

Section 1 The Indus and Ganges River Valleys

Objectives

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



Target Reading Skill

Identify Causes and Effects A cause makes something happen. It is the reason that something happens. An effect is what happens. It is the result of the cause. As you read, pause to ask yourself what happened. The answer to that question is the effect. Then ask yourself why it happened. The answer to that question is the cause.

For example, millions of years ago India's landmass crashed into Asia. Think of this as the cause. The effect was the formation of the Himalaya Mountains.

Seeing causes and effects helps you understand how events are connected. It helps you understand why things happen as they do.

Vocabulary Strategy

Recognizing Compound Words When you come across a new word, you may be able to figure out what it means if you break it down into parts. For example, if you did not know what the word *snowball* means, you could break it down into its parts: *snow* and *ball*. A snowball is a ball of snow. Many words in English are made by combining two or more words. Such words are referred to as *compound words*. As you read, use what you know about compound words to help you understand new words.

Here are some common words that are made up of two words:

anybody
baseball
countryside
downtown
farmland

homeland
landform
mainland
mountaintop
northeast

seashore
skyscraper
southwest
waterway
worldwide

Section 1 Summary

India's Geographic Setting

The land of India sticks out from the rest of Asia into the Indian Ocean. India is a **subcontinent**. The Himalayas and the Hindu Kush mountain range cut India off from the rest of Asia. The Bay of Bengal, the Indian Ocean, and the Arabian Sea are on India's east and west. Because of this, India had little contact with the rest of the world for many years.

India's climate is ruled by **monsoons** or strong seasonal winds. From October to May, the winter monsoon blows from the northeast. It spreads dry air across the country. The summer monsoon comes in the middle of June. It picks up moisture from the Indian Ocean. The people rely on summer monsoons for rain. If the monsoon is late or weak, crops die and there is famine. If there is too much rain, rivers may flood. ✓

The first people of northern India probably came through openings in the Hindu Kush mountains. Great rivers rise in the mountains. The Indus (IN dus) River flows into the Arabian Sea. The Ganges (GAN jeez) River flows into the Bay of Bengal. The rivers let farmers grow crops in the plains of northern India.

Life in the Indus River Valley

The Indus Valley had rich soil. With surplus food, the number of people grew. From around 2500 B.C. to 1500 B.C., cities grew up in the valley. One large city was Mohenjo-Daro (moh HEN joh DAH roh). It was on the banks of the Indus River.

Mohenjo-Daro was well planned. It was built above ground level to protect it from floods. Homes and shops were on one side of the city. Public buildings were on the other side. A wall protected the city's most important buildings. These buildings included the **citadel**.

Key Terms

subcontinent (SUB kahn tih nunt) *n.* a large piece of land that sticks 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



Target Reading Skill



Circle one cause described in the bracketed paragraph and underline its effect.



Reading Check

How do winter monsoons differ from summer monsoons?

✓ Reading Check

Describe the city plan for Mohenjo-Daro.

Vocabulary Strategy

Remember to look for compound words as you read. There are two on this page. As you find each one, draw a line between the two words that form the compound.



Then write the words you found on the lines below.

1. _____
2. _____

✓ Reading Check

How was Aryan society organized?

Mohenjo-Daro had a means of draining water from the land. Clay pipes under the streets sent waste away from the city. Canals ran next to the Indus River. They helped to keep flood water from the city. ✓

Around 2000 B.C., the people of the Indus Valley began to leave their land. From 2000 B.C. to 1500 B.C., newcomers from the north came to the area.

A New Culture Arises

The new people were called Aryans (AYR ee uhnz). They **migrated** from their homelands in central Asia. They were nomadic herders. Local people adopted the Aryans' language. They also adopted some of their beliefs. A new, mixed Aryan culture began.

This new culture first started in the northern Indus Valley. It spread into the Ganges Valley to the east. By about 800 B.C., the people of northern India had learned to make tools and weapons of iron. With iron axes, they cleared the thick rain forests.

Aryan society was grouped into three classes. Priests, called Brahmins, performed religious services. Below them were warriors and nobles. Next came the artisans and merchants. Finally, a fourth class of people made up of farm workers, laborers, and servants was formed.

This division of classes is the **caste** system. People had to stay in the caste of their parents. Each caste had many groups. People did the same work as their parents and other members of their group. ✓

Review Questions

1. How do the monsoons affect India's climate?

2. Who were the Aryans?

Key Terms

migrate (MY grayt) *v.* to relocate; to move from one place and settle in another

caste (kast) *n.* a social class of people

CHAPTER 4

Prepare to Read

Section 2 Hinduism in Ancient India

Objectives

1. Find out about the beginnings of Hinduism.
2. Learn about the basic beliefs of Hinduism.
3. Examine the practice of Hinduism.



Target Reading Skill

Recognize Cause-and-Effect Signal Words As you read, watch for clues that show cause and effect. Often, a word will give you a signal that what is being described is either a cause or an effect. Words such as *affect*, *as a result*, and *from* signal a cause or an effect.

In the following example, *from* signals a cause: “*From* this blend of ideas and beliefs came one of the world’s oldest living religions, Hinduism.” The cause is a blend of ideas and beliefs. The effect is Hinduism.

As you read, look for signals that explain other causes and effects.

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Prefixes and Roots A prefix is one or more syllables attached to the beginning of a word to make a new word. The word it is attached to is known as the root. When a prefix is added to a root, the new word has a new meaning. The meaning of the prefix is added to the meaning of the root.

Some common prefixes are listed below, along with their meanings and examples. Notice that some of them have more than one meaning. Learning to identify prefixes, and knowing what they mean, will help you understand what you read.

Prefix	Meaning	Example
in-, im-	in, into, within, on, toward	inject, immigrate
non-	not	nontoxic
pre-	before	prehistory
re-	again	reread

Section 2 Summary

Vocabulary Strategy

The words below appear in this section. Each word contains a prefix. Underline the prefix in each word.

reborn

nonviolence



Now look at the chart on the previous page. Use the chart to find the prefix's meaning. Then, add the meaning of the prefix to the meaning of the root.

1. Reborn means _____

2. Nonviolence means _____

✓ Reading Check

List the most important Hindu gods.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

The Beginnings of Hinduism

- 1 Aryan culture mixed with India's existing cultures. From this blend of ideas and beliefs came one of the world's oldest living religions, Hinduism. It has picked up beliefs from other religions in its 3,500 years. It
- 5 became very complex. Hindus believe that there are many ways of coming to god.

Hinduism is one of the world's major religions. More than 850 million people in India follow it today. Its beliefs have influenced people of many religions.

10 But it is different from other major world religions. There is no one founder. Hindus worship many gods and goddesses. But they believe in one single spiritual power. This power is called **brahman**.

The gods and goddesses of Hinduism stand for different parts of brahman. The three most important

15 gods are Brahma the Creator, Vishnu the Preserver, and Shiva is the Destroyer. Each one takes many forms. These forms are called **avatars**. ✓

Hindus believe that Brahma created Earth and all

20 that is on it. But he is not as widely worshiped as Vishnu and Shiva. Vishnu is kind. He tries to protect humans. Shiva is responsible for both the creative and destructive forces in the universe. Hindu gods have families. Many Hindus worship Shiva's wife, Shakti.

The Teachings of Hinduism

- 25 All Hindus share certain beliefs. They are in religious writings. One of these is the Upanishads (oo PAN uh shadz). *Upanishad* means "sitting near a teacher."

One of the shared ideas is **reincarnation**. Hindus believe that when a person dies, the soul is reborn in

30 another living thing. They believe that every living thing has a soul.

Key Terms

brahman (BRAH mun) *n.* a single spiritual power that Hindus believe lives in everything

avatar (av uh TAHR) *n.* a Hindu god or goddess in human or animal form

reincarnation (ree in kahr NAY shun) *n.* rebirth of the soul in the body of another living thing

Hindus believe that a person's actions in this life affect his or her fate in the next. Good behavior is rewarded. Bad behavior is punished. Faithful followers
 35 of Hinduism will be born into a higher position. Those who have been bad may be born into a lower caste. They may even return as an animal. A perfect life may free a soul from the cycle of death and rebirth. As a result, this person's soul is united with brahman. ✓

40 To do this, a person must obey his or her **dharma**. The duties of dharma depend on a person's class, job, and age. **Ahimsa**, or nonviolence, is also important. To Hindus, all people and things are part of brahman. They must be treated with respect. That is why many
 45 Hindus do not eat meat. They try not to hurt living things.

The Practice of Hinduism

Hindus believe that there are many paths to the truth. They may worship in different ways. One way is by practicing yoga (YOH guh). Yoga means union. Hindus
 50 believe yoga exercises help free the soul from the cares of the world. It helps the soul unite with brahman. There are many yogas that lead to brahman. Physical activity is one yoga. Another is selfless deeds, such as giving to the poor. ✓

Review Questions

1. How did the early Aryan culture influence Hinduism?

2. What does Hinduism teach about the path to truth?

Key Terms

dharma (DAHR muh) *n.* the religious and moral duties of Hindus
ahimsa (uh HIM sah) *n.* the Hindu idea of nonviolence



Target Reading Skill

What does *As a result* signal?



Reading Check

According to Hindu belief, what happens to a person's soul after death?



Reading Check

How is yoga practiced by Hindus?

Section 3 The Beginnings of Buddhism

Objectives

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



Target Reading Skill

Recognizing Multiple Causes A cause makes something happen. An effect is what happens. Often, an effect can have more than one cause. For example, in the story that begins this section, Gautama sees three events that cause him to change his life. Can you identify the three causes?

Looking for more than one cause will help you fully understand why something happened. As you read this section, look for other things that have multiple causes.

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Roots and Suffixes A suffix is one or more syllables attached to the end of a word to make a new word. The word it is attached to is known as the root. When a suffix is added to a root, the new word has a new meaning. The meaning of the suffix is added to the meaning of the root.

Some common suffixes are listed below, along with their meanings and examples. Notice that some have more than one meaning. Learning to identify suffixes, and knowing what they mean, will help you understand what you read.

Suffix	Meaning	Example
-ern	of or related to	eastern
-ing	an action; result of an action	dancing; drawing
-ism	act or practice of; teaching	terrorism; socialism
-less	without	treeless
-ly	in a certain manner; like	seriously; manly
-ness	state or quality	happiness

Section 3 Summary

- ¹ Buddhists believe that a young Hindu prince once lived a life of luxury in northern India. He had never seen old age, sickness, or death. Then, he traveled outside the palace walls. He saw an old man. He saw a
- ⁵ man who was very sick. He saw a dead body being carried to a funeral.

The young man gave up his life of ease. He wanted to find the causes of human suffering. The young man was Siddhartha Gautama (sih DAHR tuh GOW tuh muh).

- ¹⁰ What he learned after seven years of wandering led to the start of Buddhism.

The Buddha and His Teachings

Gautama travelled in the 500s B.C. and looked for the meaning of life. At first, he studied with Hindu thinkers. But their ideas did not satisfy him.

- ¹⁵ Gautama decided to look inside himself for understanding. He began to **meditate**. Meditation was an ancient Hindu practice. After 49 days, he found the answers he had been looking for. He traveled across India and shared what he had learned. His followers
- ²⁰ called him the Buddha (BOO duh), or “Enlightened One.” His teachings became known as Buddhism.

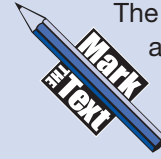
Buddhism teaches people to follow the Eightfold Path, also called the Middle Way. By doing this, a person avoids extreme pleasure or extreme unhappiness.

- ²⁵ Buddha taught that selfish desires cause humans to suffer. To end suffering, people must give up these selfish desires for wealth, power, and pleasure. Instead, they must follow the Eightfold Path. Buddhists must learn to be wise, to behave correctly, and to develop
- ³⁰ their minds.

Key Term

meditate (MED uh tayt) *v.* to focus the mind inward in order to find spiritual awareness or relaxation

Vocabulary Strategy



The word *northern* appears in the paragraph to the left. Find the word as you read and underline the

suffix. Then, on the line below, write a definition of the word using the information in the chart on the previous page.

Northern means _____



Target Reading Skill

Circle the factors in the bracketed paragraph that affect a Buddhist trying to reach nirvana.



✓ Reading Check

Why do Buddhists try to follow the Middle Way?

✓ Reading Check

What other countries has Buddhism spread to?

To find this Middle Way, people must act unselfishly. They must treat people fairly. They must tell the truth at all times. They should also avoid violence and the killing of any living thing. By following the Buddha's path, their sufferings would end. They would find **nirvana**. They would not be reincarnated. ✓

Buddhism taught that all people are equal. Anyone could follow the path to nirvana. This idea appealed to many people. Like other religions, Buddhism has 40 priests. People of any social class can be a priest or monk. The Buddha encouraged his followers to establish monasteries. There they would learn, meditate, and teach. He urged monks to become **missionaries**.

Buddhism Inside and Outside India

45 For many years, Buddhism and Hinduism lived side by side in India. Both share a number of basic ideas. Both believe that it is wrong to harm living things. Both value nonviolence. However, Buddhists do not accept the sacred texts of Hinduism.

50 Buddhism spread all over Asia. It took root in China and grew there. Buddhist monasteries were centers of religious thought in China. From China, Buddhism spread to Korea and Japan. Today, it is part of the cultures of countries such as Japan, China, and 55 Vietnam. ✓

Review Questions

1. How did Siddhartha Gautama look for the cause of human suffering?

2. What are some of the similarities between Hinduism and Buddhism?

Key Terms

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

Objectives

1. Learn about the rise of the Maurya Empire.
2. Understand the effects of Asoka's leadership on the Maurya Empire.



Target Reading Skill

Understand Effects Remember that a cause makes something happen. The effect is what happens as a result of the cause. Just as an effect can have more than one cause, a cause can have more than one effect. You can find effects by answering the question, "What happened?" If there are several answers to that question, the cause had more than one effect.

Look at the last paragraph under the heading "The Rise of the Maurya Empire" on the next page. What were the effects of wealth on the Maurya Empire?

Vocabulary Strategy

Using Word Parts Sometimes when you come across a new word, you can figure out what it means if you break it down into parts. If a word contains a prefix or suffix, look for the root. The root is the word that the prefix or suffix is attached to. Take the meanings of the root and prefix or suffix and add them together. Then you will have found the meaning of the new word.

Often, when a prefix or a suffix is added to a root, the root's spelling is changed.

A final vowel, such as *a* or *e*, may be dropped: *Buddha* + *-ism* = *Buddhism*

A final *y* may change to *i*: *happy* + *-ly* = *happily*

A final consonant may be doubled: *war* + *-ing* = *warring*

Some words have more than one prefix or suffix. Some words have both prefixes and suffixes. In those cases, strip off the prefix or suffix one at a time until you can figure out what the word means.

Section 4 Summary

- ¹ Around 321 B.C., Chandragupta (chun druh GOOP tuh) Maurya began his rule in northeastern India. His small kingdom grew into the huge **Maurya Empire**.

The Rise of the Maurya Empire

- Before Chandragupta came to power, India was made up of a number of states. These states fought each other. Chandragupta's armies overthrew kingdoms along the Ganges River. Then they turned west, to the Indus River valley. Within a few years, he controlled most of north and central India.

- ¹⁰ Chandragupta thought that a ruler must have absolute power. According to legend, one of his advisors gave him a book of advice called *Arthashastra*. The book urged kings to control their people. It said kings should keep an army of spies to watch the people.

- ¹⁵ Chandragupta commanded a huge army. Under him, the empire became wealthy. Much of its wealth came from farming. But the Maurya Empire also traded with faraway lands. Some of these lands were Greece, Rome, and China.

As his rule continued, Chandragupta began to fear that he would be killed. According to one story, near the end of his life, he left the throne to his son. He became a monk and starved himself to death fasting and praying.

- ²⁵ His rule was harsh. But Chandragupta used his wealth to improve his empire. New irrigation systems brought water to farmers. Trees were cut down, and more food was grown. Government officials promoted crafts and mining. New roads made trade with foreign lands easier. Chandragupta brought order and peace to his people. ✓

Asoka's Leadership

Chandragupta's grandson, Asoka, built the greatest empire India had ever seen.

Key Term

Maurya Empire (MOWR yuh EM pyr) *n.* Indian empire founded by Chandragupta, that included most of northern and central India

Vocabulary Strategy

Some words with suffixes are in the bracketed paragraph. Circle each word in the paragraph that has a suffix.



✓ Reading Check

What kind of ruler was Chandragupta?

Asoka ruled for more than 35 years until 232 B.C. His empire included much of India. At first, he was as warlike as his grandfather. In about 261 B.C., he won a fight in Kalinga. Thousands of people died there. He was very sad about the deaths. He gave up war. He freed his prisoners. Later, he **converted** to Buddhism. ✓

Asoka practiced and preached the Buddha's teachings. He thought of his people as his children. He cared about them. He had hospitals built throughout the land. He had wells dug along roads so that travelers and animals would have water.

Asoka wanted to share the Buddha's message with all people in his empire. He gave moral advice. He urged **tolerance**. He also created laws that said people must be treated humanely. His advice and laws were carved on pillars of stone.

Asoka was tolerant of Hindus. Many of the Buddha's teachings became part of Hinduism during Asoka's rule. Buddhism grew under Asoka. His missionaries spread Buddhism to China. He even sent teachers to Egypt, Greece, and North Africa.

When Asoka died, India was united as never before. However, the Maurya Empire soon grew weak. It fell apart without his strong rule. Small states began to fight one another. Several centuries of invasion followed. There was much disorder.

Review Questions

1. How did Chandragupta build the Maurya Empire?

2. What were some of Asoka's accomplishments?

Key Terms

convert (KUN VURT) *v.* to change one's beliefs

tolerance (TAHL UR UNS) *n.* freedom from prejudice



Target Reading Skill

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



Reading Check

What event caused Asoka to become a Buddhist?

Chapter 4 Assessment

1. India is separated from the rest of Asia by the Himalayas and
 - A. the Ganges River.
 - B. the Indus River.
 - C. the Hindu Kush mountain range.
 - D. the Great Wall of China.
2. As Aryans migrated into the northern Indus Valley, local people adopted their
 - A. children.
 - B. language and domesticated dogs.
 - C. language and beliefs.
 - D. beliefs and citadel style buildings.
3. Which of the following is true of Hindu gods and goddesses?
 - A. They stand for different parts of the same spirit.
 - B. They can take many different forms.
 - C. They have their own families.
 - D. All of the above
4. Buddhism teaches that all people should
 - A. pursue pleasure.
 - B. follow The Twelfefold Path.
 - C. be part of a caste system.
 - D. regard themselves as equal.
5. Which of the following happened under Chandragupta's rule?
 - A. Buddhism was carried throughout the empire.
 - B. Government officials promoted crafts and mining.
 - C. Hospitals were built throughout the empire.
 - D. Wells were dug along roads so that travelers and animals would not go thirsty.

Short Answer Question

What are some ways in which Hinduism and Buddhism differed from each other?
