

Ancient India

Chapter Preview

This chapter will introduce you to the geography and civilizations of ancient India.

Section 1

The Indus and Ganges
River Valleys

Section 2

Hinduism in Ancient India

Section 3

The Beginnings of Buddhism

Section 4

Empires of Ancient India

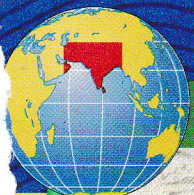


Target Reading Skill

Cause and Effect In this chapter you will learn how to focus on identifying the cause-and-effect relationships in your text. Identifying causes and effects will give you a deeper understanding of the text.

► Somnath Temple, Gujarat, India





Ancient India

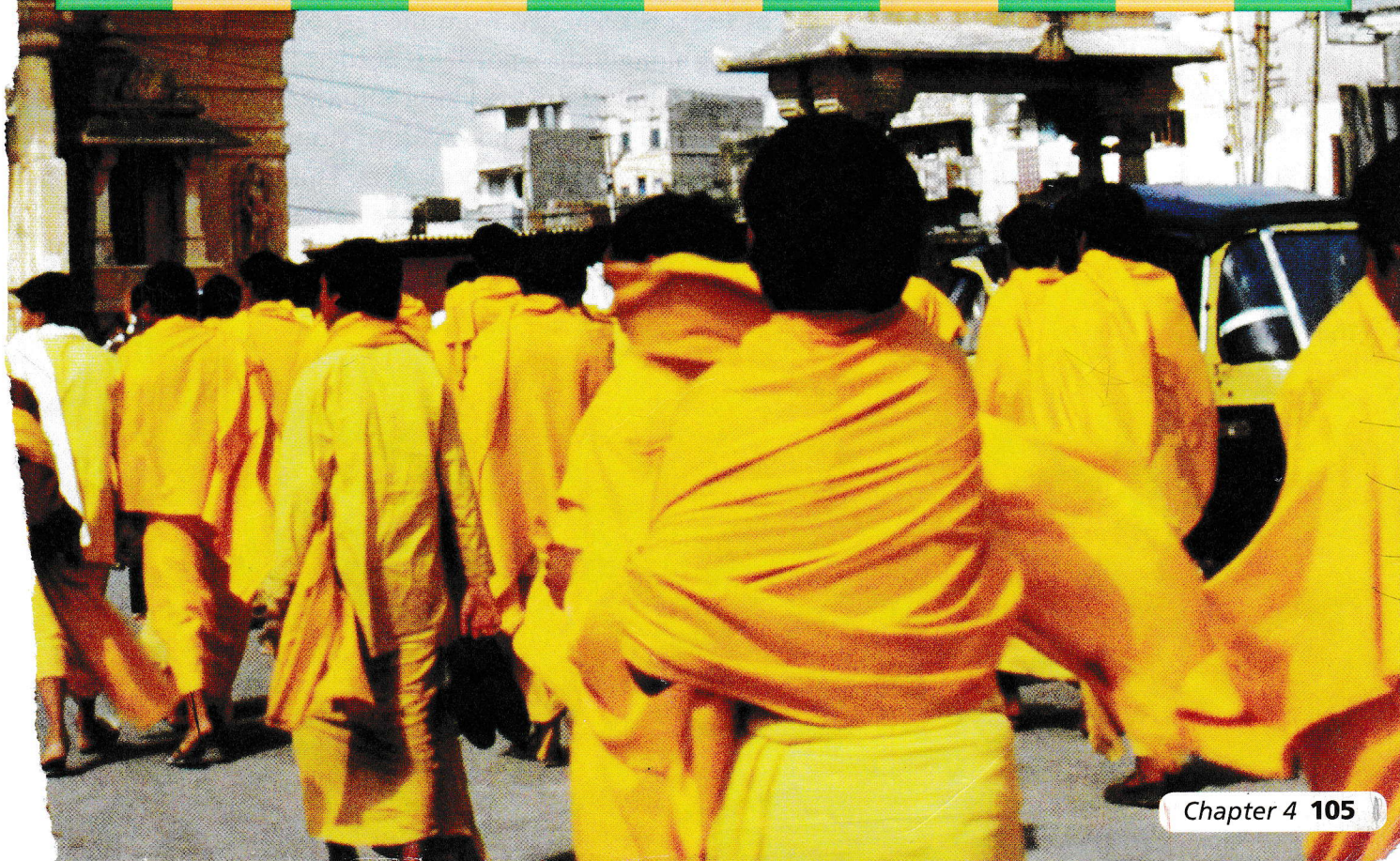
MAP MASTER™ Skills Activity

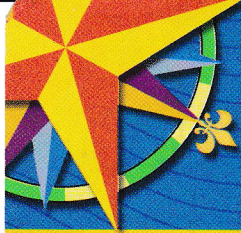


Location Like other civilizations you have read about, India's earliest civilizations developed near large rivers.

Using a Map Key What do the shaded areas on the map represent? **Draw Conclusions** What conclusions can you draw about the effect of geography on the civilizations of ancient India?

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map skills practice.





The Indus and Ganges River Valleys

Prepare to Read

Objectives

In this section you will

1. Learn about India's geographic setting.
2. Find out about life in an ancient city of the Indus River valley.
3. Examine the rise of a new culture in the Indus and Ganges river valleys.

Taking Notes

As you read, create an outline of this section. The outline below has been started for you.

- | |
|------------------------------------|
| I. India's geographic setting |
| A. Monsoon climate |
| 1. |
| 2. |
| B. |
| 1. |
| 2. |
| II. Life in the Indus River valley |



Target Reading Skill

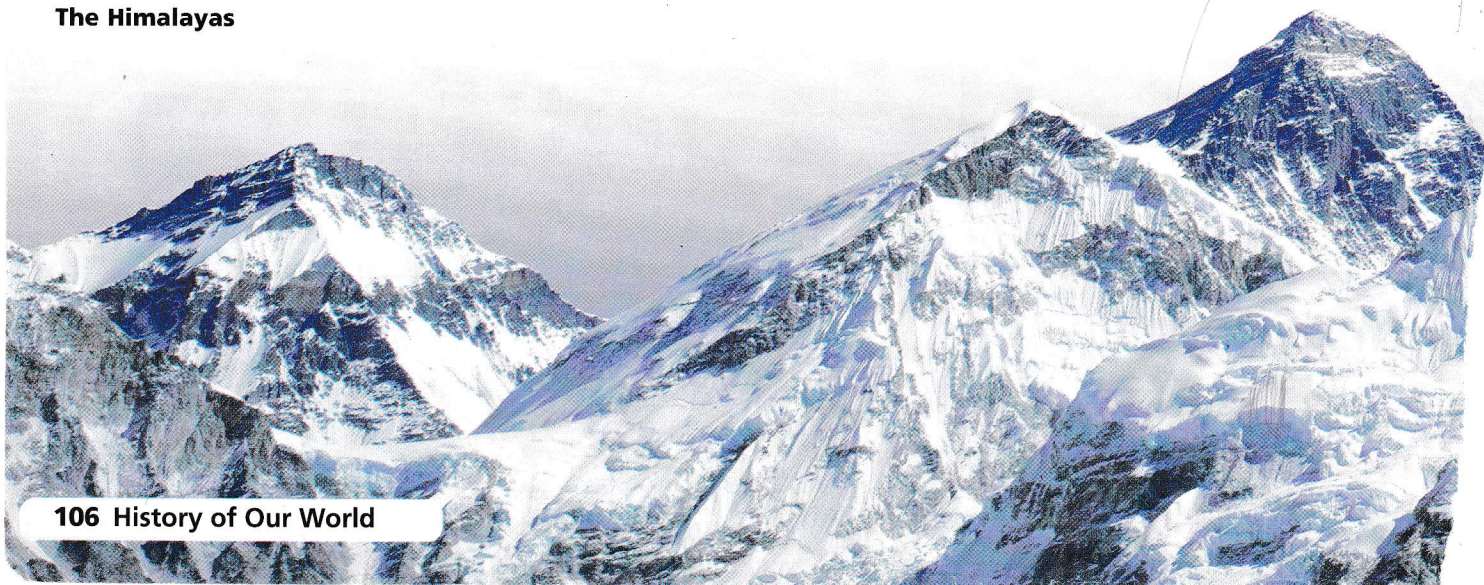
Identify Causes and Effects Determining causes and effects can help you understand the relationships among situations or events. A cause makes something happen. An effect is what happens. For example, millions of years ago the Indian landmass crashed into Asia. Think of this as a cause. The effect was the formation of mountains.

Key Terms

- **subcontinent** (SUB kahn tih nunt) *n.* a large landmass that juts out from a continent
- **monsoon** (mahn soon) *n.* a strong wind that blows across East Asia at certain times of the year
- **citadel** (SIT uh del) *n.* a fortress in a city
- **migrate** (MY grayt) *v.* to move from one place to settle in another area
- **caste** (kast) *n.* a social class of people

The land of India is separated from the rest of the world by a great wall. Rising along India's northern border, the wall is more than 1,500 miles (2,400 kilometers) long and nearly 5 miles (8 kilometers) high. The wall is not made of stone or bricks. It is a wall of snow-capped peaks and icy glaciers. This great barrier is the Himalayas, the highest mountain range in the world.

The Himalayas



India's Geographic Setting

Stretching south from the Himalayas, the kite-shaped land of India juts out from Asia into the Indian Ocean. Geographers call this land a **subcontinent, or a large landmass that juts out from a continent**. Historians refer to the entire subcontinent as India, although today it is divided into several countries, including India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh.

For centuries, geography limited the contact the people of the Indian subcontinent had with the rest of the world. Turn to the map titled Ancient India on page 105. Notice how the Himalaya and the Hindu Kush mountain ranges separate India from the rest of Asia. Like these mountains, the bodies of water around India separated it from surrounding regions.

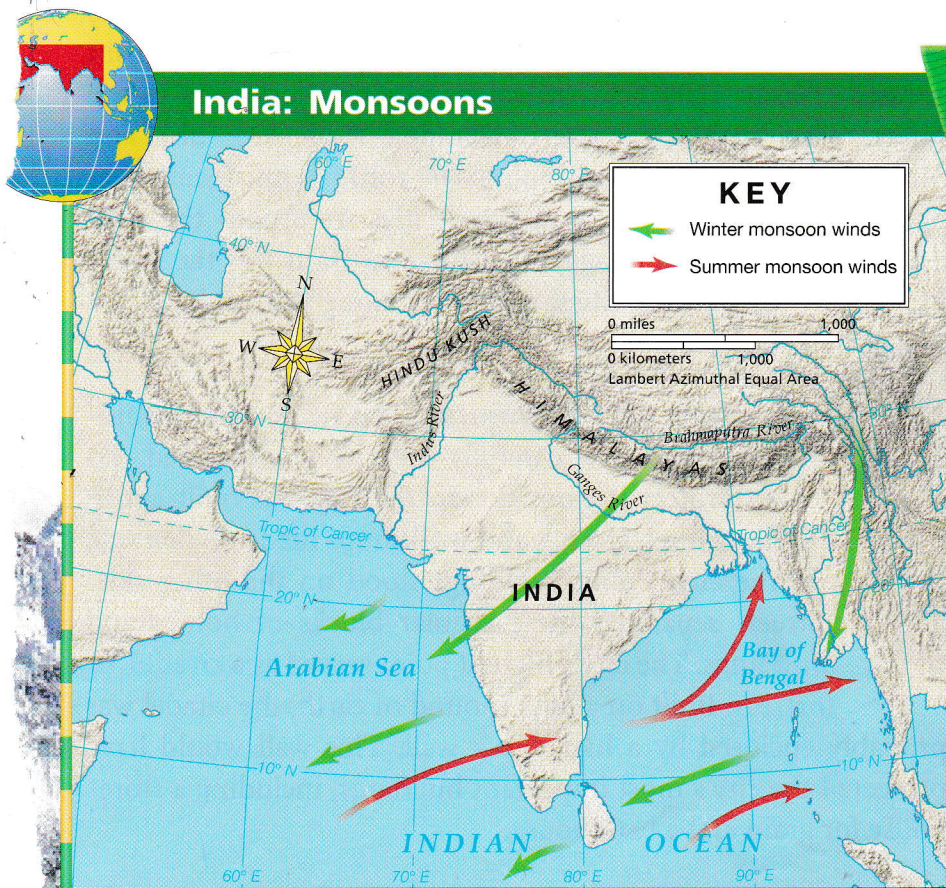
A Climate of Monsoons India's climate is dominated by the **monsoons, strong winds that blow across the region at certain times of the year**. Look at the map below titled India: Monsoons. From October to May, the winter monsoon blows from the northeast, spreading dry air across the country. Then, in the middle of June, the wind blows in from the Indian Ocean. This summer monsoon picks up moisture from the ocean. It carries rains that drench the plains and river valleys daily.

Links to

Science

The Creation of the Himalayas

Millions of years ago, all of today's continents were part of a single continent called Pangaea (pan JEE uh). Then Pangaea slowly broke apart. Eventually, India broke loose from Africa and began moving northeast. About 55 million years ago, India began crashing into Asia. The force of the collision pushed up layers and layers of rock to form the Himalayas.



MAP MASTERTM Skills Activity

Place India's distinct geographic features have influenced its history and culture. **Identify** What geographic features do you notice on this map?

Analyze Which winds bring rain to India, winter or summer? Which winds bring dry, cool air? Explain why.

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map skills practice.



Identify Causes and Effects

What cause-and-effect relationships are described in the paragraph at the right?

The people of India depend on summer monsoons to provide life-giving rain. If the monsoon is late or weak, crops die, causing famine. If it brings too much rain, overflowing rivers may cause deadly floods.

Barriers and Pathways Although the mountains separate India from other lands, they do have openings. For thousands of years, passes through the Hindu Kush mountain range have served as highways for migration and invasion. The earliest people of northern India probably entered the Indus River valley through these pathways.

Great rivers begin in the mountains. The Indus (IN dus) River crosses the Himalayas and empties into the Arabian Sea. The Ganges (GAN jeez) River flows from the Himalayas into the Bay of Bengal. Fed by melting snow and rain, the Indus and Ganges rivers cut through the mountains. They flow across northern India and make farming possible in the river valleys.

✓ **Reading Check** How do winter monsoons differ from summer monsoons?

Life in the Indus River Valley

From the rich soil of the Indus valley, early farmers harvested a surplus of wheat and other grains. With a surplus of food, the population grew. Some villages grew to become cities. From around 2500 to 1500 B.C., well-planned cities flourished in the valley. Two such cities were Harappa (huh RAP uh) and Mohenjo-Daro (moh HEN joh DAH roh), both located in present-day Pakistan. To find these cities, return to the map titled Ancient India on page 105. Mohenjo-Daro was the larger of the two cities, and it lay along the banks of the Indus River.

Ancient City Planners The ruins of Mohenjo-Daro show how carefully the city was planned. To help protect it from floods, the city was built above ground level. Homes and workshops made up one side of the city. Public buildings stood on the other side. Streets separated these regular blocks of homes and buildings. The city's highest point served as a **citadel, or fortress**. Built on a high mound of earth, the citadel was probably enclosed by a high brick wall. This wall would have protected the city's most important buildings, including a storehouse for grain and a bath house.



Stone Seals

Merchants of Mohenjo-Daro may have used seals like these to identify their goods.

Compare How do these seals compare to the ways that present-day merchants identify their goods?



Unlike most other cities of the time, Mohenjo-Daro had a drainage system. Clay pipes ran under the brick streets. They carried waste from homes and public buildings away from the city. Outside the city, canals ran along the Indus River, which often flooded. The canals helped to control flooding by catching overflow from the river. The water was then directed where it was most needed.

Life in Mohenjo-Daro In Mohenjo-Daro, merchants and artisans sold their wares from shops that lined the streets. Carts loaded with grain rolled through the city. Traders came from as far away as Mesopotamia to buy and sell precious goods. The citizens of Mohenjo-Daro lived in homes that opened onto courtyards. Children played with toys and pets. Adults enjoyed games and music. Artisans fashioned jewelry and bright cotton clothing for the people to wear.

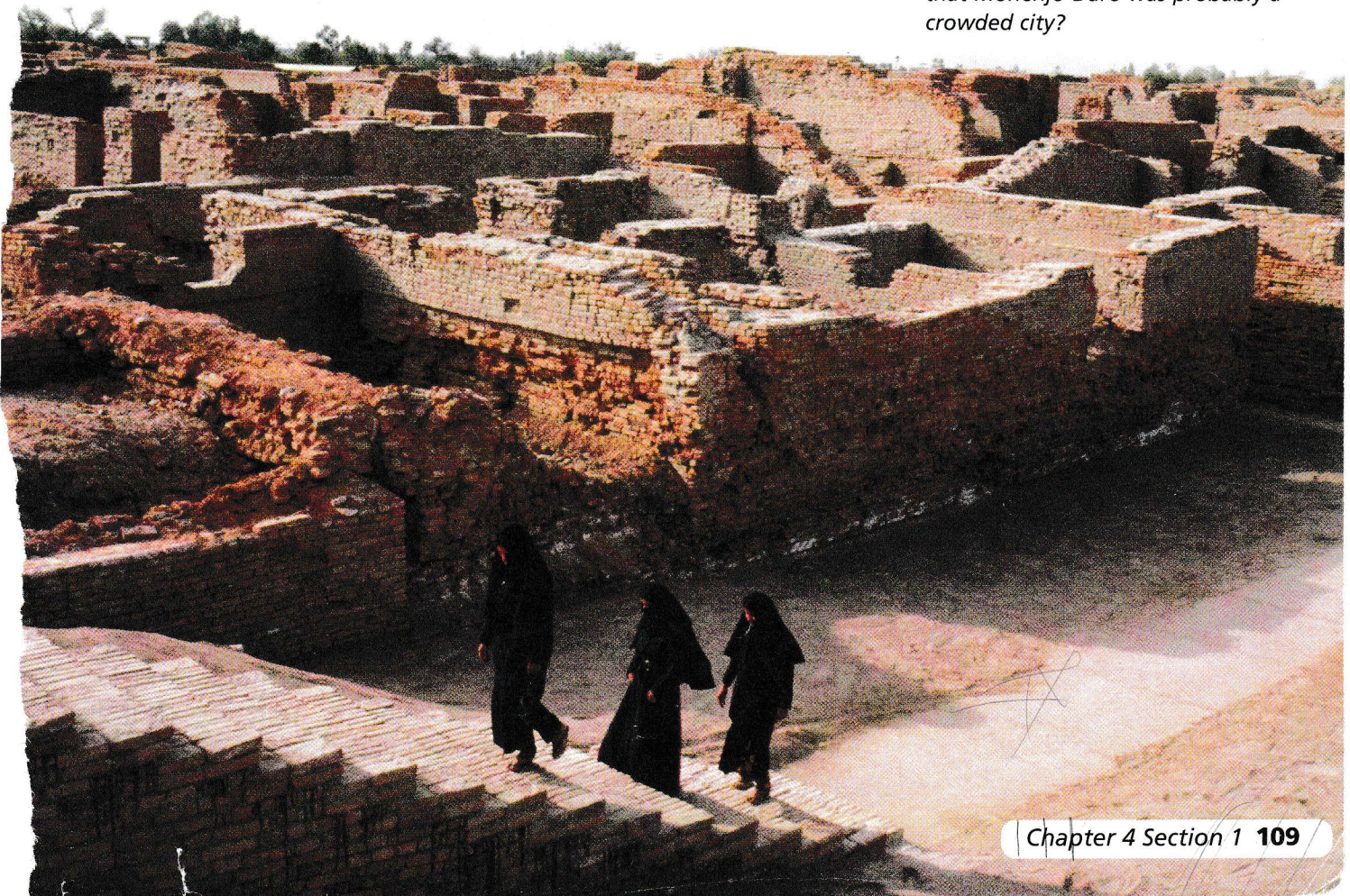
The language of the people is still a mystery. Their writings appear on square seals, but experts have not yet been able to figure out what the symbols mean. The form of government and the religion of Mohenjo-Daro are also unknown. No royal tombs or great temples have been found. But evidence found in the city's ruins suggests that the people had a number of gods.



A mythical animal on a stone seal

Ancient City

The baked-brick ruins of Mohenjo-Daro are in the present-day country of Pakistan. **Analyze Images** How does the photograph below suggest that Mohenjo-Daro was probably a crowded city?





Farming the Indus Valley

In Ladakh, India, farming is part of an ancient tradition. **Generalize** How did farmers help make civilization possible in the Indus valley?

A Mysterious Decline Around 2000 B.C., Indus valley farmers began to abandon their land. The climate may have changed, turning the fertile soil into desert. Or great earthquakes may have caused floods that destroyed the canals. Without enough food, people began to leave the cities of the Indus valley. Between 2000 and 1500 B.C., newcomers from the north entered the valley. These newcomers eventually gained power throughout the region.

✓ **Reading Check** When did the Indus valley civilization begin to decline?

A New Culture Arises

The newcomers called themselves Aryans (AYR ee unz), which in their language meant “noble” or “highborn.” They **migrated, or moved**, from their homelands in central Asia. For several centuries, waves of these nomadic herders swept into India.

The Aryans drove horse-drawn chariots that helped them gain power. The chariots overwhelmed the enemy’s slow-moving foot soldiers and settled populations. In time, local people adopted the language and some of the beliefs of the Aryans. Gradually, a new Aryan culture developed. This culture combined the traditions of the original inhabitants with ideas and beliefs brought by the newcomers. Marriages between members of the two groups created a mixed population.

Aryan Culture Spreads This new culture first developed in the northern Indus valley. Gradually, it spread into the Ganges valley to the east, where people also adopted the Aryan language. By about 800 B.C., the people of northern India had learned to make tools and weapons out of iron. With iron axes, these people cleared areas of the thick rain forests of the northeast. There they built farms, villages, and even cities.

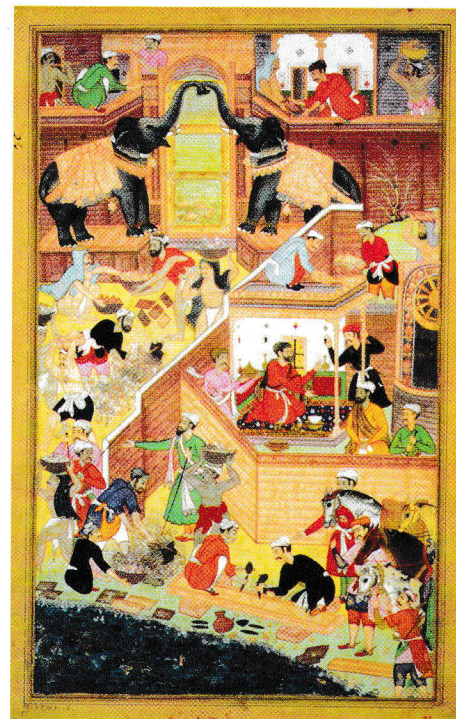
Aryan Life Most of what we know of early Aryan life comes from religious books called Vedas, which means “knowledge.” The Vedas tell us that the earliest Aryans were herders and warriors who lived in temporary villages. Often on the move, these people did not at first build cities or spacious homes.

The Aryans organized their society around three classes. Aryan priests, called Brahmins, performed religious services and composed hymns and prayers. Ranked below them was a class of warriors and nobles. Next came the artisans and merchants. Gradually, a low-ranking fourth class was formed. It was made up of farm workers, laborers, and servants.

The Social Order By 500 B.C., there was a strict division of classes. Europeans later called it the caste system. At first, each **caste, or class**, performed special duties. Under the caste system, people always had to stay in the caste of their parents. Over time, the caste system became more complicated. The main castes divided into hundreds of different groups, in which each person had the same occupation. Since people could not leave their caste, they did the same work that their parents and other group members did.

The caste system still exists in present-day India, but it is much less rigid. For example, people of different castes interact more freely. Also, many modern professions have no caste ranking.

✓ Reading Check How was Aryan society organized?



Indian Society

In the caste system, a weaver's son would be a weaver. A barber's daughter would marry a barber. The manuscript page above shows workmen building a royal city.

Summarize How did the caste system develop in India?



Section 1 Assessment

Key Terms

Review the key terms at the beginning of this section. Use each term in a sentence that explains its meaning.



Target Reading Skill

What may have caused the decline of Indus valley civilizations around 2000 B.C.? What was the effect of this decline?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. (a) **Recall** Describe the geography of the Indus and Ganges river valleys.

(b) **Identify Effects** How do the monsoons affect India and its climate?

2. (a) **Explain** How did geography influence the building of Mohenjo-Daro?

(b) **Draw Conclusions** How was Mohenjo-Daro similar to modern cities?

3. (a) **Identify** Who were the Aryans?

(b) **Analyze Information** How was it possible for the Aryans to spread their influence over the Indus and Ganges river valleys so successfully?

Writing Activity

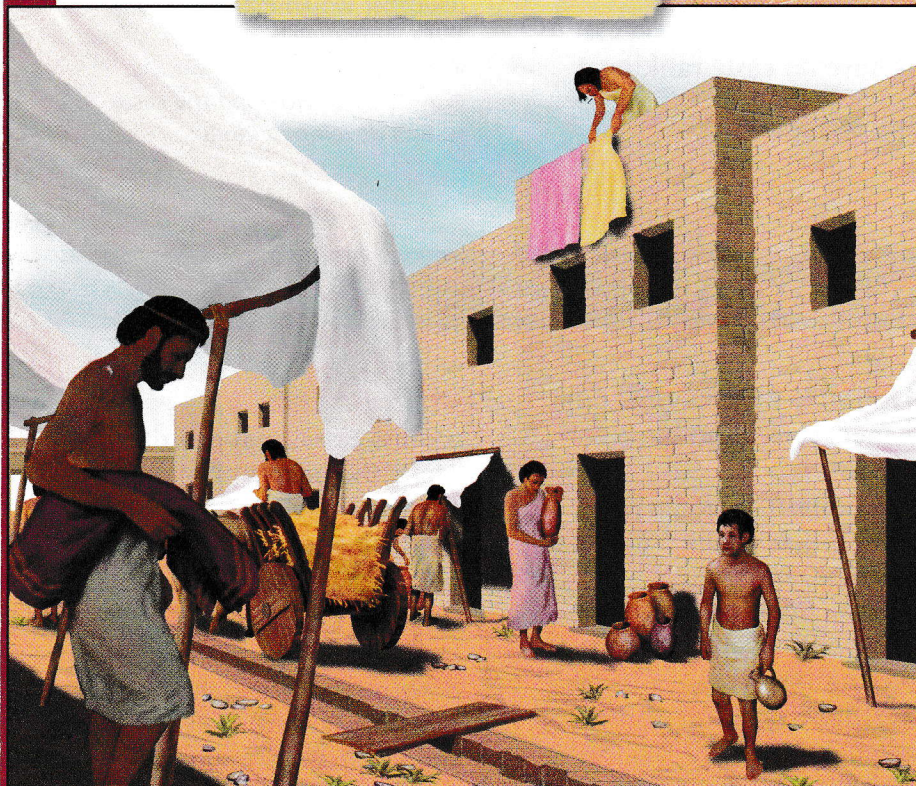
List some words that describe the city and the people of Mohenjo-Daro. Use these words to write a paragraph about life in that city.

Writing Tip Use vivid language when writing a description. Reread the text on Mohenjo-Daro to see what life was like in the ancient city. When you write your description, carefully choose adjectives that will bring Mohenjo-Daro to life.

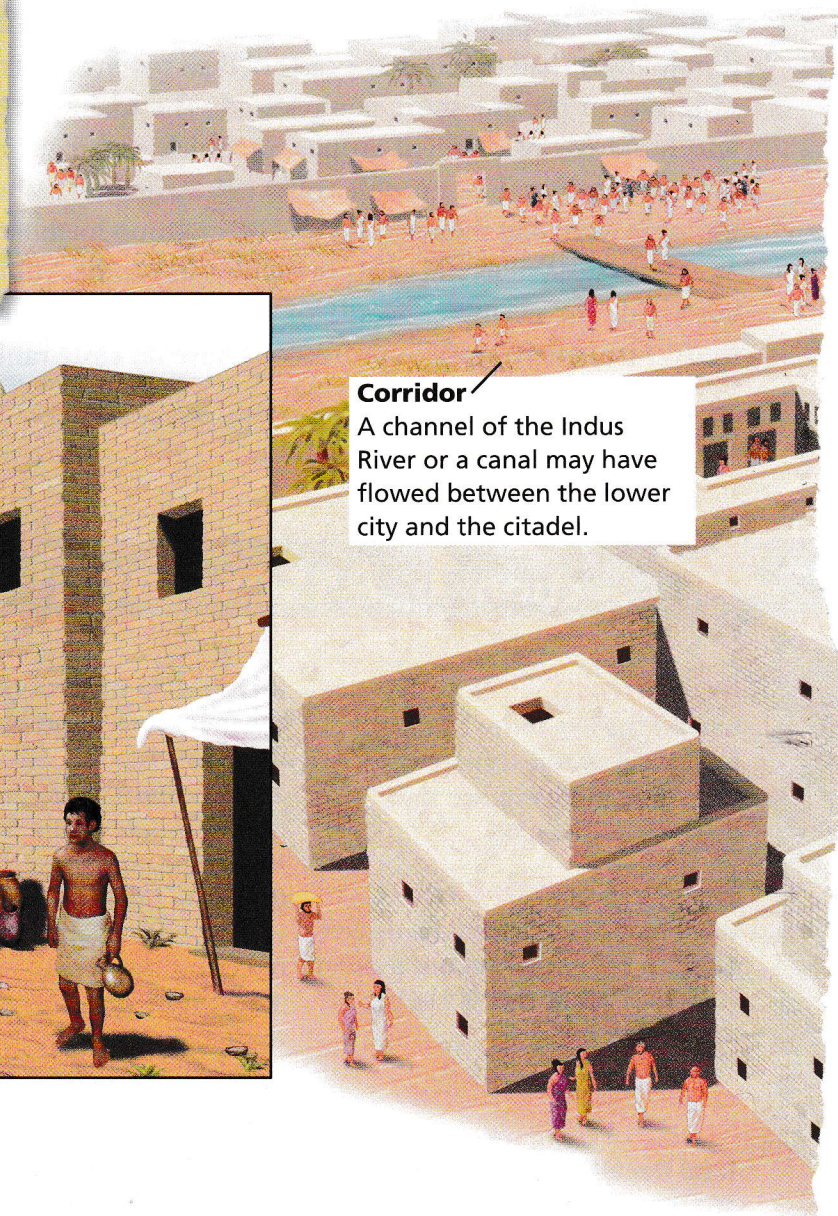
Focus On Mohenjo-Daro

The advertisement shown below is fiction, of course, but the details are quite true. While villagers in ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt were living in mud huts, Indus valley dwellers lived in relatively high style—especially in the two large cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. Discovered by archaeologists in 1922, Mohenjo-Daro was a feat of engineering, architecture, design, mathematics, and social organization.

Homes available in fashionable Mohenjo-Daro! Houses feature from 1 to 24 rooms in cool, brick buildings, some with courtyards. Good security. Indoor baths and well water in most units. Close to the Indus River and to downtown area. Dogs, cats, chickens, pigs, goats, mules, and sheep welcome.



A street scene from the lower city



Corridor

A channel of the Indus River or a canal may have flowed between the lower city and the citadel.



A lamp found in the ruins of Mohenjo-Daro

City Life From its beginnings in around 2500 B.C., Mohenjo-Daro was a booming city where more than 35,000 people lived and worked. Planners divided the city into two sections: a western side for public facilities, known as the citadel, and a residential east side, known as the lower city. Built on mud-brick platforms to protect it from floods, Mohenjo-Daro was laid out with mathematical precision on one square mile.

Artisans of Mohenjo-Daro created jewelry, crafted copper and bronze objects, and found a way to mass-produce pottery. Cotton fabric found in the city's ruins is the earliest evidence of a textile industry for which India would later become famous. Yet despite these signs of success, we find no great tombs of kings or priests. Few clues remain as to who built this city and extended its influence for thousands of miles.

Lower City

Homes and shops

Citadel

Public buildings

Great Bath

The pool was 8 feet (2.5 meters) deep. It may have been used for religious ceremonies.

Granary

Vents in the building kept the grain from spoiling.

Assessment

Identify Describe the citadel and the lower-city sections of Mohenjo-Daro.

Draw Conclusions What do the features of Mohenjo-Daro tell us about the people who lived there?



Hinduism in Ancient India

Prepare to Read

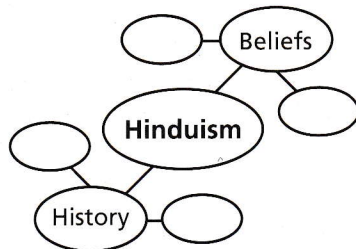
Objectives

In this section you will

1. Find out about the beginning of Hinduism.
2. Learn about the teachings of Hinduism.
3. Examine the practice of Hinduism.

Taking Notes

As you read, find details about the basic beliefs of Hinduism. Copy the concept web below, and record your findings in it.



Target Reading Skill

Recognize Cause-and-Effect Signal Words

Sometimes certain words, such as *affect*, *from*, and *as a result*, signal a cause or an effect. In the following sentence, *from* signals both a cause and an effect: "From this blending of ideas and beliefs came one of the world's oldest living religions, Hinduism." The cause is a blend of ideas and beliefs, and the effect is Hinduism. As you read, look for signals announcing other causes and effects.

Key Terms

- **brahman** (BRAH mun) *n.* a single spiritual power that Hindus believe lives in everything
- **avatar** (av uh TAHR) *n.* a representation of a Hindu god or goddess in human or animal form
- **reincarnation** (ree in kahr NAY shun) *n.* the rebirth of the soul in the body of another living being
- **dharma** (DAHR mūh) *n.* the religious and moral duties of Hindus
- **ahimsa** (uh HIM sah) *n.* the Hindu idea of non-violence



Shiva, one of the most important Hindu gods

The following prayer was part of one of the early Aryan Vedas:

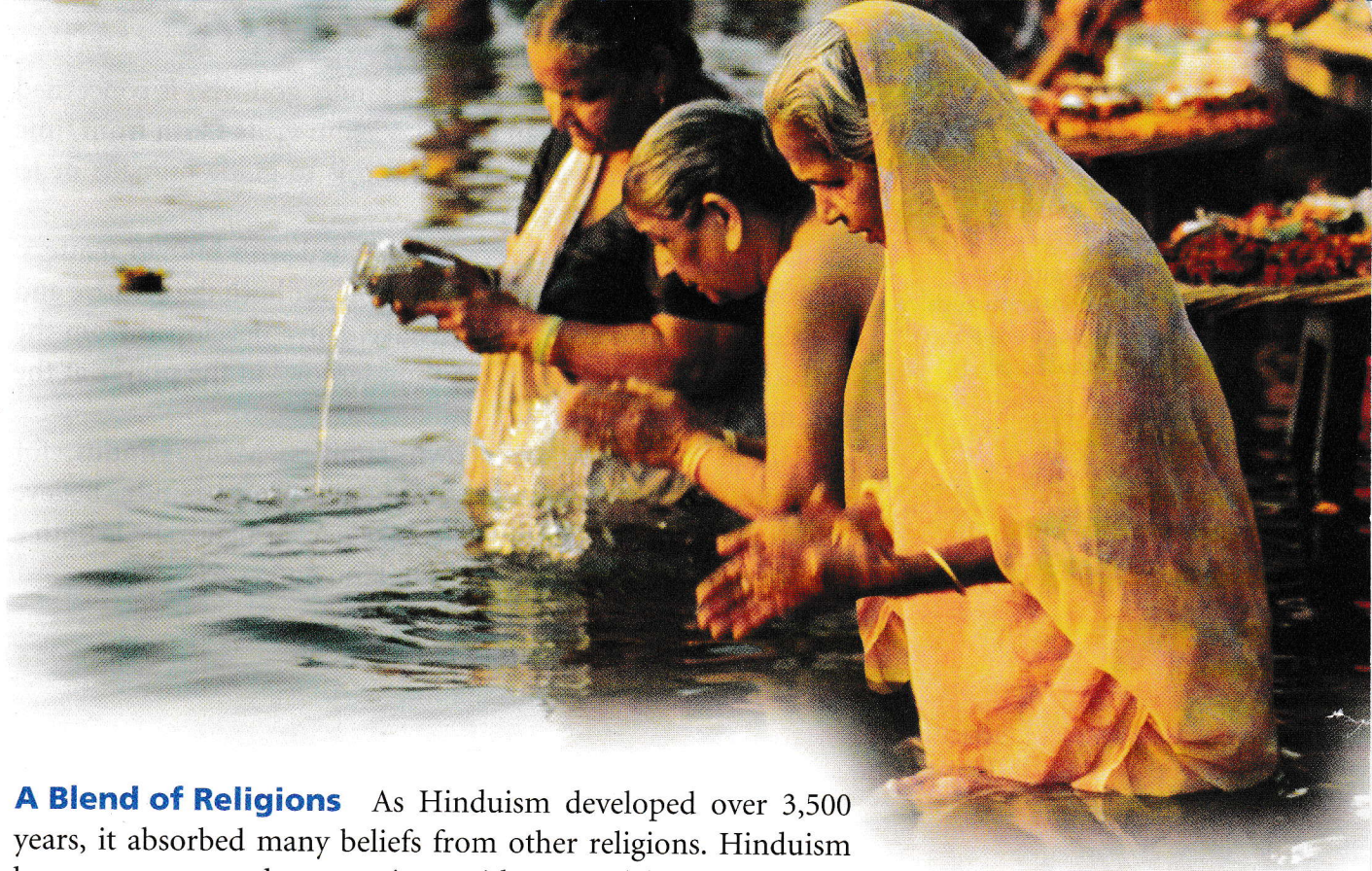
“O Lord of the storm gods, . . . [d]o not hide the sun from our sight. O Rudra, protect our horseman from injury. . . . Your glory is unbounded, your strength unmatched among all living creatures, O Rudra, wielder [handler] of the thunderbolt. Guide us safely to the far shore of existence where there is no sorrow.”

—Aryan Vedas

The prayer praises Rudra and other gods of nature. What parts of the prayer ask the gods for their protection?

The Beginnings of Hinduism

Aryan prayers were passed down through generations. As Aryan culture mixed with India's existing cultures, new ideas and beliefs became part of the Vedas. From this blending of ideas and beliefs came one of the world's oldest living religions, Hinduism.



A Blend of Religions As Hinduism developed over 3,500 years, it absorbed many beliefs from other religions. Hinduism became very complex over time, with many different practices existing side by side. Hindus believe that since people are different, they need many different ways of approaching god.

Hinduism is one of the world's major religions, and a way of life for more than 850 million people in India today. Its beliefs have influenced people of many other religions. Yet Hinduism is unlike other major world religions.

Hinduism has no one single founder, but Hindus have many great religious thinkers. Hindus worship many gods and goddesses. However, they believe in **one single spiritual power called brahman, which lives in everything**. Hindus believe that there is more than one path to the truth.

Hindu Gods and Goddesses The gods and goddesses of Hinduism stand for different parts of brahman. An ancient Hindu saying expresses this idea: "God is one, but wise people know it by many names." The most important Hindu gods are Brahma, the Creator; Vishnu, the Preserver; and Shiva, the Destroyer.

Hindu gods take many different forms, called avatars. **An avatar is the representation of a Hindu god or goddess in human or animal form.**

Hindu teachings say that the god Brahma was born from a golden egg. He created Earth and everything on it. However, he is not as widely worshiped as Vishnu and Shiva.

Bathing in the Ganges

People practice the ancient ritual of cleansing in the Ganges River. Hindus believe the waters of the Ganges to be sacred. **Infer** Why do you think Hindus believe the Ganges to be sacred?

Hindu Temple

The Hindu temple of Kandarya Mahadeva was built in central India around A.D. 1000. The temple is covered with carvings of Hindu gods.

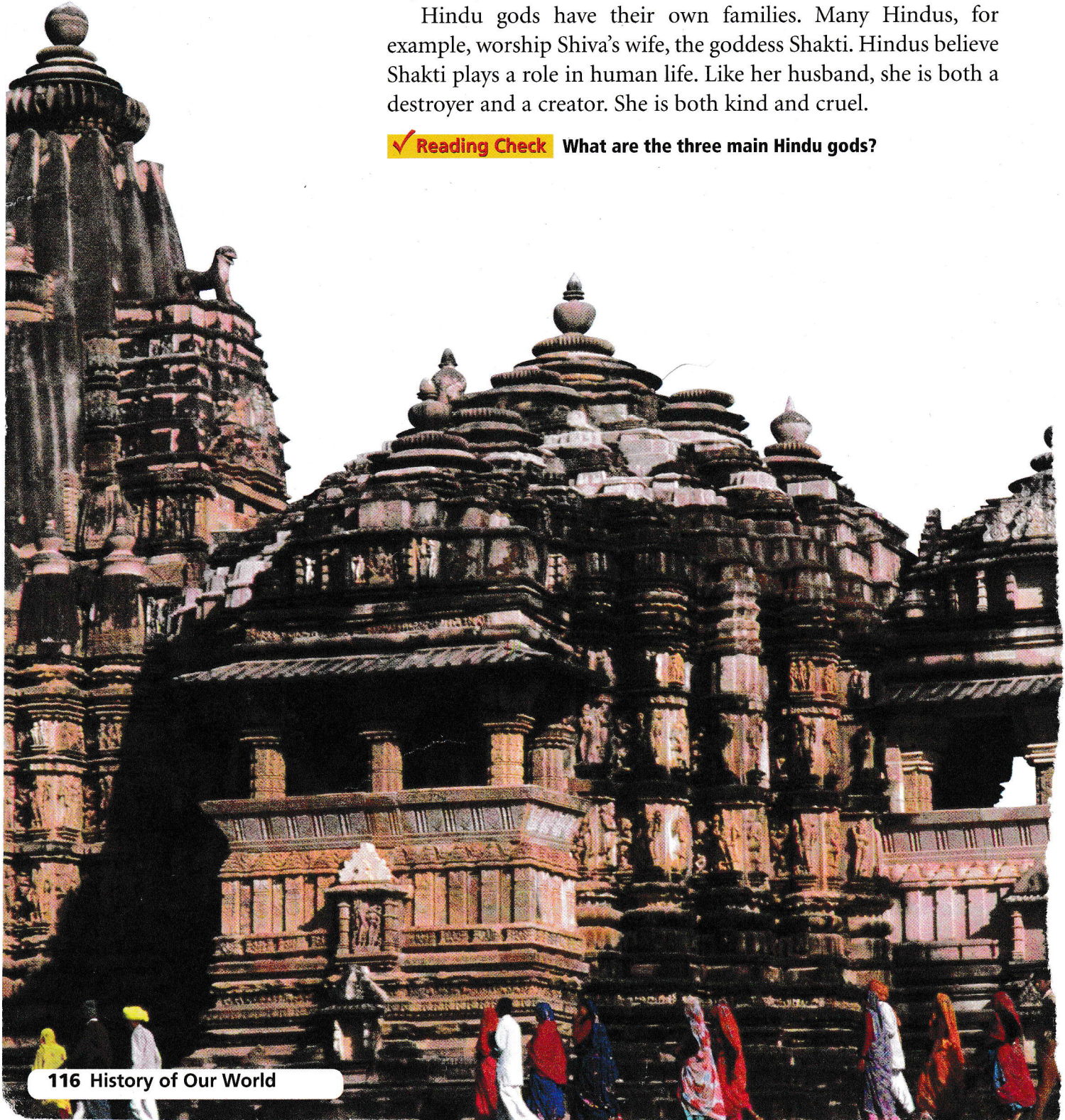
Synthesize *In what ways are the gods of Hinduism complex, or many-sided?*

Hindus believe that Vishnu is a kindly god who is concerned with the welfare of human beings. Vishnu visits Earth from time to time in different forms. He does this to guide humans or to protect them from disaster.

Unlike Vishnu, Shiva is not concerned with human matters. He is very powerful. Shiva is responsible for both the creative and the destructive forces of the universe. Shiva developed from the god Rudra, the “wielder of the thunderbolt” in the prayer at the beginning of this section.

Hindu gods have their own families. Many Hindus, for example, worship Shiva’s wife, the goddess Shakti. Hindus believe Shakti plays a role in human life. Like her husband, she is both a destroyer and a creator. She is both kind and cruel.

✓ Reading Check What are the three main Hindu gods?



The Teachings of Hinduism

All Hindus share certain central beliefs that are contained in religious writings or sacred texts.

The Upanishads One of the Hindu religious texts is the Upanishads (oo PAN uh shadz). *Upanishad* means “sitting near a teacher.” Much of the Upanishads is in the form of questions by pupils and responses by teachers. For example, a pupil asks, “Who created the world?” The teacher replies, “Brahman is the creator, the universal soul.” When asked to describe brahman, the teacher explains that it is too complicated for humans to understand. Brahman has no physical form.

Reincarnation One important idea in the Upanishads is **reincarnation, or rebirth of the soul**. Hindus believe that when a person dies, the soul is reborn in the body of another living thing. Hindus believe that every living thing has a soul. This idea is an important part of other Asian beliefs as well.

According to Hindu belief, the actions of a person in this life affect his or her fate in the next. Good behavior is always rewarded. Bad behavior is always punished. Faithful followers of Hinduism will be reborn into a higher position. Those whose acts have been bad may be born into a lower caste, or may even return as animals. If a person leads a perfect life, he or she may be freed from this cycle of death and rebirth. As a result, the person’s soul becomes one with brahman.

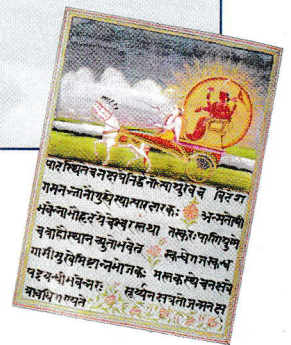
A Hindu’s Duties To become united with the one spirit and escape the cycle of death and rebirth, a person must obey his or her dharma (DAHR muh). **Dharma is the religious and moral duties of each person.** These duties depend on such factors as a person’s class, age, and occupation. In Hinduism, it is a man’s duty to protect the women in his family, and it is a ruler’s duty to protect his subjects. Another important idea of Hinduism is **ahimsa (uh HIM sah), or nonviolence**. To Hindus, people and living things are part of brahman and therefore must be treated with respect. For that reason, many Hindus do not eat meat and try to avoid harming living things.

✓ **Reading Check** According to Hindu belief, what happens to a person’s soul after death?

Links to

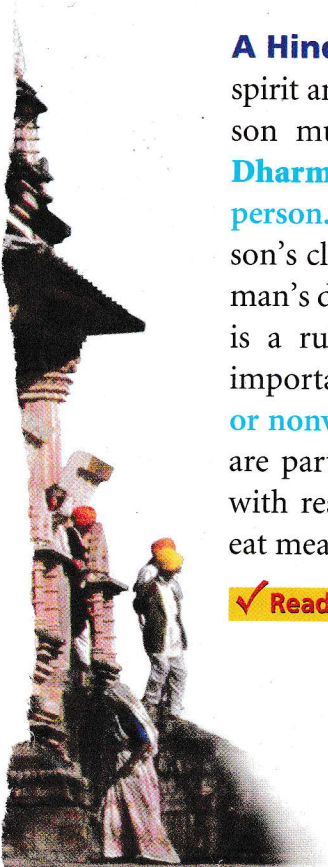
Language Arts

Common Roots The Hindu sacred books were written in a language called Sanskrit. It is one of the oldest known languages. Sanskrit is related to many other languages in the world, such as Greek and Latin. Modern languages, including Spanish, German, and English, also have roots in common with ancient Sanskrit. The page shown below is from an ancient Indian book written in Sanskrit.



Recognize Cause-and-Effect Signal Words

What does as a result signal?





Home Altar

Many Hindus, like the woman shown above, worship before altars in their homes. **Contrast** What are some differences between public and private worship for Hindus?

The Practice of Hinduism

As you have read, Hinduism teaches that there is more than one path to the truth. Because of this view, Hinduism allows its followers to worship in various ways.

The Yogas Many non-Hindus know yoga (YOH guh) as a physical activity, a system of special exercises and breathing. Hindus believe yoga exercises help free the soul from the cares of the world. In this way, the soul may unite with brahman. In fact, the word *yoga* means “union.” For Hindus, there are many yogas that may be used as paths to brahman. Physical activity is one yoga. Another is the yoga of selfless deeds, such as giving to the poor. By learning the sacred writings, a Hindu practices the yoga of knowledge. And by honoring a personal god, a Hindu follows the yoga of devotion.

Private Devotion Hindus worship in public by praying and performing rituals in temples. They also show devotion privately at home. It is common for Hindus to choose a personal god, and to honor that god by offering food, gifts, and prayers at a home altar. A Hindu’s devotion to the god brings the soul closer to brahman.

✓ **Reading Check** How is yoga practiced by Hindus?



Section 2 Assessment

Key Terms

Review the key terms at the beginning of this section. Use each term in a sentence that explains its meaning.



Target Reading Skill

Return to the fourth paragraph on page 117 and find the signal word *affect*. What cause-and-effect relationships are described in the two sentences that follow?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. (a) **Explain** How did the early Aryan religion grow into Hinduism?

(b) Compare and Contrast

How is Hinduism different from other religions you have learned about? How is it similar?

2. (a) Analyze Information

What is the relationship between good and bad behavior and the Hindu idea of reincarnation?

(b) **Find the Main Idea** What does “escaping the cycle of birth and death” mean to Hindus?

3. (a) **Describe** In what ways do Hindus practice their faith?

(b) **Draw Conclusions** How do you think the yogas bring Hindus closer to brahman?

Writing Activity

Hindu teachers often instruct their students through questions and answers. Write a dialogue in which a student asks questions about Hindu beliefs and the teacher responds.

Writing Tip A dialogue is similar to a script for a play. When you write your dialogue, make it clear that either the student or the teacher is speaking. Try to make the dialogue sound like a conversation.



The Beginnings of Buddhism

Prepare to Read

Objectives

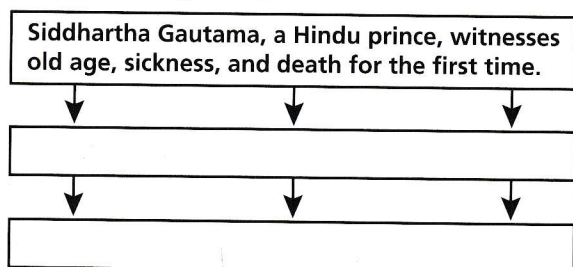
In this section you will

1. Learn about the Buddha and his teachings.
2. Find out how Buddhism was received inside and outside India.

Taking Notes

As you read, find details on the beginnings of Buddhism. Copy the flowchart below, and record your findings in it.

Beginnings of Buddhism



Target Reading Skill

Recognize Multiple Causes

A cause is what makes something happen. An effect is what happens. Sometimes an effect can have more than one cause. For example, in the story that begins this section, Siddhartha Gautama witnesses three events that cause him to change the direction of his life. Can you identify the three causes? As you read, look for effects that have multiple causes.

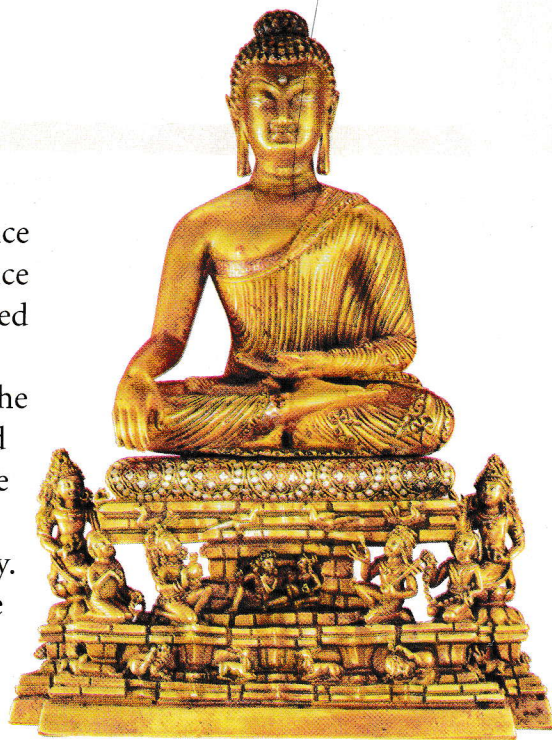
Key Terms

- **meditate** (MED uh tayt) *v.* to focus the mind inward in order to find spiritual awareness or relaxation
- **nirvana** (nur VAH nuh) *n.* the lasting peace that Buddhists seek by giving up selfish desires
- **missionary** (MISH un ehr ee) *n.* a person who spreads his or her religious beliefs to others

According to Buddhist tradition, a young Hindu prince once lived a life of luxury in his palace in northern India. The prince was surrounded by beauty and youth. He had never witnessed old age, sickness, or death.

Then, around the age of 30, the prince traveled outside the palace walls. What he saw changed his life. He met a bent and tired old man. Then he saw a man who was very sick. Finally, he saw a corpse, or dead body, as it was carried to a funeral.

This suffering and death troubled the young man greatly. He wondered why there was so much misery and pain in the world. He decided he must change his life to find the answer. He gave up his wealth, his family, and his life of ease in order to find the causes of human suffering. The young man was named Siddhartha Gautama (sih DAHR tuh GOW tuh muh). What he discovered after seven years of wandering led to the beginnings of a major world religion: Buddhism.



Indian statue of the young Buddha

The Buddha and His Teachings

As Gautama traveled in the 500s B.C., he sought answers to his questions about the meaning of life. At first, Gautama studied with Hindu philosophers, but their ideas did not satisfy him. He could not accept the Hindu belief that only priests could pass on knowledge.

The Practice of Buddhism: The Eightfold Path

1. Right Understanding

Having faith in the Buddhist view of the universe

2. Right Intention

Making a commitment to practice Buddhism

3. Right Speech

Avoiding lies and mean or abusive speech

4. Right Action

Not taking life, not stealing, and not hurting others

5. Right Livelihood

Rejecting jobs and occupations that conflict with Buddhist ideals

6. Right Effort

Avoiding bad attitudes and developing good ones

7. Right Mindfulness

Being aware of one's own body, feelings, and thoughts

8. Right Concentration

Thinking deeply to find answers to problems

SOURCE: Encyclopaedia Britannica

The Eightfold Path

The Eightfold Path outlines the steps a person should take to lead a balanced life.

Analyze Which steps direct followers to lead a moral life?

The Search for Understanding Gautama decided to stop looking outwardly for the cause of suffering. Instead, he tried to find understanding within his own mind. To do this, he decided to **meditate, to focus the mind inward in order to find spiritual awareness.**

Meditation was an ancient Hindu practice used by Indus valley civilizations. Buddhist tradition says that Gautama fasted and meditated under a fig tree. After 49 days, he found the answers he sought. He believed he finally understood the roots of suffering.

For the next 45 years, Gautama traveled across India and shared his knowledge. Over the years, he attracted many followers. His followers called him the Buddha (BOO duh), or "Enlightened One." His teachings became known as Buddhism.

The Middle Way Buddhism teaches people to follow the Eightfold Path, also called the Middle Way. By following this path, a person avoids a life of extreme pleasure or extreme unhappiness.

The Buddha believed that selfish desires for power, wealth, and pleasure cause humans to suffer. By giving up selfish pleasures, a person can become free from suffering. He taught that the way to end human suffering is by following the Eightfold Path. To overcome selfish desires, Buddhists must learn to be wise, to behave correctly, and to develop their minds.



Release From Reincarnation To find this Middle Way, the Buddha taught, people must act unselfishly toward others and treat people fairly. They must tell the truth at all times. People should also avoid violence and the killing of any living thing. If people follow the Buddha's path, their suffering will end. They will eventually find **nirvana, or lasting peace**. By reaching nirvana, people will be released from the cycle of reincarnation.

Followers of Buddhism Buddhism also taught that all people are equal. Anyone, the Buddha declared, could follow the path to nirvana, regardless of his or her social class. This idea appealed to many people living under the caste system.

Like other religions, Buddhism has priests. Although monastery life is difficult, people of any social class can work to become a Buddhist priest or monk. The Buddha encouraged his followers to establish monasteries. There they would learn, meditate, and teach. He also urged monks to become **missionaries, or people who spread their religious beliefs to others**.

✓ **Reading Check** Why do Buddhists try to follow the Middle Way?



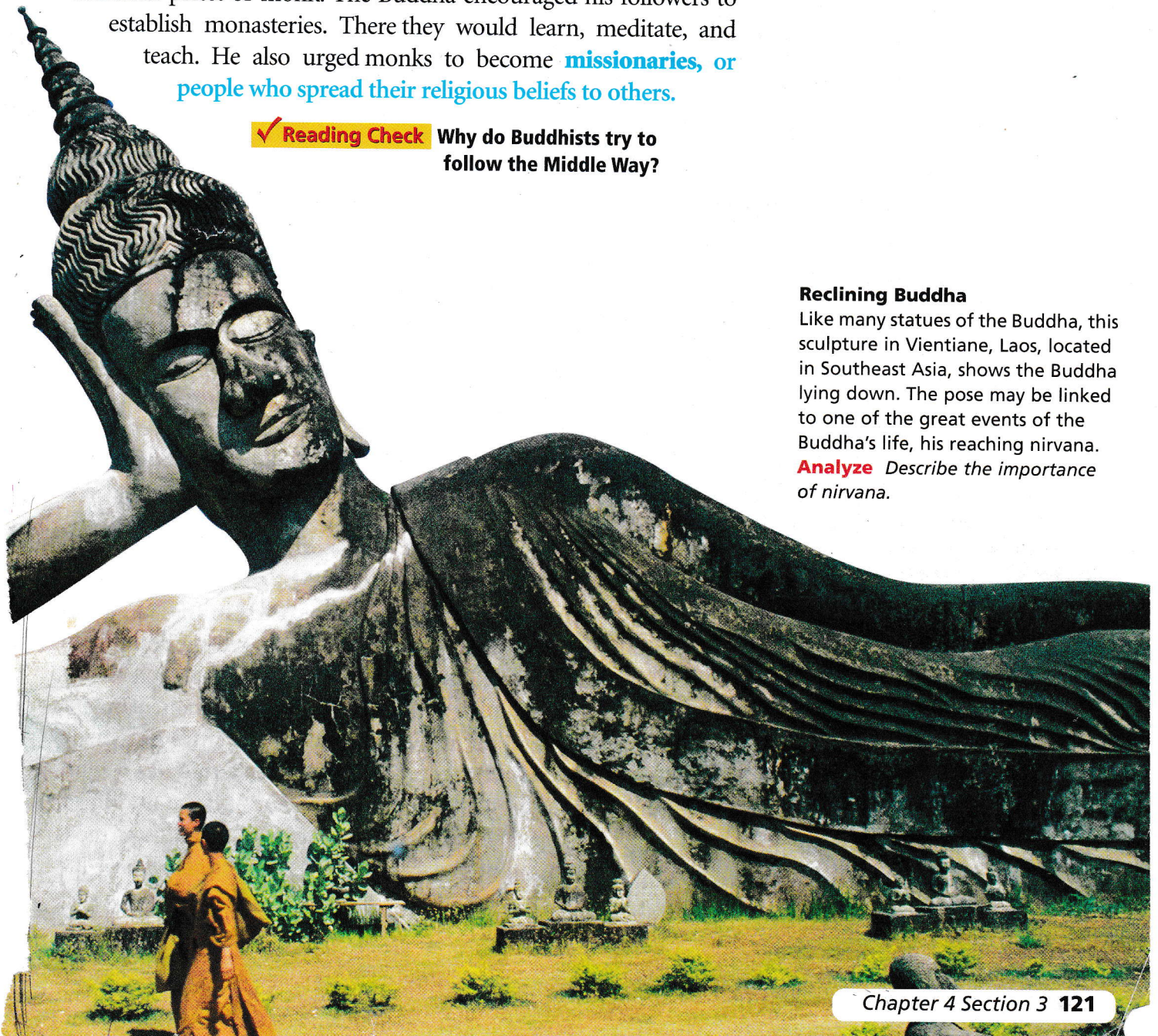
Recognizing Multiple Causes

Which factors in the paragraph at the left affect a Buddhist's ability to reach nirvana?

Reclining Buddha

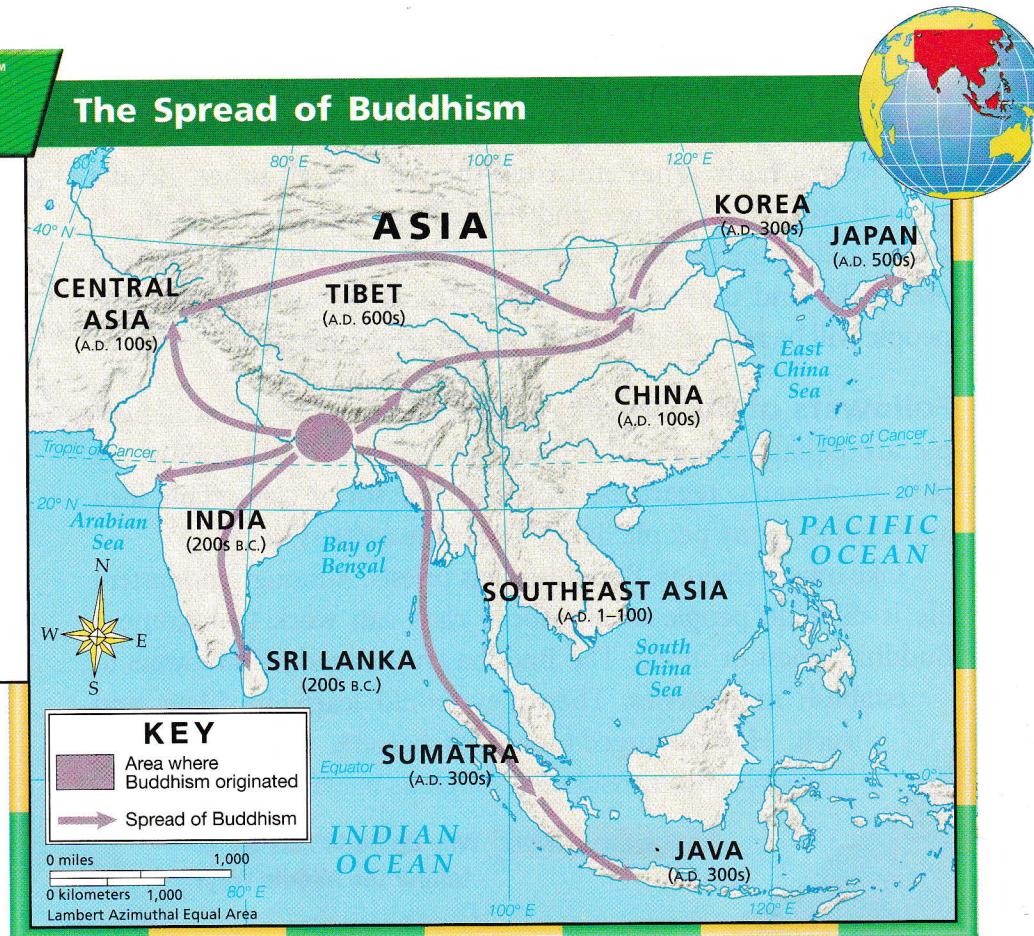
Like many statues of the Buddha, this sculpture in Vientiane, Laos, located in Southeast Asia, shows the Buddha lying down. The pose may be linked to one of the great events of the Buddha's life, his reaching nirvana.

Analyze Describe the importance of nirvana.



Movement Missionaries and traders carried the Buddha's ideas and teachings throughout Asia. **Identify** When did the people of Japan learn about Buddhism? **Conclude** How might geography have affected the spread of Buddhism from India to Japan?

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tour of a Buddhist temple.

Some Hindus believed that the Buddha was the reincarnation of the god Vishnu, shown at the center of the bronze altar piece below.



Buddhism Inside and Outside India

After the Buddha's death, his teachings spread all over India. But the Buddha's teachings did not last in the land of his birth. Hinduism gradually regained favor among those in power. Meantime, Hinduism had developed in ways that made it more appealing to the lower castes. Over time, Buddhism died out almost completely in India. But for many years, Buddhism and Hinduism existed side by side.

Hindus and Buddhists: Shared Beliefs When Hinduism and Buddhism coexisted in India, a number of basic ideas came to be shared by both. Both Hindus and Buddhists accept the idea that it is wrong to harm other living creatures. Both value nonviolence and believe in dharma and the cycle of rebirth. Some Hindus came to honor the Buddha as a reincarnation of the god Vishnu. But because Buddhists do not embrace the sacred texts of Hinduism, most Hindus do not worship the Buddha as an avatar.

Buddhism Spreads to Other Countries Buddhism was accepted by millions of people in other lands. Missionaries and traders carried the Buddha's message throughout Asia. It took root first in China, where the ideas of the Buddha became mixed with those of earlier Chinese thinkers. Millions of Chinese became Buddhists, and Buddhist monasteries in China became centers of religious thought. From China, Buddhism spread to Korea and Japan. Today, Buddhism is part of the cultures of such countries as Japan, the Koreas, China, Tibet (part of China), and Vietnam.

✓ Reading Check What other countries has Buddhism spread to?

Boy Monks

Young novice monks study Buddhism in Sri Lanka, an island nation off the southeast coast of India. **Generalize**
How did Buddhism spread to Sri Lanka and other parts of Asia?



Section 3 Assessment

Key Terms

Review the key terms at the beginning of this section. Use each term in a sentence that explains its meaning.

Target Reading Skill

What are the three events witnessed by Siddhartha Gautama that caused him to change his life?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. (a) **Identify** Who was Siddhartha Gautama?

(b) **Infer** Why did Siddhartha Gautama look for the cause of human suffering?

(c) **Identify Cause and Effect** According to Buddhism, how is human suffering connected to human desires?

2. (a) **Explain** What happened to the Buddha's teachings in India after he died?

(b) **Compare** What is the relationship between Buddhist and Hindu beliefs?

(c) **Analyze** Why do you think that Buddhism was accepted in so many countries outside of India?

Writing Activity

Turn to page 119 and reread the passage about Siddhartha Gautama's journey outside the palace. Write a description of his journey from the point of view of a servant who has followed him from the palace.

Go Online
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For: An activity on Buddhism
Visit: PHSchool.com
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Ms. Bell's world studies class was working on a project. They had thought of a plan to help fight world hunger.

"We are going to sell candles and donate the money to a children's nutrition organization," said Indira.

"The group provides food and clean water for kids in poor countries," Troy explained.

"Look, Ms. Bell, we've already made a table to keep track of the orders we get," added Elizabeth.



**A food relief program
in Damana, India**

A table displays information in vertical columns and horizontal rows. Look at the table on page 125 titled Candle Orders for Fundraiser. The numbers shown in the table are data, factual information collected and organized for a particular purpose. Making the table will help the class place an accurate order with the candle company.

Learn the Skill

To learn how to read a table, refer to the example of Ms. Bell's students and their fundraiser, as you follow the steps below.

- 1 Read the title and then the column and row headings.**
Reading the title and headings will help you determine the purpose of the table.
- 2 Locate the information in the table.** Place one finger at the beginning of one row and another finger at the top of one column. Then look at the cell where the row and column meet. What does the number in each cell represent?
- 3 Analyze information from the table.** Tables are helpful for summarizing and comparing data. The class can add the numbers in each column to find out how many of each color candle to buy from the manufacturer.

Practice the Skill

In this text, you are learning about some of the world's major religions. Read the table at the right to find out more about those religions.

- 1 Study the kinds of information shown in the table.
- 2 Suppose you want to locate information on where Judaism was founded. Under which column heading would you look? Which row has the information you want?
- 3 Use the table to answer these questions: Which religion was founded most recently? Which religions were founded in India? How might this information be useful to you when reading about ancient history?

Major World Religions

Religion	Date Founded	Place of Origin
Buddhism	c. 525 B.C.	India
Christianity	c. A.D. 30	Southwest Asia
Hinduism	c. 1500 B.C.	India
Islam	c. A.D. 622	Southwest Asia
Judaism	c. 1800 B.C.	Southwest Asia

Candle Orders for Fundraiser

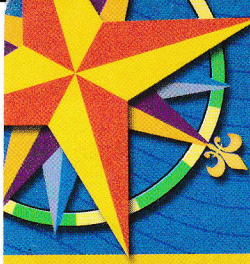
Seller	Green	Red	Blue
Katelyn			
Troy	2		5
Rashid			
Madelyn		3	
Indira	6		
Michael			
Elizabeth			

Apply the Skill

Now try making a table yourself. Interview at least four of your classmates to find out each person's favorite food, movie, and sport. Create a table to show the results.

Exchange tables with a classmate. Analyze the information in your classmate's table.





Empires of Ancient India

Prepare to Read

Objectives

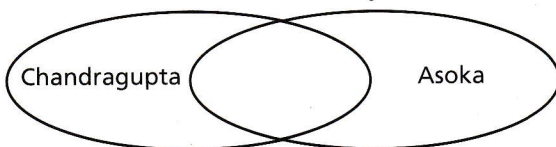
In this section you will

1. Learn about the rise of the Maurya Empire.
2. Study Asoka's leadership.
3. Investigate the Gupta Empire.

Taking Notes

As you read, compare and contrast the rulers of the Maurya Empire. Copy the Venn diagram below. Write similarities in the overlapping space and differences in the outside ovals.

Rulers of Maurya



Target Reading Skill

Understand Effects Sometimes one cause may produce several effects. Turn to page 127 and read the paragraph after the heading Chandragupta's Legacy. What were the effects of wealth on the Maurya Empire?

Key Terms

- **Maurya Empire** (MOWR yuh EM pyr) *n.* Indian empire founded by Chandragupta, beginning with his kingdom in northeastern India and spreading to most of northern and central India
- **convert** (kun VURT) *v.* to change one's beliefs; in particular, to change from one religion to another
- **tolerance** (TAHL ur uns) *n.* freedom from prejudice



Terra-cotta figure of a mother goddess worshiped in India, 200s B.C.

Around 321 B.C., a new ruler came to the throne of a kingdom in northeastern India. Within 35 years, the tiny kingdom had grown into the giant Maurya (MOWR yuh) Empire. **Chandragupta (chun druh GUP tuh) Maurya founded India's Maurya Empire.**

Chandragupta had been born to a poor family and sold into slavery at a young age. But later, when he became king, Chandragupta enjoyed luxuries from all parts of Asia. When he appeared before his subjects, he was often seated in a golden chair carried on his servants' shoulders. Sometimes he rode on an elephant covered with jewels.

The Rise of the Maurya Empire

India was made up of a number of warring states before Chandragupta came to power. Strong and ruthless, Chandragupta's armies overthrew kingdoms along the Ganges River. Turning west, the armies advanced into the Indus River valley. In only a few years, Chandragupta's power extended over most of northern and central India.

Absolute Rule Chandragupta was guided by the basic belief that a ruler must have absolute power. According to legend, one of Chandragupta's advisors gave him a book of advice called *Arthashastra*. The book urged kings to maintain control of their subjects and to establish an army of spies to inform on them.

Chandragupta commanded a huge army. Thousands of foot soldiers and mounted troops were ready to enforce the law and to crush any revolts. The army also had a herd of 9,000 war elephants, which struck fear into the hearts of opponents.

Under Chandragupta, the empire enjoyed great economic success. Most of its wealth came from farming. The Maurya Empire also built up trade with such faraway places as Greece, Rome, and China.

However, as his rule continued, Chandragupta became fearful for his life. Afraid of being poisoned, he made servants taste his food. He slept in a different room every night to ward off assassins, or people who murder rulers or political figures. One story says that near the end of his life, Chandragupta left the throne to his son and became a monk in southern India. Fasting and praying, he starved himself to death.

Chandragupta's Legacy Chandragupta did not gain wealth for himself only. Although his rule was harsh, he used his wealth to improve his empire. New irrigation systems brought water to farmers. Forests were cleared, and more food was produced. Government officials promoted crafts and mining. A vast network of roads made it easier for Maurya traders to exchange goods with foreign lands. Chandragupta's leadership brought order and peace to his people.

✓ **Reading Check** What kind of ruler was Chandragupta?

Fighting for Empire

Chandragupta's army rode elephants into war, causing fear and panic. This painting from the 1600s shows an elephant charging toward the enemy.

Evaluate How did Chandragupta use his army to create an empire?

Links to

Economics

The Emperor's Guidebook

Both Chandragupta and his grandson Asoka benefited from a book titled *Arthashastra*. *Artha* means "property and economics." Chandragupta used the book's advice on government as his guide to building an empire. Kautilya, the book's author, also served as an advisor to Chandragupta. Although Kautilya wrote about ways to achieve material success, he did not live in great luxury himself.

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on Indian classic dance.



MAPMASTER™ Skills Activity

Place Under Asoka's rule, the Maurya Empire covered a vast amount of territory.

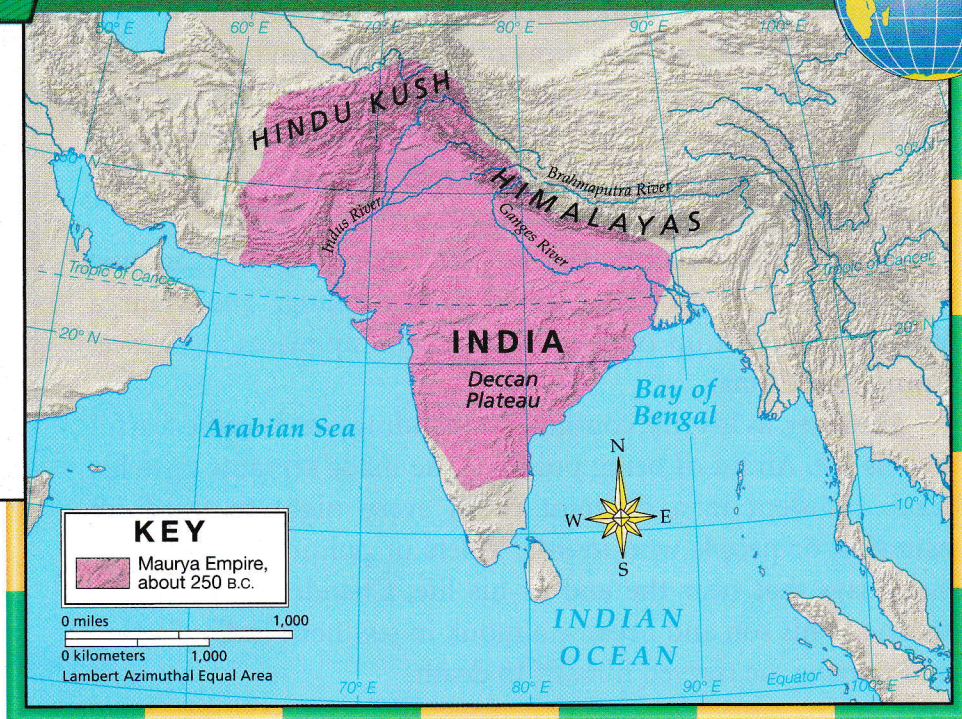
Identify What physical feature formed the northeast boundary of Asoka's empire?

Conclude What challenges came with governing such a great amount of territory?

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map skills practice.

Asoka's Empire



Asoka's Leadership

Chandragupta passed the leadership of the Maurya Empire on to his son. After the son died in 273 B.C., Chandragupta's grandson, Asoka, gained power. Asoka, whose name means "without sorrow," further expanded Chandragupta's empire. By the end of his lengthy rule in 232 B.C., Asoka had built the greatest empire India had ever seen.



Understand Effects

What effects did the Battle of Kalinga have on Asoka's life?

The Battle of Kalinga For more than 35 years, Asoka ruled an empire that included much of the Indian subcontinent. During the first years of his rule, Asoka was as warlike as his grandfather had been. He conquered new territories which were not yet part of the empire.

Early in his rule, Asoka led his army south into the state of Kalinga. In about 261 B.C., he won a bloody battle in which thousands and thousands of people were injured or died. The great slaughter at Kalinga was a turning point in Asoka's life. He was filled with sorrow over the bloodshed. He gave up war and violence. He freed his prisoners and restored their land. Later, he chose to **convert, or change his beliefs**, to Buddhism. Asoka also spread the message of Buddhism to the people of his empire.

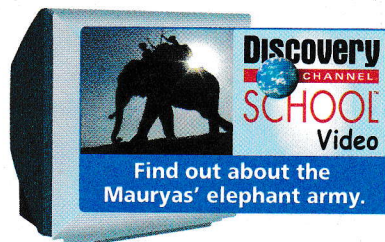
The Buddhist Ruler Asoka practiced and preached the teachings of the Buddha. He did not allow the use of animals for sacrifices. He gave up hunting, the traditional sport of Indian kings.

Asoka thought of his people as his children and was concerned about their well-being. He had hospitals built throughout his kingdom. He even had wells dug every mile beside the roads so that travelers and animals would not go thirsty.

Asoka was also concerned with his people's moral and spiritual life. To carry the Buddha's message throughout his vast empire, Asoka issued writings of moral advice. Some writings urged people to honor their parents. Others asked people not to kill animals. Still others encouraged people to behave with truthfulness and **tolerance, or freedom from prejudice**. Asoka practiced religious tolerance toward the Hindus.

Still, Buddhism grew under Asoka. He sent missionaries far and wide to spread its message. Buddhist missionaries spread the religion to Sri Lanka, China, Southeast Asia, and eventually to Korea and Japan.

 **Reading Check** How did Asoka spread Buddhism?



Honoring the Buddha

This stupa, or Buddhist monument, was built sometime between 100 B.C. and A.D. 100, in Sanchi, India. The umbrella at the very top represents protection. **Transferring Information** How did Asoka's rulings reflect the teachings of the Buddha?





Indian Temple Painting

This painting comes from a temple carved into the Ajanta Caves during the Gupta period. **Infer** What details suggest that this is a religious painting?

The Gupta Empire

After Asoka died, the Maurya Empire weakened and eventually split into smaller states. For centuries, India faced internal conflicts and foreign invasions.

However, in A.D. 320, the Gupta dynasty rose to power. By 400, the Guptas had built an empire across northern India. Invasions from Central Asia weakened the Gupta Empire. After 540, India again split into small states.

Under the Guptas, India enjoyed a rich culture. Indians invented the technique of printing cloth in this period. Hindu scholars and students gathered in colleges where they developed advanced schools of philosophy. Kalidasa (kah lee

DAH suh), one of the greatest Indian writers of all time, wrote poems and plays. Indian mathematicians invented the decimal point and the system of numbers that we use today.

✓ Reading Check How did learning advance under the Guptas?



Section 4 Assessment

Key Terms

Review the key terms at the beginning of this section. Use each term in a sentence that explains its meaning.



Target Reading Skill

Reread Chandragupta's Legacy on page 127. What were the effects of wealth on the Maurya Empire?

Comprehension and Critical Thinking

1. (a) **Recall** How was India governed before the Maurya Empire?

(b) **Evaluate** What were some of the costs and benefits of Chandragupta's rule for Indians?

2. (a) **Describe** What were some of Asoka's accomplishments?

(b) **Identify Cause and Effect**

How did Buddhism influence Asoka's rule of the empire?

3. (a) **Identify** What part of India did the Guptas control?

(b) **Explain** Why have some historians called the Gupta period a golden age?

(c) **Draw Conclusions** What Indian inventions under the Gupta have had a lasting impact?

Writing Activity

Asoka wrote many rules of conduct for himself and for others to follow. Write a list of rules of conduct that you would like to see today's leaders follow.

Go Online
PHSchool.com

For: An activity on Asoka
Visit: PHSchool.com
Web Code: lbd-2404

◆ Chapter Summary

Section 1: The Indus and Ganges River Valleys

- India's geographic setting limited the contact the ancient peoples of the Indian subcontinent had with the rest of the world.
- Well-planned cities, such as Mohenjo-Daro, flourished along the banks of the Indus River.
- Aryans migrated in great waves from central Asia into India, influencing Indian life and culture.



Mohenjo-Daro seal

Section 2: Hinduism in Ancient India



Sanskrit text

- Hinduism is a complex religion that developed over a span of about 3,500 years.
- Hindus believe in nonviolence, and that good behavior will be rewarded and bad behavior will be punished.
- Hindus take many paths in their search for truth.

Sections 3: The Beginnings of Buddhism

- Buddhism was founded by a Hindu prince who preached nonviolence and unselfish behavior.
- Buddhism flourished in India, along with Hinduism, but it eventually declined there. Missionaries carried the Buddha's message to cultures throughout Asia.

Section 4: Empires of Ancient India

- Chandragupta's Maurya Empire extended over northern and central India.
- Chandragupta's grandson, Asoka, greatly expanded the Maurya Empire and embraced Buddhism.
- Under the Guptas, India made progress in textiles, philosophy, literature, and mathematics.



Indian warriors

◆ Reviewing Key Terms

Circle the underlined key term that best completes the sentence.

1. A citadel, subcontinent is a large landmass that juts out from a continent.
2. Dharma, Nirvana is the religious and moral duties of a Hindu.
3. To meditate, migrate is to move from one place to settle in another area.
4. Hindus and Buddhists believe in ahimsa, reincarnation, which is the rebirth of the soul.
5. Under the caste, avatar system, a weaver's son always became a weaver and a barber's daughter always married a barber.
6. Buddhism spread to other countries with the help of monsoons, missionaries.
7. Asoka encouraged his people to behave with tolerance, dharma, or freedom from prejudice.

◆ Comprehension and Critical Thinking

8. (a) **Describe** What were the geography and climate of ancient India?
 (b) **Identify Effects** How did India's geography and climate affect the people of Mohenjo-Daro?
 (c) **Infer** How do we know that the people of Mohenjo-Daro created a highly organized civilization?
9. (a) **Identify** Who were the Aryans?
 (b) **Explain** What were some characteristics of Aryan culture?
 (c) **Summarize** What influence did the Aryans have on the people of the Indus valley?
10. (a) **Recall** Describe the beginnings of ancient Hinduism.
 (b) **Summarize** What are some of the basic beliefs of Hinduism?
 (c) **Evaluate Information** Why is Hinduism considered to be a complex religion?
11. (a) **Identify** Who was the Buddha?
 (b) **Explain** What is the central idea of Buddhism, and why did the religion appeal to so many people?
 (c) **Draw Inferences** Buddhism and Hinduism were able to coexist in India for some time. Why do you think this was possible?
12. (a) **Recall** List Asoka's achievements as ruler of the Maurya Empire.
 (b) **Explain** How did Asoka's actions show that he was a Buddhist?
 (c) **Compare** How did Siddhartha Gautama's life-changing experience with suffering compare to Asoka's?

◆ Skills Practice

Reading Tables In the Skills for Life activity, you learned how to read tables and how to create your own table.

Review the steps you follow to do this skill. Return to the concept web you created to take notes on Section 2 of this chapter. Organize that same information into a table. Then, write a brief explanation of how a table makes comparing information from the section easy.

◆ Writing Activity: Language Arts

Asoka helped spread the Buddha's message by having his teachings carved into stone pillars. Turn to pages 120 and 121 and reread the text and the chart titled The Practice of Buddhism: The Eightfold Path. Write at least five full sentences that could be carved into a pillar to teach people about Buddhism.

MAP MASTER™ Skills Activity

Ancient India



Place Location For each place listed below, write the letter from the map that shows its location.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------|
| 1. Himalayas | 3. Indus River |
| 2. Hindu Kush | 4. Ganges River |
| | 5. Mohenjo-Daro |

Go Online

PHSchool.com Use Web Code lbp-2454 for an interactive map.