

Chapter

7

Ancient India

Before You Read: Knowledge Rating

Recognizing what you already know about each of these terms can help you understand the chapter.

In your notebook, rate how well you know each term.

3 = I know what this word means.

2 = I've seen this word, but I don't know what it means.

1 = I've never seen this word before.

Define each term as you read.

Big Ideas About Ancient India

Culture Many societies rely on family roles and social roles to keep order.

Indians saw themselves as belonging to one of four social classes called castes. These broad classes were divided into many smaller groups based on jobs. In time, a fifth group of people called the untouchables came to be considered the lowest group in society.



ARABIAN
PENINSULA

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INTERNET RESOURCES

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- WebQuest
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- Research Links
- Internet Activities
- Quizzes
- Maps
- Test Practice
- Current Events

INDIA

WORLD

2500 B.C.

Well-planned cities are thriving by the Indus River.
◀ (necklace, 3000 to 2000 B.C.)

1500 B.C.

Aryans begin to migrate into India.

2500 B.C.

2000 B.C.

1500 B.C.

1472 B.C.

Queen Hatshepsut begins to rule Egypt.
◀ (statue of Hatshepsut, late 1400s B.C.)



India: Physical Geography and Resources, 300s B.C.

INTERACTIVE



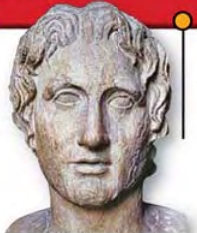
563 B.C.
Siddhartha Gautama, who will become the Buddha, is born.

c. 269 B.C.
King Asoka, who ruled by Buddhist principles, takes the throne.

c. A.D. 375
Chandra Gupta II begins to rule. (coin, A.D. 300s) ▶



500 B.C.
The Nok people are using iron in West Africa.



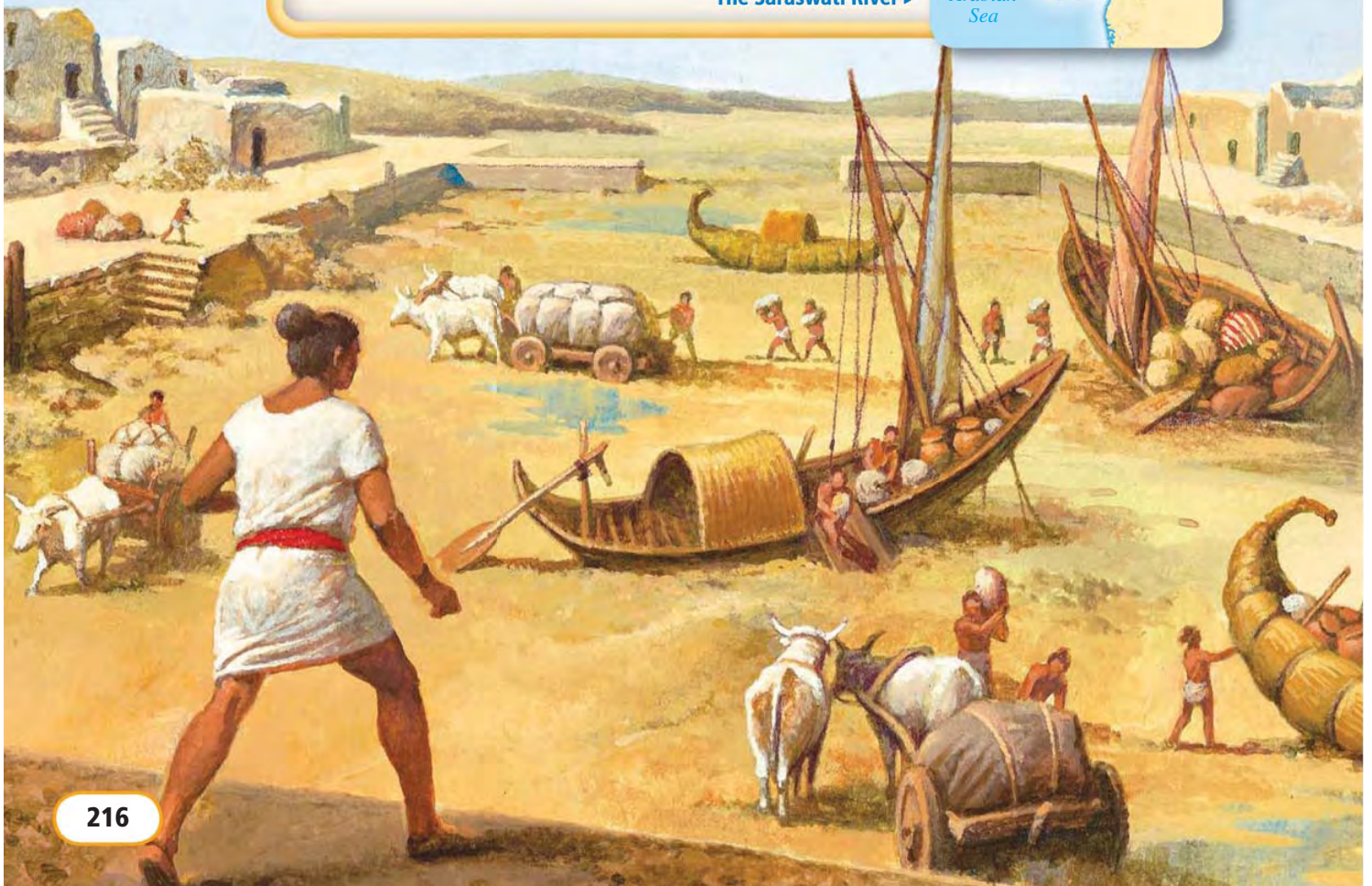
333 B.C.
Alexander the Great of Macedon defeats Darius of Persia. ◀ (bust of Alexander, first century B.C.)

A.D. 220
The Han Dynasty, which unified China, breaks apart.

Saraswati EARTHQUAKE

Background: For many years, the Saraswati (suh•RUHS•wuh•tee) River existed only in myth. Recently, however, scientists have traced its historic path and begun to unlock the secret of its decline. An earthquake may have changed the course of smaller rivers that fed the Saraswati. One river may have turned west to flow into the Indus River. The extra water caused disastrous floods. People who lived on the banks of the Saraswati faced the opposite problem. Their river disappeared. Imagine you live in a city that had been built along the Saraswati.

The Saraswati River ►



You are a trader. For years, you have made a good living sailing a boat down the Saraswati River to the Arabian Sea and then to Mesopotamia. There you sold Indian goods: precious woods, gold, deep red beads, milky white pearls, ivory combs, and fine-spun cotton. In exchange, you bought silver, tin, wool fabric, and grain.

One day, everything suddenly changes. Returning from a trip, you dock your boat in the dockyard built next to the river and go home. Early the next morning, you awake from a sound sleep to feel the house shaking. Dishes clatter, and screams rise from the street. When the shaking finally stops, you cautiously step outside to find out what happened.

The scene outside is shocking. The top floor of the two-story house next door has toppled over, exposing the stairway. Littering the street are piles of mud bricks from the upper stories of other buildings.

Back inside the house, you pick up the broken pieces of painted plates. As you clean up the mess, you have no idea that an even worse disaster is about to strike.

Several hours later, you go outside to check on your neighbors. Walking past the river, you notice that the water level has dropped. All day, it falls until finally nothing is left but a few puddles in the low places of the riverbed. One by one, the boats in the dockyard settle in the mud.

Surely, you tell yourself, the river will return. But the days pass, and nothing changes. Finally, you face the awful fact that the Saraswati has probably dried up forever. You and your neighbors must decide what to do.

Should you rebuild your city or move?

Reading & Writing

- 1. READING: Setting** The setting is the time and place of a story. How does the setting contribute to the problem the trader faces?
- 2. WRITING: Persuasion** Imagine that you joined a group of your neighbors discussing whether to stay or leave. When they asked for your opinion, you said you wanted to think about it. Now write a letter explaining your opinion and reasons for it. Discuss the costs and benefits of staying versus the costs and benefits of leaving.

Lesson

1

MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Geography** In India, mountains and seasonal winds shape the climate and affect agriculture.
- 2 Government** The earliest Indian civilization built well-organized cities near the Indus River.
- 3 Culture** Harappan civilization produced writing, a prosperous way of life, and a widely shared culture.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Making Generalizations

A generalization is a broad judgment based on information. As you read Lesson 1, record information on a chart like the one below. Later, you will be asked to make a generalization.

Geography and Indian Life	
Physical geography of India	
Cities in the Indus Valley	
Harappan culture	

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R8



▲ **Priest-King** Scholars believe this seven-inch-tall sculpture is of a priest or king from the ancient city of Mohenjo-Daro.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

range a group of things in a line or row, such as mountains (page 220)

Of all of the mountain ranges on Earth, the Himalayas are the highest.

deposit to put or lay down (page 220)

The river deposited soil and debris that it had swept up a great distance upstream.

mysterious difficult to understand (page 221)

Experts have not figured out the meaning of the mysterious writing that appears on the objects.

site a location or position (page 223)

Though expecting to find the site of religious buildings at the ruined city, archaeologists found none.

Geography and Indian Life

TERMS & NAMES

subcontinent

Hindu Kush

Himalayas

monsoon

Harappan
civilization

planned city

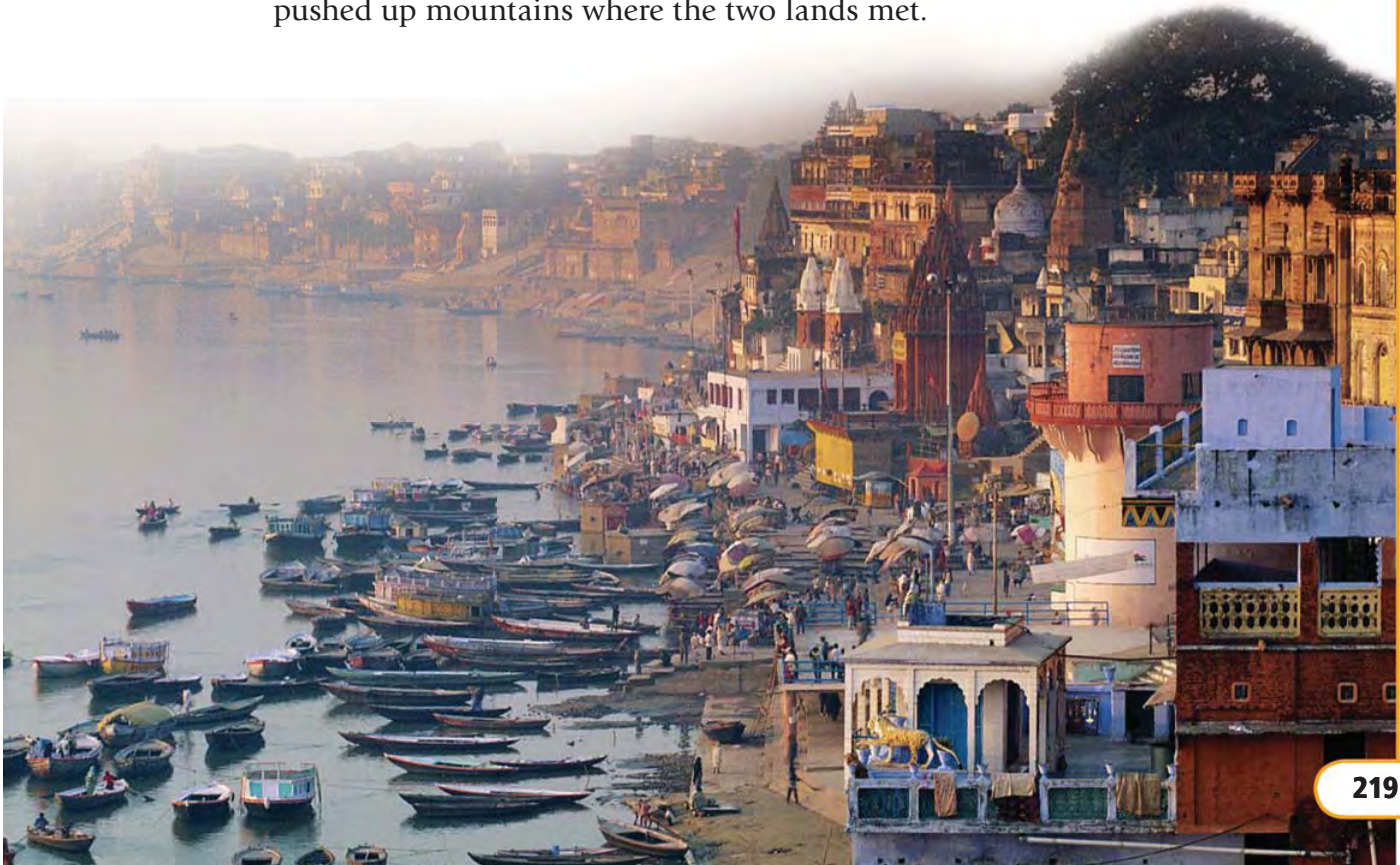
Build on What You Know Have you ever visited a part of the United States with a different climate? Some regions of the country receive much more rainfall than other regions do. As you are about to learn, India has two distinct seasons: a rainy season and a dry season.

Physical Geography of India

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How do mountains and seasonal winds shape the climate of India?

India is a **subcontinent**, which is a large landmass that is like a continent, only smaller. The subcontinent includes present-day Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and most of Pakistan. It is often referred to as South Asia. Geographers think the kite-shaped Indian subcontinent used to be a separate land. It inched north until it hit Asia. The collision pushed up mountains where the two lands met.

Ganges River The Ganges is one of the major rivers of India. Most Indians consider it holy. As the photograph shows, the banks of the Ganges today are heavily populated. ▼



Mountains and Waterways Those high mountains tower over the northern borders of India. They form several mountain ranges, including the **Hindu Kush** (HIHN•doo kush) and the **Himalayas** (HIHM•uh•LAY•uhs).

In addition to tall mountains, the subcontinent has several great rivers. These include the Ganges (GAN•JEEZ) and the Indus. Like other rivers you have studied, these two rivers carry water for irrigation. The silt they deposit makes the land fertile. The Indus River valley was the home of the first Indian civilization. In ancient times, another river called the Saraswati (suh•RUHS•wuh•tee) ran parallel to the Indus. The Saraswati area was also home to great cities. However, it dried up, perhaps because of an earthquake. (See Starting with a Story on pages 216–217.)

The Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, and Bay of Bengal surround India. Ancient Indians sailed these waters to other ancient lands, such as Mesopotamia. This travel helped encourage trade.

Climate The tall mountains help block cold north winds from reaching much of India. As a result, temperatures are generally warm there. In addition, seasonal winds called **monsoons** shape India's climate. Because of the monsoon, India has a dry season in the winter and a rainy season

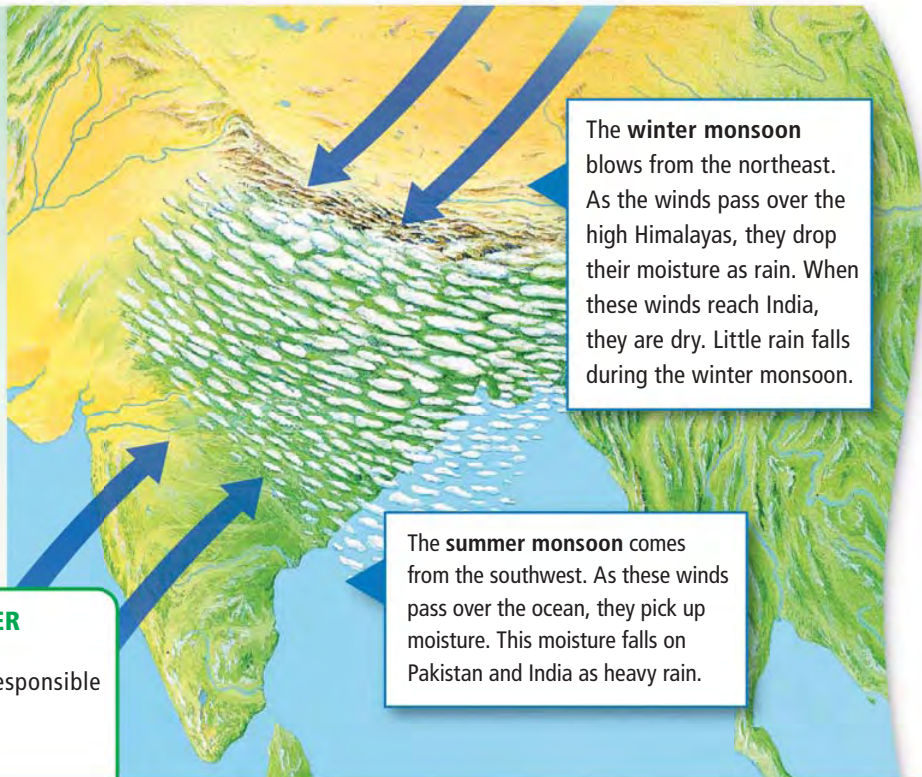
Vocabulary Strategy

The word *monsoon* is also sometimes used as a **synonym** for the summer rainy season.

Geography

Monsoons

A monsoon is a seasonal wind. India and Pakistan have two main monsoons: a summer monsoon and a winter monsoon.



The **winter monsoon** blows from the northeast. As the winds pass over the high Himalayas, they drop their moisture as rain. When these winds reach India, they are dry. Little rain falls during the winter monsoon.

The **summer monsoon** comes from the southwest. As these winds pass over the ocean, they pick up moisture. This moisture falls on Pakistan and India as heavy rain.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

INTERPRETING VISUALS

Region Which monsoon is responsible for causing a rainy season?

in the summer. The summer monsoon provides rain for India's crops. But these rains can also cause severe floods.

REVIEW How do India's rivers and climate affect agriculture?

Cities in the Indus Valley

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Why was the earliest Indian civilization located near the Indus River?

Huge earth mounds dot the Indus Valley. Near them, people found burnt bricks and tiny stone seals covered with a mysterious writing. These finds caused further exploration of the mounds. Archaeologists uncovered the ruins of an ancient civilization.

Early Inhabitants History in the Indus River valley followed the same pattern as in Sumer and Egypt. As in other regions, civilization along the Indus River began with agriculture. The earliest farmers raised wheat and barley. By 3000 B.C., they were growing cotton and making it into fabric—the first people in Asia to do so. They domesticated cattle, sheep, goats, and chickens. They also learned how to make copper and bronze tools, which were more effective than stone tools.

People in the villages traded with one another. Over time, the Indus Valley people began to trade with people from farther away. The wealth they gained from trade helped them to develop a more complex culture.

Great Cities By 2500 B.C., some villages had grown to be great cities. The Indus and Saraswati valleys contained hundreds of cities. At least 35,000 people may have lived in the largest and best-known cities, Mohenjo-Daro (moh•HEHN•joh•DAHR•oh) and Harappa (huh•RAP•uh). Harappa gave its name to the entire Indus River culture. Today that ancient culture is called **Harappan civilization**.

This civilization featured **planned cities**, which were cities that were built according to a design. Architects surrounded these cities with heavy brick protective walls. City streets crossed each other in a neat grid with square corners. Along the streets were homes, shops, and factories. The cities also had large public buildings that may have been used for religious or government functions.



▲ Indus Valley Seal
This seal clearly shows an elephant, but scholars don't know why. No one has figured out how to read the pictographs above the animal.

Dealing with Problems People in large cities always have to deal with the problem of removing human waste. Harappan cities were very advanced in that area. Almost every house contained a bathroom and a toilet. Underground sewers carried away the waste.

People need to use much planning and organization to build such complex cities. Because of that, historians believe the ancient Harappans must have had powerful leaders. We do not know if priests or kings or a combination of both ruled the Harappans, but their government must have been strong.

REVIEW How was Harappan civilization similar to other ancient civilizations?

Harappan Culture

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What were the cultural features of Harappan civilization?

A mysterious form of writing covered the stone seals that people found in the ruined cities. Some of those seals may have indicated types of trade goods.

Some scholars think that the 500 pictographs, or picture signs, of Harappan writing may stand for words, sounds, or both. But they don't really know. No one has figured out how to read the writing of Harappan civilization. Until someone learns to read it, the only way we can learn about the civilization is by studying artifacts.

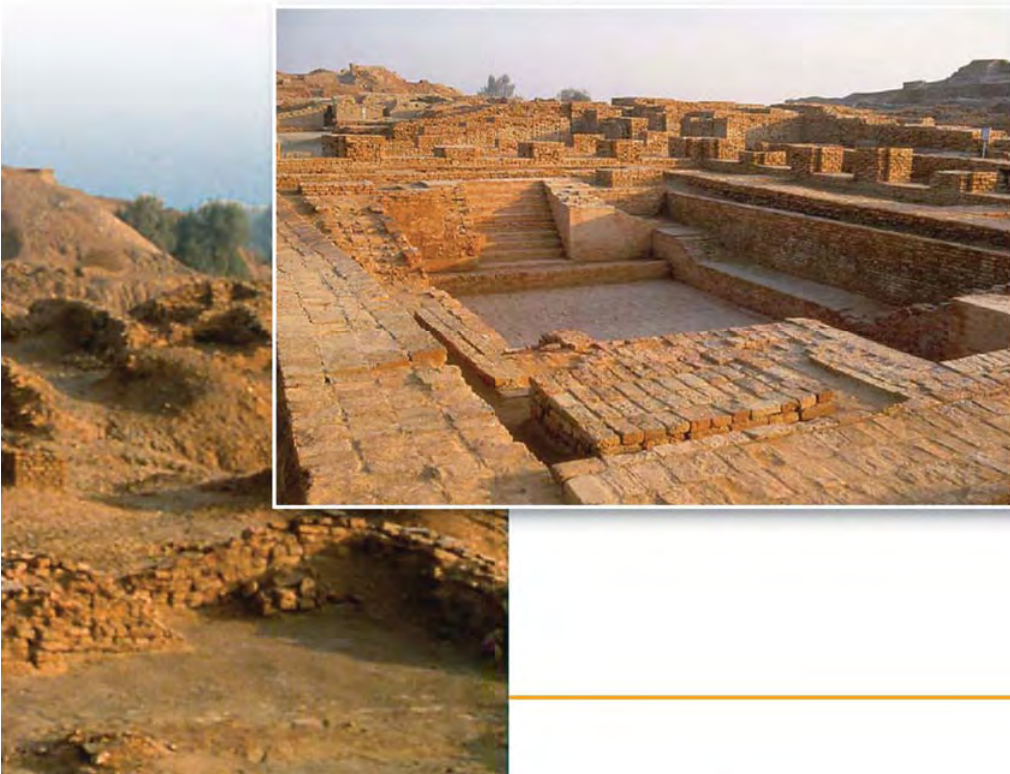


Harappan Religion Archaeologists have not identified the site of any temples for specific gods. But they have found evidence of religion. Mohenjo-Daro had a huge public bath that may have been used for religious rituals. (Many religions have rituals linked to cleansing. For example, Christian baptism stands for the act of washing away sin.) Archaeologists have found figures of animals, such as bulls, that Indians still regard as holy. They also found clay figurines that may be goddesses or simply dolls.

A Widespread and Prosperous Culture People across a wide region shared Harappan culture. Harappan cities spread across an area that was about 500,000 square miles in size. That region was nearly twice as big as Texas is today. Even so, these cities shared a common design. Those shared designs show how widely the culture had spread.

Harappan people used standard weights and measures. Across the region, they made similar bronze statues and clay toys. These artifacts show that the Harappans could afford to have more than just basic necessities. This was because they gained wealth from agriculture and trade. Archaeologists have found seals from the Indus Valley as far away as Mesopotamia. Indians traded timber, ivory, and beads. Mesopotamians sold the Indians silver, tin, and woolen cloth.

Mohenjo-Daro The ruins of the ancient city show how carefully planned it was. The streets were at right angles, and the walls were well built. The smaller photograph is the Great Bath, which was probably a public bathhouse. ▼



▲ Pot This pot was found in the cemetery in the city of Harappa.

Challenges to Harappan Life Around 2000 to 1500 B.C., earthquakes shook the region. These quakes probably caused the Saraswati River to dry up. The same natural disaster may have caused the Indus River to flood. The problems forced people to leave their cities. Harappan civilization went into decline. As you will read in Lesson 2, another group of people soon took the place of Harappan civilization.

REVIEW How is the Harappan writing similar to hieroglyphs?

Lesson Summary

- The rivers of India and the seasonal monsoons helped make agriculture possible.
- Agricultural wealth led to the rise of a complex civilization in the Indus Valley.
- The prosperous Harappan culture lasted for about 800 years.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Ancient Indians developed products that are still important today. They were the first people to domesticate chickens and the first Asians to produce cotton cloth.



▲ **Copper Tools**
Farmers used these tools for tasks such as weeding and leveling soil.

1 Lesson Review

Terms & Names

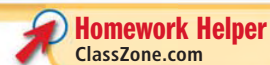
1. Explain the importance of
subcontinent Himalayas Harappan civilization
Hindu Kush monsoon planned city

Using Your Notes

Making Generalizations Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. What are advantages and disadvantages of having monsoons?

Geography and Indian Life	
Physical geography of India	
Cities in the Indus Valley	
Harappan culture	



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Main Ideas

3. What evidence showed archaeologists that an ancient civilization had existed in the Indus Valley?
4. What economic activities allowed Harappan civilization to begin along the Indus and Saraswati rivers?
5. What evidence suggested that Harappan civilization was prosperous?

Critical Thinking

6. **Framing Historical Questions** What questions do you still have about Harappan culture?
7. **Understanding Cause and Effect** What are two positive and two negative effects of India's great rivers?

Activity

Doing a Dig Find a toy, tool, or object in your house or classroom. Study it and describe it as if you were an archaeologist. List five things that it tells you about its owner.

Activity

Extend Lesson 1

Make a Climate Graph

Goal: To learn about the physical setting that supported the Harappan civilization by creating a bar graph showing average monthly rainfall

Prepare

- 1 Look at examples of bar graphs in your textbooks. Notice how such graphs are constructed. Learn the meaning of the terms *vertical axis* and *horizontal axis*.
- 2 Study the chart at right of average monthly rainfall in Islamabad, Pakistan—a city located near the site of ancient Harappa.

Do the Activity

- 1 On a piece of graph paper, draw the horizontal axis and the vertical axis. On the vertical axis, mark 11 one-inch measurements up the side and label them.
- 2 Below the horizontal axis, write the names of all 12 months. You may abbreviate the names. Space them evenly.
- 3 For each month, draw a bar whose height indicates the average amount of rainfall.

Follow-Up

As you learned in Lesson 1, the summer monsoon blows over the Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea and brings rain to the Indian subcontinent. Look at your graph. In what months does the summer monsoon occur? Would ancient farmers have wanted to plant before or after the summer monsoon? Explain.

Extension

Creating a Line Graph Use almanacs or the Internet to research the average monthly temperatures in Islamabad. Create a line graph to convey this information.

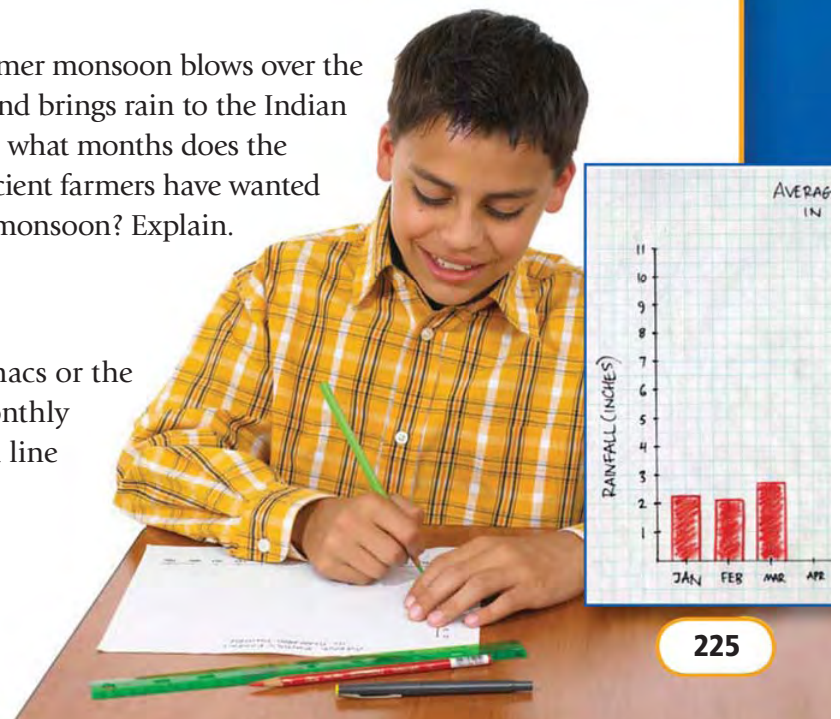
Materials & Supplies

- graph paper
- colored markers, pencils, or pens
- ruler

Average Monthly Rainfall in Islamabad, Pakistan

Month	Rainfall (inches)
Jan.	2.3
Feb.	2.1
Mar.	2.7
Apr.	2.1
May	1.6
June	1.2
July	10.1
Aug.	9.9
Sep.	3.8
Oct.	1.0
Nov.	0.7
Dec.	1.6

Source: www.worldclimate.com



MAIN IDEAS

- 1 **Culture** A group of nomadic people moved into India and took over what was left of Harappan civilization.
- 2 **Government** Under Aryan rule, Indian society developed a distinct system of social classes that still affects India today.
- 3 **Belief Systems** Over time, the belief of the Aryans developed into the religion of Hinduism.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Summarizing

To summarize is to restate a passage in fewer words. After you read Lesson 2, write a paragraph summarizing each of the three main sections. Use a chart like the one below to record your summaries.

The Origins of Hinduism
The Aryans migrated ...
Aryan culture changed India by ...
The main characteristics of Hinduism are ...

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R3



▲ Shiva One of the most important deities of Hinduism is Shiva, the destroyer. This statue shows him dancing on the demon of ignorance.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

dialect a variety of a language spoken in a region or by a group (page 227)

The Aryans spoke a dialect of Indo-European.

chariot a cart with two wheels that is pulled by horses (page 227)

After the battle, they saw horses pulling chariots that no longer carried riders.

doctrine a principle or belief that a religion considers to be true (page 230)

A doctrine that is held by one religion may not be held by another.

The Origins of Hinduism

TERMS & NAMES

Aryan
caste
Brahmanism
Hinduism
reincarnation
karma

Build on What You Know In Chapter 5, you learned how Egypt battled the Hittites. The Hittites belonged to a group of peoples who all spoke dialects of a language called Indo-European. Scholars believe that the Indo-Europeans may have originally come from Central Asia.

Aryans Move Into India

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Who were the Aryans?

Most Indo-Europeans were nomads. They lived in family groups or clans and herded cattle, sheep, and goats. They also were warriors who rode horse-driven chariots. They fought with long bows and arrows and with bronze axes.

The Indo-European Migrations Around 2000 B.C., something drove the Indo-Europeans from their homeland. Historians do not know if a drought, a plague, or an invasion made them leave. Different groups moved to different regions. The Hittites went to Southwest Asia. Many other Indo-Europeans settled in parts of Europe.

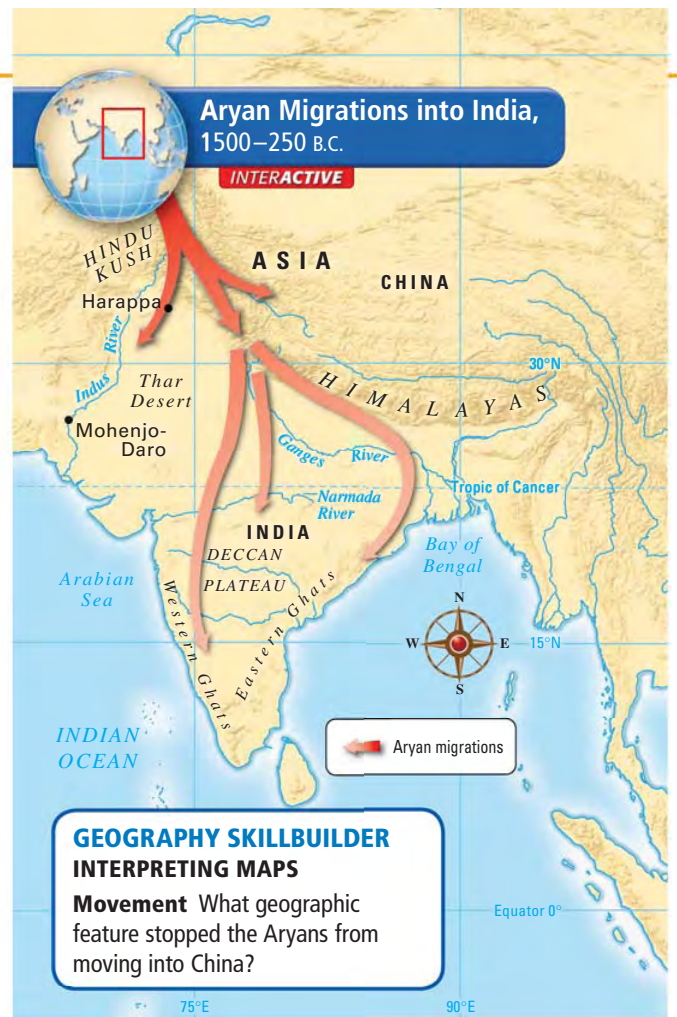
Hindu Kush This mountain range runs along the northwest border of the Indian subcontinent. The Aryan people crossed these mountains to enter India. ▼



The Aryan Migrations In about 1500 B.C., the **Aryans** (AIR•ee•uhnz) traveled east into India. According to some historians, the Aryans belonged to the larger Indo-European group. In contrast to the city-dwelling Harappans, the Aryans were herders. They lived in simple houses. They spoke an Indo-European language called Sanskrit.

Did Aryan warriors in chariots conquer the walled cities and force the Harappans to flee south? For years, history books told that story. But new research suggests a different tale. Two hundred years before the Aryans arrived, the largest Harappan cities lay in ruins. As Lesson 1 explained, this destruction may have been the result of earthquakes and floods.

REVIEW Who were the Aryans, and where did they come from?



Changes to Indian Life

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How was Aryan society organized?

The Aryans entered India gradually. They practiced a mysterious religion that appealed to many Dravidians—the people living in India when they arrived. As a result, Aryan religion and language spread. In turn, the Dravidians taught the Aryans about city life. Because of these interactions, India developed a complex, blended culture.

The Caste System Aryan society was organized into classes: warriors, priests, and commoners. As Indian society grew more complex, these classes developed into what was later called the caste system. A **caste** is a social class whose members are identified by their job. Because there are thousands of different jobs, thousands of groups exist. Broadly, those groups are organized into four categories. (See the chart on the next page.)

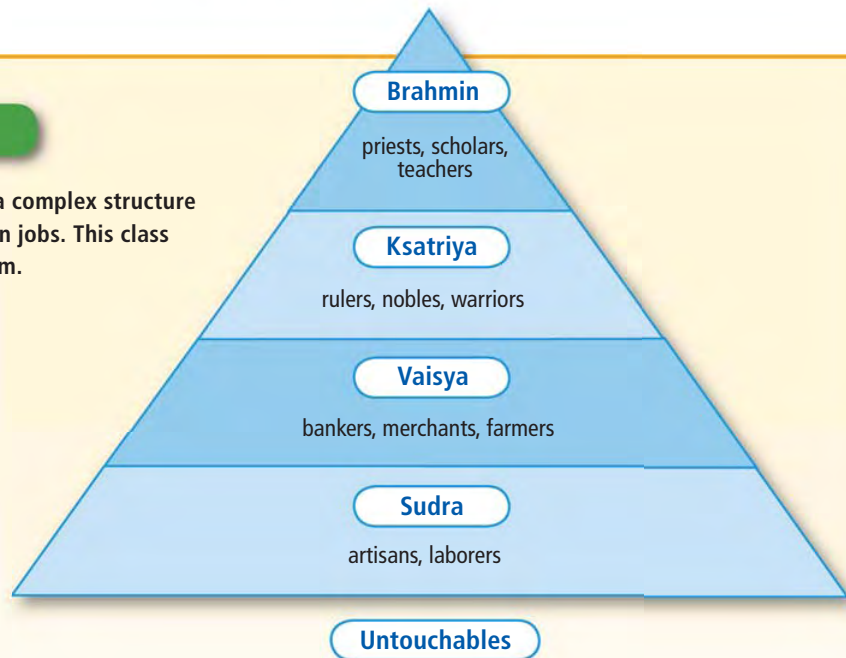
After many centuries, another group came into being that was considered below all other groups. This group was called the untouchables. They had to do the jobs no one else wanted.

The Caste System

Indian society divided itself into a complex structure of social classes based partially on jobs. This class structure is called the caste system.



▲ Sweeper **This sweeper did not choose his job. In traditional India, jobs were passed down from father to son.**



Untouchables were considered outside the system and below it. They did jobs no one else wanted, such as being sweepers and disposers of dead bodies.

Aryan Beliefs and Brahmanism The early religion of the Aryans is now called **Brahmanism**, after the name of the Aryan priests, or Brahmins. The Aryans worshiped many nature deities. The Brahmins made sacrifices to those deities by offering animals to a sacred fire. Over time, the ceremonies became more and more complex. Some lasted for days—or even months. The rituals of the Aryan religion and many hymns to their deities are found in ancient Sanskrit sacred texts called the Vedas.

As time passed, Indians began to question how the world came into being. These questions led to changes in contemporary religious ideas. One change was a belief that one spirit governed the universe.

Later, Indians wrote about their ancient history in such works as the *Mahabharata* (MAH•huh•BAH•ruh•tuh)—an epic poem that retells many legends. The *Bhagavad Gita* (BAH•guh•vahd GEE•tuh) is part of the *Mahabharata*. (See the Primary Source on page 230.)

P Primary Source Handbook

See the excerpt from the *Bhagavad Gita*, page R41.

REVIEW What is the caste system?

Hinduism: The Religion of India

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the religion of Hinduism develop?

The *Bhagavad Gita* is an important sacred text of Hinduism. **Hinduism** is the modern name for the major religion of India, which grew out of early Brahmanism.

Primary Source

Background: The *Bhagavad Gita* tells about a warrior, Prince Arjuna. A great war is about to begin. When he looks at the enemy army, Arjuna sees many friends and relatives. He does not want to fight.

With Arjuna is his chariot driver, Krishna. In reality, Krishna (shown at right) is the deity Vishnu in human form. In this excerpt, Krishna tells Arjuna that he must do his duty.

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

What arguments does Krishna use to convince Arjuna that the outcome of the battle is not important?

from the *Bhagavad Gita*

Translated by Ranchor Prime

Do not hesitate in your sacred duty as a warrior.

For a soldier nothing is more sacred than the fight for a just cause. . . .

If you do not take up this just fight, you will fail in your duty and your honor will be lost. . . .

If you die in battle you will enter heaven.

If you win you will enjoy the earth.

Therefore rise and fight with determination.

Fight for the sake of fighting.

Look equally on happiness and distress, gain and loss, victory and defeat.

In this way you will not incur sin.



Many Deities Hindus worship many deities. Although they believe in many deities, Hindus also recognize one supreme God or life force. Hindus consider the other deities to be parts of the one universal God. The three most important of the other deities are Brahma, the creator; Vishnu, the protector; and Shiva, the destroyer. (Shiva destroys the world so that it can be created anew.) Shiva's wife, Kali, also has many worshipers.

Many Lives Hindus believe in **reincarnation**, which means that each person has many lives. What a person does in each life determines what he or she will be in the next life, according to a doctrine called **karma**. Deeds (good or evil) cause a person to be reborn in a higher or lower life form. (Hindus believe that animals, like humans, have the supreme life force in them. For that reason, many Hindus are vegetarians. They will not eat animals.)

Reincarnation creates a repeating cycle of birth, life, death, and rebirth. The cycle ends only when a person achieves a mystical union with God. To achieve that, a person must come to realize that his or her soul and God's soul are one.

Vocabulary Strategy

The word *reincarnation* uses the **prefix re-**, which means "again," and the **root carn**, which means "flesh." Therefore, reincarnation means that the soul takes on another body.

Many Paths to God Hindus believe they connect with God by following their own individual path. Part of that path concerns one's job, which is linked to the caste system. Devout Hindus must faithfully carry out their assigned duties in life.

Hindus have a choice of spiritual practices to grow closer to God. Two of these are also popular in Western countries. Meditation is the practice of making the mind calm. Yoga is a complex practice that includes exercise, breathing techniques, and diet.

REVIEW How can Hindus believe in one God and many different deities at the same time?

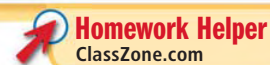
Lesson Summary

- After Harappan civilization declined, Aryan people brought their culture to India.
- Aryan society developed a class structure that was based on jobs and is called the caste system.
- Hindus worship many deities. They believe in reincarnation and karma.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Hinduism ranks third among world religions in the number of followers (after Christianity and Islam).

2 Lesson Review



Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
Aryan Brahmanism reincarnation
caste Hinduism karma

Using Your Notes

Summarizing Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. How did Hinduism grow out of the beliefs of Brahmanism?

The Origins of Hinduism
The Aryans migrated . . .
Aryan culture changed India by . . .
The main characteristics of Hinduism are . . .

Main Ideas

3. How did the Aryan culture differ from Harappan culture?
4. What was the social structure of the Aryan caste system?
5. How does karma relate to reincarnation?

Critical Thinking

6. **Recognizing Changing Interpretations** What changed the long-held theory that Aryans drove out the Harappan people?
7. **Drawing Conclusions from Sources** What values of a warrior culture does the passage from the *Bhagavad Gita* express?

Activity

Internet Activity Use the Internet to learn about Hindu customs concerning one of these topics: the Ganges River, cows, funerals, diet. Present your findings to the class in an oral presentation.

INTERNET KEYWORDS: *Hinduism, Ganges*

Lesson 3



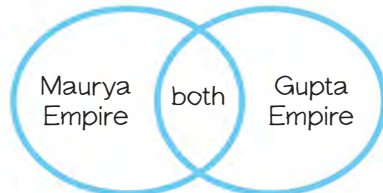
MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Belief Systems** A teacher called the Buddha developed a new religion that focused on helping people to escape suffering.
- 2 Government** The Maurya rulers united northern India into the first great Indian empire.
- 3 Culture** About 500 years after Asoka's death, a new ruler united northern India and began a golden age of culture.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Comparing and Contrasting

To compare and contrast is to look for similarities and differences. As you read Lesson 3, compare and contrast the Maurya and Gupta empires. Record your notes on a Venn diagram like the one below.



 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R4



▲ **Lion** The king Asoka adopted many Buddhist principles. He had his laws and policies carved on pillars in public places. The capitals, or tops, of the pillars were decorated with sculpture.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

enlightened having spiritual knowledge or understanding (page 233)

The religious leader's most devoted followers said he was enlightened and pure.

spy a secret agent who obtains information about an enemy (page 235)

The king used information he received from his spies to punish or eliminate his foes.

flourish to do well; to prosper (page 238)

The arts of India flourished during the rule of Chandra Gupta II.

estimate to guess; to calculate roughly (page 238)

She estimated the size of the circle by using a mathematical formula.

Buddhism and India's Golden Age

TERMS & NAMES

ahimsa

Buddhism

Siddhartha Gautama

nirvana

dharma

Asoka

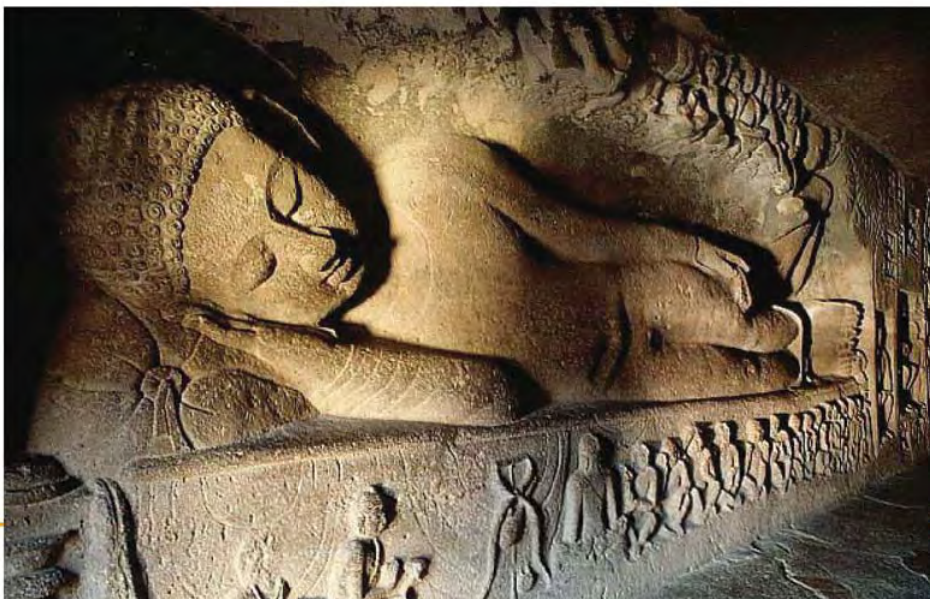
Build on What You Know As you know, Hinduism is the modern name for the major religion that is practiced in India. Other religions also had their beginnings in India. One of these is the religion of Jainism. Jains teach **ahimsa** (uh•HIHM•SAH), which means “nonviolence.” Jains practice *ahimsa* very strictly. They believe that every living thing has a soul and should not be hurt. Some Jains even wear masks to avoid accidentally breathing in small insects.

The Rise of Buddhism

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION What are the main teachings of the religion of Buddhism?

Another religion called Buddhism also began in India.

Buddhism is based on the teachings of **Siddhartha Gautama** (sihd•DAHR•tuh GAW•tuh•muh). He was a prince who gave up his wealth and position to try to understand the meaning of life. Later, when he began to teach what he had learned, he was called the Buddha, or enlightened one.



◀ Resting Buddha
This carving of a sleeping Buddha is in the Ajanta Caves in India.

History Makers

Siddhartha Gautama (c. 563 to 483 B.C.)

According to Buddhist teaching, as Siddhartha Gautama sat meditating, an evil spirit tempted him to stop seeking truth. First the spirit sent beautiful women, but Siddhartha ignored them. Then flaming rocks began to rain down on him. But as they drew close to Siddhartha, they became flower petals. Finally, the evil spirit asked what right Siddhartha had to look for truth. Siddhartha touched the ground, and a voice thundered, "I bear you witness"—which means to testify in one's favor.

That night Siddhartha's meditation grew even deeper, and he received his great insights. He had become the Buddha. The evil spirit decided to tempt him one last time. "No one will understand your deep truths," the spirit taunted.

The Buddha simply answered, "Some will understand."



The Buddha's Life and Teachings Siddhartha was born a Hindu prince. A priest had predicted that he would become a wandering holy man. To prevent this, Siddhartha's father gave his son every luxury and sheltered him. Siddhartha did not see old age, illness, death, or poverty until he was 29. When he finally did see such troubles, they upset him. He fled his home to search for peace in a world of suffering.

For six years, Siddhartha starved himself, but this sacrifice did not help him find the answers he sought. Then he sat under a fig tree and meditated until he found understanding. This gave him insights into reality, which he called the Four Noble Truths.

1. People suffer because their minds are not at ease.
2. That condition comes from wanting what one doesn't have or from wanting life to be different.
3. People can stop suffering by not wanting.
4. People can stop wanting by following the Eightfold Path.

The Eightfold Path involved having the right opinions, desires, speech, actions, job, effort, concentration, and meditation. This path, the Buddha taught, could lead to **nirvana** (neer•VAH•nuh), or the end of suffering. Reaching nirvana broke the cycle of reincarnation that Buddhists, as well as Hindus, believed in.

The Buddha believed in the practice of *ahimsa*. But he didn't worship Hindu deities. He also rejected the idea that people in the upper castes were holier than others.

Buddhism Changes After the Buddha died, his followers gathered his teachings to pass on to others. These collected teachings are called the **dharmā** (DAHR•muh), which means the true nature of things. Dharma is often shown symbolically as a wheel.

Monks and nuns—men and women who live in religious communities—helped develop the formal religion of Buddhism. Other Buddhists became wandering holy men and tried to live as the Buddha had.

Over time, Buddhism split into many branches. Some branches stressed the importance of being a monk and studying the Buddha's life. Others stressed meditation. Some Buddhists taught that ordinary people could become Buddhas. Such holy people could work to save others through acts of mercy and love. Most Buddhists worshiped the Buddha as a divine being.

REVIEW How could a Buddhist achieve an end to suffering?

The Maurya Empire

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the Maurya rulers unite northern India into the first great Indian empire?

One reason Buddhism became so influential is that a famous Indian king ruled by its teachings. As you will read, he was the third king of the Maurya dynasty, which united India.

A United India For centuries, separate Aryan kingdoms battled each other. Around 550 B.C., Magadha (MAH•guh•duh), a northeastern kingdom, began to gain strength. About 321 B.C., Chandragupta Maurya (CHUHN•druh•GUP•tuh MOWR•yuh) became king of Magadha. He conquered much territory. His Maurya Empire soon covered much of the subcontinent.

Chandragupta controlled his empire by using spies to learn what people did and an army of soldiers to keep order. Many officials ran the government. To pay these people, Chandragupta taxed land and crops heavily. Surprisingly, legend says that he became a nonviolent Jainist monk at the end of his life.



Connect to Today

▲ **Indian Flag** In the center of the flag of modern India is a Buddhist symbol—the wheel of dharma.

Asoka, the Buddhist King The greatest Maurya king was Chandragupta's grandson **Asoka** (uh•SOH•kuh), who began to rule in 269 B.C. Early in Asoka's reign, he fought a bloody war and conquered a neighboring kingdom. Afterwards, Asoka decided to rule by Buddhist teachings. He gave up constant warfare. He tried to rule peacefully by law instead.

Asoka had his policies carved on rocks and pillars. Rocks that survive from his reign advise people to be truthful and kind. Others urge people not to kill living things.

As a result of Asoka's patronage, Buddhism attracted people to its monastic order. Asoka and the Buddhist rulers that followed him sent missionaries to bring new converts to Buddhism. At the same time, he let people of other religions worship freely. Asoka's officials planted trees, dug wells, set up hospitals, and built rest houses along main roads. These improvements allowed people to travel in more comfort than before. Better travel conditions helped traders and officials.

Changes to Hinduism The popularity of Buddhism meant that fewer people were worshiping Hindu deities. Early Hinduism had a set of complex sacrifices that only priests could perform. They conducted the rites in Sanskrit, which few people spoke anymore. This caused people to feel distant from the deities. Many people turned to Buddhism instead. Rulers who had come under the influence of Buddhism encouraged this shift.

Hindu thought began to change. Poets began to write hymns of praise to the deities Vishnu and Shiva. These poems were written in languages that common people spoke, instead of in Sanskrit.

The poems became popular across India. As a result, many Indians felt a renewed love for their Hindu deities. This renewal of interest in Hinduism occurred at the same time as a decline in Buddhism. Eventually, Buddhism lost most of its followers in India. By that time, however, it had spread to many other countries in Asia.

REVIEW What were some of Asoka's accomplishments?

Vishnu The deity Vishnu remains one of the most popular deities in India. This Indian miniature dates from the 1700s. ▼



The Golden Age of the Guptas

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION Who were the Guptas, and when did they rule India?

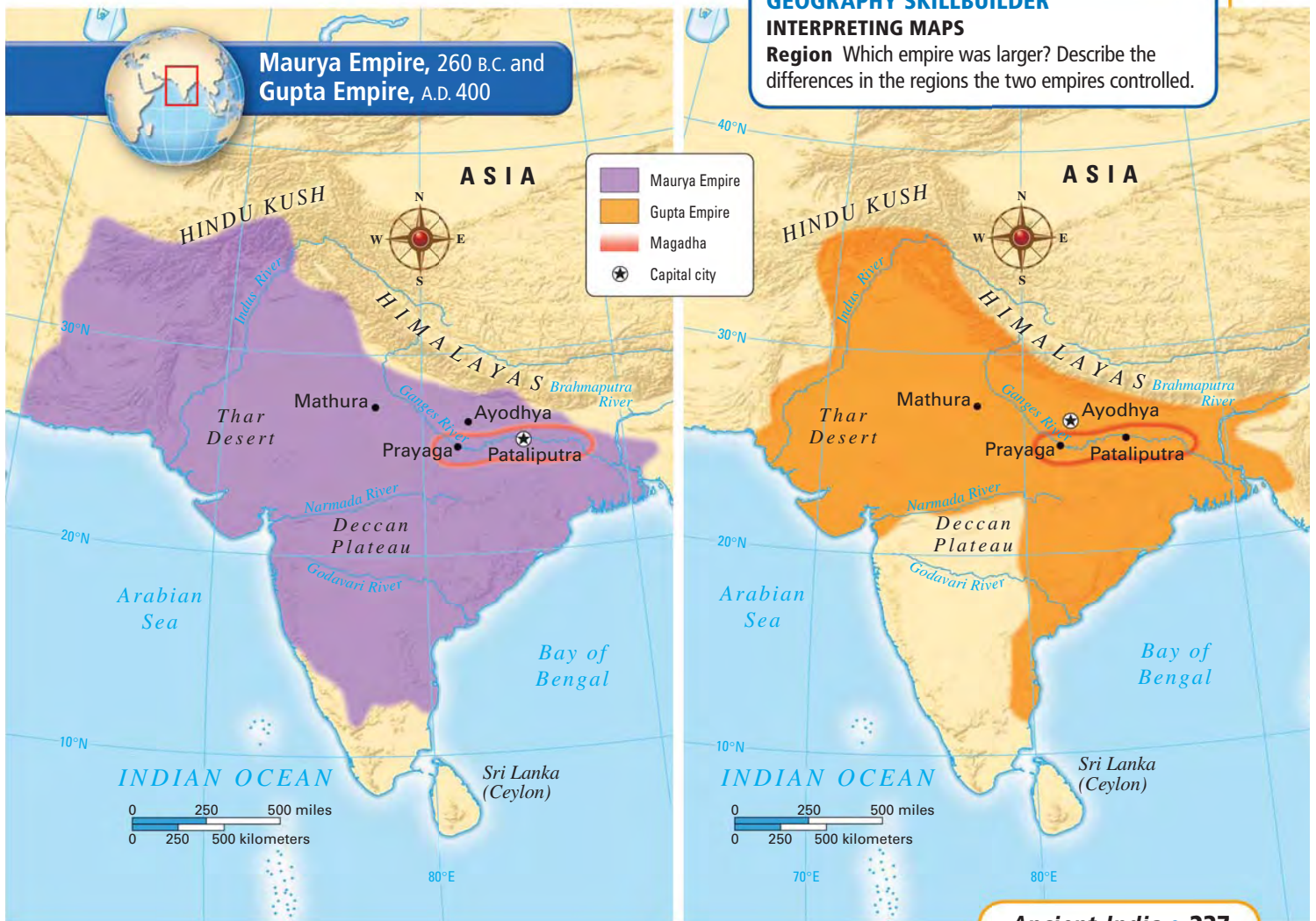
The Maurya Empire collapsed shortly after Asoka died because of poor rule and invasions. Five centuries of conflict followed until the Gupta (GUP•tuh) family took control.

The Gupta Empire Like the Mauryas, the Guptas began as leaders in Magadha. Chandra Gupta I became king in A.D. 320. (He was not related to Chandragupta Maurya.) Right away, he married a king's daughter and gained new lands. Later, his son enlarged the empire by fighting wars. But Chandra Gupta's grandson, Chandra Gupta II, was the greatest ruler of the family. During his reign (A.D. 375 to 415), India had a golden age—a time of great accomplishment.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

INTERPRETING MAPS

Region Which empire was larger? Describe the differences in the regions the two empires controlled.



Art and Literature Under Chandra Gupta II, Indian arts flourished. Architects erected gracefully designed temples. Artists painted murals and sculpted statues, many of which had religious subjects.

Kalidasa (**KAH•lee•DAH•suh**) wrote brilliant Sanskrit plays and poems. His most famous play is about a young woman named Sakuntala (**SAH•koon•TAH•lah**). The king falls in love with her and promises to marry her. Later he forgets her because of a curse laid on him. The couple are reunited in heaven. Today Kalidasa is considered one of the greatest writers India ever had.

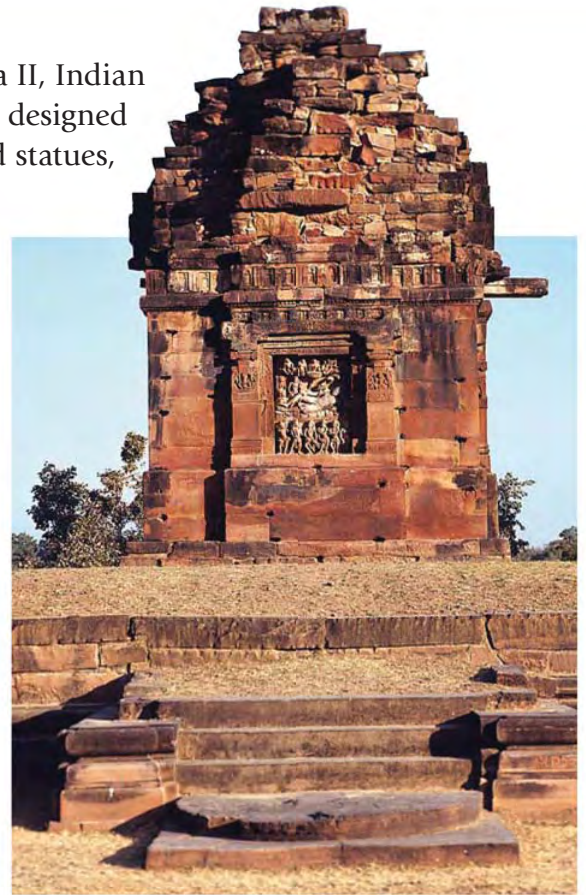
Mathematics, Science, and Metallurgy Indian scholars invented the numeral system we use today. They developed the decimal system and the symbol for zero. (The Maya of Central America also came up with the idea of zero independently.)

One mathematician figured out the length of a year. He also estimated the value of pi. Pi is the number that is used to calculate the length of a circle's boundary.

Doctors added new techniques to the ancient practice of Ayurvedic (**EYE•yuhr•VAY•dihk**) medicine. It is one of the oldest systems of medicine in the world. It promotes health by using diet, exercise, and other methods to maintain energy in the body.

Indian artisans developed advanced methods of metallurgy (metal working). In Delhi, an iron pillar erected about A.D. 400 towers almost 23 feet over the city. No other people were able to manufacture such a large piece of iron until at least 1,000 years later. Unlike most iron, the pillar has resisted rust for 16 centuries. One possible explanation is that the iron pillar contains more phosphorous than most iron does. As a result, a protective coating formed on the surface.

Trade Spreads Indian Culture Gupta India profited from foreign trade. Traders sold Indian goods such as cotton and ivory to foreign merchants. Indian merchants bought Chinese



▲ Vishnu Temple During the Gupta period, Hindu temples began to be built with pyramid-shaped roofs. This architectural style remained very influential. (See the photograph of Angkor Wat on page 241.)

goods such as silk. They resold these goods to traders who were traveling west.

Both traders and missionaries spread Indian culture and beliefs. Hinduism spread to parts of Southeast Asia. Buddhism gradually spread to Central Asia, Sri Lanka (formerly called Ceylon), China, and Southeast Asia.

REVIEW Why was the period of Gupta rule a golden age for India?

Lesson Summary

- A new religion called Buddhism taught people to escape suffering by following a path of right living.
- Influenced by Buddhism, King Asoka tried to rule with peace, law, and good works.
- Under Gupta rule, India had a golden age. The arts, science, metallurgy, and trade prospered.

Why It Matters Now . . .

The spread of Hinduism and Buddhism shaped Asian cultures. Many Asian people still practice those religions today.



▲ **Iron Pillar** This pillar from the Gupta period stands more than 20 feet high and weighs about 1,300 pounds.

3 Lesson Review

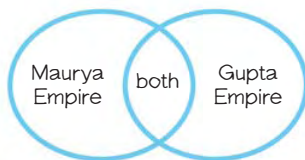
Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of
ahimsa Siddhartha Gautama dharma
Buddhism nirvana Asoka

Using Your Notes

Comparing and Contrasting Use your completed Venn diagram to answer the following question:

2. How were the Maurya and Gupta empires of India alike?



Activity

Writing Rules With a group of your friends, agree on three or four basic rules for social conduct. Print your rules on a poster and display it in the classroom.



Homework Helper
ClassZone.com

Main Ideas

3. The Buddha's Eightfold Path stressed right behavior in eight areas. What were they?
4. How did Buddhism influence Asoka as a ruler?
5. What were the important achievements in Indian literature?

Critical Thinking

6. **Comparing** Was Hinduism or Buddhism more similar to ancient Egyptian religion? Why?
7. **Assessing Credibility of Primary Sources** If historians found an engraved rock pillar from Asoka's time, would that be a primary source or a secondary source? Explain.

Lesson

4

MAIN IDEAS

- 1 Belief Systems** Hinduism and Buddhism are practiced in countries besides India and have also influenced people of other faiths.
- 2 Culture** The artistic styles of ancient India influenced other cultures and continue to be used today.
- 3 Culture** The decimal system, numerals, and the concept of the zero transformed the ability to do mathematical calculations.

TAKING NOTES

Reading Skill: Categorizing To categorize means to sort information. As you read Lesson 4, take notes about the legacy of India. Use a chart like this one to categorize your information.

Legacy of India		
Religion	Arts	Mathematics

 Skillbuilder Handbook, page R6



▲ **Mohandas Gandhi** In the early 20th century, Britain ruled India as a colony. Gandhi was one of the men who led the fight against foreign rule, but he practiced *ahimsa* while doing so. He took part only in nonviolent protests.

Words to Know

Understanding the following words will help you read this lesson:

practice to follow the teachings of a religion (page 241)

About 1 million Americans practice Hinduism.

translate to express in a different language (page 242)

More than one writer has translated the Bhagavad Gita into English.

place the position of a numeral (page 243)

In the number 761, a 6 is in the tens place.

The Legacy of India

Build on What You Know In ancient times, trade spread Indian religion and art to other parts of Asia. Indian culture continues to influence our modern world today.

India's Religious Legacy

1 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How did the religions of India affect other cultures?

Yoga is as old as the *Bhagavad Gita* and as new as the yoga classes taught in health clubs. Its popularity shows that the ancient religious traditions of India are still very much alive.

Hinduism and Buddhism Today Four out of five people living in India today are Hindus. Hindus also live in Nepal, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, and many other countries. Also, about 1 million people in the United States practice Hinduism.

Buddhism did not remain strong in India. Not even 1 percent of Indians today are Buddhists. But the religion is popular in Asia, Western Europe, and the United States.

Angkor Wat [The Hindu temples at Angkor Wat in Cambodia show how Hinduism and Indian artistic styles spread to Southeast Asia.](#) ▼



Hindu and Buddhist Influences In the mid-1900s, Indian leader **Mohandas Gandhi** (MOH•huhn•DAHS GAHN•dee) used *ahimsa* (nonviolence) in his fight against British rule. His life inspired U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. In the 1950s and 1960s, King led nonviolent protests to gain rights for African Americans.

Today Hindu and Buddhist influences continue. For example, millions of people from other religions meditate and practice yoga.

REVIEW Which of India's original religions remains most popular in India?

India's Artistic Legacy

2 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How have the Indian arts influenced other cultures?

The arts of India have strongly influenced the world. For example, in many Southeast Asian nations, people perform plays based on the ancient Sanskrit epic the *Mahabharata*. The *Bhagavad Gita* has been translated into many languages and is read around the world.

Indian art and architecture have shaped other cultures. For example, ancient Indian artists developed visual symbols to show the Buddha's holiness. These symbols include features such as a topknot of hair. Artists have used such symbols to portray the Buddha ever since. In northwestern Cambodia, ancient builders erected a large Hindu temple called Angkor Wat. Indian influences are seen in the design of those temples.

REVIEW What types of Indian art have influenced other societies?

The Legacy of Indian Mathematics

3 ESSENTIAL QUESTION How does the mathematical knowledge of ancient India affect our lives today?

The numerals we use originated in India. People in India have been using the numerals for 1 to 9 for more than 2,000 years. Arab traders brought these numerals to the West. As a result, we call them Arabic numerals, or **Hindu-Arabic numerals**.



▲ Dance of the *Ramayana* Indian culture has strongly influenced Southeast Asia. This dancer in Thailand is performing a piece from an Indian epic called the *Ramayana*.

The number system first developed in India and used today is called the decimal system. The name comes from the Latin word *decem*, which means “ten.” In a number such as 5,555, each numeral is worth ten times as much as the numeral to its right. The place of a numeral—the ones place, the tens place, the hundreds place, and so on—tells how much that numeral is worth.

The decimal system would not work without a symbol for zero. It would be impossible to write a number like 504 without some way to show that the tens place was empty. In India, the use of the zero goes back about 1,400 years.

REVIEW How does the zero make the decimal system possible?

Lesson Summary

- Hinduism and Buddhism are major world religions.
- Indian literature and art shaped other cultures.
- Without the zero, the way we do mathematical calculations would be impossible.

Why It Matters Now . . .

Every day you use at least ten things that were invented in India. You can count on it!

4 Lesson Review



Terms & Names

1. Explain the importance of Mohandas Gandhi Hindu-Arabic numerals

Using Your Notes

Categorizing Use your completed chart to answer the following question:

2. Which of India’s legacies has made the biggest impact on your life? Explain.

Legacy of India		
Religion	Arts	Mathematics

Main Ideas

3. What ancient Hindu and Buddhist practice inspired both Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr.?
4. Which ancient Indian arts influenced Southeast Asian culture?
5. What number system did Indian mathematicians invent?

Critical Thinking

6. **Making Generalizations** What are three main ways Indian religion, art, music, literature, and dance reached the rest of the world?
7. **Explaining Sequence** How did Indian numerals come to be called Arabic numerals?

Activity

Making a Travel Poster Research one of the Indian legacies you learned about. Advertise it on a travel poster about “Old and New India.”

Indian Health Practices

Purpose: To learn about ancient Indian medicine

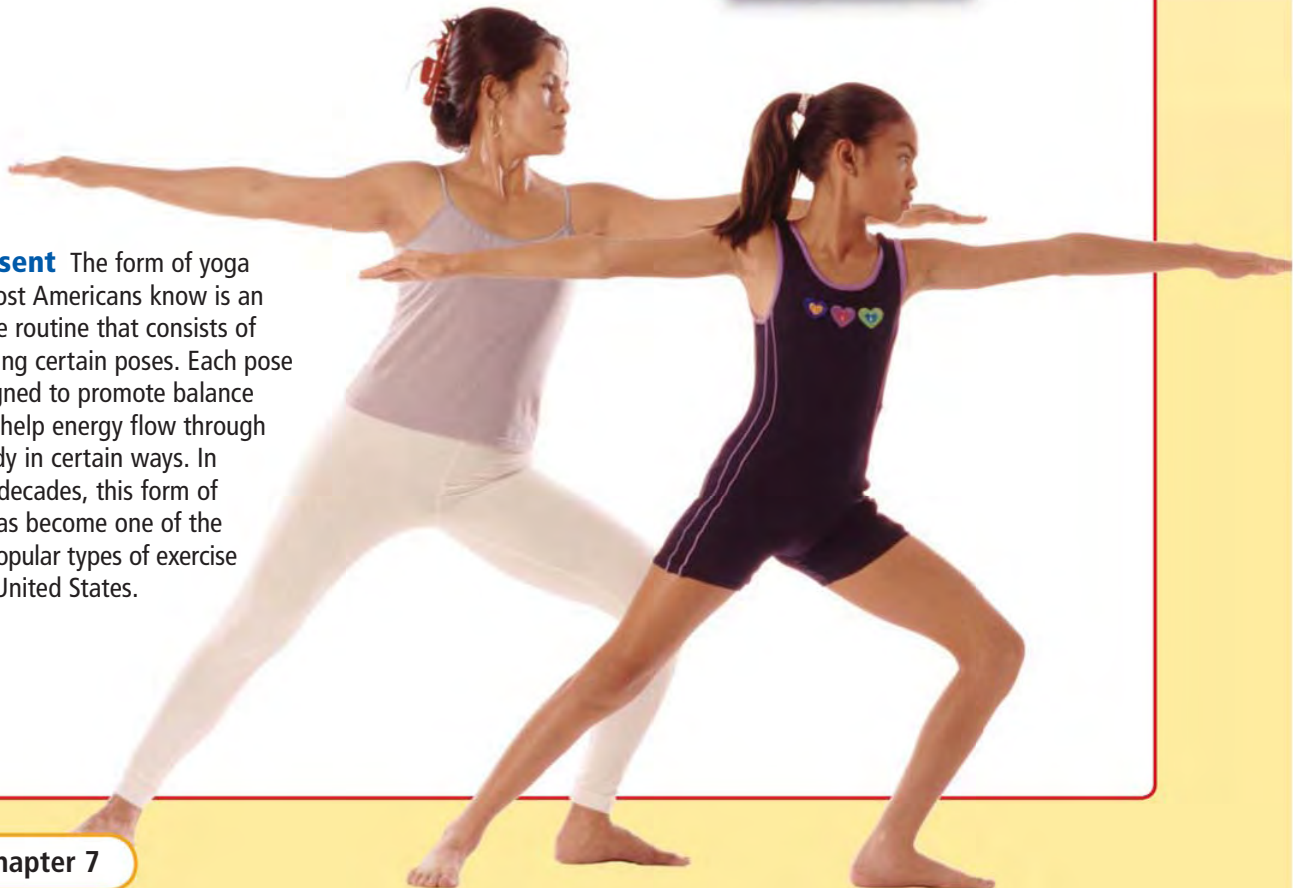
Magazines often feature articles that give health tips. It's a popular subject. In recent years, such articles have focused on diet and exercise. Today a person who eats vegetarian food, practices yoga, and uses scented oils to produce a calm atmosphere is considered modern. But these are not new ideas about how to live a healthy life. Each of them dates back to ancient India.

Yoga

► **Past** This 3,500-year-old seal from Mohenjo-Daro shows a man meditating in a yoga pose. The word *yoga* means "joining" or "union." The purpose of yoga is to help humans unite with the supreme force of the universe. Yoga includes many practices, including exercise, breathing techniques, meditation, and service to others.



► **Present** The form of yoga that most Americans know is an exercise routine that consists of practicing certain poses. Each pose is designed to promote balance and to help energy flow through the body in certain ways. In recent decades, this form of yoga has become one of the most popular types of exercise in the United States.



Ayurvedic Medicine

▼ **Past** This ancient system of medicine teaches that each person is made of five elements—space, air, fire, water, and earth—but the combinations differ. As a result, everyone is unique and must have unique remedies. An Ayurvedic physician tries to bring the five elements into a better balance. Remedies include cleansing treatments, special diets, herbs and spices like those below, and oils with healing fragrances.



▲ **Present** Today some people use Ayurvedic treatments in addition to Western medicine. For example, this woman is having her forehead massaged with healing oil.

Vegetarianism

▼ **Past** Since ancient times, Hindus have believed that some animals—such as the cow—are sacred. More generally, they believe that animals also share in the universal life force. Because they respect this life force, devout Hindus do not eat meat.



► **Present** Indian cooking features a wide variety of vegetarian dishes. Common foods are rice and *dals* (a type of lentils). Some foods are highly spiced. This meal is being served on banana leaves.



Activities

- 1. TALK ABOUT IT** Why do you think yoga has become so popular in the United States?
- 2. WRITE ABOUT IT** Use books or the Internet to find out how to eat enough protein on a vegetarian diet. Write a brief explanation of how to do this.

Chapter 7 Review

VISUAL SUMMARY

Ancient India

Geography

- The first Indian civilization arose near the Indus and Saraswati rivers.
- Monsoons, or seasonal winds, affect India's climate.



Government

- Chandragupta Maurya ruled harshly. He used spies, his army, and many officials.
- Asoka tried to rule peacefully, influenced by Buddhism.



Belief Systems

- Hinduism is a religion that worships God in many forms and believes in reincarnation.
- Buddhism teaches people to follow a middle way according to the Eightfold Path.



Culture

- Indian artistic styles spread to other regions of Asia.
- Indians invented the zero, Hindu-Arabic numerals, and the decimal system. They were skilled metal workers.



TERMS & NAMES

Explain why the words in each set below are linked with each other.

1. **Himalayas** and **Hindu Kush**
2. **caste** and **Brahmanism**
3. **Buddhism** and **nirvana**
4. **Mohandas Gandhi** and **ahimsa**

MAIN IDEAS

Geography and Indian Life (pages 218–225)

5. Why do Indian farmers depend on the summer monsoons?
6. By what body of water were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, two of ancient India's large cities, located?

The Origins of Hinduism (pages 226–231)

7. What cultural impact did the Aryan migrations have on India?
8. How does Hinduism differ from many religions that worship many deities?

Buddhism and India's Golden Age (pages 232–239)

9. What are the Four Noble Truths?
10. Why was the reign of Chandra Gupta II considered India's golden age?

The Legacy of India (pages 240–245)

11. How did a Hindu belief influence the U.S. civil rights movement?
12. What makes the Indian idea of the zero so important?

CRITICAL THINKING Big Ideas: Culture

13. **UNDERSTANDING EFFECT** How did the caste system maintain social order?
14. **ANALYZING ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL ISSUES** In what way was the caste system related to economic status?
15. **MAKING INFERENCES** How do you think the Buddha felt about the caste system? Why?

ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT

1. WRITING ACTIVITY Mohandas Gandhi opposed the caste system and worked to end its influence in India. Write a persuasive paragraph to try to convince the Indian government to fight against the traditional caste system.

2. INTERDISCIPLINARY ACTIVITY—MATH Research the places in the decimal system. Learn the name for as many high numbers as you can: million, billion, trillion, and so on. Make a poster showing the names for these numbers and how they are written: For example, 1 million is written 1,000,000.

3. STARTING WITH A STORY



Review the essay you wrote about the Saraswati River disaster. Draw an editorial cartoon to persuade others to follow your suggestion.

Technology Activity

4. DESIGNING A WEB PAGE

Use the Internet and the library to find out more about Buddhism in the United States. Then design a Web page using pictures, maps, or graphs to convey the information.

- Which immigrant groups in the United States practice Buddhism?
- In what states or regions are the most Buddhists to be found?
- What is Zen Buddhism?
- What other forms of Buddhism are practiced in the United States?

Research Links
ClassZone.com

Reading a Map Use the map below to answer the questions.



1. Where did Buddhism originate?

- southern India
- northern China
- northwestern Korea
- northeastern India

2. What is the farthest place from India that Buddhism had spread by A.D. 600?

- China
- Japan
- Korea
- Sri Lanka

Test Practice
ClassZone.com

Additional Test Practice, pp. S1–S33