Unit 3:
Classical Civilizations – India

Please Note:
You are responsible for all information in this packet, supplemental handouts provided in class as well as your homework, class webpage and class discussions.
How does geography lead to growth of civilization?

Early Indian Civilization Review

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>South Asia</th>
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<tr>
<td>8000-7000 B.C.E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2500-2000 B.C.E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900 B.C.E.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500 B.C.E.</td>
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<td>1500-500 B.C.E.</td>
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</table>

Harappan civilization existed for about one thousand years. It may have been natural causes, human activity, or some combination that contributed to a decline beginning about 2000 B.C. It has been suggested that a shift in the course of the Indus, a breakdown of the irrigation technology, and civil strife may have been negative factors in the equation. Deforestation and the collapse of the complex trade network have been proposed as further complications.

The decline and fall of the Early Indian civilization may have anticipated the appearance of Aryan newcomers ca. 1500 B.C. These invaders were a branch of other Indo-European language groups and they appeared in the northwest regions of India. From the literature of their culture they are often referred to as the Rig-veda or Veda Aryans. After their initial phase of entry (some five hundred years) in the Late Vedic Era, they expanded eastward to the Ganges River area. This river system originates in the Himalayas, over fifteen hundred miles away, and flows into the Bay of Bengal near modern Calcutta. Originally pastoral/hunters, the Aryans came to utilize horses and fast chariots to conquer and dominate a territory that would stretch from the Bay of Bengal west to the Persian Gulf. It included lands from the Himalaya Mountains in the north, beyond the Vindhya Range, south to the Godavari River. These people eventually cleared the forests and converted much of northern India to agriculture, exploiting the labor of the subjugated population. The north-south geographic dividing line is the Vindhya Range and the Narbada River.

1. What do you recall about the Harappan civilization in India?

2. Identify 2 PERSIA elements mentioned in the reading about the Aryans.

How is the reading reflective of cultural diffusion/cultural shock?
Map Creation and Research

Directions: Using the blank map, please label the map, fill in the blanks, and answers the following questions.

I. MAKING THE MAP

1. Locate and label the Himalaya Mountains, the Hindu Kush, the Vindhya Range, the Deccan Plateau, the Tibetan Plateau, the Thar Desert, the Kirthar Range, the Western Ghats.
2. Locate and label the Indus River, the Ganges River, the Brahmaputra River, the Godavari River, the Narbada (Narmada) River.
3. Locate and label the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal.
4. Locate with a black dot and label Harappa, Mohenjo Daro.
5. Locate and label Baluchistan, Hindustan, Punjab, Tamil Land, Sri Lanka, Nepal.

II. READING THE MAP

1. The Indian subcontinent covers approximately __________ square miles.
2. India is flanked by the __________ Sea and the Bay of __________ to the east.
3. The earliest civilization in India developed in the area of the __________ River.
4. The Aryans invaded India from the __________ and settled in the area of the __________ River.
5. In general, India could be divided into two regions: the __________ of the north, and the __________ of the south.

III. UNDERSTANDING THE MAP

1. What factors of the natural setting contributed to the development of the earliest civilizations in India?
2. What barriers limited contacts between India and the regions to the northeast?
3. What is the dominant feature of the area of India to the south and east of the Indus River Valley?
Exercise 7: Early Civilization in India
To what extent do Religions Reflect Cultural Values?
Objective: Identify Hinduism’s place of origin and where it is currently practiced.

Directions: Based on the images below related to Hinduism, make observations, infer, and ask questions in the space provided.

![Hinduism images](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Ganeshapachayatana.jpg)
![Hinduism images](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Reincarnation_AS.jpg)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observe (3)</th>
<th>Question (2)</th>
<th>Claim (1)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>List three things you notice about these images related to Hinduism that interests you.</td>
<td>Write two questions about these images.</td>
<td>Based on your observations, write one claim about Hinduism.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Hinduism is the religion of the majority of people in India and Nepal. It also exists among significant populations outside of the sub continent and has over 900 million followers worldwide.

In some ways Hinduism is the oldest living religion in the world, or at least elements within it stretch back many thousands of years. Hinduism originated around the Indus River Valley in modern day Pakistan.

Unlike most other religions, Hinduism has no single founder, no single scripture, and no commonly agreed set of teachings. Throughout its extensive history, there have been many key figures teaching different philosophies and writing numerous holy books. For these reasons, writers often refer to Hinduism as ‘a way of life’ or ‘a family of religions’ rather than a single religion.

Source: Adapted from “Hinduism - At a Glance.”
BBC http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/hinduism/ataglance/glance.shtml

Based on the information above, where did Hinduism originate? Where is it practiced in the world today?
What are the sacred texts and major beliefs and practices of Hinduism?
Objective: Identify the sacred texts and major beliefs and practices of Hinduism.

Vocabulary Review:
Directions: Fill in the blank spaces in this table based on what you learned in your study of Judaism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Polytheism</th>
<th>Monotheism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prefix and Root</td>
<td>Poly</td>
<td>Mono</td>
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<tr>
<td>theism</td>
<td></td>
<td>theism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning of Prefix and Root</td>
<td>“having to do with god”</td>
<td>“having to do with god”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meaning of Word</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Moral Code of Ethical Conduct

In your own words, what is a moral code of ethical conduct?

Hint: The Ten Commandments is an example of a moral code of ethical conduct from your study of Judaism.

Moses with the Tablets of the Law. Rembrandt, 1695.
Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rembrandt_-_Moses_with_the_Ten_Commandments_-_Google_Art_Project.jpg
The Sacred Books of Hinduism

Watch an excerpt from *Hinduism Today’s “Introduction to Hinduism”* (5:31-8:40) and read the descriptions of Hindu sacred texts below, then answer the questions that follow.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rig Veda</th>
<th>The Upanishads</th>
<th>Mahabharata and Bhagavad Gita</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><img src="image" alt="Rig Veda in Sanskrit on paper, India, early 19th c. Source." /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Cover of a modern publication of the Upanishads. Source." /></td>
<td><img src="image" alt="Illustration of Krishna and Arjun on the chariot, Mahabharata, 18th-19th century, India. Source." /></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Vedas are the most sacred texts in Hinduism. The **Rig Veda** is the oldest of the Vedas. It was written in Sanskrit at least 6,000 years ago. Vedic hymns (religious songs written in a Veda) praise god, gods, and goddesses and describe a powerful and spiritual people, their clans, kings and emperors, fights, battles, and way of life.

Originally, these thousands of hymns were not written down but memorized. Even today there are priests who can chant from memory as many as 10,500 verses which takes 50 hours.

The **Upanishads** are sections of the Vedas that deal with philosophy, medication, and the nature of God; they form the core spiritual thought of Vedantic Hinduism. They are a compilation of dialogs, monologues and anecdotes composed by multiple authors, which contain the foundations for most of the later philosophies and religions of India. According to tradition, there are over two hundred Upanishads.

The **Mahabharata** is the world's longest epic. It is about a massive war in ancient India between cousins fighting for the throne of a great kingdom. A central episode called **Bhagavata Gita** is a dialogue between commander Arjuna and Lord Krishna on the day of the battle. The Mahabharata remains one of the most widespread scriptures in the world with its dominant message of justice. Hindu sacred music, dance, drama, and the arts draw heavily on these two literary epics.

1. When was the Rig Veda written?
2. Before the Rig Veda was written down, how were the stories in it passed from generation to generation?
3. As a source, why might a historian question the reliability of the Rig Veda as a historical document?
4. The Rig Veda, Mahabharata, Bhagavata Gita and sacred texts from many other belief systems tell stories about gods and their interactions with each other and humans. What do you think the purpose of these types of stories are?
5. Using your smartphones, how does the Lawbook of Manu compare to the texts mentioned above?
How have the beliefs and practices of Hinduism affected social order in India?

Objective: Explain how Hindu beliefs about caste have affected the Untouchables in India.

Core Beliefs and Practices of Hinduism

Directions: Read the notes below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Hindu Concept of God(s)

- Hinduism is considered a polytheistic religion, but it is more complex than that
- It is estimated that Hinduism includes more than 33,000 deities (gods)
- Each god has its own story, personality, and responsibilities

For example:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vishnu</th>
<th>Shiva</th>
<th>Ganesha</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Preserver or Protector</td>
<td>The Destroyer</td>
<td>The God of Good Fortune</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- What other god’s exist in Hinduism?
- Though there are many gods, they are seen by many Hindus as different forms of the same god, called the “ultimate reality,” or Brahman. Because of this, some people consider Hinduism to be a monotheistic religion.

Why do some consider Hinduism a polytheistic belief system? Why do some consider Hinduism a monotheistic belief system?
### 2. Reincarnation, Caste, Dharma, and Karma

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reincarnation</th>
<th>Caste</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reincarnation</strong> is the idea that the individual soul (atman) is <strong>reborn in a different form after death</strong> and continues to be reborn until the soul achieves “union with Brahman,” also known as moksha.</td>
<td>A <strong>caste</strong> is a social class in Hinduism that is determined by one’s actions in their previous life that one can only move out of through the process of reincarnation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![An illustration of the passage of one soul from one cycle of death and rebirth to another. Source: commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Reincarnation_AS.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Reincarnation_AS.jpg)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dharma</th>
<th>Karma</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dharma</strong> is one’s <strong>duty</strong> according to their caste. Each caste has jobs they are supposed to perform and rules they are supposed to follow. One is not supposed to do the duty of another’s caste.</td>
<td><strong>Karma</strong> is the sum of one's good and bad actions during life. If one follows their dharma (duty), then they will have good karma. If one does not follow their dharma, they will have bad karma.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Directions: Using the notes above, fill in the blanks in the paragraph below.

For most of Indian history, Hindu society has been divided into ___________. The four major social classes in Hindu society were ________________, ________________, ________________, and ________________. The Brahmins are at the top of the caste system. Their job is to be ________________. ________________ were warriors. Vaisyas were herders, farmers, ________________, and craftspeople. ________________ were farm workers, servants, and laborers. The lowest group in Hindu society is not an official part of the caste system. They are called ________________, also known as ________________ and are responsible for “__________ work.”

Each person in Hindu society is supposed to follow their ________________ as determined by their caste. This ensures that all jobs are done in the society. If a person follows the ________________ of their caste, then they will have good ________________. If they do not complete their duties, then they will have ________________ karma. Karma is important because Hindus believe that when they die, they go through the process of ________________. If someone has good karma when they die, they will be reborn into a higher ________________. If they do not follow their dharma, and as a result, have bad karma, then they will be reborn into a ________________ caste. They might even be born as an animal.

Hindus believe that the goal of life is to escape the cycle of death and rebirth. They can do this by achieving “union with Brahman,” also known as ________________. To reach that goal, a person needs to climb the caste ladder until they are Brahmins, then they have to fulfill the Brahmin’s dharma so they have good ________________ at the end of their life.
Introduction

Directions: Answer the questions below and prepare to share your response with the class.

How is a person’s class determined in the United States?

If you want to move into a higher class in the United States, can you do it? How?
The Hindu Caste System is a rigid social hierarchy. It is a system for grouping people in society. It is called “rigid” because you cannot leave whichever caste you are born into. There is no social mobility. Your caste determines your job, where you live, and who you can associate with.

Read The Original Source Text: The Bhagavad Gita

Introduction

In the following excerpt from the Bhagavad Gita, there are two characters. One is named Arjuna. He is a warrior from the Kshatriya caste. His dharma [duty] as a member of that caste is to rule and to fight, but he does not want to fight in the battle he faces because he will have to fight against members of his own family and he does not want to cause them any more suffering. To encourage Arjuna to fulfill his dharma, the Hindu god, Vishnu, takes the form of a human and comes to Earth. Vishnu, who is the speaker in this text, then explains the importance of caste-duty, telling Arjuna that he must fight.

…The fourfold division of castes was created by me [Vishnu] according to the apportionment [distribution] of qualities and duties….The duties of Brāhmīns, Kshatriyas, and Vaiśyas, and of Śûdras, too...are distinguished according to the qualities born of nature. Tranquillity, restraint of the senses, penance, purity, forgiveness, straightforwardness, also knowledge, experience, and belief (in a future world), this is the natural duty of Brāhmīns. Valour, glory, Courage, dexterity, not slinking away from battle, gifts, exercise of lordly power, this is the natural duty of Kshatriyas. Agriculture, tending cattle, trade, (this) is the natural duty of Vaiśyas, And the natural duty of Śûdras, too, consists in service. (Every) man intent on his own respective duties obtains perfection. Listen, now, how one intent on one's own duty obtains perfection. Worshipping, by (the performance of) his own duty, him from whom all things proceed, and by whom all this is permeated, a man obtains perfection. One's duty, though defective, is better than another's duty well performed. Performing the duty prescribed by nature, one does not incur sin…. one should not abandon a natural duty though tainted with evil; for all actions are enveloped by evil, as fire by smoke.


1. According to Vishnu, how have the “duties of Brahmīns, Kshatriyas, and Vaiśyas, and of Śûdras (li 2-3)” been determined?
2. List three qualities or duties of each of the following castes as described by Vishnu

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Brahmans</th>
<th>Kshatriyas</th>
<th>Vaisyas</th>
<th>Sudras</th>
</tr>
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</table>

3. According to Vishnu, if one wanted to “obtain perfection,” how could they do that?

4. Explain what Vishnu means when he states “One's duty, though defective, is better than another's duty well performed. Performing the duty prescribed by nature, one does not incur sin…” (li 11-13).

5. If a Kshatriya like Arjuna followed all of Vishnu’s advice, how would he live his life? What would be his reward?

The Untouchables

Watch this video on The Untouchables in India, then answer the questions below.

1. What types of jobs do the Untouchables in this video perform?

2. Where do they live?

3. How are the Untouchables treated by people born into higher castes?

4. What steps have been taken to stop discrimination against the Untouchables and improve their way of life? What have been the effects of those steps?

5. Why was it important that an upper caste man led the bull through the village during the ceremony at the end of the video?
How did Buddhism impact Asia?
Objective: Identify Buddhism’s place of origin and where it is currently practiced.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Based on your experience, list three reasons why people suffer.</th>
<th>Based on those three reasons, what do you think is the “root cause” of suffering?</th>
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</table>
Origins of Buddhism

Directions: Read the excerpt and map below, then answer the questions that follow.

Around 600 B.C.E. most Indians were Hindu and believed that the only way to escape the cycle of reincarnation and achieve moksha was to follow the dharma (duty) of their caste as described in the Bhagavad Gita. Following the caste system meant that people that were not born to a high caste could not achieve moksha in their lifetime and often had to perform undesirable duties in society.

Some spiritual teachers disagreed with the strict Hindu caste system. One of them was a Kshatriya named Siddhartha Gautama, better known as the Buddha (the Enlightened One). Born a prince in northeastern India, around 480 B.C.E., Gautama observed that life is full of suffering like disease, aging, and death. He left his comfortable lifestyle in search of spiritual answers to the cause of suffering and ways to end it. Eventually, he achieved Enlightenment, also known as Nirvana or Sambodhi, which are the Buddhist words for moksha, through intense meditation. According to the story, seven weeks after achieving Enlightenment, the Buddha met five other spiritual men in a deer park. He gave a sermon [religious speech] explaining to them the path he took to Enlightenment, which he called the Middle Path, sometimes called the Middle Way. These five men became the first disciples [followers] of the belief system that came to be known as Buddhism.

Percentage of Buddhist Population in Each Nation Worldwide 2014

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Buddhism_percent_population_in_each_nation_World_Map_Buddhist_data_by_Pew_Research.svg
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Who was the founder of Buddhism?</th>
<th>Where did Buddhism originate?</th>
<th>Where is Buddhism practiced today?</th>
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The Story of Buddha

Watch clips of the [BBC Documentary, "The Life of Buddha"](https://www.bbc.com) (6:44-10:24, 11:26-22:47) and take notes on some of the events in his life early life. Then, sketch out a storyboard that depicts the events you learned about from the video clips.

Take notes on the events mentioned in the video clips in this space.

Storyboard:

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</table>
What are the sacred texts and major beliefs and practices of Buddhism? What effects did Buddhism have on social order?

Objective: Identify the major texts, beliefs, practices, and effects on society of Buddhism.

The Sacred Books of Buddhism

**Tripitaka- “Three Baskets of Wisdom”**

The *Tripitaka* (Sanskrit) or *Tipiṭaka* (Pāli), meaning "three baskets," is the formal term for the earliest surviving Buddhist teachings. It is also called the "Pali Canon" named after the language it was written in.

Originally, the Tripitaka (Pali Canon) was not published in book form, but written on thin slices of wood (possibly bamboo). These 'pages' are kept on top of each other by thin sticks, which go through two little holes in scripture. When not used, the scripture is covered in cloth and kept in the box which is on the picture. This particular piece of scripture is made in Thailand, and contains just a small section of the Pali Canon.

The teachings were passed down orally for around 200 years after the Buddha’s death before they were finally written down by Buddhist monks.

The Pali Canon falls into three general categories, or baskets, the first was the code of ethics to be obeyed by the early monks and nuns. The second category consists primarily of accounts of the Buddha's teachings. The third category contains early commentary on the Buddha’s teachings from his followers.

Source: Adapted from “Tripitaka.” New World Encyclopedia.

http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Tripitaka
1. Who wrote the Tripitaka?

2. What is contained in the Tripitaka?

2. Before the Tripitaka was written down, how were the stories in it passed from generation to generation? For how long were they passed down in this way?

3. As a source, why might a historian question the reliability of the Tripitaka as a historical document?

How did the beliefs and practices of Buddhism impact the social order in Asia?

Core Beliefs and Practices of Buddhism

Directions: Read the notes below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Philosophy or Religion?

Many people debate whether Buddhism is a philosophy or a religion. We refer to it as a “belief system” which includes both religions and philosophy.

Those who argue that Buddhism is a philosophy note that there is no worship of gods in the beliefs and practices associated with Buddhism. Instead, one’s spiritual journey is guided by their own determination and their teacher. In this way, Buddhism is different than Hinduism which has thousands of gods.

1a. Why do some people consider Buddhism a philosophy rather than a religion?

2. Reincarnation, Enlightenment, and Nirvana

Like Hindus, Buddhists believe that there is escape from the cycle of reincarnation. For Buddhists, the goal of spiritual life is to reach “nirvana” after death. It is similar to moksha that Hindus strive for. Nirvana, in Sanskrit, means “blown out,” as in a candle. It is the state of a still and empty mind. This can be accomplished by reaching a state of enlightenment like the Buddha did through intense meditation.
Statue of the reclining Buddha in Gal Vihara, Sri Lanka. The image of the reclining Buddha represents the last moments of the Buddha’s life before he died and entered state of nirvana. Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Galvihara-sunny.jpg

2a. Do Buddhists believe in reincarnation?

2b. What is nirvana?

2c. How do Buddhists believe one can achieve enlightenment?

3. The Middle Path

Before devoting his life to seeking spiritual truth, according to legend, Siddhartha Gautama lived a life of luxury. When he left his father’s palace, he became an ascetic, a person who practices extreme self-discipline and denies themselves any comfort. He found that neither route brought him enlightenment. Instead, it was the Middle Path, sometimes called the Middle Way. Buddha’s teachings are meant to lead his followers down the Middle Path to enlightenment.
The following text is an excerpt from Buddha’s sermon in which he describes the Middle Way. It is known as “Setting in Motion the Wheel of Law [Dharma].” This story was passed down orally by Buddhists until it was written down about two hundred years later in a collection known as the Three Baskets of Wisdom, or the Tipitaka.

**Excerpt 1 from “Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Law[Dharma]” from the Tripitaka**

And the Blessed One thus addressed the five Bhikkhus [men that later became Buddha’s followers]: 'There are two extremes, O Bhikkhus, which he who has given up the world, ought to avoid. What are these two extremes? A life given to pleasures, devoted to pleasures and lusts: this is degrading, sensual, vulgar, ignoble [shameful], and profitless; and a life given to mortifications: this is painful, ignoble, and profitless. By avoiding these two extremes, O Bhikkhus, the Tathāgata has gained the knowledge of the Middle Path which leads to insight, which leads to wisdom, which conduces to calm, to knowledge, to the Sambodhi, to Nirvāṇa.


3a. What are the “two extremes” that Buddha warns his disciplines about?

3b. Why is each extreme “profitless?”

3c. What does the Buddha suggest his disciples strive for instead of the “two extremes?”

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**4. Four Noble Truths**

Buddha taught four principles that he believed to be true. They are called the Four Noble Truths. Put simply they are:

1. The Noble Truth of Suffering: **Life is suffering.**
2. The Noble Truth of the Cause of Suffering: **Suffering is caused by desire.**
3. The Noble Truth of the Cessation [Stopping] of Suffering: **To end suffering, one must end desire.**
4. The Noble Truth of the Path: **To end suffering, follow the Eightfold Path.**

**Excerpt 2 from “Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Law[Dharma]” from the Tripitaka**

'This, O Bhikkhus, is the Noble Truth of Suffering: Birth is suffering; decay is suffering; illness is suffering; death is suffering. Presence of objects we hate, is suffering; Separation from objects we love, is suffering; not to obtain what we desire, is suffering. Briefly...clinging to existence is suffering.

'This, O Bhikkhus, is the Noble Truth of the Cause of Suffering: Thirst, that leads to rebirth, accompanied by pleasure and lust, finding its delight here and there. (This thirst is threefold), namely, thirst for pleasure, thirst for existence, thirst for prosperity.

'This, O Bhikkhus, is the Noble Truth of the Cessation of Suffering: (It ceases with) the complete cessation of this thirst,--a cessation which consists in the absence of every passion,--with the abandoning of this thirst, with the doing away with it, with the deliverance from it, with the destruction of desire.

'This, O Bhikkhus, is the Noble Truth of the Path which leads to the cessation of suffering: that holy Eightfold Path, that is to say, Right Belief, Right Aspiration, Right Speech, Right Conduct, Right Means of Livelihood, Right Endeavour, Right Memory, Right Meditation….

4a. What does the Buddha list as examples of suffering?
4b. Buddhists believe that the 2nd Noble Truth, “Suffering is caused by desire,” is true. Do you? State a claim and provide evidence (examples from your experience) to support it.

4c. According to Buddha, how can one end suffering?

5. Eightfold Path

Buddhism’s Fourth Noble Truth states, “To end suffering, follow the Eightfold Path.” The Eightfold Path describes how one should act to eliminate desire and thus suffering. The Eightfold Path is the moral code of conduct for Buddhists, similar to the Ten Commandments in Judaism and Christianity.
Excerpt 3 from “Setting in Motion the Wheel of the Law [Dharma]” from the Tripitaka

‘Which, O Bhikkhus, is this Middle Path the knowledge of which the Tathāgata has gained, which leads to insight, which leads to wisdom, which conduces to calm, to knowledge, to the Sambodhi, to Nirvāṇa? It is the holy Eightfold Path, namely, Right Belief, Right Aspiration, Right Speech, Right Conduct, Right Means of Livelihood, Right Endeavour, Right Memory, Right Meditation. This, O Bhikkhus, is the Middle Path the knowledge of which the Tathāgata has gained, which leads to insight, which leads to wisdom, which conduces to calm, to knowledge, to the Sambodhi, to Nirvāṇa.

‘But since I possessed, O Bhikkhus, with perfect purity this true knowledge and insight into these four Noble Truths...then I knew, O Bhikkhus, that I had obtained the highest, universal Sambodhi....

‘And this knowledge and insight arose in my mind: "The emancipation of my mind cannot be lost; this is my last birth; hence I shall not be born again!"'}

5. What do Buddhists suggest people do to alleviate suffering?

6. Rejection of the Caste System

Buddhism started in a region of the world where Hinduism dominated, but Buddha rejected a major part of Hindu society: the caste system.
Buddha taught that anyone, regardless of their place in society, could achieve enlightenment if they realized the Four Noble Truths and followed the Eightfold Path.

6a. If you were a member of the Brahmin caste, how would you react to Buddha’s teachings? Why?

6b. If you were a member of the Untouchables or the Shudras caste, how would you react to Buddhism? Why?
How are the beliefs, practices of Hinduism and Buddhism compare and contrast?

Objective: Compare and contrast the beliefs, practices, and effects on social order of Hinduism and Buddhism.

Directions: Review what you’ve learned about Hinduism and Buddhism, then fill in the Venn Diagram below to show what the belief systems have in common and how they differ.
The Mauryan Empire existed from 321 B.C. to 185 B.C. and would come to be the largest in the history of India to this day. It spanned from the Indus River Valley through the Ganges River Valley and southward through the Deccan Plateau.

The Mauryan Empire was founded by Chandragupta Maurya, who unified the smaller Aryan kingdoms into a civilization. Many competing kingdoms were spread across the northern plains. Chandragupta first gained power in the Ganges Valley, but with his army he soon conquered much of northern India. Over time his people moved southward into the Deccan Plateau.

The Maurya dynasty set up an efficient bureaucracy and a strong government with its capital at Pataliputra. A bureaucracy is a system of managing government through departments that are run by appointed officials. Officials collected taxes and oversaw the building of roads and harbors, which helped trade to flourish. Other officials managed government-owned factories and shipyards. The empire became very powerful and wealthy through trade. Merchants traded in silk, cotton, and elephants (among hundreds of other things) to Mesopotamia and the eastern Roman Empire.

Another reason the empire was so powerful was its strong military. Interestingly, it was its military strength that eventually caused a dramatic change in the empire. At first, Maurya rule was harsh. Chandragupta was suspicious of his many enemies. A brutal secret police force reported on crime, corruption, and dissent within his empire.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Answer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>When did the Mauryan Empire exist? (the years):</td>
<td>321-185 BCE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is significant about the size of the Mauryan Empire?</td>
<td>Largest in history</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What were the boundaries of the Mauryan Empire?</td>
<td>Indus River Valley, Ganges River Valley, Deccan Plateau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>From which geographical features did it span?</td>
<td>Indus River Valley, Ganges River Valley, Deccan Plateau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who was the founder of the Mauryan Empire?</td>
<td>Chandragupta Maurya</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>How did Chandragupta Maurya found the Mauryan Empire?</td>
<td>Unified smaller Aryan kingdoms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What was the name of the Mauryan Empire’s capital?</td>
<td>Pataliputra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What is a bureaucracy?</td>
<td>System of managing government through departments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did merchants trade to Mesopotamia and the eastern Roman Empire?</td>
<td>Silk, cotton, elephants</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Mauryan Empire was the largest in history.
Watch the video **“Ashoka the Great” from Mocomi Kids** and read the text below then answer the questions that follow.

The **Mauryan Empire** ruled parts of India from 321 BCE until 185 BCE. In 269 B.C.E. **Ashoka Maurya** inherited the throne of the Mauryan Empire in India. His family created an empire by conquering other kingdoms in brutal wars. When Ashoka became the king he continued to fight wars and expand the empire. In his eighth year as the king, he went to war against the rulers of a section of India called Kalinga. Ashoka’s armies won the Kalinga War in which, according to historical sources, 100,000 people were killed and 150,000 people were forced to leave their homes. As he stated in one of his edicts, Ashoka “felt profound sorrow and regret” for the “slaughter, death, and deportation” his war caused. As a result, **Ashoka converted to the peaceful religion of Buddhism.** From that point onwards he based all of his government policies on Buddhist teachings. To inform the people he ruled, he had his new laws inscribed on rocks and stone pillars that were put up in public places throughout the empire. These policies are known as **Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. How did Ashoka expand his empire before he converted to Buddhism?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2. Why was the Battle of Kalinga important to Ashoka’s story?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3. After his conversion to Buddhism, what actions did Ashoka take to improve the lives of the people in his empire? How might these actions have helped Ashoka gain, consolidate, and maintain his power?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Contextualization**
To make his Buddhist-based laws known to everyone in his empire, Ashoka had them inscribed on rocks and pillars that were placed all over modern-day India, Nepal, and Pakistan. As a result, these writings are known as **Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts**. They are the primary historical source for most of what we know about Ashoka and the period during which he ruled the Maurya Empire.

To this day, only nineteen of the pillars survive, six of them with Ashoka’s lion symbol on the top. They average between 40 and 50 feet in height.

1. **Pre-Reading Questions: Contextualization**

1a. Who wrote Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts?

1b. When were Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts written?

1c. Where were Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts written?

1d. Why were Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts written?

---

**Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts**

| 1 | All men are my children. What I desire for my own children, and I desire their welfare and happiness both in this world and the next, that I desire for all men. |
| 2 | [Y]our aim should be to act with impartiality [fairness; evenhandedness]. It is because of these things -- envy, anger, cruelty, hate, indifference, laziness or tiredness -- that such a thing does not happen. Therefore your aim should be: "May these things not be in me." And the root of this is non-anger and patience...Failure in duty on your part will not please me. But done properly, it will win you heaven and you will be discharging your debts to me. |
Happiness in this world and the next is difficult to obtain without much love for the Dharma, much self-examination, much respect, much fear (of evil), and much enthusiasm. But through my instruction this regard for Dharma and love of Dharma has grown day by day, and will continue to grow. And my officers of high, low and middle rank are practicing and conforming to Dharma, and are capable of inspiring others to do the same. Mahamatras [Ashoka’s officials responsible for making sure Dharma was followed] in border areas are doing the same. And these are my instructions: to protect with Dharma, to make happiness through Dharma and to guard with Dharma.

[King Ashoka] honors both ascetics [religious people] and the householders of all religions […] By so doing, one’s own religion benefits, and so do other religions, while doing otherwise harms one’s own religion and the religions of others. Whoever praises his own religion, due to excessive devotion, and condemns others with the thought "Let me glorify my own religion," only harms his own religion. Therefore contact (between religions) is good. One should listen to and respect the doctrines professed by others.

Whatever good deeds have been done by me, those the people accept and those they follow. Therefore they have progressed and will continue to progress by being respectful to mother and father, respectful to elders, by courtesy to the aged and proper behavior towards Brahmans and ascetics, towards the poor and distressed, and even towards servants and employees.

There is no gift like the gift of the Dharma…One benefits in this world and gains great merit in the next by giving the gift of the Dharma.

Therefore this Dharma edict has been written to last long and that my sons, grandsons and great-grandsons might act in conformity with it for the welfare of the world. However, this is difficult to do without great exertion.

2. What does “the Dharma” mean in this document?

_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

3. According to lines 11-16, how did Ashoka plan to spread “the Dharma?”

_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

4. What is Ashoka’s policy on religions other than Buddhism (li 18-23)?

_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

5. Based on lines 4-8 and lines 25-28, how does Ashoka want the people in his empire to act?

_____________________________________________
_____________________________________________

6. According to Ashoka, why should people act the way he suggests?
Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts as a Historical Source

7. If you were a historian researching what life was like for people living in the Maurya Empire while Ashoka was the king, would you consider *Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts* a reliable source?

8. What other sources might help us to better understand what life was like for people living in the Maurya Empire while Ashoka was the king?

Synthesis Task:
Directions: Using evidence from the introduction and Ashoka’s Rock and Pillar Edicts, respond to the following question:

How did Ashoka **consolidate** and **increase** his power?
What is a Golden Age?
Objective: Define what a golden age is.

**Introduction**

Historians refer to certain time periods of some civilizations as **golden ages**. **Golden ages** are periods of great wealth, prosperity, stability, and cultural and scientific achievement.

Let’s break down the definition...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>period- span of time</th>
<th>wealth- a large amount of money</th>
<th>prosperity- success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What other time periods have you learned about?</td>
<td>What effects might wealth have on a civilization?</td>
<td>Describe the characteristics that a prosperous civilization might have.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Golden ages are periods of great wealth, prosperity, stability, and cultural and scientific achievement.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>stability- consistency</th>
<th>culture- relating to language, ideas, inventions, and art</th>
<th>scientific achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Describe the characteristics that a stable civilization might have.</td>
<td>Given what culture means, give an examples of what might count as a cultural achievement.</td>
<td>Identify one scientific achievement that you learned about in history class this year.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Why Golden Ages are Important to Historians**

During Golden Ages, a lot of new ideas and innovations are produced in visual arts, architecture, literature, philosophy, and science and technology in a relatively short period of time in one geographic area, but those new ideas and ways of doing things do not stay in one place for long. They are carried to other civilizations through cultural diffusion and passed down to new generations through the process of collective learning.

Golden Ages move human intellectual and technological life ahead by leaps and bounds. These spurts of growth in our collective ability to understand the world around us, express it through art, and invent new ways of doing things have been important in getting the human race to where it is today.
The Gupta Empire ruled parts of India from 320-550 CE. Chandragupta II was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta empire. His rule spanned from 375 to 415 C.E. when the Gupta empire was at its height, often referred to as the Golden Age of India. He attained success by pursuing both favorable military alliances and an aggressive expansionist policy. Chandragupta II controlled a vast empire, from the mouth of the Ganges to the mouth of the Indus River and from today’s North Pakistan to the mouth of the Narmada. In addition to the military prowess, Chandragupta II elevated culture, art, mathematics, philosophy, religion, and astronomy during his reign.
Exhibit B: Trade, Prosperity, and Wealth

**Standardized Money**
Golden Ages require a lot of wealth. For artists and scientists to devote themselves to their work, they need someone to pay them for it so they can focus on their scholarly pursuits. Usually wealthy families or governments provide this support.

The government funded many of the innovations during the Gupta Dynasty. The government regulated and taxed trade and earned money from the mines and land it owned. As evidence of the Gupta government’s control and support for trade in the economy, archaeologists have unearthed many coins created by the Gupta government. The coins show that the Gupta had the technology and power mass-produce them, and the power needed to get merchants to use them. This also made it possible for the government to more easily tax business transactions.

Exhibit C: Trade, Prosperity, and Wealth

**On Trade Routes Between Rome and China**
The Gupta ruled the largest and most prosperous empire in India, but in the first centuries CE it was not the most powerful in the world. To the west, Rome ruled the area around the Mediterranean Sea, and to the east, the Han Dynasty controlled China. The stability that the Roman, Han, and Gupta Empires brought to Asia spurred trade on the Silk Roads. This greatly benefited all three empires and the areas in between. Wealth and ideas passed along the trade network providing the money and ideas necessary for Golden Ages.
Exhibit D: Trade, Prosperity, and Wealth

Visual Arts and Architecture: Gupta Cave Shrines
Most of the examples we have of Gupta sculpture and architecture were inspired by Hinduism and Buddhism. The most well preserved and impressive of these examples are reliefs carved out of caves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Udayagiri Caves</th>
<th>Ajanta Caves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The image below is of a sculpture carved out of a cave wall of the Hindu god Vishnu in a boar-headed incarnation. It is roughly 23 feet tall and 13 feet wide.</td>
<td>The Ajanta Caves are covered in carvings and paintings that depict the lives of the Buddha.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Exhibit E: Literature

Some sources state that Chandragupta II supported literature and science in his empire directly by providing for a circle of scholars known as the Nine Gems in his court. A writer named Kalidasa stood as the greatest among them. He authored numerous pieces of literature, poems and plays, earning him the title of “the Shakespeare of India.”

Source: Adapted from [http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Chandragupta_II](http://www.newworldencyclopedia.org/entry/Chandragupta_II)
Exhibit F: Mathematics

Watch an excerpt of “Ancient India’s Contributions to the World” (7:37-10:33) and read the text below on other achievements in mathematics and made by Gupta scholars then answer the questions that follow.

Scholars during the Gupta period, made important **advances in mathematics** including:

- a close approximation of the value of $\pi$.
- advances in **trigonometry**.
- the use of **negative numbers**.
- the use of **decimal points**.

---

Exhibit G: Science and Technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stepwell Architecture</th>
<th>Metallurgy and the Iron Pillar of Delhi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watch an excerpt of “Ancient India’s Contributions to the World” (23:16-26:38) about stepwells then answer the questions that follow.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian metal workers were known for their expertise in ancient times. Their swords used by their soldiers were admired by other armies for their strength and the officers carried metal bows. In Delhi, there is an iron pillar from the Gupta era that stands 23 ft tall. It is over 1,500 years old but has very little rust or wear.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Directions: As you learn about each of the golden ages listed below, fill in the graphic organizer with notes about their achievements of each civilization.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Golden Age</th>
<th>ACHIEVEMENTS and INNOVATIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Prosperity and Stability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gupta Empire</strong></td>
<td>(320-550 CE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Han Dynasty</strong></td>
<td>(206 BCE - 220 CE)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**How is power gained, consolidated, and maintained?**

**Directions:** After learning about each of the Classical Civilizations listed below, record your notes on their methods for gaining, consolidating, and maintaining power.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Classical Civilization</th>
<th>How did the Classical Civilization <strong>gain</strong>, <strong>consolidate</strong>, and <strong>maintain</strong> power?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Maurya Empire</strong></td>
<td><strong>GAIN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Gaining power is the process of getting it and expanding it.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(321-185 BCE)</td>
<td><strong>CONSOLIDATE</strong>&lt;br&gt;Consolidating power is the process of taking control from other people who also have power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>India</strong></td>
<td><strong>MAINTAIN</strong>&lt;br&gt;Maintaining power is the process of keeping one’s power.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Qin Dynasty</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(221-206 BCE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>China</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>