

Name _____

ANCIENT INDIA



Two ancient civilizations arose in Asia to the east of Mesopotamia and Egypt. One of those civilizations began in India. The other civilization began in China.

The civilizations of ancient India and China are important to the modern world. The cultures of present-day India, China, Japan, Korea, and other Asian countries are built on those earlier civilizations.

Key Words

Descendant

Plateau

Dynasty

Reincarnation

India is located in southern Asia. On a map, India looks like a huge triangle of land pushing into the Indian Ocean. Natural barriers separate India from the rest of Asia. The Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea lie to the east and west of India. The Himalayan and Hindu Kush Mountains lie across northern India.

There are passes (openings) through the Hindu Kush Mountains. People probably came to India

through those passes. Later, traders and invaders reached India through the passes.

The Land and the Climate

India can be divided into two regions. Much of northern India is made up of a large plain called the northern plain. Three great rivers flow through the northern plain: the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra. Those rivers create valleys of fertile farmland. Much of southern India is made up of a huge plateau, called the Deccan Plateau. Frequent droughts made farming difficult for ancient peoples on the Deccan Plateau.

There are three seasons in India: a cool season, a hot season, and a rainy season. During the cool season and the hot season, India gets little rain. But from June through September, winds called monsoons blow in from the Indian Ocean. Those winds usually bring much-needed rain to India.

Looking Back

1. What natural barriers separate India from the rest of Asia?
2. What are the two regions of India?
3. Thinking Deeper: In what region of India do you think civilization began? Why?

Name _____

The Indus Valley Civilization

Civilization began in India around 2500 B.C., about 1000 years after the start of civilization in Sumer.

The first Indian civilization arose on the northern plain in the valley of the Indus River. Historians call that civilization the Indus Valley, civilization.

Civilization developed in the Indus Valley much as it had in Sumer and Egypt. Thousands of years ago nomads moved into the valley. The rich soil and plentiful supply of water made the valley a good place to live. The nomads settled into villages and began to plant crops, such as wheat and barley. In time, their tiny farm villages grew into towns and cities.

Indus Valley Cities

The Indus Valley civilization had two chief cities: Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. Both cities were carefully planned.

Both were laid out in blocks like a modern city. The streets of the cities were wide, straight, and paved.



The people of the Indus Valley built their cities out of mud bricks. They learned to bake the bricks in ovens. Those bricks were almost as hard as stone.

Indus Valley people also built sewer systems for their cities. They laid large sewer pipes under their streets. Each house was connected to the sewer by drain pipes. The pipes carried waste water away from the houses.

Indus Valley Achievements

The Indus Valley civilization lasted over 1000 years. Like the peoples of the ancient Middle East, Indus Valley people developed their own systems of writing and counting. They also developed a system of weights and measures.

Indus Valley people were skilled crafts workers. They made jewelry and other objects of gold, bronze, and copper. Weavers wove cotton thread into cloth. (Indus Valley people were probably the first people to grow cotton.)

Sailors from the Indus Valley crossed the Arabian Sea to trade cotton cloth and other goods with Mesopotamia. Sailors took crows with them on their ships. If the sailors lost sight of land, they set a crow free and followed it. They knew that a crow always flies toward land.

Indus Valley civilization began to decline about 1800 B.C. No one knows why. Floods may have forced people to leave the valley. Or invaders may have destroyed towns and cities. By 1500 B.C the Indus Valley civilization had disappeared.

Looking Back

1. Where did civilization begin in India?
2. How did Indus Valley people build their cities?
3. What were some achievements of the Indus Valley people?

Name _____

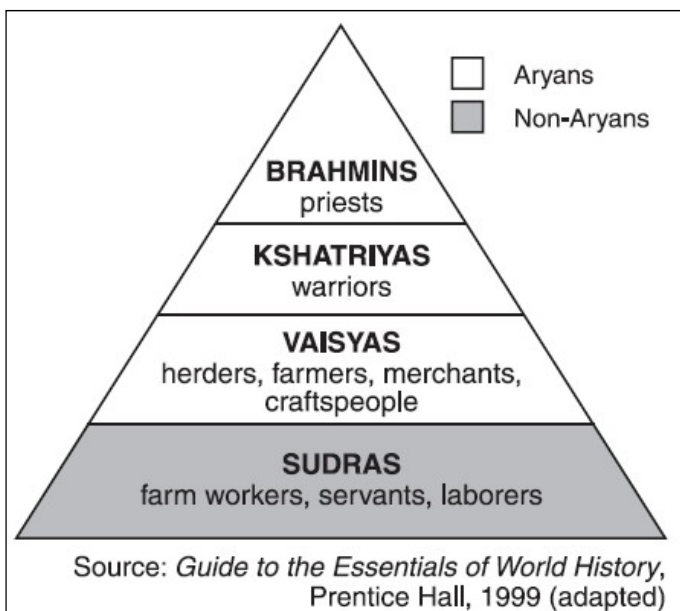
The Aryans

About 1500 B.C., people from central Asia crossed the Hindu Kush Mountains and invaded India. Those people were called Aryans. The Aryans conquered the people living in northern India. (Those people were probably the **descendants** of the Indus Valley people.) The Aryans built an important civilization in India. At first, they were nomadic herders who raised cattle and sheep. But gradually the Aryans settled into villages and began to farm. By about 700 B.C., the Aryans were living in cities and had developed a written language called *Sanskrit*.

The Caste System

The Aryans developed a system of social classes known as the caste system. Under the caste system, Aryans divided people into *castes*, or groups, according to their occupation.

Aryans created four main castes. The top castes were made up of priests, kings, and warriors. The lowest caste was made up of workers who served the higher castes.



Under the caste system, people could not rise to a higher caste. People remained in their caste for life. Children became members of their parents' caste. Each caste had strict rules of conduct for caste members to follow. People in a caste could not eat with people of other castes. They could not marry people from other castes.

The caste system has been a part of Indian life for thousands of years. Today, the caste system is not as strong as in the past. But it still affects the way many Indians live.

Ancient Indians developed one of the world's great religions, Hinduism. Today, it is still the religion of most Indians.

The followers of Hinduism are called Hindus. Hindus worship many gods. But they believe those gods are all part of one *supreme* or highest, spirit. That spirit is called *Brahman*. Hindus believe the spirit of Brahman is in all living things.

Reincarnation

Hindus believe that each person has a soul. The soul does not die with the body. After one life is over, the soul is *reborn* or born again, in another body. That belief is called **reincarnation**.

Reincarnation is closely tied to the caste system. You read that each caste has strict rules. Hindus believe that people who obey the rules of their caste are reborn into higher caste. But people who fail to obey the rules are reborn into a lower caste. They might even be reborn as an animal or an insect.

Hindus believe that after many rebirths, some people reach the highest caste. Their souls become pure and clean. Hindus believe that such people are ready to leave the earth. Their souls join forever with the spirit of Brahman.

Looking Back

1. Who were the Aryans?
2. What is the caste system?
3. What do Hindus believe about Brahman?
4. How do Hindus believe people become joined forever with Brahman?

Name _____

India and Buddhism

You read that by 700 B.C. the Aryans had built a civilization in India. They set up several kingdoms across northern India. During the next 400 years, invaders, including Alexander the Great, often attacked the Aryan kingdoms.

Around 300 B.C., an Indian ruler named Chandragupta Maurya united the Aryan kingdoms into a large empire. He brought a long period of peace and prosperity to India. During that time, a new religion spread across India. That religion was Buddhism.

Key Words

Literature

Spy

Monastery

Tolerance

The Beginnings of Buddhism

Siddhartha Gautama was born in India around 563 B.C. He began his search for the truth about human suffering around 534 B.C. (You read about the beginning of that search.) That was a time of new beginnings in many parts of the world.



In Greece, philosophers were asking new questions about the world. In Italy, the Romans were about to set up the first republic. In India, a new religion called **Buddhism** was about to be born.

The Search for the Truth

Much of what we know about Siddhartha comes from Buddhist writings. They say that Siddhartha first searched for the truth by studying with teachers of Hinduism. (Hinduism was the major religion of ancient India.) But Siddhartha did not find his answers in Hinduism.

Siddhartha then went to live in a forest. For six years, he ate only weeds and berries. He went without clean clothes and other comforts. He believed that such *self-denial* (doing without comforts) would bring wisdom. But still he found no answers.

Finally, Siddhartha decided he would *meditate* until he found the answers he was seeking. (People meditate by relaxing and clearing their minds of thoughts.) He meditated beneath a tree for hours. Then he saw his answers clearly. After that, he was known as the **Buddha**, or the one who has seen the truth.

Looking Back

1. How did Siddhartha begin his search for the truth? What did he do next?
2. How did he finally find the answers he was seeking?

Name _____

The Teachings of Buddhism

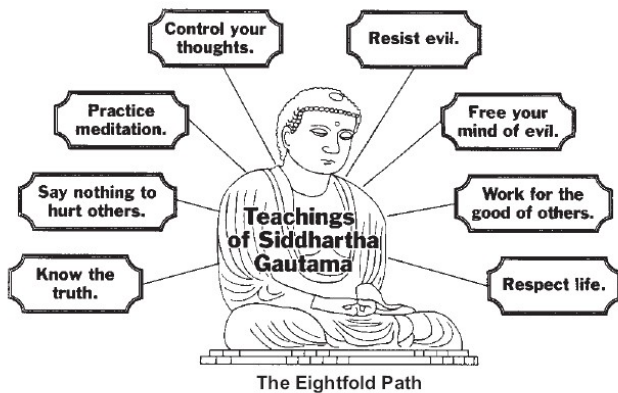
After finding the truths he was seeking, the Buddha became a teacher. He wandered across northern India sharing his truths with people.

The Buddha died around 483 B.C. After his death, his followers continued to spread his teachings. Out of those teachings came Buddhism.

The Four Noble Truths

At the center of Buddhism are the **Four Noble Truths**. Those are the truths the Buddha discovered as he meditated beneath the tree. These are the four truths: From birth to death, life is filled with suffering.

- People suffer because they *desire* (seek after) things that do not last, such as pleasure and wealth.
- The way to end suffering is to get rid of desire.
- The way to get rid of desire is to follow the **Eightfold Path**.



The Eightfold Path

The Eightfold Path is a guide to a good life. Those who follow the path are freed from suffering and find happiness. These are the steps on the Eightfold Path:

- **Right understanding** Be sure you understand the Buddha's teachings.
- **Right thought** Think pure thoughts.

- **Right speech** Speak the truth. Do not say bad things about other people.
- **Right action** Do not steal. Be careful not to hurt any living thing. Treat others well, even your enemies.
- **Right work** Earn a living in a way that does not harm others.
- **Right effort** Make an effort to become a better person. Work hard to end bad thoughts and actions.
- **Right mindfulness** Be *mindful of*, or think about, how you live each day. Notice what is happening around you. Do not go through life half asleep.
- **Right meditation** Spend time meditating each day. Clear your mind of feelings and desires. Only then will you see the truth and find peace.

Reaching Nirvana

Like the Hindus, the Buddha believed that people are reborn again and again. In each life, people suffer because of their desires.

The Buddha taught that those who follow the Eightfold Path can end the *cycle*, or circle, of rebirth and suffering. They can reach **nirvana**, a feeling of complete peace and happiness. Those who reach nirvana are not born again. For them, all suffering is ended.

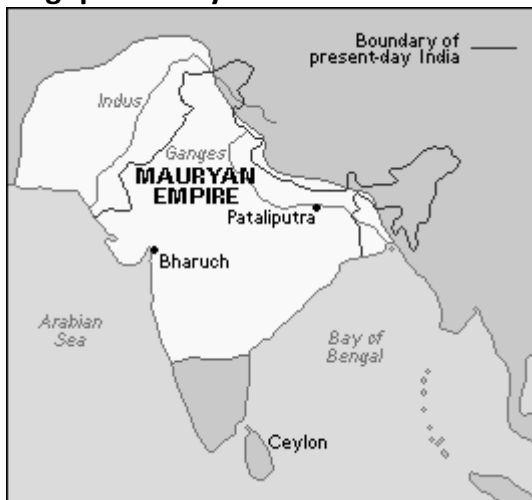
Looking Back

1. What are the Four Noble Truths?
2. What is the Eightfold Path?
3. What happens when people reach nirvana?

Name _____

The Mauryan Empire

At the time of the Buddha's death, India was divided into many small kingdoms. One of those kingdoms was Magadha in eastern India. About 322 B.C., a young warrior led a rebellion against the king of Magadha. His name was **Chandragupta Maurya**.



Chandragupta won control of Magadha. In time, he built an empire that included most of India. It was called the **Mauryan Empire**. Chandragupta began a dynasty, or ruling family, that governed the empire until about 185 B.C.

The Rule of Chandragupta

Chandragupta set up a strong central government for the empire. Still, he worried about rebellions. Chandragupta placed spies everywhere. (A spy is someone who secretly watches others.) Anyone suspected of working against the government was killed.

Chandragupta built thousands of miles of roads across the empire. Posts were placed along the roads at every mile. The posts showed directions and distances to towns and villages along the way. Inns were also built along the roads for the comfort of travelers.

The Rule of Asoka

In 273 B.C., Chandragupta's grandson became emperor. His name was Asoka. Asoka went to war with a kingdom called Kalinga in southern India. During the fighting, over 100,000 Kalingans were killed. The loss of life horrified Asoka.

After that, Asoka converted to Buddhism. Asoka called for religious **toleration** in his empire. That is, he asked Indians to *tolerate*, or accept, all religions. But for the rest of his life, Asoka lived by the Buddha's teachings.

Asoka never went to war again. He traveled across his empire, encouraging Indians to live together in peace. He asked Indians to be honest and truthful and to treat each other kindly.

The Spread of Buddhism

Asoka spread Buddhism across India. He built thousands of Buddhist **monasteries**. There Buddhists studied and meditated.

Asoka also sent Buddhist missionaries to other lands. From India, Buddhism spread across most of Asia. Today, Buddhism is still a major religion in Tibet, Japan, Korea, and much of Southeast Asia.

Looking Back

1. Describe the rule of Chandragupta Maurya.
2. Why did Asoka convert to Buddhism?
3. How did Asoka help spread Buddhism?
4. *Thinking Deeper:* Why do you think Asoka is remembered as one of India's greatest leaders?

Name _____

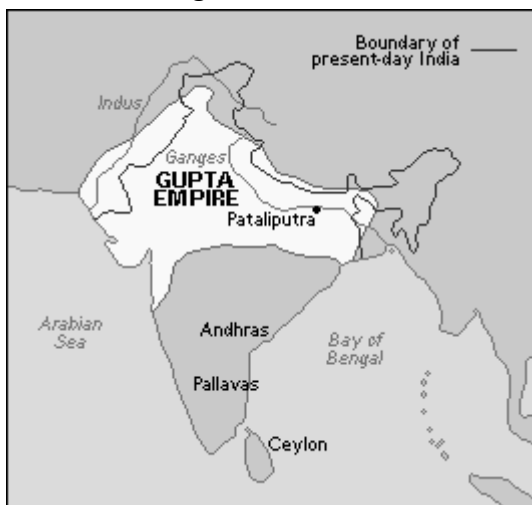
After Asoka died in 232 B.C., the Mauryan Empire fell apart. First, civil wars weakened the empire. Then, peoples from Persia and central Asia invaded India.

For 500 years, India was again divided into many small kingdoms. During that time, trade grew between the Indian kingdoms and other lands. Indians traded spices, ivory, and jewels for Roman glassware and wine. They traded with China for silk.

The Gupta Empire

Around A.D. 320, during the decline of the Roman Empire, a new empire arose in northern India. It was built by a warrior, named Chandragupta I. His empire is known as the Gupta Empire.

The Gupta Empire lasted for over 200 years. That was a time of peace and prosperity in India. It was also a time of achievements in art and mathematics. For that reason, historians call the period the Golden Age of India.



Art and Literature in the Golden Age

Indian artists produced great works during the Golden Age. Many paintings and statues from that time show Hindu gods. Others show scenes from the Buddha's life.

The Golden Age was also a time of great *literature*. Indian writers wrote many poems and plays. They also wrote down legends and other *tales*, or stories, from the past. Those tales were carried to other lands by traders and missionaries.

Many Indian tales are still enjoyed around the world today. The stories of Sinbad the Sailor and Cinderella come from old Indian tales.

Mathematics

During the Golden Age, the Indians created new number system. In their system, they used the symbols 0 to 9 to write numbers.

Indian merchants and traders found the new number system quick and easy to use. The Indians taught the system to Arab traders from the Middle East. In time, the Indian numbers became known as Arabic numerals. Today, Arabic numerals are used around the world.

The Fall of the Gupta Empire

During the A.D. 400s, the Gupta Empire began to decline. Invaders from central Asia called the Huns attacked India. They took over much of northwestern India.

By A.D. 600, the central government of the empire had broken down. India was once more divided into many separate kingdoms. The Gupta Empire was gone.

Looking Back

1. Why is the time of the Gupta Empire called the Golden Age of India?
2. What contribution did the Indians make in mathematics?
3. What happened to the Gupta Empire?

Name _____

Class _____ Date _____

GUIDED READING AND REVIEW CHAPTER 4 Section 1
Ancient India the Indus and Ganges River Valleys

A. As You Read

Directions: As you read Section 1, complete the statements below.

1. The natural barrier that separates India from the rest of Asia is the _____.
2. The earliest people of northern India probably entered the Indus Valley from passes in the _____ mountain range.
3. One of India's earliest cities, located along the banks of the Indus River, was _____.
4. The earliest known religious books of Aryan society are the _____.
5. The four social classes that emerged in early Aryan society were the _____.

B. Reviewing Key Terms Directions: Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

6. In the center of Mohenjo-Daro, there was a fortress consisting of a group of public buildings. Another name for this fortress is a _____.
7. During the summer, seasonal winds called _____ blow moist air across India from the Indian Ocean.
8. The strict division of classes that began in India around 500 B.C. is known as the _____ system.
9. A large landmass that juts out from a continent is called a _____.
10. The Aryans moved, or _____, into the Indus Valley around 1500 BC.

Name _____

GUIDED READING and REVIEW
Unit 4: SECTION 2
The Beginnings of Hinduism

A. *As You Read Directions: As you read Section 2, complete the statements below.*

1. As Hinduism developed over the years, it absorbed many beliefs from other _____.
2. Over the years, there have been many Hindu religious thinkers, but Hinduism has no' single _____.
3. The gods and goddesses of Hinduism stand for different parts of a single _____.
4. The three most important Hindu gods are _____, _____, and _____.
5. One of the important texts of Hinduism is the _____, which is mostly in the form of questions and answers between pupils and teachers.

Directions: Answer the following questions in the space provided.

6. According to Hinduism, what happens to people who have been bad during their life after they die?

7. According to Hinduism, how can a person be freed from the cycle of death and rebirth?

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Directions: Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

8. The Hindu belief that souls are reborn in the body of another living thing is known as _____.
9. Many Hindus do not eat meat and try to avoid hurting living things because of the Hindu belief of _____, or nonviolence.
10. In Hinduism, the religious and moral duties of each person are called _____.

Name _____

Date _____

GUIDED READING AND REVIEW
Chapter 4: Section 3: The Beginnings of Buddhism
Ancient India

A. As You Read Directions: As you read Section 3, complete the statements below.

1. Gautama's dissatisfaction with the teachings of _____ led, him to a set of new beliefs.
2. The followers of Gautama called him "The Enlightened One" or _____.
3. Gautama taught that suffering is caused by _____.
4. According to Gautama, the way to become free from suffering is to follow the _____.
5. Gautama taught that all people are _____, regardless of their social class.
6. The Golden Age of Buddhism came during the reign of _____, one of India's greatest rulers.
7. Many Hindus came to honor Gautama as a reincarnation of the god _____.

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Directions: In the blanks provided, write the definitions for the following key terms.

8. meditate

9. nirvana

10. missionary

Name _____

Date _____

CHAPTER 4 Ancient India
Section 4: The Golden Age of Maurya
GUIDED READING AND REVIEW India

A. Key Terms and Concepts

A. As You Read Directions: As you read Section 4, fill in the

Directions: Match the definitions in Column I with terms in Column II. Write the correct letter in each blank table with events that took place during the Maurya rule of India.

The Maurya Empire

1. 330 B.C	2. 261 B.C	3. 232 B.C

B. Reviewing Key Terms

Directions: Complete each sentence by writing the correct term in the blank provided.

- Chandragupta believed that a ruler must have complete control, or _____ over the people.
- After the great slaughter at Kalinga, Asoka changed his beliefs, or _____ to Buddhism.

Name _____

CHAPTER 5: Life in Ancient India

Think About As You Read

- 1 Why was the Indus River important in ancient India?
- 2 How did the Aryans change India?
- 3 What kinds of ideas from the ancient Indians do we still use in the world today?

Vocabulary and People

Irrigation	Buddhism	Aryans
Hinduism	Monks	Hindus
Caste system	Himalayas	Buddha
Outcastes	Indus River	Buddhists
Reborn	Pakistan	Flood

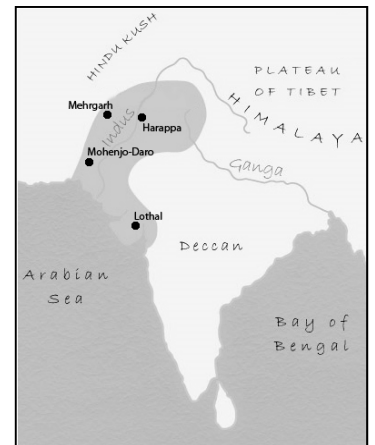
We use numbers every day. Numbers are on money and on pages of books. Long ago the people of ancient India began to use numbers. We use the same kind of numbers today that the ancient Indians used. Our numbers are more than 1,500 years old.

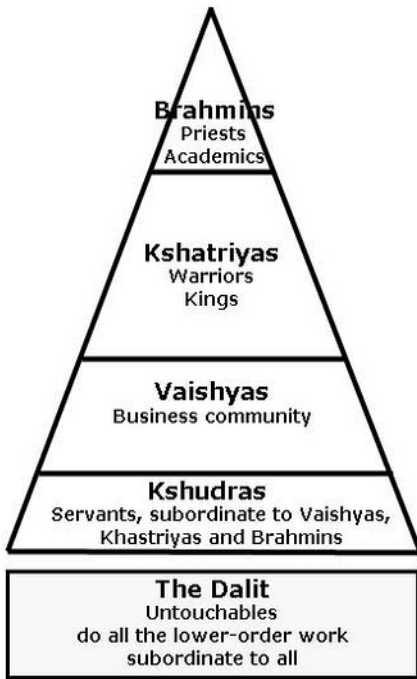
India is a large country in southern Asia. India is separated from the rest of Asia by the Himalayas. The Himalayas are very tall mountains.

The Indus River was an important river in ancient India. The land around the river has very fertile soil. Today the land around the Indus River is part of the country called Pakistan. Pakistan was once part of India.

Civilizations in ancient India began near the Indus River. They began around the year 2500 B.C. Do you remember how the Egyptians and the Sumerians used water and fertile soil from their rivers to grow food? The ancient Indian farmers also did this. They used water from the Indus River for **irrigation**.

The ancient Indians built cities near the Indus River. These were large cities with straight streets and brick houses. The ancient Indians made metal tools. They created a writing system. They did not have an alphabet. Their writing was made of many tiny pictures and numbers. About 1500 B.C. people from a far-off land conquered the land around the Indus River. These people were called Aryans. We are not sure from where the Aryans came. Many people believe that Aryans may have come from the Middle East. The Aryans were good fighters. They conquered all of the land around the Indus River. They conquered much





of India. The Aryans became farmers. They also raised cows and sheep. They made many Indians work as their slaves.

The Aryans changed India in many ways. These changes are an important part of Indian life today. One change was that family¹ life in India became very important. Another change was that a family's wealth was based on the number of cows the family had. A third change was that the Aryans made **Hinduism**, or the Hindu religion, important. Millions of Indians believe in Hinduism today. These people are called Hindus. Hinduism is the main religion in India today. A fourth change was the growth of the **caste system**. Farmers in India were in the third caste.

Under the caste system, all people belonged to different groups. These groups became known as **castes**. Castes became part of the Hindu religion. There were four main castes. The priests and their families were in the highest caste. Priests worked in the temples for the gods. Rulers and fighters were in the next caste. Farmers and workers were in the third caste. Servants and slaves were in the lowest caste. A large group of people were not in any caste at all. These people were called **outcastes**. Indians in the four castes tried to stay away from the outcastes. The outcastes were forced to do the worst jobs.



People were born into the caste of their parents. People could not change castes. A farmer could not become a priest. People could only marry those from their own caste. The Aryans believed that all people were **reborn** after they died. They believed that good people were reborn into a better caste. A good person might be reborn as a priest. A bad person might be reborn as a slave or an outcaste. The Aryans also believed there were many gods. These ideas became part of the Hindu religion.

Buddhism, or the Buddhist religion, also began in ancient India. It began about the year 500 B.C. Buddhism began with a man in India who became known, as the Buddha. The Buddha did not believe in the Hindu gods. The Buddha taught that people should not be put into castes. He taught that people must be good and kind to each other. The Buddha said that people would be happy when they did not care about owning money, jewelry, or other items.

Many Indians liked what the Buddha said. People who believed in what the Buddha said were called Buddhists. This religion was spread from India to most of Asia by Buddhist **monks**. They started Buddhist schools in many parts of Asia. Buddhism became one of the major religions of the world. However, more Indians today follow Hinduism than follow Buddhism.

The Aryans ruled much of northern India for about 1,000 years. Then the Persians from the Middle East conquered the Aryans. The Persians ruled northern India for about 200 years. They, too, were conquered by other people. India was conquered many times during its long history.

The ancient Indians gave the world many important ideas. Hinduism and Buddhism came from India. Our numbers were first made by the people of ancient India. Ancient Indians were also known for their work in science.

USING WHAT YOU LEARNED Using Vocabulary

Finish the Paragraph Use the words in dark print to finish the paragraph below. Write on the correct blank lines the words you choose.

Outcastes Buddhism castes reborn Hinduism

The Aryans made _____ an important religion. This religion divided people into four groups called _____. People who did not belong to one of the four groups were _____. The Aryans believed that after people died they were _____ as another living thing. About 500 B.C. in India, the Buddha started a new religion called _____. This religion said that people would be happy when they not care about owning things.

Read and Remember

Finish the Sentence Draw a circle around the word or words that best complete each sentence.

1. The ancient Indians used water from the _____ for irrigation.

Mediterranean Sea

Nile River

Indus River

2. The _____ we use today were created by the ancient Indians.

Numbers

ships

alphabets

3. The _____ made family life in India important.

Egyptians

Aryans

Persians

4. The _____ did not believe in the Hindu gods.

Aryans

Buddha

Indians

5. _____ believed that people should not be divided into groups.

Aryans

Buddhists

Hindus