**Unit 5: Ancient India**

**Vocabulary**

1. **Ahimsa:** Hindu belief in nonviolence.
2. **Asoka:** Ruler of the Mauryan Empire who ruled during the Empire’s golden age.
3. **Brahma:** A Hindu god considered the creator of the world.
4. **Buddhism:** A religion indigenous to the Indian subcontinent, it is largely based on the teachings, traditions, practices and beliefs of Siddhartha Guatama.
5. **Caste:** In traditional Indian society, unchangeable social group into which a person is born.
6. **Dharma:** In Hinduism and Buddhism, an individual’s religious and moral duties.
7. **Eightfold Path:** According to Buddha, the path to nirvana or enlightenment and consisting of Right View/Understanding, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness, Right Concentration.
8. **Enlightenment:** In Buddhism, a state of perfect wisdom in which one understands basic truths about the universe.
9. **Four Nobel Truths:** In Buddhism, the principles that are the essence of Buddha’s teachings: life is suffering; desires cause suffering; the annihilation of desires can relieve suffering; the way to do this is by following the Eightfold Path.
10. **Gupta Empire:** The second empire in India, founded by Chandra Gupta I in CE 320.
11. **Hinduism:** The predominate religion of the Indian subcontinent. It is currently the world’s 3rd largest religion.
12. **Jainism:** A religion founded in India in the sixth century BCE, whose members believe that everything in the universe has a soul and therefore should not be harmed.
13. **Karma:** In Hinduism and Buddhism, the totality of the good and bad deeds performed by a person, which is believed to determine his or her fate after rebirth.
14. **Mahayana:** A sect of Buddhism that offers salvation to all and allows popular worship.
15. **Matriarchal:** Relating to a social system in which the mother is head of the family.
16. **Mauryan Empire:** The first empire in India, founded by Chandragupta Maurya in 321 BCE.
17. **Moksha:** In Hinduism, freedom from the endless cycle of rebirth into a state of bliss, union with Brahman. This is the ultimate goal of life.
18. **Nirvana:** In Buddhism, the release from pain and suffering achieved after enlightenment.
19. **Patriarchal:** Relating to a social system in which the father is head of the family.
20. **Reincarnation:** In Hinduism and Buddhism, the process by which a soul is reborn continuously until it achieves perfect understanding.
21. **Religious toleration:** A recognition of people’s right to hold differing religious beliefs.
22. **Shiva:** A Hindu god considered the destroyer of the world.
23. **Siddhartha Gautama:** The founder of Buddhism, known as Buddha (“awakened one”).
24. **Silk Roads:** A system of ancient caravan routes across Central Asia, along which traders carried silk and other trade goods.
25. **Stupas:** Mounded stone structures build over Buddhist holy relics.
26. **Tamil:** A language of southern India, also, the people who speak that language.
27. **Theravada:** A sect of Buddhism focusing on the strict spiritual discipline originally advocated by the Buddha.
28. **Vishnu:** A Hindu god considered the preserver of the world.