

## What You Will Learn...

## Main Ideas

1. The geography of India includes high mountains, great rivers, and heavy seasonal rain.
2. Harappan civilization developed along the Indus River.
3. The Aryan invasion of India changed the region's civilization.

## The Big Idea

Indian civilization first developed on the Indus River.

## Key Terms

subcontinent, p. 144

monsoons, p. 145

Sanskrit, p. 149



**HSS 6.5.1** Locate and describe the major river system and discuss the physical setting that supported the rise of this civilization.

**6.5.2** Discuss the significance of the Aryan invasions.

# Geography and Early India

## If YOU were there...

Your people are nomadic herders in southern Asia about 1200 BC. You live in a river valley with plenty of water and grass for your cattle. Besides looking after cattle, you spend time learning to recite sacred texts from the village elders. They say these words hold your people's history. One day, it will be your duty to teach them to your own children.

## Why is it important to pass on these words?

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** Like Mesopotamia and Egypt, India was home to one of the world's first civilizations. Like other early civilizations, the one in India grew up in a river valley. But the society that eventually developed in India was very different from the ones that developed elsewhere.

## Geography of India

Look at a map of Asia in the atlas of this book. Do you see the large, roughly triangular landmass that juts out from the center of the southern part of the continent? That is India. It was the location of one of the world's earliest civilizations.

## Landforms and Rivers

India is huge. In fact, it is so big that many geographers call it a subcontinent. **A subcontinent is a large landmass that is smaller than a continent.** Subcontinents are usually separated from the rest of their continents by physical features. If you look at the map on the next page, for example, you can see that mountains largely separate India from the rest of Asia.

Among the mountains of northern India are the Himalayas, the highest mountains in the world. To the west are the Hindu Kush. Though these mountains made it hard to enter India, invaders have historically found a few paths through them.



# India: Physical



Hindu Kush

The highest mountains in the world, the Himalayas, separate India from the rest of Asia.

Thar Desert  
(Great Indian Desert)

Tropic of Cancer

India is a huge peninsula, so large it's called a subcontinent.

Arabian Sea

Vindhya Range

DECCAN PLATEAU

Godavari River

WESTERN GHATS

Malabar Coast

Laccadive Islands

Coromandel Coast

EASTERN GHATS

Bay of Bengal

Andaman Islands

Andaman Sea

INDIAN OCEAN

10° N

80° E

70° E

20° N

Kanchenjunga  
28,208 ft.  
(8,598 m)

Brahmaputra River

Jamuna R.

Ganges Delta

Ganges River

Indus River

## ELEVATION

Feet Meters

13,120	4,000
6,560	2,000
1,640	500
656	200
(Sea level) 0	0 (Sea level)
Below sea level	Below sea level

← Dry monsoon air flow (Winter)  
→ Wet monsoon air flow (Summer)

0 150 300 Miles  
0 150 300 Kilometers

## GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

## INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Place** When do the wet monsoons come to India?
- 2. Location** What large plateau occupies the heart of India?

To the west of the Himalayas is a vast desert. Much of the rest of India is covered by fertile plains and rugged plateaus.

Several major rivers flow out of the Himalayas. The valleys and fertile plains of these rivers were the locations of India's early civilizations. The Indus is located in present-day Pakistan, west of India. When heavy snows in the Himalayas melted, the Indus

flooded. As in Mesopotamia and Egypt, the flooding left behind a layer of fertile silt. The silt created ideal farmland for early settlers.

## Climate

Most of India has a hot and humid climate. This climate is heavily influenced by India's **monsoons**, seasonal wind patterns that cause wet and dry seasons.



In the summer, monsoon winds blow into India from the Indian Ocean, bringing heavy rains that can cause terrible floods. Some parts of India receive as much as 100 or even 200 inches of rain during this time. In the winter, winds blow down from the mountains. This forces moisture out of India and creates warm, dry winters.

#### **READING CHECK** Drawing Conclusions

How do you think monsoons affected settlement in India?

## **Harappan Civilization**

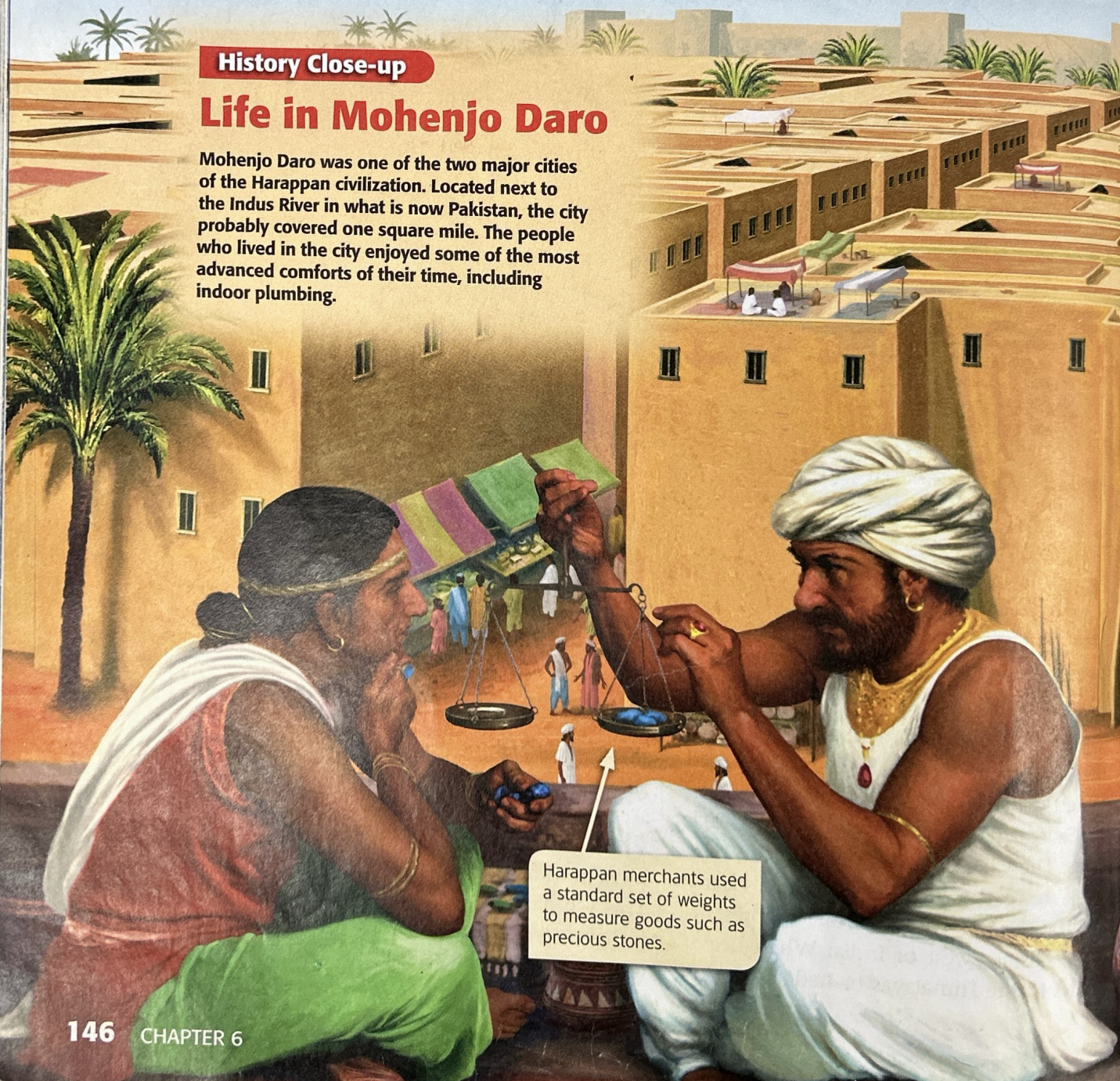
Historians call the civilization that grew up in the Indus River Valley the Harappan (huh-RA-puhn) civilization. Centered along the Indus, the civilization also controlled large areas on both sides of the river.

Like other ancient societies you have studied, the Harappan civilization grew as irrigation and agriculture improved. As farmers began to produce surpluses of food, towns and cities appeared in India.

### **History Close-up**

## **Life in Mohenjo Daro**

Mohenjo Daro was one of the two major cities of the Harappan civilization. Located next to the Indus River in what is now Pakistan, the city probably covered one square mile. The people who lived in the city enjoyed some of the most advanced comforts of their time, including indoor plumbing.



Harappan merchants used a standard set of weights to measure goods such as precious stones.



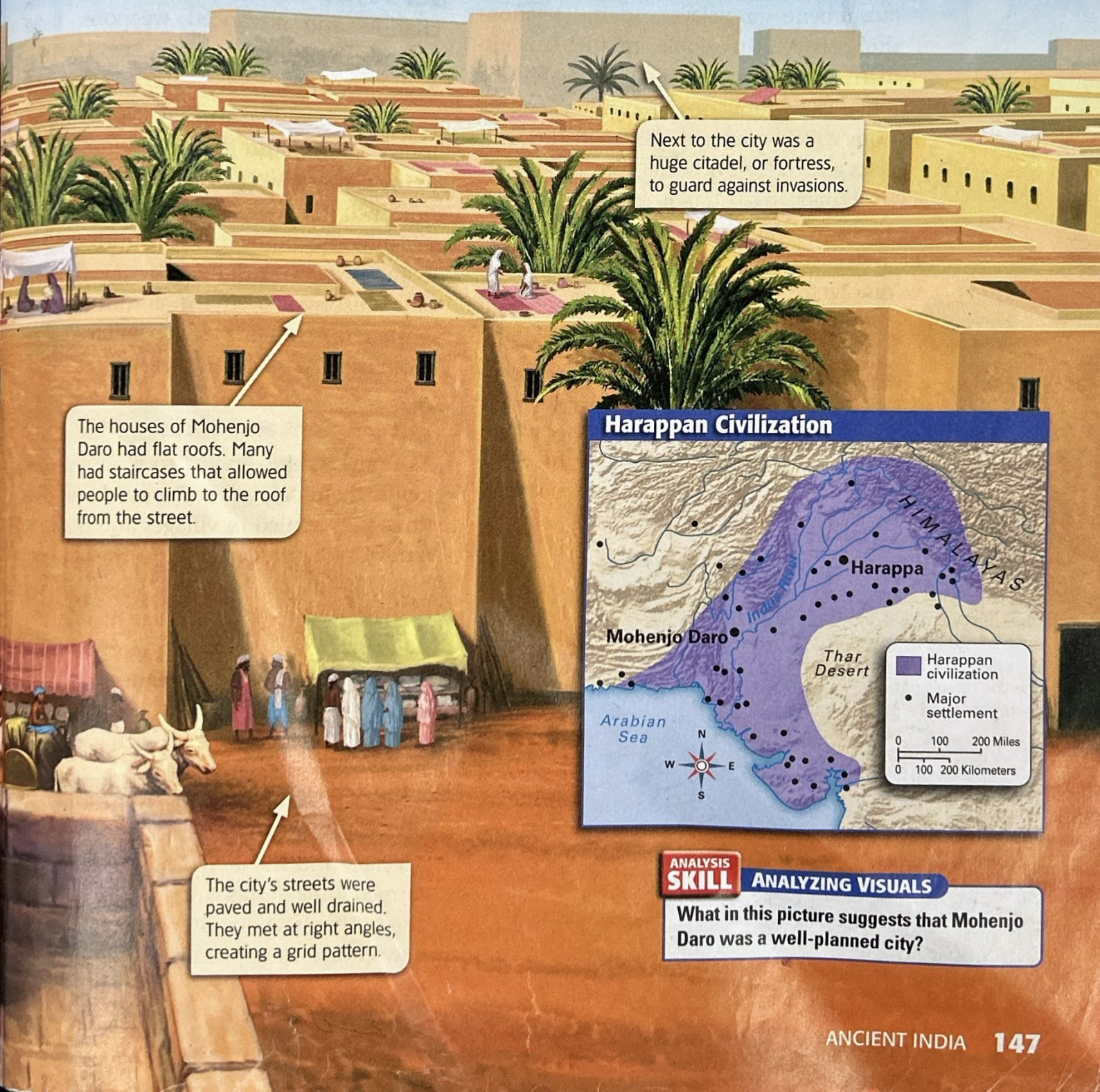
## India's Early Cities

The Harappan civilization was named after the modern city of Harappa (huh-RA-puh), Pakistan. It was near this city that ruins of the civilization were first discovered. From studying these ruins, archaeologists currently estimate that the civilization thrived between 2300 and 1700 BC.

The greatest sources of information we have about Harappan civilization are the ruins of two large cities, Harappa and Mohenjo Daro (mo-HEN-joh DAR-oh). The two cities lay more than 300 miles apart

but were remarkably similar. More recent sources include the ruins discovered at Kalibangan, Dholavira, and the port of Lothal, in addition to the 2,600 rural settlements excavated in northwest India.

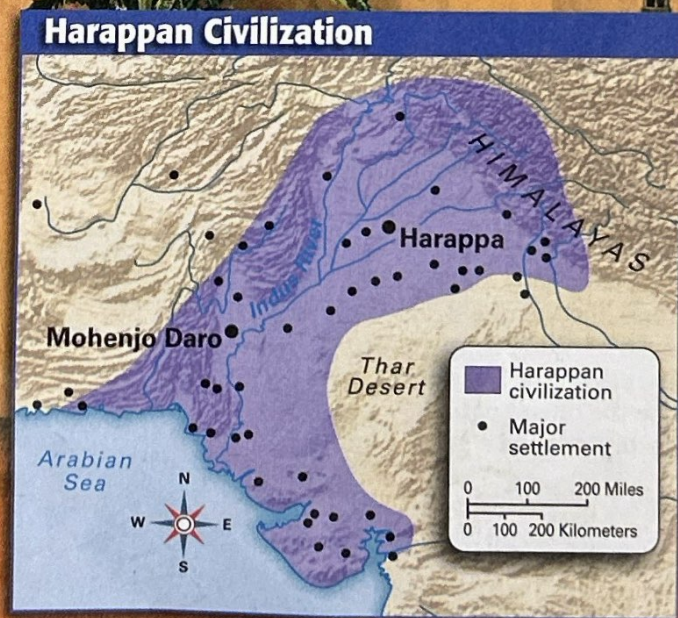
Both Harappa and Mohenjo Daro were well planned. Each stood near a towering fortress. From these fortresses, defenders could look down on the cities' brick streets, which crossed at right angles and were lined with storehouses, workshops, market stalls, and houses. In addition, both cities had many public wells.



Next to the city was a huge citadel, or fortress, to guard against invasions.

The houses of Mohenjo Daro had flat roofs. Many had staircases that allowed people to climb to the roof from the street.

The city's streets were paved and well drained. They met at right angles, creating a grid pattern.



**ANALYSIS SKILL**

**ANALYZING VISUALS**

What in this picture suggests that Mohenjo Daro was a well-planned city?



## Harappan Achievements

Harappan civilization was very advanced. Most houses had bathrooms with indoor plumbing. Artisans made excellent pottery, jewelry, ivory objects, and cotton clothing. They used high-quality tools and developed a system of weights and measures.

Harappans also developed India's first known writing system. However, scholars have not yet learned to read this language, so we know very little about Harappan society. Unlike Mesopotamia or Egypt, for example, there are no large religious monuments or palaces, so the relationship between the people and their government is less clear. On the other hand, the remarkable similarity of material culture from widely scattered Harappan sites suggests a high level of social control.

Harappan civilization ended by the early 1700s BC, but no one is sure why. Perhaps invaders destroyed the cities or natural disasters, like floods or earthquakes, caused the civilization to collapse.

**READING CHECK** Analyzing Why don't we know much about Harappan civilization?

## Harappan Art

Like other ancient peoples, the Harappans made small seals like the one below that were used to stamp goods. They also used clay pots like the one at right decorated with a goat.



## Aryan Invasion

Not long after the Harappan civilization crumbled, a new group took power in the Indus Valley. They were called the Aryans (AIR-ee-uhn-z). Historians have long debated the origins of the Aryans. Some historians believe they came from Central Asia, but others disagree. Wherever the Aryans came from, some people think they may have helped end the Harappan civilization.

## Invaders from the West

The Aryans were skilled warriors. Using chariots and advanced weapons, these invaders took new territory. By 1200 BC Aryan warriors had swept through the Hindu Kush and taken control of the entire Indus Valley. From there they moved east to the Ganges River Valley.

Much of what we know about Aryan society comes from religious writings known as the Vedas (VAY-duhs). These collections of poems, hymns, myths, and rituals were written by Aryan priests. You will read more about the Vedas later in this chapter.

## Government and Society

As nomads, the Aryans took along their herds of animals as they moved. But over time, they settled in villages and began to farm. Unlike the Harappans, they did not build big cities.

The Aryan political system was also different from the Harappan system. The Aryans lived in small communities, based mostly on family ties. No single ruling authority existed. Instead, each group had its own leader, often a skilled warrior.

Aryan villages were governed by rajas (RAH-juhz). A raja was a leader who ruled a village and the land around it. Villagers farmed some of this land for the raja. They used other sections as pastures for their cows, horses, sheep, and goats.



Although many rajas were related, they didn't always get along. Sometimes rajas joined forces before fighting a common enemy. Other times, however, rajas went to war against each other. In fact, Aryan groups fought each other nearly as often as they fought outsiders.

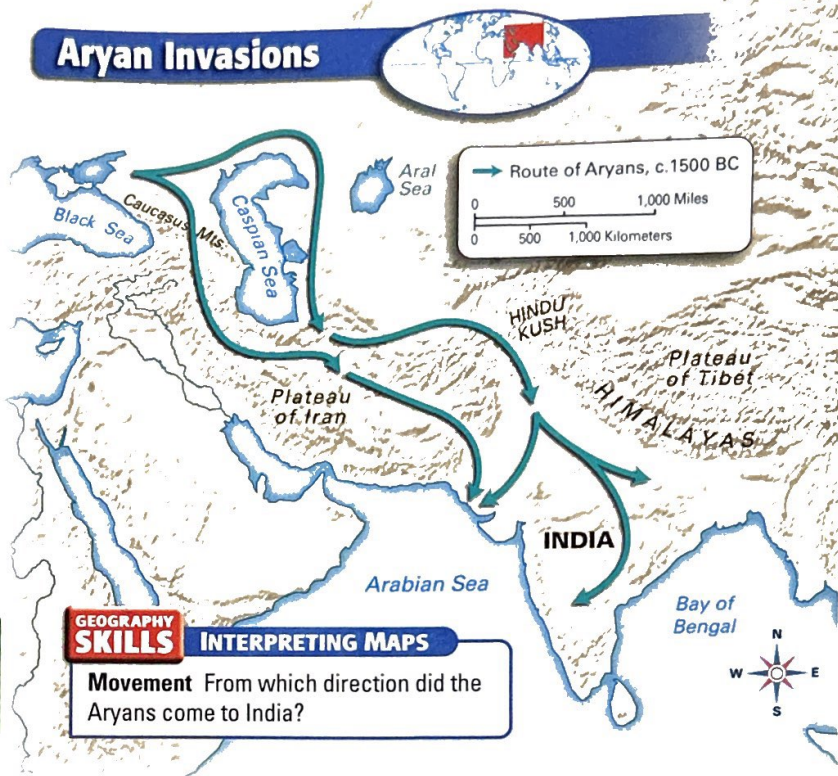
## Language

The first Aryan settlers did not read or write. Because of this, they had to memorize the sacred texts that were important in their culture, such as the Vedas. If people forgot these sacred texts, the works would be lost forever.

The language in which these Aryan sacred texts were composed was **Sanskrit**, the most important language of ancient India. At first, Sanskrit was only a spoken language. Eventually, however, people figured out how to write it down so they could keep records. These Sanskrit records are a major source of information about Aryan society. Sanskrit is no longer widely spoken today, but it is the root of many modern South Asian languages.

**READING CHECK Identifying** What source provides much of the information we have about the Aryans?

## Aryan Invasions



**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** The earliest civilizations in India were centered on the Indus Valley. First the Harappans and then the Aryans lived in this fertile valley. In the next section, you will learn about a new religion that developed in the Indus Valley after the Aryans settled there—Hinduism.

## THE IMPACT TODAY

Hindi, the most widely spoken Indian language, is based on Sanskrit.

## Section 1 Assessment

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

**HSS** 6.5.1, 6.5.2

- a. Define** What are **monsoons**?

**b. Contrast** How does northern India differ from the rest of the region?

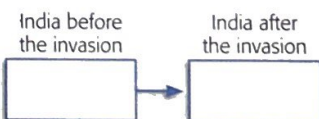
**c. Elaborate** Why is India called a **subcontinent**?
- a. Recall** Where did Harappan civilization develop?

**b. Analyze** What is one reason that scholars do not completely understand some important parts of Harappan society?
- a. Identify** Who were the Aryans?

**b. Contrast** How was Aryan society different from Harappan society?

### Critical Thinking

- 4. Categorizing** Draw a diagram like this one. Use it to show how Indian society changed after the Aryan invasion.



### FOCUS ON WRITING

#### 5. Illustrating Geography and Early Civilizations

This section described two possible topics for your poster: geography and early civilizations. Which of them is more interesting to you? Write down some ideas for a poster about your chosen topic.

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**Online Quiz**

KEYWORD: SQ6 HP6



# Origins of Hinduism

## What You Will Learn...

### Main Ideas

1. Indian society divided into distinct groups under the Aryans.
2. The Aryans practiced a religion known as Brahmanism.
3. Hinduism developed out of Brahmanism and influences from other cultures.
4. The Jains reacted to Hinduism by breaking away to form their own religion.

### The Big Idea

Hinduism, the largest religion in India today, developed out of ancient Indian beliefs and practices.

### Key Terms

caste system, p. 151

Hinduism, p. 153

reincarnation, p. 153

karma, p. 154

Jainism, p. 155

nonviolence, p. 155



**HSS 6.5.3** Explain the major beliefs and practices of Brahmanism in India and how they evolved into early Hinduism.

**6.5.4** Outline the social structure of the caste system.

## If YOU were there...

Your family are skillful weavers who make beautiful cotton cloth. You belong to the class in Aryan society who are traders, farmers, and craftspeople. Often the raja of your town leads the warriors into battle. You admire their bravery but know you can never be one of them. To be an Aryan warrior, you must be born into that noble class. Instead, you have your own duty to carry out.

## How do you feel about remaining a weaver?

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** As the Aryans moved into India, they developed a strict system of social classes. As the Aryans' influence spread through India, so did their class system. Before long, this class system was a key part of Indian society.

## Indian Society Divides

As Aryan society became more complex, their society became divided into groups. For the most part, these groups were organized by people's occupations. Strict rules developed about how people of different groups could interact. As time passed, these rules became stricter and became central to Indian society.

## The Varnas

According to the Vedas, there were four main *varnas*, or social divisions, in Aryan society. These *varnas* were:

- Brahmins (BRAH-muhns), or priests,
- Kshatriyas (KSHA-tree-uhs), or rulers and warriors,
- Vaisyas (VYSH-yuhs), or farmers, craftspeople, and traders, and
- Sudras (SOO-drahs), or laborers and non-Aryans.

The Brahmins were seen as the highest ranking because they performed rituals for the gods. This gave the Brahmins great influence over the other *varnas*.



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## The Caste System

As the rules of interaction between *varnas* got stricter, the Aryan social order became more complex. In time, each of the four *varnas* in Aryan society was further divided into many castes, or groups. This **caste system** divided Indian society into groups based on a person's birth, wealth, or occupation. At one time, some 3,000 separate castes existed in India.

The caste to which a person belonged determined his or her place in society. However, this ordering was by no means permanent. Over time, individual castes gained or lost favor in society as caste members gained wealth or power. On rare occasions, people could change caste.

## Caste Rules

To keep their classes distinct, the Aryans developed sutras, or guides, which listed all the rules for the caste system. For example, people were not allowed to marry anyone from a different class. It was even forbidden for people from one class to eat with people from another. People who broke the caste rules could be banned from their homes and their castes, which would make them untouchables. Because of these rules, people spent almost all of their time with others in their same class.

**READING CHECK** Drawing Inferences How did a person become a member of a caste?

## The Varnas

### QUICK FACTS

### Brahmins

Brahmins were India's priests and were seen as the highest *varna*.



### Kshatriyas

Kshatriyas were rulers and warriors.



### Vaisyas

Vaisyas were farmers, craftspeople, and traders.



### Sudras

Sudras were workers and servants.



ANALYSIS SKILL

ANALYZING VISUALS

Why do you think priests were at the top of Indian society?



## Hindu Deities and Beliefs

Hindus believe in many deities, but they believe that all the deities are aspects of a single universal spirit called Brahman. Three aspects of Brahman are particularly important in Hinduism—Brahma, Siva, and Vishnu.

### Major Beliefs of Hinduism

QUICK  
FACTS

- A universal spirit called Brahman created the universe and everything in it. Everything in the world is just a part of Brahman.
- Every person has a soul or *atman* that will eventually join with Brahman.
- People's souls are reincarnated many times before they can join with Brahman.
- A person's karma affects how he or she will be reincarnated.



The deity Brahma represents the creator aspect of Brahman. His four faces symbolize the four Vedas.

## Brahmanism

Religion had been an important part of Aryan life even before the Aryans moved to India. Eventually, in India, religion took on even more meaning. Because Aryan priests were called Brahmins, their religion is often called Brahmanism.

### The Vedas

Aryan religion was based on the Vedas. There are four Vedas, each containing sacred texts. The oldest of the Vedas, the *Rigveda*, was probably compiled in the second millennium BC. It includes hymns of praise to many deities. This passage, for example, is the opening of a hymn praising Indra, a deity of the sky and war.

“The one who is first and possessed of wisdom when born; the god who strove to protect the gods with strength; the one before whose force the two worlds were afraid because of the greatness of his virility [power]: he, O people, is Indra.”

—from the *Rigveda*, in *Reading about the World, Volume I*, edited by Paul Briant, et al

### Vedic Texts

Over the centuries, Aryan Brahmins wrote down their thoughts about the Vedas. In time these thoughts were compiled into collections called Vedic texts.

One collection of Vedic texts describes Aryan religious rituals. For example, it describes how sacrifices should be performed. Priests placed animals, food, or drinks to be sacrificed in a fire. The Aryans believed that the fire would carry these offerings to the deities.

A second collection of Vedic texts describes secret rituals that only certain people could perform. In fact, the rituals were so secret that they had to be done in the forest, far from other people.

The final group of Vedic texts are the Upanishads (OO-PAHN-ee-shads), most of which were written by about 600 BC. These writings are reflections on the Vedas by religious students and teachers.

**READING CHECK** Finding Main Ideas What are the Vedic texts?





Siva, the destroyer aspect of Brahman, is usually shown with four arms and three eyes. Here he is shown dancing on the back of a demon he has defeated.



Vishnu is the preserver aspect of Brahman. In his four arms, he carries a conch shell, a mace, and a discus, symbols of his power and greatness.

## Hinduism Develops

The Vedas, the Upanishads, and the other Vedic texts remained the basis of Indian religion for centuries. Eventually, however, the ideas of these sacred texts began to blend with ideas from other cultures. People from Persia and other kingdoms in Central Asia, for example, brought their ideas to India. In time, this blending of ideas created a religion called **Hinduism**, the largest religion in India today.

### Hindu Beliefs

The Hindus believe in many deities. Among them are three major deities: Brahma the Creator, Siva the Destroyer, and Vishnu the Preserver. At the same time, however, Hindus believe that each deity is part of a single universal spirit called Brahman. They believe that Brahman created the world and preserves it. Deities like Brahma, Siva, and Vishnu represent different aspects of Brahman. In fact, Hindus believe that everything in the world is part of Brahman.

## Life and Rebirth

According to Hindu teachings, everyone has a soul, or *atman*, inside them. This soul holds the person's personality, the qualities that make them who they are. Hindus believe that a person's ultimate goal should be to reunite that soul with Brahman, the universal spirit.

Hindus believe that their souls will eventually join Brahman because the world we live in is an illusion. Brahman is the only reality. The Upanishads taught that people must try to see through the illusion of the world. Since it is hard to see through illusions, it can take several lifetimes. That is why Hindus believe that souls are born and reborn many times, each time in a new body. This process of rebirth is called **reincarnation**.

## Hinduism and the Caste System

According to the traditional Hindu view of reincarnation, a person who has died is reborn in a new physical form.

### THE IMPACT TODAY

More than 800 million people in India practice Hinduism today.



The type of form depends upon his or her **karma**, the effects that good or bad actions have on a person's soul. Evil actions during one's life will build bad karma. A person with bad karma will be born into a lower caste or life form.

In contrast, good actions build good karma. People with good karma are born into a higher caste in their next lives. In time, good karma will bring salvation, or freedom from life's worries and the cycle of rebirth. This salvation is called *moksha*.

Hinduism taught that each person had a duty to accept his or her place in the world without complaint. This

is called obeying one's *dharma*. People could build good karma by fulfilling the duties required of their specific caste. Through reincarnation, Hinduism offered rewards to those who lived good lives. Even untouchables could be reborn into a higher caste.

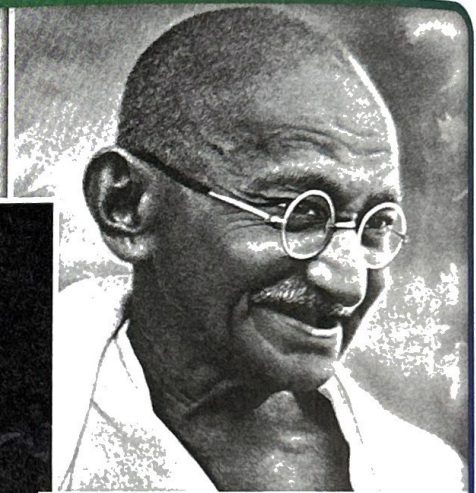
Hinduism was popular at all levels of Hindu society, through all four *varnas*. By teaching people to accept their places in life, Hinduism helped preserve the caste system in India.

**READING CHECK** Summarizing What determined how a person would be reborn?

## LINKING TO TODAY

### Nonviolence

In modern times, nonviolence has been a powerful tool for social protest. Mohandas Gandhi led a long nonviolent struggle against British rule in India. This movement helped India win its independence in 1947. About 10 years later, Martin Luther King Jr. adopted Gandhi's nonviolent methods in his struggle to win civil rights for African Americans. Then, in the 1960s, César Chávez organized a campaign of nonviolence to protest the treatment of farm workers in California. These three leaders proved that people can bring about social change without using violence. As Chávez once explained, "Nonviolence is not inaction. It is not for the timid or the weak. It is hard work. It is the patience to win."



Mohandas Gandhi (top),  
Martin Luther King Jr. (above), and  
César Chávez (right)

#### ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING INFORMATION

How did these three leaders prove that nonviolence is a powerful tool for social change?



## Jains React to Hinduism

Although Hinduism was widely followed in India, not everyone agreed with its beliefs. Some unsatisfied people and groups looked for new religious ideas. One such group was the Jains (JYNZ), believers in a religion called Jainism (JY-ni-zuhm).

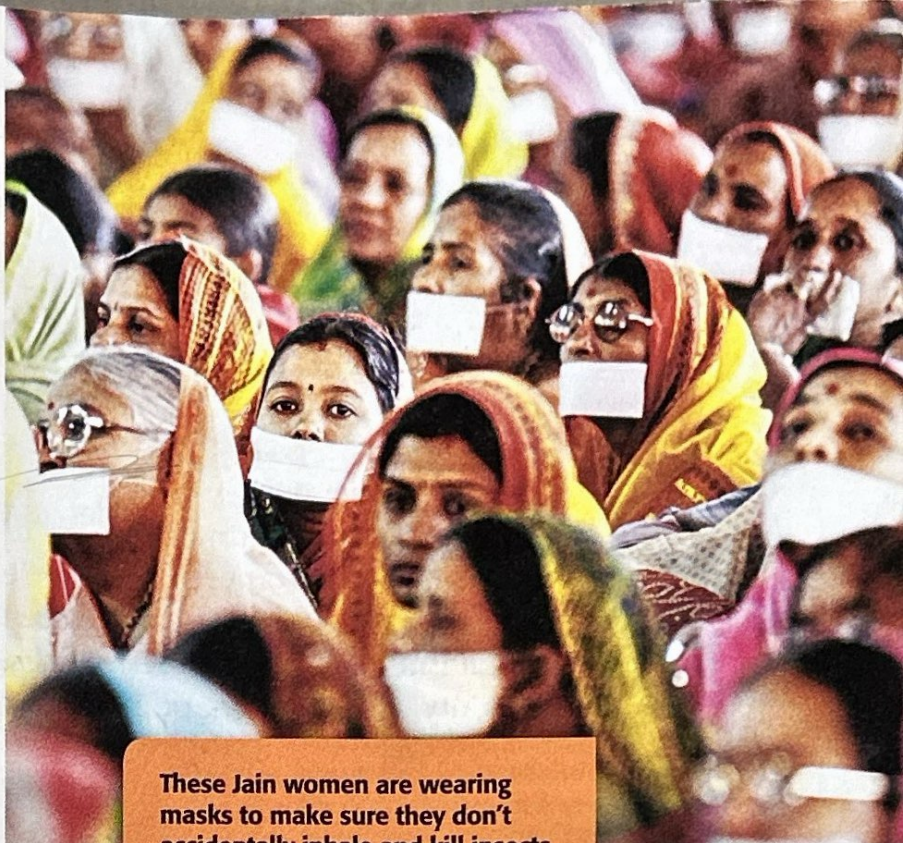
**Jainism** was based on the teachings of a man named Mahavira. Born into the Kshatriya *varna* around 599 BC, he was unhappy with the control of religion by the Brahmins, whom he thought put too much emphasis on rituals. Mahavira gave up his life of luxury, became a monk, and established the principles of Jainism.

The Jains try to live by four principles: injure no life, tell the truth, do not steal, and own no property. In their efforts not to injure anyone or anything, the Jains practice **nonviolence**, or the avoidance of **violent actions**. The Sanskrit word for this nonviolence is *ahimsa* (uh-HIM-sah). Many Hindus also practice *ahimsa*.

The Jains' emphasis on nonviolence comes from their belief that everything is alive and part of the cycle of rebirth. Jains are very serious about not injuring or killing any creature—humans, animals, insects, or even plants. They do not believe in animal sacrifice, like the ones the ancient Brahmins performed. Because they don't want to hurt living creatures, Jains are vegetarians. They do not eat any food that comes from animals.

**READING CHECK** Identifying Points of View  
Why do Jains avoid eating meat?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** You have learned about two religions that developed in India—Hinduism and Jainism. In Section 3, you will learn about another religion that began there—Buddhism.



These Jain women are wearing masks to make sure they don't accidentally inhale and kill insects.

## Section 2 Assessment

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**Online Quiz**

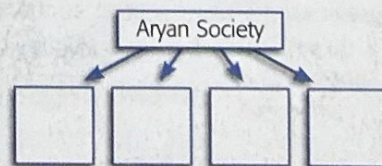
KEYWORD: SQ6 HP6

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People HSS 6.5.3, 6.5.4

- a. Identify** What is the **caste system**?  
**b. Explain** Why did strict caste rules develop?
- a. Identify** What does the *Rigveda* include?  
**b. Analyze** What role did sacrifice play in Aryan society?
- a. Define** What is **karma**?  
**b. Sequence** How did Brahmanism develop into **Hinduism**?  
**c. Elaborate** How does Hinduism reinforce followers' willingness to remain within their castes?
- a. Recall** What are the four main teachings of **Jainism**?  
**b. Predict** How do you think the idea of **nonviolence** affected the daily lives of Jains in ancient India?

### Critical Thinking

- 5. Categorizing** Draw a graphic organizer like the one shown here. In each box, identify one of the four *varnas* of Aryan society. Below the name, list the people who belonged to that class.



### FOCUS ON WRITING

- 6. Illustrating Hinduism** Now you have a new possible topic for your poster. How might you explain a complex religion like Hinduism?



# Origins of Buddhism

## What You Will Learn...

### Main Ideas

1. Siddhartha Gautama searched for wisdom in many ways.
2. The teachings of Buddhism deal with finding peace.
3. Buddhism spread far from where it began in India.

### The Big Idea

Buddhism began in India and became a major religion.

### Key Terms and People

fasting, p. 157  
 meditation, p. 157  
 the Buddha, p. 157  
 Buddhism, p. 158  
 nirvana, p. 158  
 missionaries, p. 160



**HSS 6.5.5** Know the life and moral teachings of the Buddha and how Buddhism spread in India, Ceylon, and Central Asia.

## If YOU were there...

You are a trader traveling in northern India in about 520 BC. As you pass through a town, you see a crowd of people sitting silently in the shade of a huge tree. A man sitting at the foot of the tree begins to speak about how one ought to live. His words are like nothing you have heard from the Hindu priests.

**Will you stay to listen? Why or why not?**

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** The Jains were not the only ones to break from Hinduism. In the 500s BC a young Indian prince attracted many people to his teachings about how people should live.

## Siddhartha's Search for Wisdom

In the late 500s BC a restless young man, dissatisfied with the teachings of Hinduism, began to ask his own questions about life and religious matters. In time, he found answers. These answers attracted many followers, and the young man's ideas became the foundation of a major new religion in India.

## The Quest for Answers

The restless young man was Siddhartha Gautama (si-DAHR-tuh GAU-tuh-muh). Born around 563 BC in northern India, near the Himalayas, Siddhartha was a prince who grew up in luxury. Born a Kshatriya, a member of the warrior class, Siddhartha never had to struggle with the problems that many people of his time faced. However, Siddhartha was not satisfied. He felt that something was missing in his life.

Siddhartha looked around him and saw how hard other people had to work and how much they suffered. He saw people grieving for lost loved ones and wondered why there was so much pain in the world. As a result, Siddhartha began to ask questions about the meaning of human life.



## The Great Departure



In this painting, Prince Siddhartha leaves his palace to search for the true meaning of life, an event known as the Great Departure. Special helpers called *ganas* hold his horse's hooves so he won't awaken anyone.

Before Siddhartha reached age 30, he left his home and family to look for answers. His journey took him to many regions in India. Wherever he traveled, he had discussions with priests and people known for their wisdom. Yet no one could give convincing answers to Siddhartha's questions.

### The Buddha Finds Enlightenment

Siddhartha did not give up. Instead, he became even more determined to find the answers he was seeking. For several years, he wandered in search of answers.

Siddhartha wanted to free his mind from daily concerns. For a while, he did not even wash himself. He also started **fasting**, or going without food. He devoted much of his time to **meditation**, the focusing of the mind on spiritual ideas.

According to legend, Siddhartha spent six years wandering throughout India. He eventually came to a place near the town of Gaya, close to the Ganges River. There, he sat down under a tree and meditated.

After seven weeks of deep meditation, he suddenly had the answers that he had been looking for. He realized that human suffering comes from three things:

- wanting what we like but do not have,
- wanting to keep what we like and already have, and
- not wanting what we dislike but have.

Siddhartha spent seven more weeks meditating under the tree, which his followers later named the Tree of Wisdom. He then described his new ideas to five of his former companions. His followers later called this talk the First Sermon.

Siddhartha Gautama was about 35 years old when he found enlightenment under the tree. From that point on, he would be called **the Buddha** (BOO-duh), or the "Enlightened One." The Buddha spent the rest of his life traveling across northern India and teaching people his ideas.

**READING CHECK** Summarizing What did the Buddha conclude about the cause of suffering?

#### THE IMPACT TODAY

Buddhists from all over the world still travel to India to visit the Tree of Wisdom and honor the Buddha.



## Teachings of Buddhism

As he traveled, the Buddha gained many followers, especially among India's merchants and artisans. He even taught his views to a few kings. These followers were the first believers in **Buddhism**, a religion based on the teachings of the Buddha.

The Buddha was raised Hindu, and many of his teachings reflected Hindu ideas. Like Hindus, he believed that people should act morally and treat others well. In one of his sermons, he said:

“Let a man overcome anger by love. Let him overcome the greedy by liberality [giving], the liar by truth. This is called progress in the discipline [training] of the Blessed.”

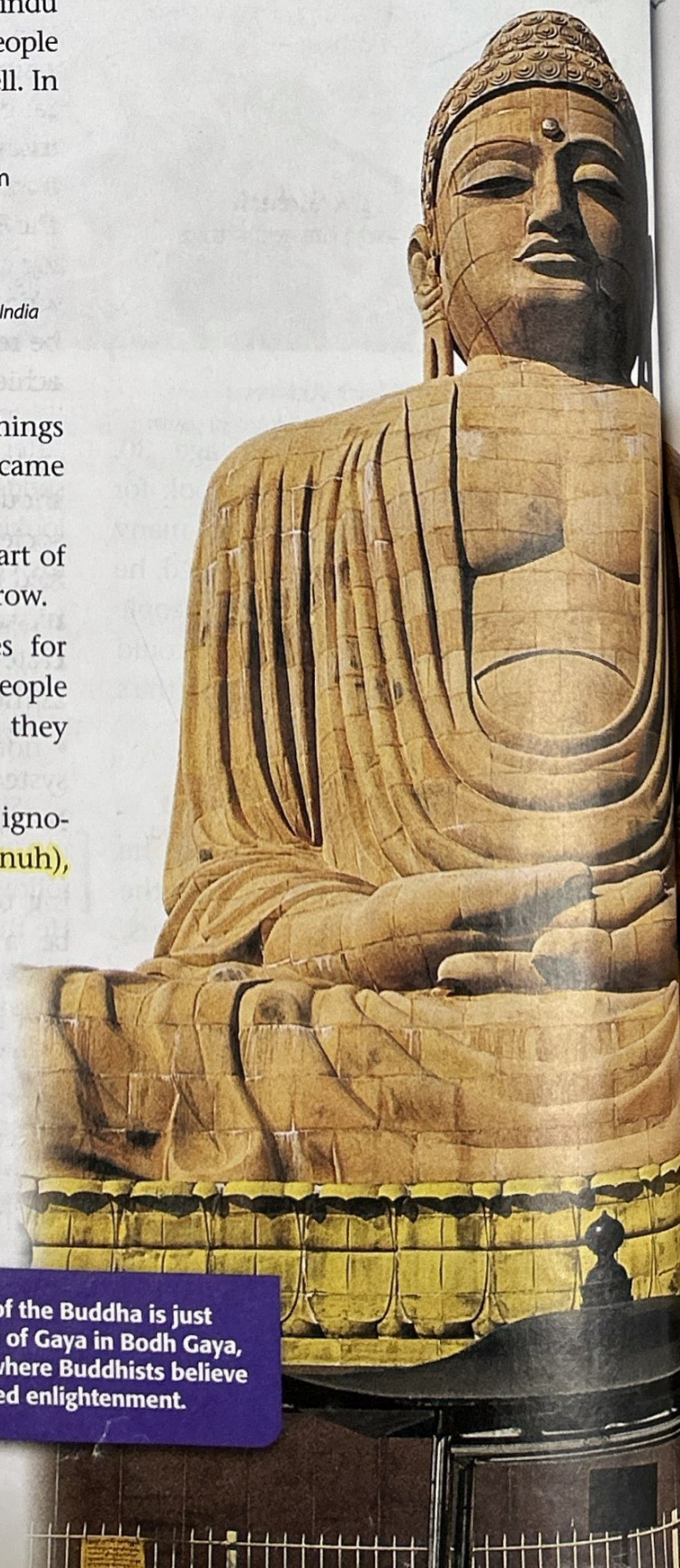
—The Buddha, quoted in *The History of Nations: India*

### Four Noble Truths

At the heart of the Buddha's teachings were four guiding principles. These became known as the Four Noble Truths:

1. Suffering and unhappiness are a part of human life. No one can escape sorrow.
2. Suffering comes from our desires for pleasure and material goods. People cause their own misery because they want things they cannot have.
3. People can overcome desire and ignorance and reach **nirvana** (nir-VAH-nuh), a state of perfect peace. Reaching nirvana frees the soul from suffering and from the need for further reincarnation.
4. People can overcome ignorance and desire by following an eight-fold path that leads to wisdom, enlightenment, and salvation.

The chart on the next page shows the steps in the Eightfold Path. The Buddha believed that this path was a middle way between human desires and denying oneself any pleasure. He believed that people should overcome their desire for material goods. They should, however, be reasonable, and not starve their bodies or cause themselves unnecessary pain.




This giant statue of the Buddha is just south of the town of Gaya in Bodh Gaya, India—the place where Buddhists believe Siddhartha reached enlightenment.



## The Eightfold Path

### QUICK FACTS



#### 1 Right Thought

Believe in the nature of existence as suffering and in the Four Noble Truths.

#### 2 Right Intent

Incline toward goodness and kindness.

#### 3 Right Speech

Avoid lies and gossip.

#### 4 Right Action

Don't steal from or harm others.

#### 5 Right Livelihood

Reject work that hurts others.

#### 6 Right Effort

Prevent evil and do good.

#### 7 Right Mindfulness

Control your feelings and thoughts.

#### 8 Right Concentration

Practice proper meditation.

## Challenging Hindu Ideas

Some of the Buddha's teachings challenged traditional Hindu ideas. For example, the Buddha rejected many of the ideas contained in the Vedas, such as animal sacrifice. He told people that they did not have to follow these texts.

The Buddha challenged the authority of the Hindu priests, the Brahmins. He did not believe that they or their rituals were necessary for enlightenment. Instead, he taught that it was the responsibility of each individual to work for his or her own salvation. Priests could not help them. However, the Buddha did not reject the Hindu teaching of reincarnation. He taught that people who failed to reach nirvana would have to be reborn time and time again until they achieved it.

The Buddha was opposed to the caste system. He didn't think that people should be confined to a particular place in society. Everyone who followed the Eightfold Path properly, he said, would achieve nirvana. It didn't matter what *varna* or caste they had belonged to in life as long as they lived the way they should.

The Buddha's opposition to the caste system won him support from the masses. Many of India's herdsmen, farmers, artisans, and untouchables liked hearing that their low social rank would not be a barrier to enlightenment. Unlike Hinduism, Buddhism made them feel that they had the power to change their lives.

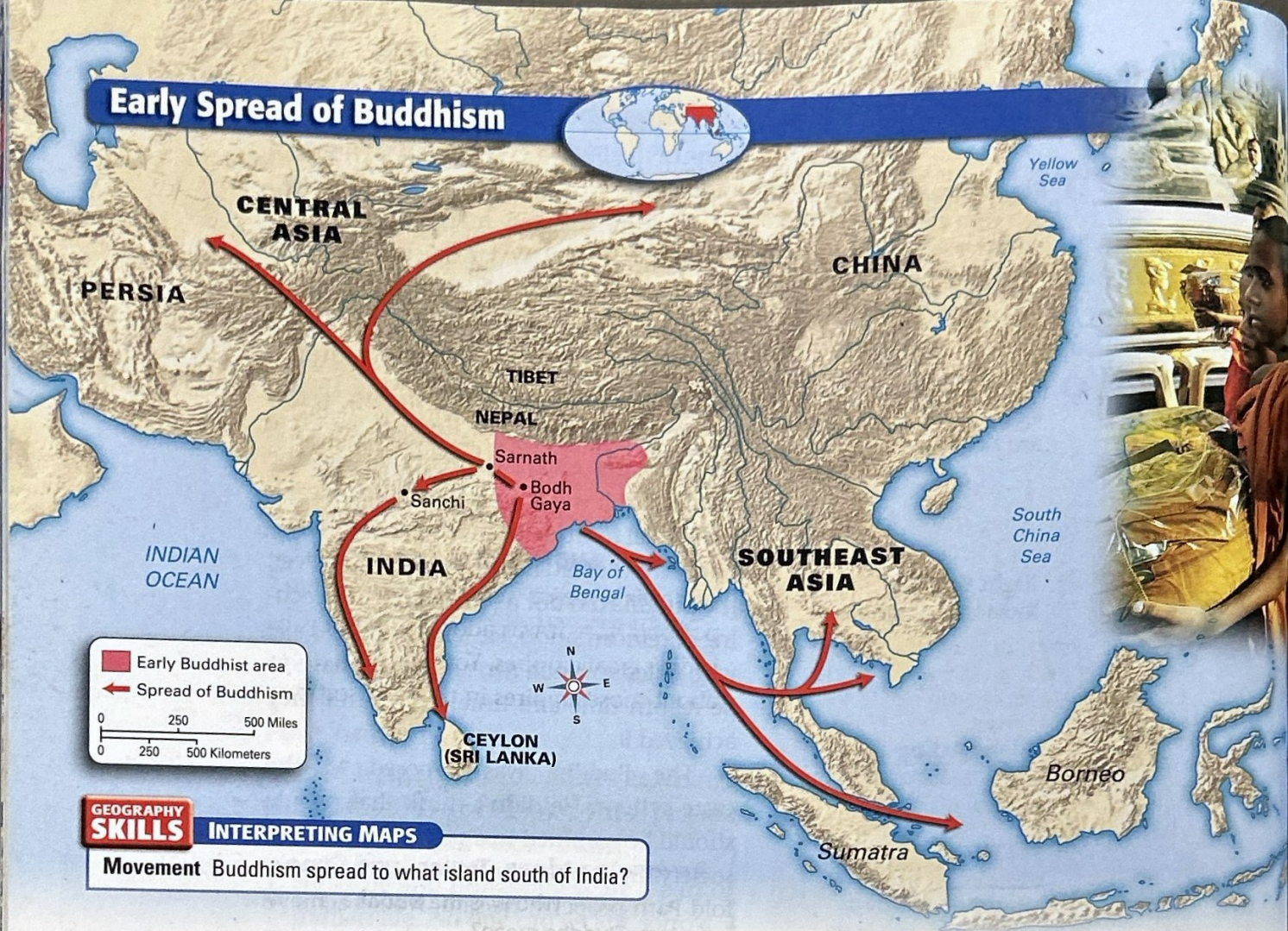
The Buddha also gained followers among the higher classes. Many rich and powerful Indians welcomed his ideas about avoiding extreme behavior while seeking salvation. By the time of his death around 483 BC, the Buddha's influence was spreading rapidly throughout India.

### READING CHECK

**Comparing** How did Buddha's teachings agree with Hinduism?



## Early Spread of Buddhism



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

#### INTERPRETING MAPS

**Movement** Buddhism spread to what island south of India?

## Buddhism Spreads

Buddhism continued to attract followers after the Buddha's death. After spreading through India, the religion began to spread to other areas as well.

### Buddhism Spreads in India

According to Buddhist tradition, 500 of the Buddha's followers gathered together shortly after he died. They wanted to make sure that the Buddha's teachings were remembered correctly.

In the years after this council, the Buddha's followers spread his teachings throughout India. The ideas spread very quickly, because Buddhist teachings were popular and easy to understand. Within 200 years of the Buddha's death, his teachings had spread through most of India.

### Buddhism Spreads Beyond India

The spread of Buddhism increased after one of the most powerful kings in India, Asoka, became Buddhist in the 200s BC. Once he converted, he built Buddhist temples and schools throughout India. More importantly, though, he worked to spread Buddhism into areas outside of India. You will learn more about Asoka and his accomplishments in the next section.

Asoka sent Buddhist **missionaries**, or people who work to spread their religious beliefs, to other kingdoms in Asia. One group of these missionaries sailed to the island of Sri Lanka around 251 BC. Others followed trade routes east to what is now Myanmar and to other parts of Southeast Asia. Missionaries also went north to areas near the Himalayas.





Young Buddhist students carry gifts in Sri Lanka, one of the many places outside of India where Buddhism spread.

Missionaries also introduced Buddhism to lands west of India. They founded Buddhist communities in Central Asia and Persia. They even taught about Buddhism as far away as Syria and Egypt.

Buddhism continued to grow over the centuries. Eventually it spread via the Silk Road into China, then Korea and Japan. Through their work, missionaries taught Buddhism to millions of people.

### A Split within Buddhism

Even as Buddhism spread through Asia, however, it began to change. Not all Buddhists could agree on their beliefs and practices. Eventually disagreements between Buddhists led to a split within the religion. Two major branches of Buddhism were created—Theravada and Mahayana.

Members of the Theravada branch tried to follow the Buddha's teachings exactly as he had stated them. Mahayana Buddhists, though, believed that other people could interpret the Buddha's teachings to help people reach nirvana. Both branches have millions of believers today, but Mahayana is by far the larger branch.

**READING CHECK Sequencing** How did Buddhism spread from India to other parts of Asia?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** Buddhism, one of India's major religions, grew more popular once it was adopted by rulers of India's great empires. You will learn more about those empires in the next section.

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**Online Quiz**

KEYWORD: SQ6 HP6

## Section 3 Assessment

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People HSS 6.5.5

1. **a. Identify** Who was the **Buddha**, and what does the term *Buddha* mean?  
**b. Summarize** How did Siddhartha Gautama free his mind and clarify his thinking as he searched for wisdom?
2. **a. Identify** What is **nirvana**?  
**b. Contrast** How are Buddhist teachings different from Hindu teachings?  
**c. Elaborate** Why do Buddhists believe that following the Eightfold Path leads to a better life?
3. **a. Describe** Into what lands did **Buddhism** spread?  
**b. Summarize** What role did **missionaries** play in spreading Buddhism?

### Critical Thinking

4. **Summarizing** Draw a diagram like the one shown here. Use it to identify and describe the Four Noble Truths as taught by the Buddha.

1.	2.
3.	4.

### FOCUS ON WRITING

5. **Considering Indian Religions** Look back over what you've just read and the notes you took about Hinduism earlier. Perhaps you will want to focus your poster on ancient India's two major religions. Think about how you could design a poster around this theme.



# Indian Empires

## What You Will Learn...

### Main Ideas

1. The Mauryan Empire unified most of India.
2. Gupta rulers promoted Hinduism in their empire.

### The Big Idea

The Mauryas and the Guptas built great empires in India.

### Key People

Chandragupta Maurya, p. 162

Asoka, p. 163

Chandragupta II, p. 164



**HSS 6.5.6** Describe the growth of the Maurya Empire and the political and moral achievements of the emperor Asoka.

## If YOU were there...

You are a merchant in India in about 240 BC. You travel from town to town on your donkey, carrying bolts of colorful cloth. In the heat of summer, you are grateful for the banyan trees along the road. They shelter you from the blazing sun. You stop at wells for cool drinks of water and rest houses for a break in your journey. You know these are all the work of your king, Asoka.

**How do you feel about your king?**

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** For centuries after the Aryan invasion, India was divided into small states. Each state had its own ruler and India had no central government. Then, in the 300s BC, a foreign conqueror, Alexander the Great, took over part of northwestern India. His armies soon left, but his influence continued to affect Indian society. Inspired by Alexander's example, a strong leader soon united India for the first time.

## Mauryan Empire Unifies India

In the 320s BC a military leader named **Chandragupta Maurya** (kuhn-druh-GOOP-tuh MOUR-yuh) seized control of the entire northern part of India. By doing so, he founded the Mauryan Empire. Mauryan rule lasted for about 150 years.

### The Mauryan Empire

Chandragupta Maurya ruled his empire with the help of a complex government. It included a network of spies and a huge army of some 600,000 soldiers. The army also had thousands of war elephants and thousands of chariots. In return for the army's protection, farmers paid a heavy tax to the government.

In 301 BC Chandragupta decided to become a Jainist monk. To do so, he had to give up his throne. He passed the throne to his son, who continued to expand the empire. Before long, the Mauryas ruled all of northern India and much of central India as well.



## Asoka

Around 270 BC Chandragupta's grandson **Asoka** (uh-SOH-kuh) became king. Asoka was a strong ruler, the strongest of all the Mauryan emperors. He extended Mauryan rule over most of India. In conquering other kingdoms, Asoka made his own empire both stronger and richer.

For many years, Asoka watched his armies fight bloody battles against other peoples. A few years into his rule, however, Asoka converted to Buddhism. When he did, he swore that he would not launch any more wars of conquest.

After converting to Buddhism, Asoka had the time and resources to improve the lives of his people. He had wells dug and roads built throughout the empire. Along these roads, workers planted shade trees

and built rest houses for weary travelers. He also encouraged the spread of Buddhism in India and the rest of Asia. As you read in the previous section, he sent missionaries to lands all over Asia.

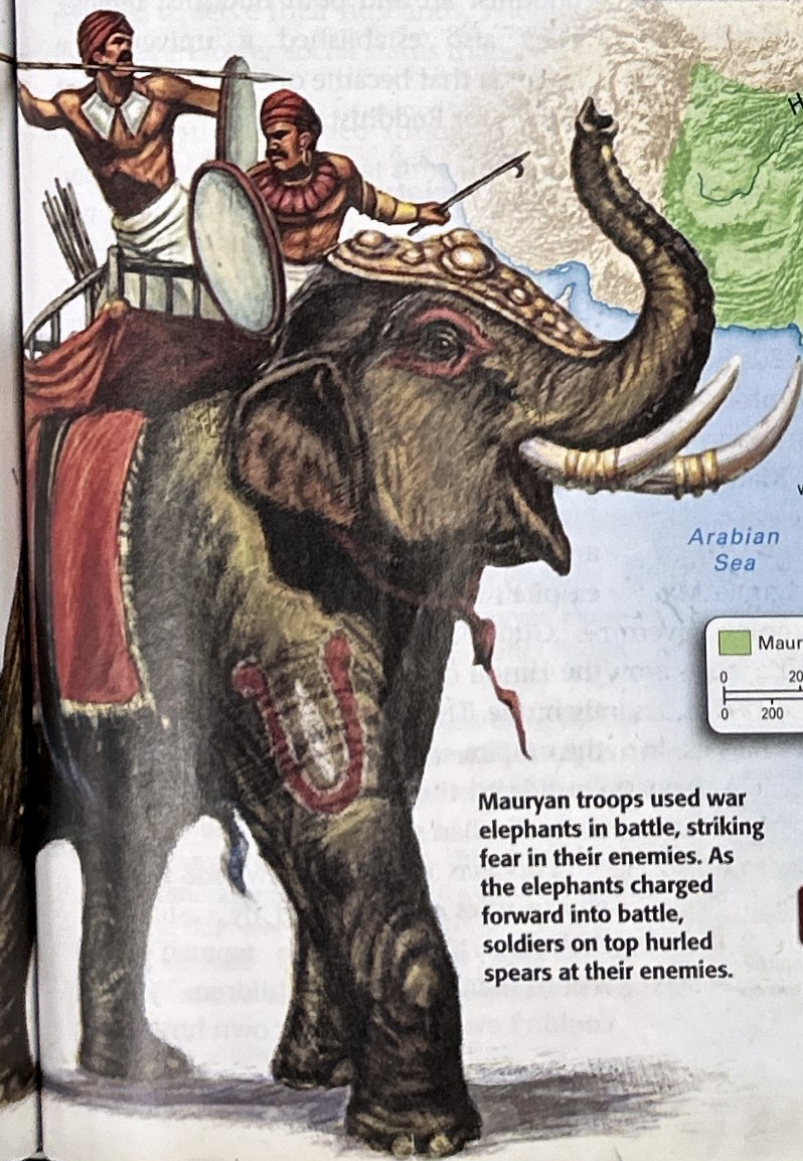
Asoka died in 233 BC, and the empire began to fall apart soon afterward. His sons fought each other for power, and invaders threatened the empire. In 184 BC the last Mauryan king was killed by one of his own generals. India divided into smaller states once again.

**READING CHECK** **Finding Main Ideas** How did the Mauryans gain control of most of India?

### FOCUS ON READING

What can you infer about the religious beliefs of Asoka's sons?

## Mauryan Empire, c. 320–185 BC



Mauryan troops used war elephants in battle, striking fear in their enemies. As the elephants charged forward into battle, soldiers on top hurled spears at their enemies.



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

#### INTERPRETING MAPS

**Place** Which cities were part of the Mauryan Empire?



## Gupta Rulers Promote Hinduism

After the collapse of the Mauryan Empire, India remained divided for about 500 years. During that time, Buddhism continued to prosper and spread in India, and so the popularity of Hinduism declined.

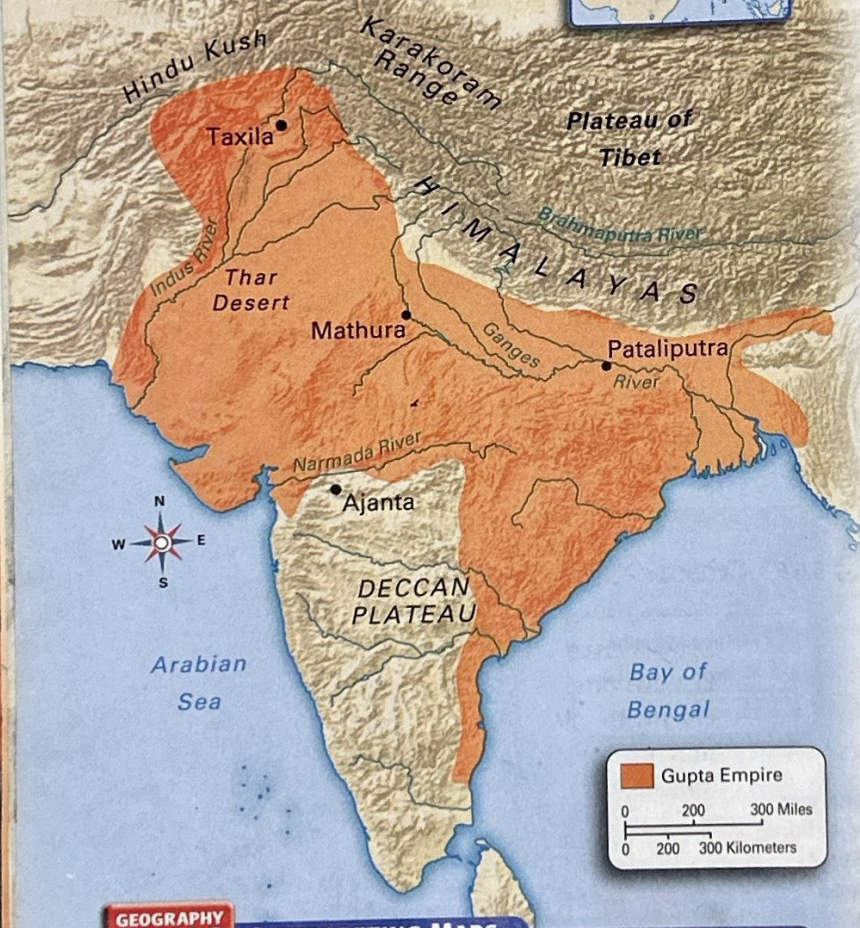
### A New Hindu Empire

Eventually, however, a new dynasty was **established** in India. It was the Gupta (GOOP-tuh) Dynasty, which took over India around AD 320. Under the Guptas, India was once again united, and it once again became prosperous.

#### ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**establish** to set up or create

### Gupta Empire, c. 400



#### GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

#### INTERPRETING MAPS

**Region** What region of India was not part of the Gupta Empire?

The first Gupta emperor was Chandragupta I. Although their names are similar, he was not related to Chandragupta Maurya. From his base in northern India, Chandragupta's armies invaded and conquered neighboring lands. Eventually he brought much of the northern part of India under his control.

Indian civilization flourished under the Gupta rulers. These rulers were Hindu, so Hinduism became India's major religion. The Gupta kings built many Hindu temples, some of which became models for later Indian architecture. They also promoted a revival of Hindu writings and worship practices.

Although they were Hindus, the Gupta rulers also supported the religious beliefs of Buddhism and Jainism. They promoted Buddhist art and built Buddhist temples. They also established a university at Nalanda that became one of Asia's greatest centers for Buddhist studies.

### Gupta Society

In 375 Emperor **Chandragupta II** took the throne in India. Gupta society reached its high point during his rule. Under Chandragupta II, the empire continued to grow, eventually stretching all the way across northern India. At the same time, the empire's economy strengthened, and people prospered. They created fine works of art and literature. Outsiders admired the empire's wealth and beauty.

Gupta kings believed the social order of the Hindu caste system would strengthen their rule. They also thought it would keep the empire stable. As a result, the Guptas considered the caste system an important part of Indian society.

This was not good news for women, whose roles were limited by caste rules. Brahmins taught that a woman's role was to marry and have children. Women couldn't even choose their own husbands.





### Gupta Art

This Gupta painting of a palace scene shows some of India's different castes. Gupta rulers supported Hinduism and the caste system.

Parents arranged all marriages. Once married, wives had few rights. They were expected to serve their husbands. Widows had an even lower social status than other women.

Gupta rule remained strong in India until the late 400s. At that time the Huns, a group from Central Asia, invaded India from the northwest. Their fierce attacks drained the Gupta Empire of its power and wealth. As the Hun armies marched farther into India, the Guptas lost hope.

By the middle of the 500s, Gupta rule had ended, and India had divided into small kingdoms yet again.

**READING CHECK** Summarizing What was the Gupta Dynasty's position on religion?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** The Mauryas and Guptas united much of India in their empires. Next you will learn about their many achievements.

## Section 4 Assessment

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Online Quiz

KEYWORD: SQ6 HP6

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People HSS 6.5.6

1. **a. Identify** Who created the Mauryan Empire?
- b. Summarize** What happened after Asoka became a Buddhist?
- c. Elaborate** Why do you think many people consider Asoka the greatest of all Mauryan rulers?
2. **a. Recall** What religion did most of the Gupta rulers belong to?
- b. Compare and Contrast** How were the rulers Chandragupta Maurya and Chandragupta I alike, and how were they different?
- c. Evaluate** Do you think the Gupta enforcement of caste rules was a good thing? Why or why not?

### Critical Thinking

3. **Categorizing**  
Draw a chart like this one. Fill it with information about India's rulers.

Ruler	Dynasty	Accomplishments

### FOCUS ON WRITING

4. **Comparing Indian Empires** Another possible topic for your poster would be a comparison of the Maurya and Gupta empires. Make a chart in your notebook that shows such a comparison.



## Asoka

### How can one decision change a man's entire life?

**When did he live?** before 230 BC

**Where did he live?** Asoka's empire included much of northern and central India.

**What did he do?** After fighting many bloody wars to expand his empire, Asoka gave up violence and converted to Buddhism.

**Why is he important?** Asoka is one of the most respected rulers in Indian history and one of the most important figures in the history of Buddhism. As a devout Buddhist, Asoka worked to spread the Buddha's teachings. In addition to sending missionaries around Asia, he built huge columns carved with Buddhist teachings all over India. Largely through his efforts, Buddhism became one of Asia's main religions.

**Generalizing** How did Asoka's life change after he became Buddhist?

### KEY EVENTS

- **c. 270 BC** Asoka becomes the Mauryan emperor.
- **c. 261 BC** Asoka's empire reaches its greatest size.
- **c. 261 BC** Asoka becomes a Buddhist.
- **c. 251 BC** Asoka begins to send Buddhist missionaries to other parts of Asia.



This Buddhist shrine, located in Sanchi, India, was built by Asoka.





# Indian Achievements

## If YOU were there...

You are a traveler in western India in the 300s. You are visiting a cave temple that is carved into a mountain cliff. Inside the cave it is cool and quiet. Huge columns rise all around you. You don't feel you're alone, for the walls and ceilings are covered with paintings. They are filled with lively scenes and figures. In the center is a large statue with calm, peaceful features.

## How does this cave make you feel?

**BUILDING BACKGROUND** The Mauryan and Gupta empires united most of India politically. During these empires, Indian artists, writers, scholars, and scientists made great advances. Some of their works are still studied and admired today.

## Religious Art

The Indians of the Maurya and Gupta periods created great works of art, many of them religious. Many of their paintings and sculptures illustrated either Hindu and Buddhist teachings. Magnificent temples—both Hindu and Buddhist—were built all around India. They remain some of the most beautiful buildings in the world today.

## Temples

Early Hindu temples were small stone structures. They had flat roofs and contained only one or two rooms. In the Gupta period, though, temple architecture became more complex. Gupta temples were topped by huge towers and were covered with carvings of the god worshipped inside.

Buddhist temples of the Gupta period are also impressive. Some Buddhists carved entire temples out of mountainsides. The most famous such temple is at Ajanta. Its builders filled the caves with beautiful wall paintings and sculpture.

## SECTION

# 5

## What You Will Learn...

### Main Ideas

1. Indian artists created great works of religious art.
2. Sanskrit literature flourished during the Gupta period.
3. The Indians made scientific advances in metalworking, medicine, and other sciences.

### The Big Idea

The people of ancient India made great contributions to the arts and sciences.

## Key Terms

metallurgy, p. 170  
alloys, p. 170  
Hindu-Arabic numerals, p. 170  
inoculation, p. 170  
astronomy, p. 171



**HSS 6.5.7** Discuss important aesthetic and intellectual traditions (e.g., Sanskrit literature, including the *Bhagavad Gita*; medicine; metallurgy; and mathematics, including Hindu-Arabic numerals and the zero).



## Temple Architecture



This Hindu temple is covered with incredibly detailed carvings and decorations. Many individual sculptures are images of important Hindu deities, like the deity of Vishnu above.

Another type of Buddhist temple was the stupa. Stupas had domed roofs and were built to house sacred items from the life of the Buddha. Many of them were covered with detailed carvings.

### Paintings and Sculpture

The Gupta period also saw the creation of great works of art, both paintings and statues. Painting was a greatly respected profession, and India was home to many skilled artists. However, we don't know the names of many artists from this period. Instead, we know the names of many rich and powerful members of Gupta society who paid artists to create works of beauty and significance.

Most Indian paintings from the Gupta period are clear and colorful. Some of them show graceful Indians wearing fine jewelry and stylish clothes. Such paintings offer us a glimpse of the Indians' daily and ceremonial lives.

Artists from both of India's major religions, Hinduism and Buddhism, drew on their beliefs to create their works. As a result, many of the finest paintings of ancient India are found in temples. Hindu painters drew hundreds of deities on temple walls and entrances. Buddhists covered the walls and ceilings of temples with scenes from the life of the Buddha.

Indian sculptors also created great works. Many of their statues were made for Buddhist cave temples. In addition to the temples' intricately carved columns, sculptors carved statues of kings and the Buddha. Some of these statues tower over the cave entrances. Hindu temples also featured impressive statues of their deities. In fact, the walls of some temples, such as the one pictured above, were completely covered with carvings and images.

**READING CHECK** Summarizing How did religion influence ancient Indian art?



## Sanskrit Literature

As you read earlier, Sanskrit was the main language of the ancient Aryans. During the Maurya and Gupta periods, many works of Sanskrit literature were created. These works were later translated into many other languages.

### Sacred Texts

The greatest of these Sanskrit writings are two sacred texts, the *Mahabharata* (muh-HAH-BAH-ruh-tuh) and the *Ramayana* (rah-MAH-yuh-nuh). Still popular in India, the *Mahabharata* is one of the world's longest sacred texts. It tells of the struggle between two families for control of a kingdom. Included within it are many long passages about Hindu beliefs. The most famous is called the *Bhagavad Gita* (BUG-uh-vuhd GEE-tah).

The *Ramayana*, according to Hindu tradition written prior to the *Mahabharata*, tells about a prince named Rama. In truth, the prince was the deity Vishnu in human form. He had become human so he could rid the world of demons. He also had to rescue his wife, a princess named Sita. For centuries, the characters of the *Ramayana* have been seen as models for how Indians should behave. For example, Rama is seen as the ideal ruler, and his relationship with Sita as the ideal marriage.

### Other Works

Writers in the Gupta period also created plays, poetry, and other types of literature. One famous writer of this time was Kalidasa (kahl-ee-DAHS-uh). His work was so brilliant that Chandragupta II hired him to write plays for the royal court.

Sometime before 500, Indian writers also produced a book of stories called the *Panchatantra* (PUHN-chuh-TAHN-truh). The stories in this collection were intended to teach lessons. They praise people for cleverness and quick thinking. Each story ends with a message about winning friends, losing property, waging war, or some other idea. For example, the message below warns listeners to think about what they are doing before they act.

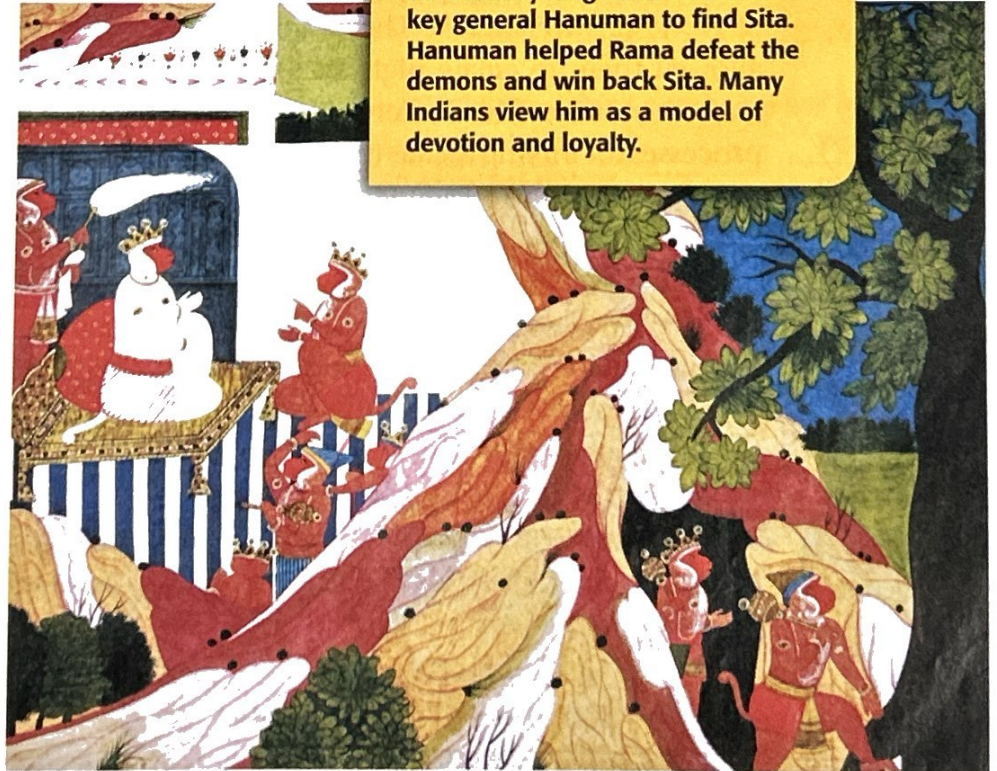
“The good and bad of given schemes  
Wise thought must first reveal:  
The stupid heron saw his chicks  
Provide a mongoose meal.”

—from the *Panchatantra*, translated  
by Arthur William Ryder

Eventually, translations of this collection spread throughout the world. It became popular even as far away as Europe.

**READING CHECK** **Categorizing** What types of literature did writers of ancient India create?

In this illustration of the *Ramayana*, the monkey king sends the monkey general Hanuman to find Sita. Hanuman helped Rama defeat the demons and win back Sita. Many Indians view him as a model of devotion and loyalty.





## Indian Science

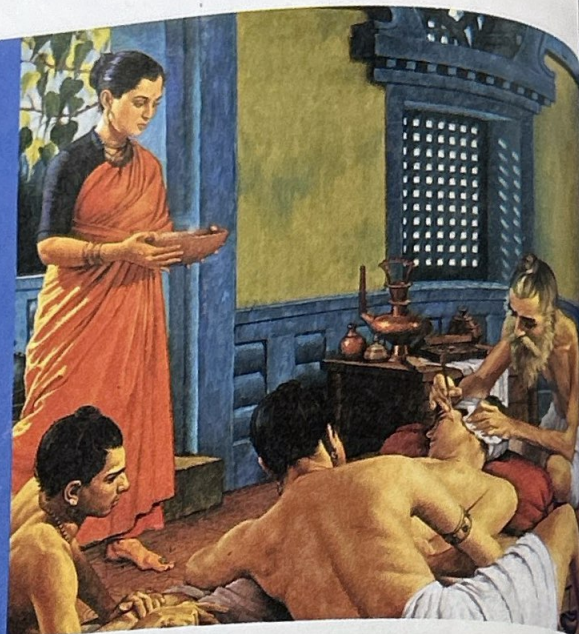


### Medicine

In this modern painting, the Indian surgeon Susruta performs surgery on a patient. The ancient Indians had an advanced knowledge of medicine.

### Metalworking

The Indians were expert metalworkers. This gold coin shows the emperor Chandragupta.



## Scientific Advances

Indian achievements were not limited to art, architecture, and literature. Indian scholars also made important advances in metalworking, math, and the sciences.

### Metalworking

The ancient Indians were pioneers of **metallurgy** (MET-uhl-uhr-jee), the science of working with metals. Their knowledge allowed them to create high-quality tools and weapons. The Indians also knew **processes** for mixing metals to create **alloys**, mixtures of two or more metals. Alloys are sometimes stronger or easier to work with than pure metals.

Metalworkers made their strongest products out of iron. Indian iron was very hard and pure. These features made the iron a valuable trade item.

During the Gupta Dynasty, metalworkers built the famous Iron Pillar near Delhi. Unlike most iron, which rusts easily, this pillar is very resistant to rust. The tall column still attracts crowds of visitors. Scholars study this column even today to learn the Indians' secrets.

### ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

**process** a series of steps by which a task is accomplished

### THE IMPACT TODAY

People still get inoculations against many diseases.

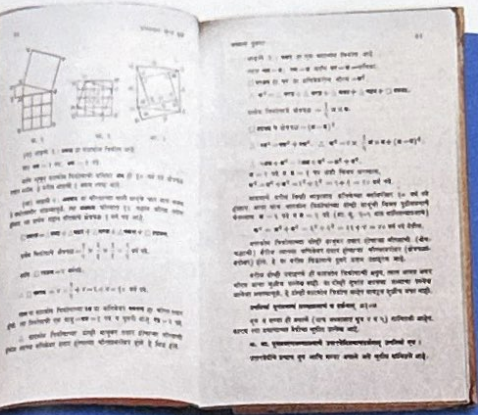
## Mathematics and Other Sciences

Gupta scholars also made advances in math and science. In fact, they were among the most advanced mathematicians of their day. They developed many elements of our modern math system. The very numbers we use today are called **Hindu-Arabic numerals** because they were created by Indian scholars and brought to Europe by Arabs. The Indians were also the first people to create the zero. Although it may seem like a small thing, modern math wouldn't be possible without the zero.

The ancient Indians were also very skilled in the medical sciences. As early as the AD 100s, doctors were writing their knowledge down in textbooks. Among the skills these books describe is making medicines from plants and minerals.

Besides curing people with medicines, Indian doctors knew how to protect people against disease. The Indians practiced **inoculation** (i-nah-kyuh-LAY-shuhn), or injecting a person with a small dose of a virus to help him or her build up defenses to a disease. By fighting off this small dose, the body learns to protect itself.





## Mathematics

This book is a copy of an ancient one from about AD 500 that summarized Indian knowledge of mathematics. It discussed basic arithmetic, fractions, and a counting system.

For people who were injured, Indian doctors could perform surgery. Surgeons repaired broken bones, treated wounds, removed infected tonsils, reconstructed broken noses, and even reattached torn earlobes! If they could find no other cure for an illness, doctors would cast magic spells to help people recover.

Indian interest in **astronomy**, the study of stars and planets, dates back to early times as well. Indian astronomers knew of seven of the nine planets in our solar system. They knew that the sun was a star and that the planets revolved around it. They also knew that the earth was a sphere and that it rotated on its axis. In addition, they could predict eclipses of the sun and the moon.

**READING CHECK** Finding Main Ideas What were two Indian achievements in mathematics?

**SUMMARY AND PREVIEW** From a group of cities on the Indus River, India grew into a major empire whose people made great achievements. In the next chapter, you'll read about another civilization that experienced similar growth—China.

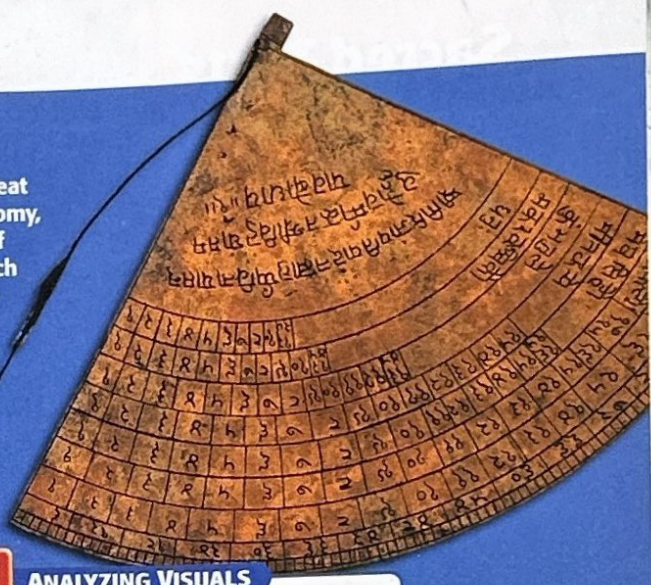
## Astronomy

The Gupta made great advances in astronomy, despite their lack of modern devices such as telescopes. They used devices like this one from the 1700s to observe and map the stars.

**ANALYSIS SKILL**

### ANALYZING VISUALS

What are some areas of science that people studied in ancient India?



## Section 5 Assessment

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**Online Quiz**

KEYWORD: SQ6 HP6

### Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People HSS 6.5.7

- a. Describe** What did Hindu temples of the Gupta period look like?

**b. Analyze** How can you tell that Indian artists were well respected?

**c. Evaluate** Why do you think Hindu and Buddhist temples contained great works of art?
- a. Identify** What is the *Bhagavad Gita*?

**b. Explain** Why were the stories of the *Panchatantra* written?

**c. Elaborate** Why do you think people are still interested in ancient Sanskrit epics today?
- a. Define** What is **metallurgy**?

**b. Explain** Why do we call the numbers we use today **Hindu-Arabic numerals**?

### Critical Thinking

- 4. Categorizing** Draw a chart like the one below. Use it to identify ancient Indian achievements in math and science.

Metallurgy	Math	Medicine	Astronomy

### FOCUS ON WRITING

- 5. Highlighting Indian Achievements** Make a list of Indian achievements that you could include on a poster. Now look back through your notes from this chapter. Which will you choose as the subject of your poster?