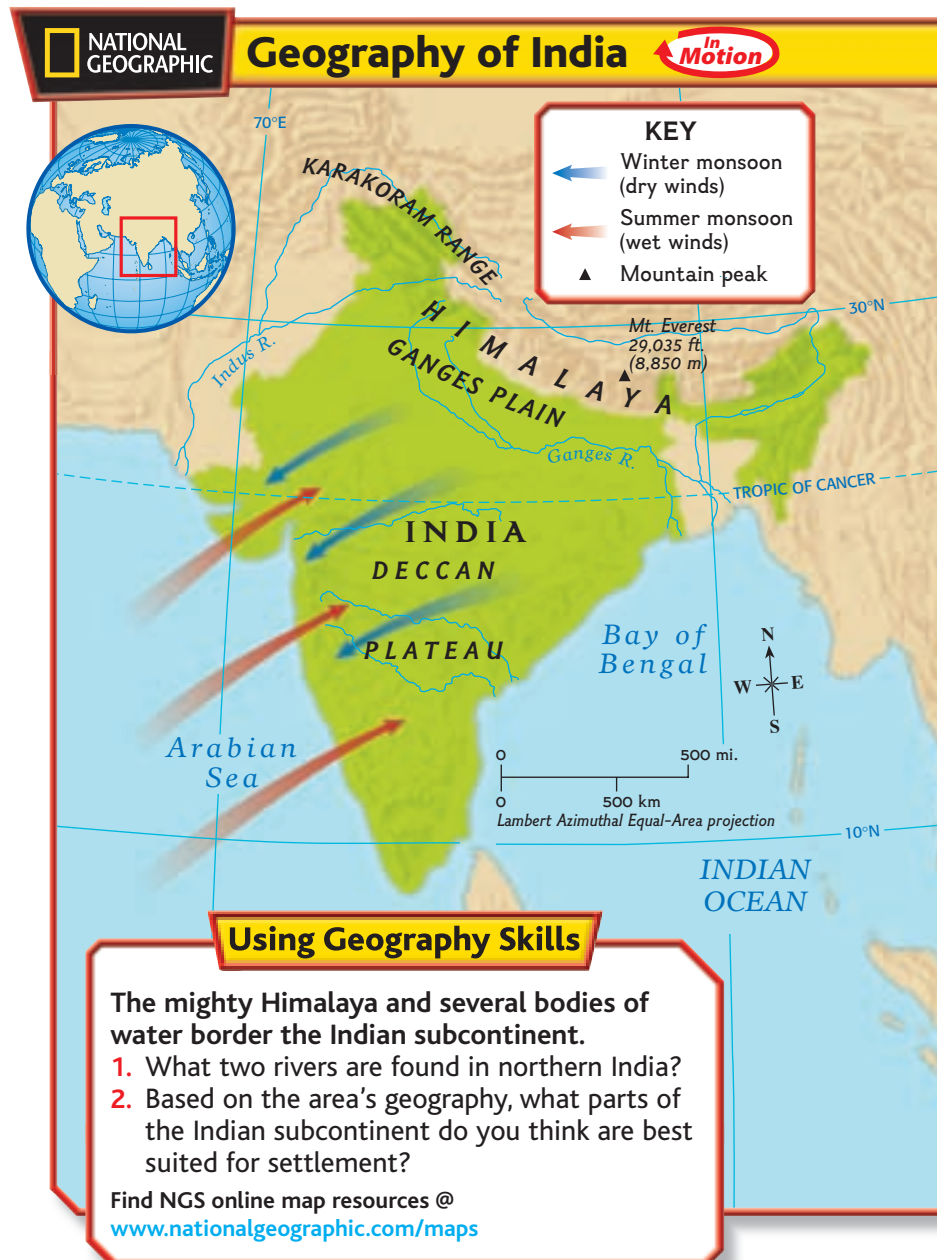
The Ganges River runs south of the Himalaya and flows into the Indian Ocean. The Indus River empties into the Arabian Sea. The area around the Indus is called the Indus River valley.

South of the river valleys is the dry and hilly Deccan Plateau. The eastern and western coasts of India are lush, fertile plains.

Monsoons (mahn•SOONZ) are an important part of the

Indian climate. A monsoon is a strong wind that blows one direction in winter and the opposite direction in summer. The winter monsoon brings the cold, dry air of the mountains. The summer monsoon brings warm, wet air from the Arabian Sea, which produces drenching rains.

When the monsoon rains begin, many farmers celebrate. If the rains come on time and the rainy season lasts long enough, the crop will be good. If the rains are delayed, a drought will occur. This extended period



without rain can be disastrous for farmers. Few crops will be harvested and many people will starve.

India's Early Civilization In earlier chapters, you learned about civilizations that began in river valleys. The first urban civilization in India also began in a river valley.

India's early civilization grew up near the Indus River. When the summer monsoon began, the river rose higher and higher. When the river flooded nearby land, it left behind rich, fertile soil.

Farmers used the rich soil to grow crops to feed their families. Because people had a plentiful supply of food, they could spend time doing other things, such as making tools or building houses. As people began to trade their extra food and goods with other people, their wealth grew. This allowed them to build larger and larger cities.

India's early civilization in the Indus River valley began about 3000 B.C. and lasted until 1500 B.C. More than a thousand villages and towns were part of this civilization, which stretched from the Himalaya to the Arabian Sea. We know something about the way these people lived from studying the ruins of two major cities, **Harappa** (huh•RA•puh) and **Mohenjo-Daro** (moh•HEHN•joh DAHR•oh). The civilization of this time is called the Harappan or Indus civilization.

Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were large cities for their time. The well-planned cities had as many as 35,000 people. A fortress was built on a brick platform probably to keep guard over the residents. There were wide main streets and smaller side streets. A wall surrounded each neighborhood, and narrow lanes separated the houses.

Early Indian Civilization

The ruins of Mohenjo-Daro (below) show a carefully planned city. The picture to the right shows a typical house in the city. **From what material were most of the houses in Mohenjo-Daro made?**



▲ Harappan priest-king

▶ Necklace from Mohenjo-Daro



▶ Model of oxcart from Mohenjo-Daro



Most houses had flat roofs and were built with mud bricks that were baked in ovens. Some houses were larger than others, but they all had a similar layout. There was a courtyard in the middle and smaller rooms around it.

These ancient city dwellers had some surprising conveniences. Wells supplied water, and residents even had indoor bathrooms. Wastewater flowed to drains under the streets, running through pipes to pits outside the city walls. Houses also had garbage chutes connected to a bin in the street. In addition, residents built large granaries to store food for the entire city's population.

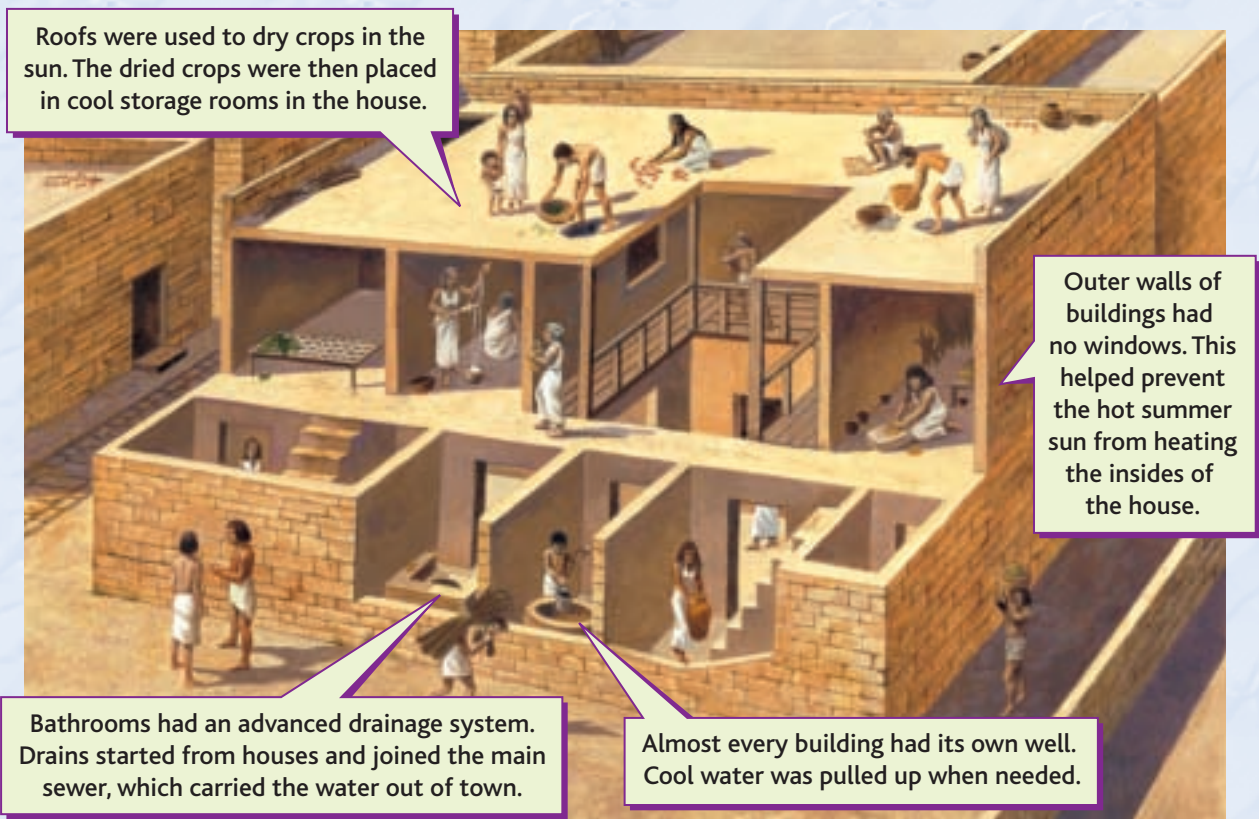
Harappan Society The Harappans used a special script to write on seals and stamps. However, historians have not agreed on how to decipher these markings. Because the Harappans did not leave other histori-

cal records, we do not know much about their society or government. From the ruins, though, we can guess that the royal palace and the temple may have been both enclosed in a fortress. This reveals that religion and politics were closely connected.

Most Harappans were farmers. They grew rice, wheat, barley, peas, and cotton. City dwellers made copper and bronze tools, clay pottery, and cotton cloth, as well as jewelry from gold, shells, and ivory. Archaeologists have also found many toys among the ruins, such as small monkeys that could be made to climb up a string.

It is likely that the Harappans began trading with the Mesopotamians about 2300 B.C. Some Harappan sailors followed the coastline and crossed the Arabian Sea, and others traveled over land.

Reading Check Explain How is India separated from the rest of Asia?



The Aryans

Main Idea New ideas and technology influenced the development of India.

Reading Focus What would your life be like without cars or computers? Read to find out how new ideas and technology affected the Indians.

The Harappan civilization collapsed about 1500 B.C. Historians think that several earthquakes and floods damaged the cities. Then the Indus River changed its course, killing many people and forcing others to flee the area. In the years that followed, a group of people called the **Aryans** (AR•ee•uhn) began settling in the region. Soon a new civilization emerged.

Who Were the Aryans? The Aryans lived in central Asia where they raised and herded animals. The Aryans were not a race or ethnic group. Some historians believe that the Aryans were part of a larger group they refer to as Indo-Europeans. The Indo-Europeans all spoke similar languages. Some migrated south to India and Iran. Others went west to Europe.

Cattle were a prized possession because they provided meat, milk, and butter. Cattle were so important that the Aryans even used them as money. Individual wealth was measured by the number of cattle a person owned.

The Aryans were good warriors. They were expert horse riders and hunters. They had metal-tipped spears and wooden chariots, which they sometimes used to invade nearby villages for food.

After 2000 B.C., the Aryans began leaving their home territory. They moved in waves, and some groups crossed through the mountain passes in the Himalaya. They entered the Indus River valley around 1500 B.C.

Around 1000 B.C., the Aryans began expanding across the Punjab and Ganges Plains and south into the Deccan Plateau. Features of their civilization mixed with those of local cultures.



Using Geography Skills

The Aryans were nomadic herders who eventually controlled much of India.

1. After crossing the mountains, what physical feature did the Aryans follow into India?
2. Into what area of southern India did the Aryans travel?

The Aryans Bring Change When the Aryans arrived in India, they no longer lived as nomads. They became farmers but continued to raise cattle. Eventually, the Aryans would declare that cattle were sacred and forbid them to be used as food.

Aryan technology improved farming in India. They invented an iron plow to help clear India’s many jungles and built canals to irrigate. They slowly turned the Ganges River valley into good farmland.

India’s varied climate supported many types of crops. In the north, farmers grew grains such as wheat, barley, and millet. Rice was grown in the river valleys. In the south, there was a mix of crops, including spices such as pepper, ginger, and cinnamon.

The Aryans also brought a new language to India. As nomads, they had no written language, but in India they developed a written language later called **Sanskrit** (SAN•SKRIHT). Over time, the sacred songs, poems, and prayers that Aryans had known for many centuries were written down.

The Aryans were organized into tribes. Each tribe was led by a **raja** (RAH•juh), or prince. The rajas ran their own small kingdoms, which often fought among themselves. Rajas fought over cattle and treasure and over women kidnapped from other states. These small rival kingdoms existed in India for about a thousand years, from 1500 B.C. to 400 B.C.

Reading Check Analyze Why do you think nomads like the Aryans were great warriors?

History online
Web Activity Visit jat.glencoe.com and click on *Chapter 6—Student Web Activity* to learn more about India.

Society in Ancient India

Main Idea The Aryans created a caste system that separated Indians into groups.

Reading Focus Why are some people treated differently than others? Read why this idea was accepted in India.

One of the results of the Aryan arrival in India was the development of a caste system. A **caste** (KAST) is a social group that someone is born into and cannot change.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

HISTORY MAKERS

Development of Sanskrit c. 1500 B.C.

Sanskrit became the most important language for public affairs in much of ancient India. Hindi, the national language of India today, and other regional languages evolved out of Sanskrit. The earliest example of orally transmitted, ancient Sanskrit is the four Vedas—sacred writings. Sanskrit was in common usage until about A.D. 1100 and was used in some official communications until A.D. 1830.

Sanskrit Influences on English Words			
Sanskrit	Definition	English	Definition
Nava	Ship	Naval or navy	A fleet of ships
Dua	Two	Dual	Consisting of two parts
Deva	God	Divine	relating to God

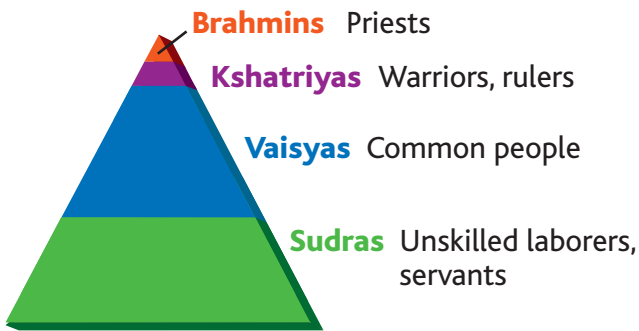


A Brahmin ▶



Today, Untouchables refer to themselves as *Dalit*, which means "oppressed." **Why did the Aryans create the caste system?** ▶

Early India's Social System



A caste dictates what job you will have, whom you can marry, and with whom you can eat or drink. In India, no one uses the word *caste*, which is the word Portuguese merchants used to describe India's social groups. Indians call these groups *jati*. Thousands of *jati* exist in India.

Why was this system created? No one is sure, but ideas about skin color were probably part of it. The Aryans were a light-skinned people. They thought they were better than the dark-skinned people they encountered in India.

The Aryans might have created the caste system because the people they encountered in India greatly outnumbered them. The caste system kept groups separate and

set the rules for everyone's behavior. This helped the Aryans stay in control.

Social Levels of the Caste System The thousands of different *jati* in Indian society were grouped together into four classes called *varnas*. The top two *varnas* were **Brahmins** (BRAH•mihns) and Kshatriyas (KSHA•tree•uhs). Brahmins included the priests—the only people who could perform religious ceremonies. The Kshatriyas were warriors who ran the government and army.

Next were the Vaisyas (VYSH•yuhs), or commoners. Vaisyas were usually farmers and merchants. Below the Vaisyas came the Sudras (SOO•druhs). Sudras were manual laborers and servants and had few rights. Most Indians belonged to the Sudra *varna*.

There was one group that did not belong to any *varna*. Its members were called Untouchables. They performed dirty work considered polluting such as collecting trash, skinning animals, or handling dead bodies.

Life for an Untouchable was very hard. Most Indians believed that being near an Untouchable was polluting, so they forced them to live apart from others. When

Untouchables traveled, they had to tap two sticks together so that everyone would hear them coming and have time to move away.

The Role of Men and Women In ancient India, the family was the center of life. Grandparents, parents, and children all lived together in an extended family. The oldest man in the family was in charge.

Men had many more rights than women. Typically, only sons could inherit property, and only men could go to school or become priests. Women received their education at home.

In families at the top of Indian society, a boy had a **guru** (GUR•oo), or teacher, until he went to the city for more education. Young men from these families could marry only after finishing 12 years of schooling.

In India, parents arranged marriages for their children. Even today, parents

arrange 90 percent of marriages in India. Boys and girls often married in their teens, but ideally not until after completing their education. Divorce was not allowed, but if a couple could not have children, the husband could marry a second wife.

One custom shows how the lives of Indian men were considered more important than the lives of Indian women. In India, people were cremated, or burned in a funeral fire, when they died. Sometimes when a man from a prominent family died, his wife was expected to leap into the funeral flames. This practice was called suttee (suh•TEE). If the wife resisted and did not kill herself, it was a great shame. Everyone would avoid the woman from then on.

 **Reading Check Identify** What were the five major groups in Indian society?

Section 1 Review

History  **online**


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Reading Summary

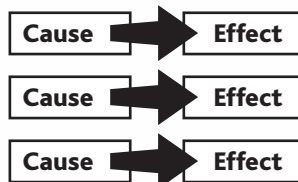
Review the **Main Ideas**

- India's early civilization, including the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, developed in the fertile Indus River valley.
- The Aryans, a group of nomadic herders, migrated into the northern part of India by about 1000 B.C. They brought the iron plow and the language later called Sanskrit to India.
- India's caste system divided people into specific social and economic classes. Ancient Indian society favored men over women.

What Did You Learn?

1. Describe the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.
2. Why are monsoons important to Indian farmers?
3. **Cause and Effect** What caused the collapse of Harappan civilization?
4. **Cause and Effect** Draw a diagram to show how the Aryans changed the lifestyle of the Indians.
5. **Contrast** How did the Aryan and Harappan lifestyles differ?
6. **Explain** How did India's social classes, or *varnas*, shape India's society?
7. **Descriptive Writing** Write a description of the city of Harappa or Mohenjo-Daro that could have been used to attract residents to that city in ancient India.
8.  **Reading Vocabulary**

Explain how the suffix in the word *plentiful* can help you determine its meaning.



Hinduism and Buddhism

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

Much of Indian civilization is based on Aryan ideas and culture, which you learned about in the last section. One of the most important and long-lasting contributions of the Aryans is the main religion of India, Hinduism.

Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- Hinduism grew out of the ancient beliefs of the Aryans. (page 203)
- A new religion, Buddhism, appealed to many people in India and other parts of Asia. (page 205)

Locating Places

Nepal (nuh•PAWL)

Tibet (tuh•BEHT)

Meeting People

Siddhartha Gautama (sih•DAHR•tuh GOW•tuh•muh)

Dalai Lama (DAH•LY LAH•muh)

Building Your Vocabulary

Hinduism (HIHN•doo•IH•zuhm)

Brahman (BRAH•muhn)

reincarnation

(REE•ihn•kahr•NAY•shuhn)

dharma (DAHR•muh)

karma (KAHR•muh)

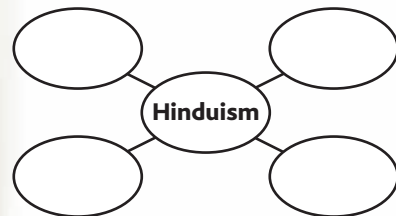
Buddhism (BOO•DIH•zuhm)

nirvana (nihr•VAH•nuh)

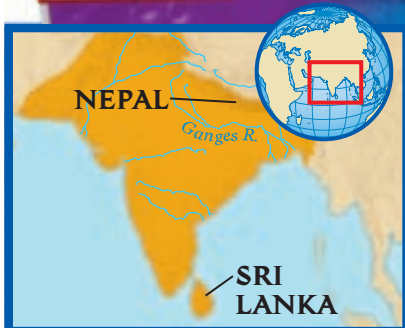
theocracy (thee•AH•kruh•see)

Reading Strategy

Summarizing Information Create a web diagram like the one below. In the ovals, identify major beliefs of Hinduism.



When & Where?



1500 B.C.

c. 1500 B.C.

Aryans bring early Hindu ideas to India

800 B.C.

c. 563 B.C.

The Buddha is born in Nepal

100 B.C.

c. 200 B.C.

Theravada Buddhism spreads to Sri Lanka

Hinduism

Main Idea Hinduism grew out of the ancient beliefs of the Aryans.

Reading Focus Have you ever wondered why most people try to behave properly or do good deeds? As you read this section, find out how a Hindu would answer this question.

Hinduism (HIHN•doo•IH•zuhm) is one of the oldest religions in the world, and today it is the third largest. The basic principles of what is known today as Hinduism were already formulated by 1500 B.C. They are found in the four Vedas—sacred writings. The Aryans believed in many deities who controlled the forces of nature. We know about Aryan religion from their sacred hymns and poetry, especially their epics, or long poems.

For centuries, the priests, or Brahmins, recited these works, and much later they were written down in Sanskrit. Over the cen-

turies, Aryan religion changed. It borrowed some religious ideas from the people the Aryans encountered in India. This mix of beliefs eventually became Hinduism.

Early Hinduism Hinduism grew out of the religious customs of many people over thousands of years. This might explain why Hinduism has thousands of deities. Hindus tend to think of all deities as different parts of one universal spirit. This universal spirit is called **Brahman** (BRAH•muhn).

The search for a universal spirit is described in the ancient sacred texts known as the Upanishads (oo•PAH•nih•SHADZ). Those writings say that every living being has a soul that wants to be reunited with Brahman and that this happens when a person dies.

The Upanishads describe how a person unites with Brahman: A soul that becomes one with Brahman is like a lump of salt thrown into water. The lump of salt is gone, but the water tastes salty. The salt has become part of the water.



▲ Fire sacrifice accompanied by reading from the Veda. **What ancient scriptures describe a universal spirit?**



Major Hindu Deities

Name	Realm
Brahma	creator of the world
Vishnu	preserver of the world
Siva	destroyer of the world
Ganesha	lord of existing beings; remover of obstacles
Krishna	teacher of the world
Lakshmi	deity of light, beauty, good fortune, and wealth
Surya	deity of the sun
Saraswati	deity of knowledge, music, and creative arts
Parvati	universal mother

Ganesha ▶



◀ Siva



Understanding Charts

Brahma, Vishnu, and Siva are considered the three main Hindu deities.

1. Which deity is known as the "teacher of the world"?
2. **Conclude** Why does Hinduism have so many deities?

What Is Karma? Hindus believe that a soul is not joined to the Brahman immediately after a person dies. Instead, a person must pass through many lives to be united with Brahman. On its journey, a soul might be reborn into a higher caste. If a person lived a bad life, he or she might be reborn into a lower caste or life-form.

This idea of passing through many lives to reach the Brahman is called **reincarnation** (REE • ihn • kahr • NAY • shuhn). It is very important in Hinduism and it influences how Hindus live their daily lives. It even affects how they treat animals because they consider all life sacred.

To earn the reward of a better life in their next life, Hindus believe they must perform their duty. **Dharma** (DAHR • muh) is the divine law. It requires people to perform the duties of their caste. A farmer has different duties than a priest and men have different duties than women.

The consequences of how a person lives are known as **karma** (KAHR • muh). If Hindus do their duty and live a good life, they will have good karma. This will move them closer to the Brahman in their next life.

How did the belief in reincarnation affect Indians? For one thing, it made many of them more accepting of the caste system. People believed they had to be happy with their role in life.

A dedicated Hindu believes that the people in a higher *varna* are superior and that they are supposed to be on top. The belief in reincarnation gave hope to many people, even servants. If servants did their duty, they might be reborn into a higher caste in their next life.

Reading Check Explain How is karma related to reincarnation?

Buddhism

Main Idea A new religion, Buddhism, appealed to many people in India and other parts of Asia.

Reading Focus What do you think makes a person free and happy? Find out how the Buddha answered this important question as you read this section.

By 600 B.C., many Indians began to question Hindu ideas. The Brahmin priests seemed to care only about their temple ceremonies and not about the needs of the people. Ordinary Hindus wanted a simpler, more spiritual religion. Many would find what they needed in **Buddhism** (BOO•DIH•zuhm), a new religion founded by **Siddhartha Gautama** (sih•DAHR•tuh GOW•tuh•muh).

Who Is the Buddha? Prince Siddhartha Gautama was born around 563 B.C. in a small kingdom near the Himalaya. Today, this area is in southern **Nepal** (nuh•PAWL).

Siddhartha seemed to have it all. He was wealthy and handsome, happily married, and had a fine new son. Then one day he decided to explore the kingdom beyond the palace walls. As he traveled, he became very upset. He saw beggars, people who were ill, and people broken down by age with no home and nowhere to go. For the first time, he was truly aware of suffering.

Then and there, Siddhartha decided to seek an answer to this great riddle: Why did people suffer and how could their suffering be cured? He left his family and riches and began his search. At first he lived like a hermit, fasting and sleeping on the hard ground. Siddhartha nearly starved, but he still had no answer to his questions.

Then he decided to meditate for as long as it took to get the answer. Legend tells us that Siddhartha sat under a tree to meditate, and after 49 days, he finally understood. It was as if he had seen a great light.



▲ This shrine in northern India marks the location where it is believed the Buddha delivered his first sermon. **With what groups of Indians did the Buddha's message become popular?**

Siddhartha spent the rest of his life wandering the countryside and telling people what he had discovered. His lessons about life and the nature of suffering became known as Buddhism. To his followers, he became known as the Buddha, or "Enlightened One."

What Is Buddhism? To understand the Buddha's ideas, one first has to see the world as he did. Like many Hindu, Siddhartha did not think that the normal, everyday world was real. Trees, houses, animals, the sky, and the oceans were just illusions. So were poverty and sickness, pain and sorrow.

Siddhartha believed that the only way to find the truth about the world was to give up all desires. By giving up the desire for fame, the desire for money, and the desire for all worldly things, pain and sorrow would vanish.

If a person gave up all desires, he or she would reach **nirvana** (nihr•VAH•nuh). Nirvana is not a place but a state of wisdom. The word *nirvana* came from the Sanskrit word for blowing out a candle flame.

Primary Source

Morality in the Eightfold Path

This passage describes the way a person should act according to the Eightfold Path.

"He avoids the killing of living beings. . . . He avoids stealing, and abstains from [avoids] taking what is not given to him. Only what is given to him he takes, waiting till it is given; and he lives with a heart honest and pure. . . . He avoids lying. . . . He speaks the truth, is devoted to the truth, reliable, worthy of confidence, no deceiver of men."

—*The Word of the Buddha*,
Nyanatiloka, trans.



▲ The Buddha

DBQ Document-Based Question

According to the passage, what is the correct way to accept something?

The heart of the Buddha's teachings is contained in the Four Noble Truths. The Four Noble Truths are:

1. *Life is full of suffering.*
2. *People suffer because they desire worldly things and self-satisfaction.*
3. *The way to end suffering is to stop desiring things.*
4. *The only way to stop desiring things is to follow the Eightfold Path.*

The Buddha's fourth truth says people should follow eight steps to eliminate suffering. The Buddha's Eightfold Path was this:

1. *Know and understand the Four Noble Truths.*

2. *Give up worldly things and don't harm others.*
3. *Tell the truth, don't gossip, and don't speak badly of others.*
4. *Don't commit evil acts, like killing, stealing, or living an unclean life.*
5. *Do rewarding work.*
6. *Work for good and oppose evil.*
7. *Make sure your mind keeps your senses under control.*
8. *Practice meditation as a way of understanding reality.*

One reason the Buddha's ideas became popular was that he did not defend the caste system. A person's place in life depended on the person, he thought. The Buddha did believe in reincarnation, but with a difference. If people wanted to stop being reborn into new lives, the Buddha said, they would only have to follow his Eightfold Path.

Many people liked the Buddha's message, especially Untouchables and low-caste Indians. For the first time, these groups heard that they, too, could reach enlightenment.

Buddhism in Southeast Asia For more than 40 years, the Buddha preached his ideas. Disciples gathered around him, and after his death, they spread his message all over Asia.

As more and more people practiced Buddhism, disagreements arose about the Buddha's ideas. Finally, Buddhists split into two groups. The first was Theravada Buddhism. *Theravada* means "teachings of the elders." It sees the Buddha as a great teacher, not a god.

Buddhist teachers and merchants spread the ideas of Theravada to the south and east. It was adopted in Ceylon in the 200s B.C. Ceylon, an island located near the southern tip of India, is now called Sri Lanka. Theravada Buddhism also became popular in Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos.

THE BUDDHA

C. 563–483 B.C.

Siddhartha Gautama—the thinker and teacher who would later be called the Buddha—was born in what is now Nepal. According to legend, his mother had a dream shortly before his birth that was interpreted to mean that her son would become a great leader.

The Gautama family belonged to the warrior caste. Siddhartha's father, Suddhodana, ruled a group called the Shakyas. His mother, Maya, died shortly after his birth.

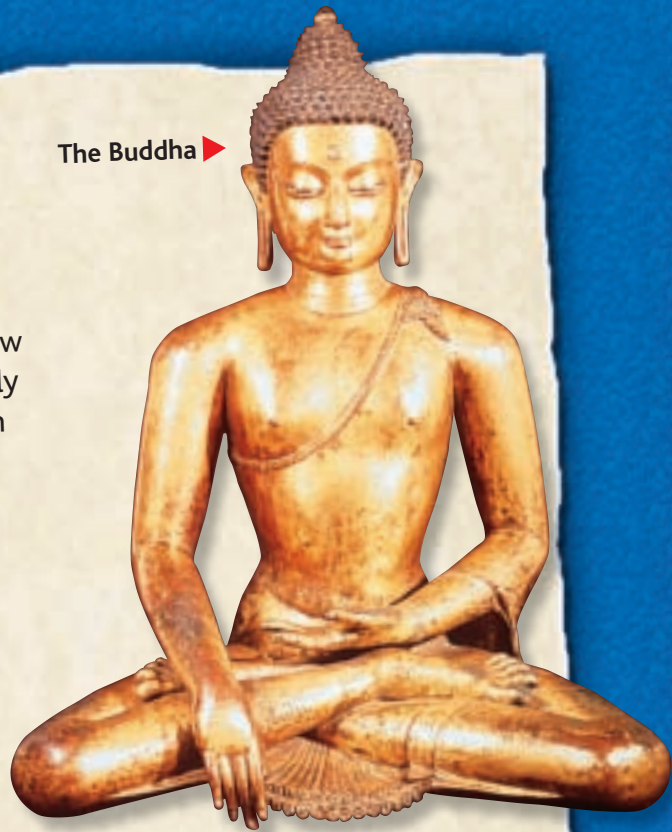
Siddhartha was very intelligent. According to legend, the young man knew 64 languages and mastered all his studies without needing

instruction. At age 29, Siddhartha realized that he wanted to search for truth, enlightenment, and a way to rise above suffering. He left his wife, Yasodhara, and son, Rahula, to study with priests.

At age 35, Siddhartha is said to have reached full enlightenment while sitting beneath a tree. The Buddha began traveling to teach others about his discoveries and about the nature of life and suffering.

◀ Sculpture of the Buddha sitting on a cobra

The Buddha ▶



“Our life is shaped by our mind; we become what we think.”

—The Buddha



Then and Now

What types of present-day occupations often involve traveling to teach others?

Mahayana Buddhism

The second kind of Buddhism is called Mahayana Buddhism. It teaches that the Buddha is a god who came to save people. Mahayana Buddhists believe that following the Eightfold Path is too hard for most people in this world. They believe that by worshiping the Buddha instead, people will go to a heaven after they die. There, they can follow the Eightfold Path and reach nirvana.

Mahayana Buddhists also have special affection for the bodhisattvas (BOH•dih•SUHT•vuhz). Bodhisattvas are the enlightened people who postpone going to heaven. Instead, bodhisattvas have decided to stay on Earth to help others and do good deeds.



▲ A Tibetan monk today

Mahayana Buddhism spread northward into China and from there to Korea and Japan. A special kind of Mahayana Buddhism developed in central Asia in the country of **Tibet** (tuh•BEHT). There it mixed with Tibet's traditional religion and with Hinduism.

In Tibet, the Buddhist leaders, called lamas, also led the government. When religious leaders head a government, it is called a **theocracy** (thee•AH•kruh•see). The **Dalai Lama** (DAH•LY LAH•muh) was the lama who headed the government, and the Panchen Lama was the lama who led the religion. Both were considered reincarnations of the Buddha.

Today, many Buddhists live in countries like Thailand, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka, but few live in India where the Buddha first preached.

Reading Check Identify How could a Buddhist reach nirvana?

Section 2 Review

History online
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Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

- Hinduism is an old religion with many gods. Hindus believe in reincarnation and that a person's place in life is determined by his or her karma.
- In the 500s B.C., Siddhartha Gautama founded the religion of Buddhism in northern India. According to Buddhism, a person who follows the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path can achieve nirvana.

What Did You Learn?

1. What are the Upanishads?
2. What is reincarnation?

Critical Thinking

3. **Compare and Contrast**
 Draw a chart like the one below. Then add details to compare the two main branches of Buddhism.

Branches of Buddhism	
Theravada Buddhism	Mahayana Buddhism

4. **Describe** Explain the concept of karma.
5. **Explain** What is the importance of the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path?
6. **Analyze** How did the belief in reincarnation both strengthen the divisions in Indian society and provide hope for the lower classes?
7. **Expository Writing** Write a short essay describing Siddhartha Gautama's journey to enlightenment.

Section

3

India's First Empires

Get Ready to Read!

What's the Connection?

In the last section, you learned about Hinduism and Buddhism. Both religions developed when India was a land of small kingdoms. These rival kingdoms would be forced to unite, however, when foreigners invaded.

Focusing on the Main Ideas

- The Mauryan dynasty built India's first great empire. (page 210)
- The Gupta empire reunited much of northern India and became wealthy through trade. (page 213)
- The Mauryan and Gupta empires made important contributions in literature, mathematics, and science. (page 214)

Locating Places

Pataliputra
(PAH • tuh • lih • POO • truh)

Meeting People

Chandragupta Maurya (CHUHN • druh • GUP • tuh MAH • oor • yuh)

Asoka (uh • SOH • kuh)

Kalidasa (KAH • lih • DAH • suh)

Building Your Vocabulary

dynasty (DY • nuh • stee)

stupa (STOO • puh)

pilgrim (PIHL • gruhm)

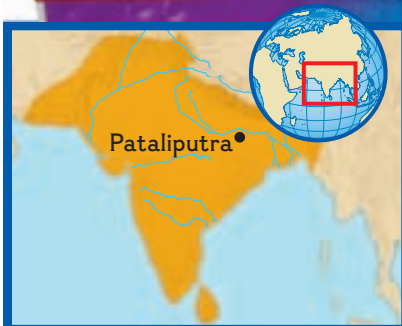
Reading Strategy

Categorizing Information Complete a chart like the one below, identifying the important dates, capital city, and government of the Mauryan empire.

	Mauryan Empire
Dates	
Capital City	
Government	

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

When & Where?



350 B.C.

321 B.C.
Chandragupta Maurya founds Mauryan dynasty

A.D. 1

232 B.C.
Mauryan ruler Asoka dies

A.D. 350

A.D. 320
Gupta empire begins

The Mauryan Dynasty

Main Idea The Mauryan dynasty built India's first great empire.

Reading Focus Do you think political leaders should promote religion? How might religion help a king hold his country together? Read to learn why one Indian emperor decided to support Buddhism.

India's princes fought over their small kingdoms for centuries. Then two big invasions taught the Indians a lesson. First, the Persians invaded the Indus Valley in the

500s B.C. and made it part of the great Persian Empire. Then, as you have already read, Alexander the Great invaded India in 327 B.C.

Although Alexander's troops conquered northern India, he did not stay long. His soldiers were homesick and tired and threatened to rebel unless he turned back. The invasion did have one important effect, however. It led to the first great Indian empire.

Who Built India's First Empire? India's first empire was founded by **Chandragupta**

Maurya (CHUHN • druh • GUP • tuh MAH • oor • yuh). Chandragupta was an Indian prince who conquered a large area in the Ganges River valley soon after Alexander invaded western India. Alexander's invasion weakened many of India's kingdoms. After Alexander left, Chandragupta seized the opportunity to conquer and unite almost all of northern India.

He founded the Mauryan dynasty in 321 B.C. A **dynasty** (DY • nuh • stee) is a series of rulers from the same family. To run his empire, Chandragupta set up a well organized government. In such a government, rulers run everything from a capital city. To control everything from his capital, **Pataliputra** (PAH • tuh • lih • POO • truh), Chandragupta had to have a strong army. He also needed a good spy system to make sure no one was planning to rebel. Communications were also important, so he set up a postal system.



Using Geography Skills

The Mauryan dynasty built the first great Indian empire.

1. Where was the Mauryan capital of Pataliputra located?
2. What part of India did the Mauryans not conquer?



The Buddha ▶

▲ This stupa from central India is one of the best-preserved shrines from the 200s B.C. **What other type of structure did Indians create to honor the Buddha?**

Emperor Asoka's Reign Chandragupta founded the Mauryan dynasty, but many historians think the empire's greatest king was **Asoka** (uh•SOH•kuh). Asoka ruled from about 273 B.C. to 232 B.C.

Asoka was an unusual ruler. Like many kings, he was a strong military leader, but he came to hate bloodshed. After one bloody fight, he walked over the battlefield. When he saw the dead and wounded, he was horrified and made a vow. He would dedicate his life to peace and follow the teachings of the Buddha.

Asoka was history's first great Buddhist king. He built hospitals for people and for animals, too. He built new roads so it was easier to trade and put shelters and shade trees along the roads where travelers could rest.

Asoka sent many Buddhist teachers throughout India and the rest of Asia. They carried the religion to new believers. In India, laborers carved the Buddha's teachings on stone pillars for people to read. Asoka also

had laborers build thousands of **stupas** (STOO•puhs). Stupas are Buddhist shrines that have the shape of a dome or mound. Although he was a Buddhist, Asoka allowed his Hindu subjects to practice their religion.

With a good road system and a strong ruler, the empire prospered. India became the center of a huge trade network that stretched to the Mediterranean Sea.

The Fall of the Mauryan Empire Asoka died in 232 B.C. Unfortunately, the kings who followed him were not very good leaders, and the empire grew weak.

These kings made bad decisions that turned the people against them. They forced merchants to pay heavy taxes and seized peasants' crops for themselves. Things were so bad that in 183 B.C., the last Mauryan ruler was killed by one of his own generals.

✔ **Reading Check Summarize** Why was Asoka an important ruler?

Biography

EMPEROR ASOKA

Reigned c. 273–232 B.C.

In the early years of his reign, Asoka was a powerful military ruler. He used his armies to conquer and unify almost all of India under one leader. After watching a very bloody battle that left many people dead, however, he decided to stop fighting and follow Buddhism.

Emperor Asoka vowed to relieve suffering wherever he found it. He discovered that Buddhism reflected his new beliefs, so he became a Buddhist.

Emperor Asoka had a strong, energetic personality. He began preaching the Buddhist ideas that people should be honest, truthful, and nonviolent. He preached that people should live with compassion toward all humans and animals. Asoka taught by example and tried to live his life with "little

sin and many good deeds." He ordered his government officials to adopt those virtues for their own lives.

Emperor Asoka regularly visited people in the rural areas of his kingdom and found practical ways to improve their lives. He founded hospitals and supplied medicine. He ordered wells to be dug and trees to be planted along the roads. He also ordered his officials to keep him informed of the needs of the people in his empire.

◀ Carving from top of pillar created under Asoka



▼ Asoka



Then and Now

Asoka closely linked religion and government. Do you think that the two should be combined or kept separate? Explain, providing examples to support your answer.

The Gupta Empire

Main Idea The Gupta empire reunited much of northern India and became wealthy through trade.

Reading Focus What types of products does the United States trade with other countries? Read to learn how the Gupta empire built its wealth on trade.

For 500 years, India was not united. Once again, small kingdoms fought with one another and made life miserable for their subjects. Then, in A.D. 320, one prince in the Ganges River valley grew more powerful than the others. Like an earlier ruler, his name was Chandragupta. This Chandragupta chose to rule from the old capital of the Mauryan empire—Pataliputra.

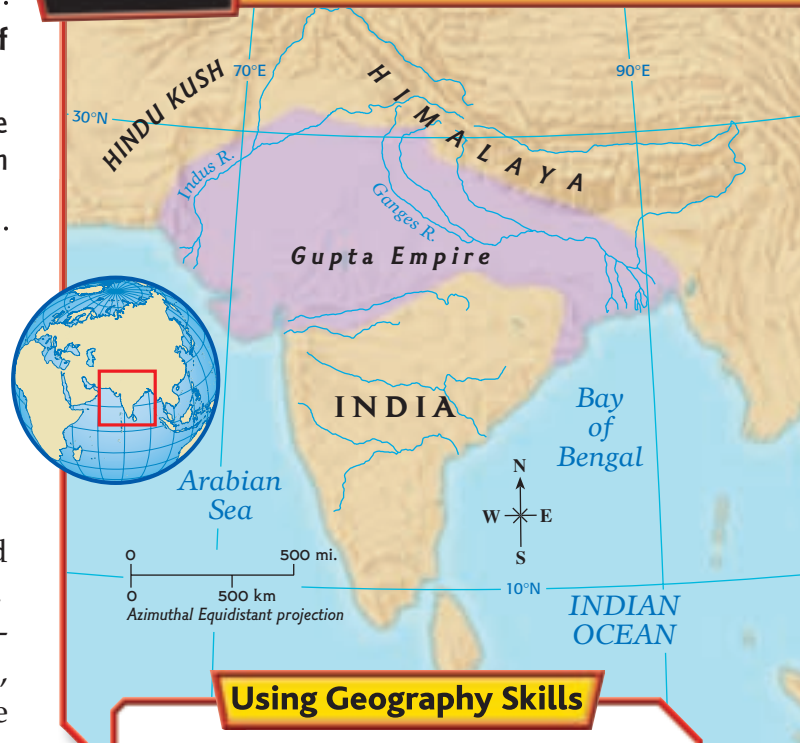
Chandragupta founded the Gupta dynasty. When he died, his son, Samudragupta, took over the throne and expanded the Gupta empire in northern India. Soon, the new kingdom dominated almost all of northern India. The Guptas ruled for about 200 years. Gupta rulers had one advantage over the earlier Mauryan kings. The empire was smaller and that made it easier to manage.

The Gupta empire grew wealthy from trade. Salt, cloth, and iron were common goods traded in India. Indian merchants also traded with China and with kingdoms in southeast Asia and the Mediterranean. The Gupta rulers controlled much of the trade and became very wealthy. They owned silver and gold mines and large estates.

Trade created jobs for people in India and made many people and cities prosperous. Cities grew up along the trade routes, and many people traveled. Some people, called **pilgrims** (PIHL•gruhms), often used the trade routes to travel to a religious shrine or site. Just as cities today make money from tourism, Indian cities that were famous for their temples became wealthy from visiting pilgrims.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Gupta Empire c. A.D. 600



Using Geography Skills

The Guptas controlled much of northern India.

1. What river valleys were found within the borders of the Gupta empire?
2. How does the area of the Gupta empire compare to that of the Mauryan empire as shown on the map on page 210?

Asoka had converted to Buddhism, but the Guptas were Hindus like many of their subjects. They gave their full support to Hinduism and gave money to support Hindu scholars and Hindu shrines. The shrines they built to Hindu deities inspired Hindus. They often had brightly painted sculptures of images from the Upanishads and other sacred writings.

During the Gupta empire, art and science also began to develop. Earlier, you learned that Greece had a golden age of art and learning. India also had a golden age of art and learning during the Gupta empire.

Reading Check Explain How did the Gupta empire become wealthy?

Indian Literature and Science

Main Idea The Mauryan and Gupta empires made important contributions in literature, mathematics, and science.

Reading Focus What do you think modern movies, books, and television reveal about our values? As you read, try to see if Indian poetry tells a story about values during the Gupta period.

Artists, builders, scientists, and writers produced many works while the Mauryan and Gupta kings ruled.

India's Sacred Texts The Vedas of India are an ancient collection of sacred verses, hymns, prayers and teachings. No one is certain how old they are because for a long time they were only recited, not written down. After Aryan people developed Sanskrit, then the Vedas could be recorded.

Later, other kinds of literature were also written down. Two sacred texts are very famous in India, and Indians today still love to read them. One is the *Mahabharata* (muh•HAH•BAH•ruh•tuh), and the other is the *Ramayana* (rah•mah•YAH•nah). Both of these sacred texts tell about brave warriors and their heroic deeds.

The *Mahabharata* is a long sacred text—about 88,000 verses. Historians think several different authors wrote it and that it was written down around 100 B.C. It describes a great war for control of an Indian kingdom about 1,000 years earlier.

The best-known section is the Bhagavad Gita (BAH•guh•VAHD GEE•tuh), or “Song of the Lord.” It is very important in Hindu writings. In it, the deity Krishna preaches a sermon before a battle. He tells his listeners how noble it is to do one’s duty even when it is difficult and painful.

Primary Source

The Bhagavad Gita

In the Bhagavad Gita, Arjuna prepares to go into battle. He asks the deity Krishna questions about war and death. The following passage is part of Krishna’s answer.
“Thou grievest where no grief should be! . . .

.
All, that doth live, lives always! . . .

.
The soul that with a strong and constant calm
Takes sorrow and takes joy indifferently,
Lives in the life undying!

—*Bhagavadgita*, Sir Edwin Arnold, trans.

DBQ Document-Based Question

What does Krishna believe about life after death?

▼ Painting titled *Krishna and Maidens*



The teachings in the *Mahabharata*, especially the Bhagavad Gita, contain many of the central beliefs in Hinduism. They provide important religious and moral lessons. For this reason, they have had a great impact on Hinduism and continue to influence Indian philosophy in modern times.

An important writer from the Gupta period is **Kalidasa** (KAH•lih•DAH•suh). He wrote plays, poems, love stories, and comedies. One popular poem, *The Cloud Messenger*, contains beautiful descriptions of northern India's mountains, forests, and rivers.

Another work is the *Panchatantra*. Similar to Aesop's fables, these tales include animal characters presenting lessons about life.

Music, Art, and Architecture Music played an important part in the religious and social lives of people in India. Many of the early sacred texts like the Bhagavad Gita were probably sung in group settings. At annual festivals people danced and sang. They also used music in plays. Musical instruments included tambourines, flutes, drums, and lutes.

Much of early Indian art was made of materials that have not survived. What exists today is mostly religious art made in stone. There are many sculptures of the Buddha, for example. These statues teach different Buddhist messages based on the figure's pose. Buddhist temples also included carvings of local scenes.

Hindu architecture typically had carvings of people in different poses that represented different aspects of eternity. Images of deities with many hands were created to show that the deities had many abilities.

Indian Math and Science Indian mathematicians, especially in the Gupta period, made important contributions. Aryabhata

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

HISTORY MAKERS

The Invention of Zero c. A.D. 500



▲ The middle dot is the first symbol for zero.

Early humans understood the idea of nothing, but they did not have a symbol to represent that idea. During the Gupta dynasty, Indian mathematicians invented the symbol "0" and connected it with the idea of nothing. The Indians' invention of zero had a great impact on the study of mathematics and science—then and now. Without the concept of zero, modern technology, such as computers, would not be possible.

(AHR•yuh•BUHT•uh) was the leading mathematician of the Gupta empire. He was one of the first scientists known to have used algebra. Indian mathematicians developed the idea of zero and a symbol to represent it. They also explained the concept of infinity—something without an end.

Gupta mathematicians created the symbols for the numbers 1 to 9 that we use today. These number symbols, or numerals, were adopted by Arab traders in the A.D. 700s. European traders borrowed them from the Arabs. Use of these numbers

spread through Europe in the A.D. 1200s, replacing Roman numerals. Today, this system of number symbols is known as the Hindu-Arabic numerical system.

Early Indians also invented mathematical algorithms. An algorithm (AHL • gohr • ih • thuhm) is a series of steps that solve a problem. If you follow the steps, you get the right answer. Computer programmers today often use algorithms to tell computers what to do.

Ancient Indians made important contributions in other scientific fields, especially astronomy. They followed and mapped movements of planets and stars. They understood that the Earth was round and revolved around the sun. They also seem to have understood gravity.

Particularly under the Gupta, Indian scientists made advances in metallurgy, or

metal technology. In addition to iron tools and weapons, they made steel tools. An iron pillar in Delhi, dating from around A.D. 400, was so well made that it has hardly rusted. The Gupta also made sophisticated gold coins and metal mirrors.

In the field of medicine, Gupta doctors were advanced for their time. They could set broken bones and perform operations. They also invented many medical tools.

An Indian doctor named Shushruta (shoosh • ROO • tah) carried out an early form of plastic surgery. He worked to restore damaged noses. Indian doctors used herbs in treating illnesses. They also believed it was important to remove the causes of a disease and not just cure the disease itself.

 **Reading Check Summarize** In what areas of science did ancient Indians make advances?

Section 3 Review

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Reading Summary

Review the Main Ideas

- The Mauryan empire, under leaders such as Chandragupta Maurya and Asoka, united most of India for over a hundred years.
- The Gupta dynasty reunited northern India and grew wealthy from trade.
- During the Mauryan and Gupta empires, the arts and sciences flourished in India. Several great sacred texts, including the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*, came from this period.

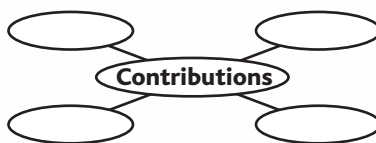
What Did You Learn?

1. Describe trade during the Gupta empire.
2. What is the message of the Bhagavad Gita?

Critical Thinking

3. Organizing Information

Draw a diagram to show the contributions of Indian mathematicians during the Mauryan and Gupta empires.



4. **Analyze** How were Asoka's Buddhist beliefs reflected in his accomplishments as king?

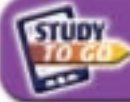
5. **Expository Writing** Which of the Indian emperors described in this section do you think was the greatest ruler? Write a short essay explaining your choice.

6. **Math Link** Why would the development of a number system be important in a civilization that depended on trade?

7. Reading Vocabulary

Explain how you could use context to determine the meaning of the word *prospered* in this sentence.

"With a good road system and a strong ruler, the empire prospered."



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Section 1 India's Early Civilizations

Vocabulary
subcontinent
monsoon
Sanskrit
raja
caste
guru

Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- Climate and geography influenced the rise of India's first civilization. (page 195)
- New ideas and technology influenced the development of India. (page 198)
- The Aryans created a caste system that separated Indians into groups. (page 199)

Section 2 Hinduism and Buddhism

Vocabulary
Hinduism
Brahman
reincarnation
dharma
karma
Buddhism
nirvana
theocracy

Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- Hinduism grew out of the ancient beliefs of the Aryans. (page 203)
- A new religion, Buddhism, appealed to many people in India and other parts of Asia. (page 205)

Ganesha ▶



Section 3 India's First Empires

Vocabulary
dynasty
stupa
pilgrim

Focusing on the **Main Ideas**

- The Mauryan dynasty built India's first great empire. (page 210)
- The Gupta empire reunited much of northern India and became wealthy through trade. (page 213)
- The Mauryan and Gupta empires made important contributions in literature, mathematics, and science. (page 214)

Assessment and Activities

Review Vocabulary

1. Write a paragraph about the basic beliefs of Hinduism using the following words.

reincarnation karma dharma

Write the vocabulary word that best completes each sentence. Then write a sentence for each term not chosen.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------|
| a. stupa | e. pilgrim |
| b. guru | f. theocracy |
| c. <i>varna</i> | g. monsoon |
| d. raja | h. dynasty |
2. Each Aryan tribe was led by a ____.
3. In a ____, government is led by religious leaders.
4. A ____ is a line of rulers who belong to the same family.
5. A ____ travels to religious places.

Review Main Ideas

Section 1 • India's Early Civilizations

6. What influenced the rise of India's early civilizations?
7. What was the purpose of the *varna* system?

Section 2 • Hinduism and Buddhism

8. From what did Hinduism form?
9. Which religion appealed to people in India and other parts of Asia?

Section 3 • India's First Empires

10. Which dynasty built India's first great empire?
11. Why was the Gupta empire important?

Critical Thinking

12. **Compare** How do you think the Eightfold Path is similar to the Ten Commandments of Judaism?
13. **Analyze** How does the *Mahabharata* reflect the ideals of ancient India?
14. **Explain** How did the monsoons affect the development of India's first civilizations?
15. **Predict** What do you think might have happened if Asoka had approved of the slaughter on the battlefield during his wars of conquest?

Review

Reading Skill

Vocabulary

Building Your Vocabulary

16. Read the following excerpt from page 205. Then explain how context clues can help you determine the meaning of the word *hermit*.

He left his family and riches and began his search. At first he lived like a hermit, fasting and sleeping on the hard ground. Siddhartha nearly starved, but he still had no answer to his questions.

To review this skill, see pages 192–193.

Geography Skills

Study the map below and answer the following questions.

17. **Human/Environment Interaction** Why did Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro develop so near the Indus River?
18. **Place** The winter monsoon winds come from the northeast. What makes the winds from that monsoon cold?
19. **Location** Name at least two natural features that protected Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro from invaders.

Using Technology

22. **Researching** Use the Internet and your local library to find information about the *varnas* and *jati* in India today. You may wish to investigate where the systems are still practiced and how they affect modern society. You may also wish to research attempts at reforming the system and how the system is affected by national law. Prepare a report to share with the class.

Building Citizenship Skills

23. **Analyzing Information** Dharma is the Hindu idea of duty. Is it important for people in a society to do their duty? Make a list of duties Americans have today. Then write a paragraph explaining why those duties are important.

Primary Source Analyze

Read the excerpt from the Buddha's Farewell Address. Then answer the questions.

"Hold fast to the truth as a lamp. Seek salvation alone in the truth. Do not look for assistance to anyone besides yourselves. . . . Those who, either now or after I am dead, shall be lamps unto themselves . . . holding fast to the truth as their lamp, and seeking their salvation in the truth alone . . . it is they . . . who shall reach the very topmost height! But they must be anxious to learn."

—*The Teachings of Buddha*, The Buddha's Farewell Address, compiled by Paul Carus

DBQ Document-Based Questions

24. Why does the Buddha compare the truth to a lamp?
25. What quality must people have if they want to reach the topmost height?



Read to Write

20. **Persuasive Writing** In the *Mahabharata*, the deity Krishna advises Arjuna, "Get ready for battle without thought of . . . gain and loss, victory and defeat." Write a paragraph in which you agree or disagree with that advice.
21. **Using Your FOLDABLES** Use the information you recorded in your foldable to create a fill-in-the-blank quiz for a classmate. Write a paragraph about one of the sections, leaving blanks for your classmates to fill in. Also write an answer key.