NAME \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL STUDIES

CLASS \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ CHAPTER SIX



SECTION ONE

* The Land of India
* The Aryans Invade
* Society in Ancient India

SECTION TWO

* Hinduism
* Buddhism

SECTION ONE

The Land of India

Look at the map below. India looks like a diamond hanging from the bottom of Asia. India is a **subcontinent** (SUHB •KAHN• tuhn • uhnt) because even though it is part of Asia, huge mountains make a barrier between India and the rest of Asia. These mountains are the **Himalaya** (HIH • muh • LAY• uh), the highest mountains in the world.

Today, there are five nations that occupy the Indian subcontinent: India, Pakistan in the northwest, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh in the northeast.

India has two very fertile river valleys. Both are fed by the mountains in the north. When the snow in the Himalaya melts, water flows into the **Ganges** **River** (GAN • JEEZ) and the **Indus River** (IHN • duhs). If the water is controlled, the land near these rivers can be used for farming.

The Ganges River runs south of the Himalaya and flows into the Indian Ocean. The Indus River empties into the Arabian Sea. The area around the Indus is called the Indus River valley.

South of the river valleys is the dry and hilly Deccan Plateau. The eastern and western coasts of India are lush, fertile plains.

GIST NOTE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Monsoons** (mahn • SOONZ) are an important part of the Indian climate. A monsoon is a strong wind that blows one direction in winter and the opposite direction in summer. The winter monsoon brings the cold, dry air of the mountains. The summer monsoon brings warm, wet air from the Arabian Sea, which produces drenching rains.

When the monsoon rains begin, many farmers celebrate. If the rains come on time and the rainy season lasts long enough, the crop will be good. If the rains are delayed, a drought will occur. This extended period without rain can be disastrous for farmers. Few crops will be harvested and many people will starve.

India’s First Civilization

In earlier chapters, you learned about civilizations that began in river valleys. Indian civilization also began in a river valley.

India’s first civilization grew up near the Indus River. When the summer monsoon began, the river rose higher and higher. When the river flooded nearby land, it left behind rich, fertile soil.

Farmers used the rich soil to grow crops to feed their families. Because people had a plentiful supply of food, they could spend time doing other things, such as making tools or building houses. As people began to trade their extra food and goods with other people, their wealth grew. This allowed them to build larger and larger cities.

India’s first civilization in the Indus River valley began about 3000 B.C. and lasted until 1500 B.C. More than a thousand villages and towns were part of this civilization, which stretched from the Himalaya to the Arabian Sea. We know something about the way these people lived from studying the ruins of two major cities,

**Harappa** (huh • RA • puh) and **Mohenjo-Daro** (moh • HEHN• joh DAHR• oh). The civilization of this time is called the Harappan or Induscivilization.

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Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro

Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were large cities for their time. The well-planned cities had as many as 35,000 people. A fortress was built on a brick platform to keep guard over the residents. There were wide main streets and smaller side streets. A wall surrounded each neighborhood, and narrow lanes separated the houses.

Most houses had flat roofs and were built with mud bricks that were baked in ovens. Some houses were larger than others, but they all had a similar layout. There was a courtyard in the middle and smaller rooms around it.

These ancient city dwellers had some surprising conveniences. Wells supplied water, and residents even had indoor bathrooms. Wastewater flowed to drains under the streets, running through pipes to pits outside the city walls. Houses also had garbage chutes connected to a bin in the street. It is likely the city government was well organized to be able to provide so many services.

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Harappan Society

Because the Harappans left no written records, we do not know much about their society or government. From the ruins, though, we can tell that the royal palace and the temple were both enclosed in the fortress. This reveals that religion and politics were closely connected.

Most Harappans were farmers. They grew rice, wheat, barley, peas, and cotton. City dwellers made copper and bronze tools, clay pottery, and cotton cloth, as well as jewelry from gold, shells, and ivory. Archaeologists have also found many toys among the ruins, such as small monkeys that could be made to climb up a string.

It is likely that the Harappans began trading with the Mesopotamians about 2300 B.C. Some Harappan sailors followed the coastline and crossed the Arabian Sea, and others traveled overland.

One item rarely found in the ruins of Harappan cities was weapons. This suggests that the Harappans were not only prosperous but also peaceful.

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1. The \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ River and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ River are India’s most important rivers.

 A. Ganges, Indus B. Indian, Indus

 C. Ganges, Arabian D. Bengal, Indian

2. About 3,000 B.C., the first people to live in the Indus River valley were the

 A. Mohenjo-Daro. B. Aryans

 C. Indians D. Harappans.

3. How is India separated from the rest of Asia?

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The Aryans Invade

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The Harappan civilization collapsed about 1500 B.C. Historians think that several

earthquakes and floods damaged the cities. Then the Indus River changed its course, killing many people and forcing others to flee the area. At the same time, a group of

people called the **Aryans** (AR • ee • uhnz) invaded the river valley. The Aryans destroyed the Harappan civilization.

Who Were the Aryans?

The Aryans lived in central and south central Asia. Unlike the Harappans, they were hunters instead of farmers. They also raised and herded animals.

Cattle were a prized possession because they provided meat, milk, and butter. Cattle were so important that the Aryans even used them as money. Individual wealth was measured by the number of cattle a person owned.

Because they herded animals, Aryans were nomads. After their cattle, sheep, and goats had grazed a field until it was brown, they moved on in search of fresh grass and water.

Like many nomads, Aryans were good warriors. They were expert horse riders and

hunters. They had metal-tipped spears and wooden chariots, which they sometimes used to invade nearby villages for food.

After 2000 B.C., the Aryans began leaving their home territory. They moved in waves, and some groups crossed through the mountain passes in the Himalaya. They entered the Indus River valley around 1500 B.C.

By 1000 B.C., the Aryans had conquered the Harappans and controlled northern India. Later, they would move into the Deccan Plateau and conquer everything except the

southern tip of India.

The Aryans Bring Change

When the Aryans arrived in India, they no longer lived as nomads. They became farmers but continued to raise cattle. Eventually, the Aryans would declare that cattle were sacred and forbid them to be used as food.

Because Aryans were skilled ironworkers, they improved farming in India. They

invented an iron plow to help clear India’s many jungles and built canals to irrigate. They slowly turned the Ganges River valley into good farmland.

India’s varied climate supported many types of crops. In the north, farmers grew

grains such as wheat, barley, and millet. Rice was grown in the river valleys. In the south, there was a mix of crops, including spices such as pepper, ginger, and cinnamon.

The Aryans also brought a new language to India. As nomads, they had no written language, but in India they developed a written language called **Sanskrit** (SAN • SKRIHT). Now the songs, stories, poems, and prayers that Aryans had known for many centuries could be written down.

The Aryans were organized into tribes. Each tribe was led by a **raja** (RAH• juh), or prince. The rajas ran their own small kingdoms, which often fought among themselves.

Rajas fought over cattle and treasure and over women kidnapped from other states. These small rival kingdoms existed in India for about a thousand years, from 1500 B.C. to 400 B.C.

1. Nomadic people, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, conquered the Harappans and most of India.

 A. Brahmans B. Aryans

 C. Sudras D. Vaisyas

2. Why do you think nomads like the Aryans were great warriors?

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Society in Ancient India

One of the results of the Aryan invasion of India was the development of a caste system. A **caste** (KAST) is a social group that someone is born into and cannot changeA caste dictates what job you will have, whom you can marry, and with whom you can socialize. Thousands and thousands of castes exist in India.

Why was a caste system created? No one is sure, but ideas about skin color were

probably part of it. The Aryans were a light skinned people. They thought they were

better than the dark-skinned people they had conquered in India. This idea was wrong, but the Aryans believed it.

Another reason the Aryans might have created the caste system was because the

people they had conquered outnumbered them. The caste system kept groups separate

and set the rules for everyone’s behavior. This helped the Aryans stay in control.

Social Levels of the Caste System

Long before the caste system came about, the Aryans believed that society was divided into four classes called *varnas.* The top two varnas were **Brahmans** (BRAH • muhns) and Kshatriyas (KSHA • tree • uhs). Brahmans were the priests—the only people who could perform religious ceremonies. The Kshatriyas were warriors who ran the government and army.

On the next level down were the Vaisyas (VYSH• yuhs), or commoners. Vaisyas were usually farmers and merchants. Below the Vaisyas came the Sudras (SOO • druhs). Sudras were not Aryans. The name *Sudra* comes from the Aryan word for the dark skinned people who had been conquered. Sudras were manual laborers and servants

and had few rights. Most Indians belonged to the Sudra caste.

There was one group so low that it was not even part of the caste system. Its members were called Pariahs, or the Untouchables. They performed work other Indians thought was too dirty, such as collecting trash, skinning animals, or handling dead bodies.



Life for an Untouchable was very hard. Most Indians believed that being near an

Untouchable was harmful, so they forced them to live apart from others. When Untouchables traveled, they had to tap two sticks together so that everyone would hear

them coming and have time to move away.

The Role of Men and Women

In ancient India, the family was the center of life. Grandparents, parents, and children all lived together in an extended family. The oldest man in the family was in charge.

Men had many more rights than women. Unless there were no sons in a family,

only a man could inherit property. Only men could go to school or become priests.

In high-caste families, a boy had a **guru** (GUR• oo), or teacher, until he went to thecity for more education. Young men fromthese families could marry only when they

had finished 12 years of schooling.

In India, parents arranged marriages for their children. Even today, parents arrange 90 percent of marriages in India. Girls often married as young as 13. Divorce was not allowed, but if a couple could not have children, the husband could marry a second wife.

One custom shows how the lives of Indian men were considered more important

than the lives of Indian women. In India, people were cremated or burned when they died. When a man from a high caste family died, his wife was expected to leap into the flames. This practice was called suttee (suh • TEE). If the wife resisted and did not kill herself, it was a great shame. Everyone would avoid the woman from then on.

1. In India’s caste system, the Kshatriyas class contains these people.

 A. untouchables B. priests

 C. common people D. warriors and rulers

2. What were the five major groups in Indian society?

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SECTION TWO

HINDUISM

**Hinduism** (HIHN•doo• IH •zuhm) is one of the oldest religions in the world, and today it is the third largest. It began with the religionof the Aryans, who arrived in India about 1500 B.C. The Aryans believed in many gods and goddesses who controlled the forces of nature. We know about Aryan religion from their ancient hymns and poetry, especially their epics, or long poems.

For centuries, the priests, or Brahmans, recited these works, and much later they were written down in Sanskrit. Over the centuries, Aryan religion changed. It borrowed some religious ideas from the people the Aryans conquered in India. This mix of beliefs eventually became Hinduism.

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Early Hinduism

Hinduism grew out of the religious customs of many people over thousands of years. This might explain why Hinduism has thousands of gods and goddesses.

Hindus tend to think of all gods and goddesses as different parts of one universal

spirit. This universal spirit is called **Brahman** (BRAH•muhn).

The search for a universal spirit is described in the ancient religious writings

known as the Upanishads (oo • PAH • nih • SHADZ). Those writings say that every living being has a soul that wants to be reunited with Brahman and that this happens when a person dies.

The Upanishads describe how a person unites with Brahman: A soul that becomes one with Brahman is like a lump of salt thrown into water. The lump of salt is gone, but the water tastes salty. The salt has become part of the water.

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What Is Karma?

Hindus believe that a soul is not joined to the Brahman immediately after a person dies. Instead, a person must pass through many lives to be united with Brahman. On its journey, a soul might be reborn into a higher caste. If a person

lived a bad life, he or she might be reborn into a lower caste.

This idea of passing through many lives to reach the Brahman is called **reincarnation** (REE • ihn • kahr •NAY• shuhn). It is very important in Hinduism and it influences how Hindus live their daily lives. It even affects how they treat animals because they consider all life sacred.

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To earn the reward of a better life in their next life, Hindus believe they must perform their duty. **Dharma** (DAHR•muh) is the divine law. It requires people to perform the duties of their caste. A farmer has different duties than a priest and men have different duties than women.

The consequences of how a person lives are known as **karma** (KAHR•muh). If Hindus do their duty and live a good life, they will have good karma. This will move them closer to the Brahman in their next life.

How did the belief in reincarnation affect Indians? For one thing, it made them more accepting of the caste system. People believed they had to be happy with their role in life and do the work of their caste. A dedicated Hindu believes that the people in a higher caste are superior and that they are supposed to be on top. The belief in reincarnation gave hope to everyone, even servants. If servants did their duty, they might be reborn into a higher caste in their next life.

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1. How is karma related to reincarnation?

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Buddhism

By 600 B.C., many Indians began to question Hindu ideas. The Brahman priests seemed to care only about their temple ceremonies and not about the needs of the people. Ordinary Hindus wanted a simpler, more spiritual religion. Many would find what they needed in **Buddhism** (BOO• DIH • zuhm), a new religion founded by **Siddhartha** **Gautama** (sih •DAHR• tuh GOW• tuh •muh).

Who Is the Buddha?

Prince Siddhartha Gautama was born around 563 B.C. in a small kingdom near the Himalaya. Today, this area is in southern **Nepal** (nuh•PAWL).

Siddhartha seemed to have it all. He was wealthy and handsome, happily married, and had a fine new son. Then one day he decided to explore the kingdom beyond the palace walls. As he traveled, he became very upset. He saw beggars, people who were ill, and people broken down by age with no home and nowhere to go. For the first time, he was truly aware of suffering.

Then and there, Siddhartha decided to seek an answer to this great riddle: Why did people suffer and how could their suffering be cured? He left his family and riches and began his search. At first he lived like a hermit, fasting and sleeping on the hard ground. Siddhartha nearly starved, but he still had no answer to his questions.

Then he decided to meditate for as long as it took to get the answer. Legend tells us that Siddhartha sat under a tree to meditate, and after 49 days, he finally understood. It was as if he had seen a great light. Siddhartha spent the rest of his life wandering the countryside and telling people what he had discovered. His lessons about life and the nature of suffering became known as Buddhism. To his followers, he became known as the Buddha, or “Enlightened One.”

What Is Buddhism?

To understand the Buddha’s ideas, one first has to see the world as he did. Like any good Hindu, Siddhartha did not think that the normal, everyday world was real. Trees, houses, animals, the sky, and the oceans were just illusions. So

were poverty and sickness, pain and sorrow.

Siddhartha believed that the only way to find the truth about the world was to give up all desires. By giving up the desire for fame, the desire for money, and the desire for all worldly things, pain and sorrow would vanish.

If a person gave up all desires, he or she would reach **nirvana** (nihr • VAH• nuh). Nirvana is not a place but a state of wisdom. The word *nirvana* came from the Sanskrit word for blowing out a candle flame.

The heart of the Buddha’s teachings is contained in the Four Noble Truths. The Four Noble Truths are:

1. *Life is full of suffering.*

2. *People suffer because they desire worldly things and self-satisfaction.*

3. *The way to end suffering is to stop desiring things.*

4. *The only way to stop desiring things is to follow the Eightfold Path.*

The Buddha’s fourth truth says people should follow eight steps to eliminate suffering. The Buddha’s Eightfold Path was this:

1. *Know and understand the Four Noble Truths.*

2. *Give up worldly things and don’t harm others.*

3. *Tell the truth, don’t gossip, and don’t speak badly of others.*

4. *Don’t commit evil acts, like killing, stealing, or living an unclean life.*

5. *Do rewarding work.*

6. *Work for good and oppose evil.*

7. *Make sure your mind keeps your senses under control.*

8. *Practice meditation as a way of understanding reality.*

One reason the Buddha’s ideas became popular was that he did not accept the caste system. A person’s place in life depended on the person, he thought. The

Buddha did believe in reincarnation, but with a difference. If people wanted to stop

being reborn into new lives, the Buddha said, they would only have to follow his

Eightfold Path.

Many people liked the Buddha’s message, especially Untouchables and low-caste Indians. For the first time, these groups heard that they, too, could reach enlightenment.

Buddhism in Southeast Asia

For more than 40 years, the Buddha preached his ideas. Disciples gathered around him, and after his death, they spread his message all over Asia.

As more and more people practiced Buddhism, disagreements arose about the Buddha’s ideas. Finally, Buddhists split into two groups. The first was Theravada Buddhism. *Theravada* means “teachings of the elders.” It sees the Buddha as a great teacher, not a god.

Buddhist teachers and merchants spread the ideas of Theravada to the south and east. It was adopted in Ceylon in the 200s B.C. Ceylon, an island located near the southern tip of India, is now called Sri Lanka. Theravada Buddhism also became popular in Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos.

Mahayana Buddhism

The second kind of Buddhism is called Mahayana Buddhism. It teaches that the Buddha is a god who came to save people. Mahayana Buddhists believe that following the Eightfold Path is too hard for most people in this world. They believe that by worshiping the Buddha instead, people will go to a heaven after they die. There, they can follow the Eightfold Path and reach nirvana.

Mahayana Buddhists also have special affection for the bodhisattvas (BOH • dih • SUHT • vuhz). Bodhisattvas are the enlightened people who postpone going to heaven. Instead, bodhisattvas have decided to stay on Earth to help others and do good deeds. Mahayana Buddhism spread northward into China and from there to Korea and Japan.

A special kind of Mahayana Buddhism developed in central Asia in the country of **Tibet** (tuh • BEHT). There it mixed with Tibet’s traditional religion and with Hinduism.

In Tibet, the Buddhist leaders, called lamas, also led the government. When religious leaders head a government, it is called a **theocracy** (thee •AH• kruh• see). The **Dalai Lama** (DAH• LY LAH •muh) was the lama who headed the government, and the Panchen Lama was the lama who led the religion. Both were considered reincarnations of the Buddha.

Today, many Buddhists live in countries like Thailand, Cambodia, and Sri Lanka, but few live in India where the Buddha first preached.

1. The Buddha believed that the only way to find truth was to give up

 A. your family. B. your home.

 C. all desires. D. wisdom.

2. How could a Buddhist reach nirvana?

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