

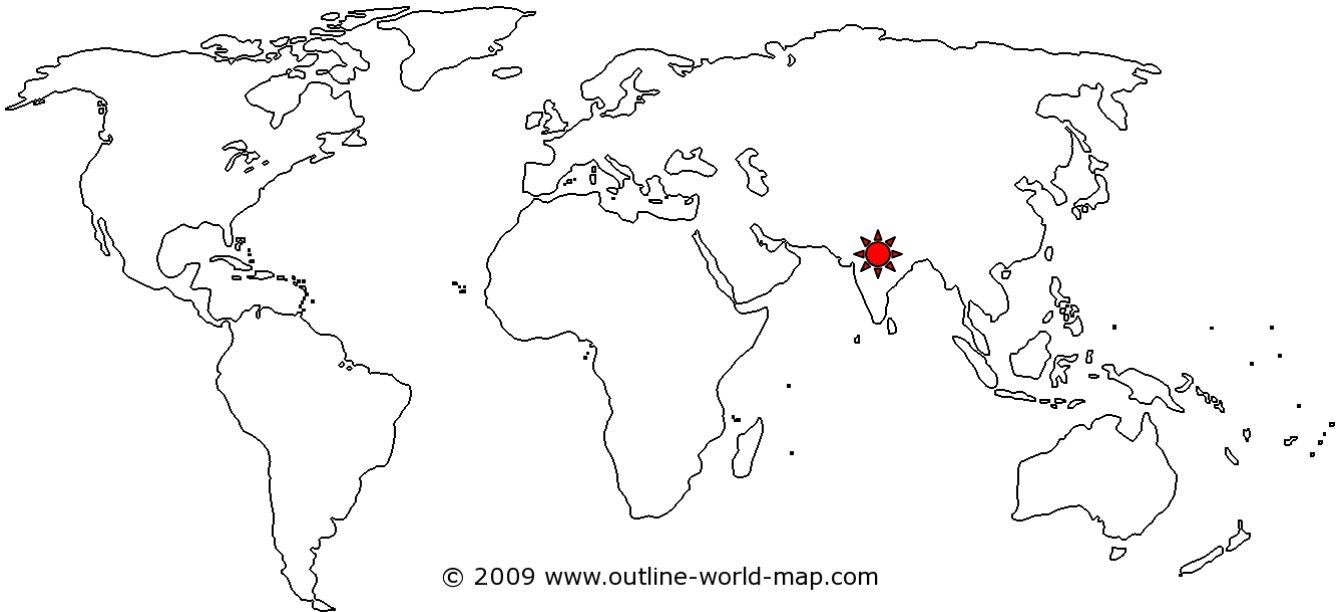
Unit 4: Ancient River Valley Civilizations - India

Standard(s) of Learning:

WHI.4 – The student will demonstrate knowledge of the civilization of Persia, India, and China in terms of chronology, geography, social structures, government, economy, religion, and contributions to later civilizations by

- b) Describing India, with emphasis on the Aryan migrations and the caste system
 - c) Describing the origins, beliefs, traditions, customs, and spread of Hinduism
 - d) Describing the origins, beliefs, traditions, customs, and spread of Buddhism
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WHI.4b – Location and Geography of India



Locate India on the map – Color it RED

- Classical Indian civilization began in the **Indus River Valley**, spread to the **Ganges River Valley**, and then spread throughout the Indian **subcontinent**. This spread continued with little interruption because of the geographic location.

Physical Geography & Climate

Rivers	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important Rivers: Indus River and Ganges River• Provided water, fertile soil, and transportation.
Mountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Himalayas and the Hindu Kush Mountains• Provided protection from invasion• Mountain passes (Khyber Pass) provided migration routes into the Indian subcontinent
Bodies of Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal, and Indian Ocean• Provided protection from invasion
Deserts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thar Desert• Provided protection from invasion
Climate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate dominated by monsoons and high temperatures<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Winter monsoons from the northeast blow dry air across India (dry season)○ Summer monsoons from the southwest carry moisture from the ocean across India (wet season)

Environmental Challenges

- Yearly flooding of Indus and Ganges Rivers **unpredictable**
- **Rivers** sometimes changed course
- Monsoons were **unpredictable**
 - Too little rain = **drought** and **famine**
 - Too much rain = **flooding** and **destruction**

WHI.4b – Early Indian Civilizations

- Between 2500 BC and 1500 BC, the **Harappans**, the indigenous (original) people of India, began to settle around the Indus River Valley

The Harappan Civilization

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indus River Valley• Cities: Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Developed a written language<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pictographic language with about 400 symbols○ Archaeologists have not been able to translate it
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evidence suggests the Harappans had a strong central government, possibly a theocracy
Culture/Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not much is known for sure<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Housing suggests that social divisions were not great○ Artifacts show a prosperous society○ Few weapons found suggest a peaceful society○ Cleanliness and sanitation were very important
Role of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Not much is known for sure - No temples or religious writings have been found
Economy/Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Economy based on agriculture and trade<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Harappans were farmers – grew cotton, wheat, barley, and rice○ Active traders – evidence shows that they traded with Mesopotamia
Achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Known for well planned cities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cities were laid out on a grid system

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Buildings were made of baked bricks of a standard size ○ Each city had a <u>citadel</u> and a <u>storehouse</u> ○ <u>Plumbing</u> and <u>sewage</u> system
Decline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Evidence suggests that an earthquake caused by shifts in tectonic plates and floods caused the decline

The Indo-Aryans

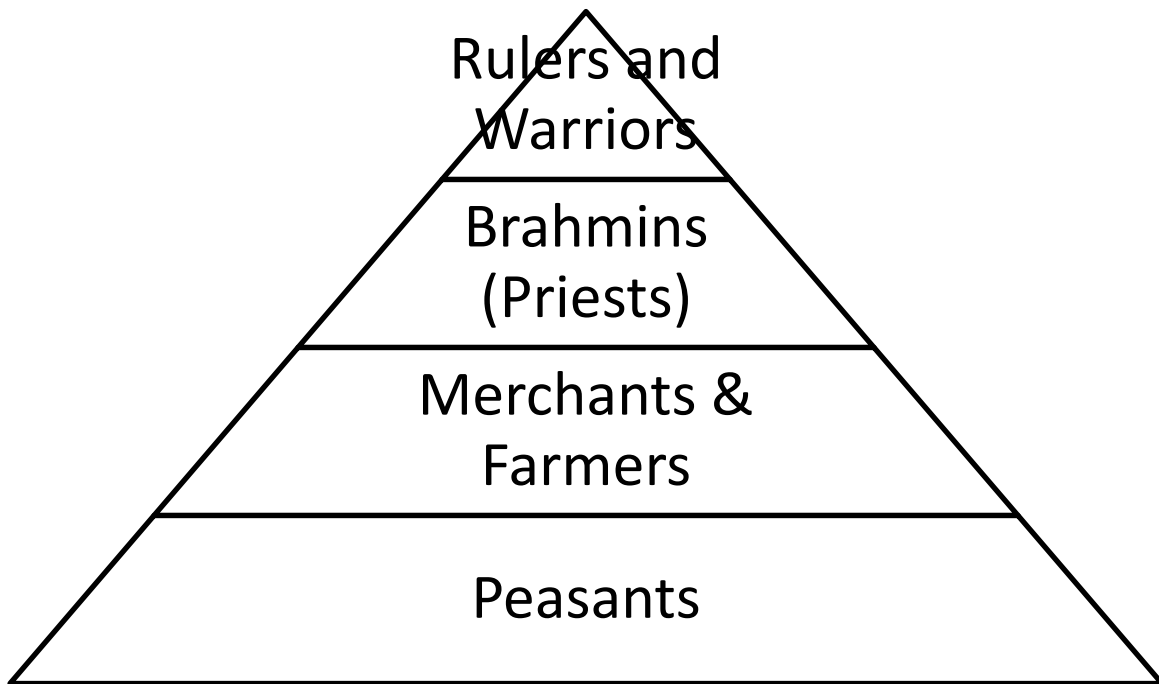
- Indo-Aryan people **migrated** into the area, creating a structured society (caste system) and blending their beliefs with those of the indigenous people

The Indo-Aryan Civilization

Location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Nomadic</u> people from north of the Black and Caspian Seas ● Migrated through the <u>Khyber Pass</u> in the Hindu Kush Mts. ● Took control over the <u>Indus River</u> Valley
Language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spoke an <u>Indo-European</u> language ● Developed a written language called <u>Sanskrit</u>
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Developed <u>city-states</u> ruled by a <u>raja</u> and <u>council</u>
Culture/Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Most of what we know comes from the <u>Vedas</u> ● Skilled <u>warriors</u> ● <u>Cleanliness</u> and <u>purity</u> were very important ● Developed the <u>Caste System</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Very rigid – NO social mobility ○ Based on <u>occupation</u>
Role of Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Vedas</u>: Indo-Aryan religious literature <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Originally an oral tradition, eventually written down in

	<p>Sanskrit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Polytheistic</u> – Gods drawn from nature • No temples – religious ceremonies were performed in the open • <u>Brahmins</u>: Indo-Aryan priests who knew how to perform religious rituals
Economy/Trade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Herders</u> of cattle, sheep, goats • <u>Bartering</u> System

The Caste System



Untouchables

WHI.4c – Hinduism






- Hinduism was an important contribution of classical India.
- Hinduism influenced Indian society and culture and is still practiced in India today

Hinduism

Who founded the religion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No one founder• Developed out of the <u>Vedic</u> tradition
Where was the religion founded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>India</u>
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Vedas</u>• <u>Upanishads</u> – written explanations of the Vedas• Mahabharata and Ramayana – epic poems used to teach Hinduism• Bhagavada Gita – Last 18 chapters of the Mahabharata, stressing the idea of proper conduct for one’s status
Monotheistic or Polytheistic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Polytheistic</u>
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Monism</u> – the unity between God and creation• <u>Maya</u> – the world is an illusion• <u>Reincarnation</u> – the rebirth of the soul• <u>Dharma</u> – doing one’s moral duty• <u>Karma</u> – knowledge that all thoughts and actions result in future consequences

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Nirvana</u> – perfect spiritual peace • <u>Caste System</u> • <u>Yoga</u> – mental and physical exercises designed to bring the body and soul together • <u>Cows</u> are considered sacred animals and are protected by law
Based on this religion, is there a heaven and, if so, how do you get there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fulfill your <u>Dharma</u> • Have good <u>Karma</u> • <u>Reincarnation</u> into a higher caste • Eventually reach <u>Nirvana</u>
How and where did this religion spread?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spread throughout India along major <u>trade</u> routes

		
<u>Brahma</u> – Creator of universe	<u>Vishnu</u> – Preserver of universe	<u>Shiva</u> – Destroyer of universe

WHI.4d – Buddhism



Who founded the religion?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)</u>
Where was the religion founded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • India, in present-day <u>Nepal</u>
Identify the sacred writings and holy books	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Jatakas</u> – included Buddha’s teachings, commentaries, rules about monastic life, manuals on how to meditate, and legends about Buddha’s previous reincarnations
Monotheistic or Polytheistic?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Polytheistic</u>
Major Beliefs, Customs, and Traditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good actions <u>rewarded</u>, bad actions <u>punished</u> • Reach enlightenment by knowing the <u>Four Noble Truths</u> and following the <u>Eightfold Path</u> • Any person can reach Nirvana regardless of <u>caste</u> • <u>Stupas</u> – mounded stone structures built over holy relics (objects) • Two Branches of Buddhism: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Theravada</u> Buddhism: believed Buddha was a great teacher and spiritual leader ○ <u>Mahayana</u> Buddhism: believed Buddha was a god and savior
Based on this religion, is there a heaven and, if so, how do you get there?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know the <u>Four Noble Truths</u> • Following the <u>Eightfold Path</u>

How and where did this religion spread?

- Spread throughout Asia when **Asoka** sent missionaries to China and other parts of Asia
- Spread along **trade** routes

WHI.4b – Indian Kingdoms

Mauryan Empire

Chandragupta Maurya	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Established the Mauryan Empire• Unified Northern India (Indus River to the Ganges River)• Standardized weights and measures• Established standards for physicians• Built his palace in Patalipura on the Ganges River
Asoka	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chandragupta's grandson• Established a very war-like empire – expanded empire to include all of India except the southern tip• Converts to Buddhism and ends the wars• Sends missionaries to Asia to spread Buddhism

Gupta Empire

Chandra Gupta I	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Founder of the Gupta Empire
Chandra Gupta II	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Golden Age of India<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Society and the arts prospered○ Empire expanded (Bay of Bengal to Arabian Sea)○ Religious tolerance – supported Buddhism
Skanda Gupta	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Last Gupta ruler• Empire was weakened under his rule

Economy

- Collected **taxes** (1/4 of each farmers harvest)
- **Northern** India – Economy based on **agriculture** and **farming**
- **Southern** India – Economy based on **trade**

Society

- Women did not have the same rights as men – could not own property or study sacred writings
- Practiced **polygamy** – men were able to have more than one wife
- **Suttee** – practice of women committing suicide by throwing themselves on top of their husband's burning dead body

WHI.4a – Achievements of India

- During the Golden Age of classical Indian culture, Indian people made significant contributions to the world civilization

Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Panchatantra</u>: “Five Books” of fables written during the Gupta Empire• Established writing academies
Performing Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Dramas</u> became very popular• Performed outside by traveling troupes of actors
Astronomy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used the stars to navigate• Developed a <u>calendar</u> based on the <u>sun</u>• Adopted a 7-day week• Concept of a <u>round</u> Earth• Identified the <u>7</u> planets visible to the human eye
Mathematics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Invented <u>zero</u> and <u>decimal</u> system• <u>Aryabhata</u> – calculated pi (π), used algebra and solved quadratic equations
Medicine	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medical advances – setting <u>bones</u>, <u>surgery</u>, including plastic surgery• Free <u>hospitals</u>• Veterinary clinics• <u>Inoculations</u>
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Good <u>road</u> system• Spread of <u>Buddhism</u>• New <u>textiles</u>• <u>Nalanda</u> – Buddhist university located on the Ganges River