**Group 1: Video:**[**The life of the Buddha**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEe8hI6G0GY)**: What was the Buddha's message? How was this message influenced by the society of his day (compare and contrast it with Brahmanism/early Hinduism)?**

**Posted:** Conventional conviction is that Siddhartha Gautama, who might one day become known as Buddha ("enlightened one" or "the awakened"), lived in Nepal during the sixth to fourth century B.C. Buddhism urges its people to keep away from extravagance yet additionally self-denial. Buddha's most significant lessons, known as The Four Noble Truths, are fundamental to understanding the religion. Buddhists grasp the ideas of karma (the law of circumstances and logical results) and resurrection (the law of cause and effect) ([Aśvaghoṣa](https://www.google.com/search?q=A%C5%9Bvagho%E1%B9%A3a&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LSz9U3MCsoMLHMUQKzTcuTko0rtGSyk630k_Lzs_XLizJLSlLz4svzi7KtEktLMvKLFrHyOB6dXZaYnpH_cOfiRAC5k7LNRwAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjTsaDbkNbiAhXnxoUKHTHfDM0QmxMoATAregQIFRAK), 1935).

The Basic Teachings of Buddha which are core to Buddhism are: The Three Universal Truths; The Four Noble Truths; and The Noble Eightfold Path. The Three Universal Truths are: 1. Nothing is lost in the universe. 2. Everything Changes. 3. The Law of Cause and Effect. The Buddha's Four Noble Truths explore human suffering which are Dukkha, Samudaya, Nirodha, Magga. The Buddha's Eightfold Path consists of **Panna**: Discernment, wisdom.

Buddhism laid emphasis on peacefulness and the sacredness of creature life. The Hindus were initially meat eaters however because of the impact of Buddhism moved toward becoming a veggie lover. In this manner, Buddhism practiced a huge effect on India culture. Its enhanced religion, craftsmanship, figure, language, and writing of India. Buddhism imported different great characteristics like empathy, peacefulness, and truth. All these great characteristics formed human character and character-building.

While contrasting and Brahmanism/early Hinduism, it is important that Buddhism doesn't discuss any incomparable power or god. Buddhism and Hinduism concede to karma, dharma, moksha, and rebirth. They are distinctive in that Buddhism rejects the clerics of Hinduism, the formal rituals, and the caste framework. Buddha encouraged individuals to look for enlightenment through meditation. Every individual oversees their own behavior. Another key distinction between these is that the other two are religions while Buddhism is a lifestyle.

**Work cited**

# [Aśvaghoṣa](https://www.google.com/search?q=A%C5%9Bvagho%E1%B9%A3a&stick=H4sIAAAAAAAAAOPgE-LSz9U3MCsoMLHMUQKzTcuTko0rtGSyk630k_Lzs_XLizJLSlLz4svzi7KtEktLMvKLFrHyOB6dXZaYnpH_cOfiRAC5k7LNRwAAAA&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwjTsaDbkNbiAhXnxoUKHTHfDM0QmxMoATAregQIFRAK), 1935. *The Life of The Buddha*, Retrieved from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kEe8hI6G0GY

**OR**

The Buddha's message was to end the cycle of suffering and rebirth, but also to achieve enlightenment through a 'middle way’. His way teaches morality, peacefulness and achievable enlightenment for all.  I find a lot of wisdom in the teachings of Buddha.  The Buddha taught people to live good, moral lives, to be at peace with each other, and to be humble.

While comparing with Brahmanism/early Hinduism, it is noteworthy that Buddhism doesn't talk about any supreme power or deity. Each person is responsible for their own actions. Another key difference between these is that the other two are religions while Buddhism is a way of life.

**OR**

Bhudda was having his interpretations of the world and realized that everyone suffers from pain, sickness, decay, and death. Everyone experiences and learn from life differently, which helps one develop reasoning and explanation to what is happening in the world, but one can become separated from the nature, real world, and spiritually causing division between yourself and others who disagree with your perception. Buddha believed this causes suffering and damage to our mental health. The Principle of Buddhism states that love, happiness, and gratitude is an awakened mind which mean we have acknowledged our own thoughts, confusions, self, and our self-causing sufferings and released them. Buddha’s teaching has emphasized the importance of self-awareness and mental health to be nonviolent and prevent more suffering.

**Group 2:  Document 3-5: Read and answer the questions at the end of the document. (Ward & Gainty, source 3-5)**

1. **Describe the social structure advocated in this passage. What is expected from the various levels of society?**

The Laws of Manu go considerably more distant than these four, portraying the different classifications of people that emerge due to inter-class marriages. There was a law of Manu portraying how unique social classes by birth and occupation ought to satisfy their obligation. Brahmins relegated educating and yielding for their very own advantage and others. The Kshatriya he told to ensure the general population to present blessings and offer penances. The Vaisya watch out for dairy cattle, present endowments, loan cash. The initial three varnas are the "twice-borns," while the Sudras (the most minimal of the four varnas) are "once-borns" (Ward and Ganty et al., 62).

1. **What are the status and role of women in Indian society?**

The Laws of Manu takes a firm position in dismissing the freedom of ladies and spots them immovably in enslavement to their fathers, brothers, or husbands. Women were mostly looked at as property themselves. Women ' obligations were, for the most part, looked with considering a man or a father. It's practically similar to Women who had no power. "By a girl, by a young woman, or even by an aged one, nothing must be done autonomously, even in her own home," expresses The Laws of Manu (Muller 1886:195). It depicts how women ought to carry on if she is a little girl, sister, spouse, or widow, and urges virtue and generosity (Ward and Ganty et al., 64).

**Work Cited:**

Ward, Walter D., and Denis Gainty. *Sources of World Societies*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martins, 2012.

**Group 4: Explain the challenges in writing a history of ancient India. (Wallech, pp. 76-90).**

The Indian history includes the architect, weathers and trends of that time. It is very difficult to cover all the aspects for a civilization which no more exists. Different facts are joint together in order to conclude meaningful history. Some facts of the civilization are still unknown and considered to be buried under the water of Indus river. The excessive floods in Indus river give a clue that the buildings of that time would be waterproof. Red bricks used for construction proved to be water resistant. Another conclusion made from the facts and figures is that the water-resistant bricks needed fuel and increased demand of the bricks resulted in deforestation due to which aridity increased.

Another civilization emerged in India named as Aryans. There were conflicts among the ideas of scholars about origin of this civilization. The controversy was resolved by comparing the similarities of this civilization with other civilizations. Also, religious and political conflicts of people also emerged in India.

The history reveals much more about the crops, minerals and diseases of that era. It also includes religious and political information. It is revealed that how fatal diseases initiated from India caused several deaths in Rome. In a nutshell, there is no aspect left which is not discussed. It shows tha it is extremely difficult to compile the history of ancient civilization. It needed a lot of research and strategies which helped the researchers to link the evidences together in order to make a correct conclusion.

**OR**

When writing a history of ancient India, the challenges that you might encounter are making sure that you speak about all the significant things that happened in India. For even landmarks of India. For instance, the Indus Valley which represents the third of the three river systems of Eurasia that made up the heartland of the earliest civilization (Wallech 76). Then you would have to speak on the lifestyle and things that Ancient India overcame. Another challenge you might have is getting all the important information about what has happened in India. For example, when the chariot transformed warfare. So basically, the challenge would be making sure you do not miss anything important or significant that makes India the reason it is, what it is.

**Work Cited**

Wallech, S., Daryaee, T., Hendricks, C., Negus, A., Wan, P. and Bakken, G. (2013). World

History. 2nd ed. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., pp. 76-90.

**OR**

Modern day historians have had trouble with piecing together ancient India’s history due to the destruction of historical records and confusion about the origin of certain ethnic groups. The Harappan people, India’s oldest civilization, lived along the Indus River (Wallech et al. 2013, 76). Harappan artifacts present evidence of a productive and thriving society, but land and weather conditions caused any written records to be near destroyed. India’s climate and “the abundance of water and the accordingly high-water table saturated many of India’s earliest artifacts.” (Wallech et al. 2013, 76). The Harappan's themselves are likely the reason as to why their own history was destroyed. Due to the oversaturation of their environment, the Harappan’s used special bricks to absorb water. The bricks were heated using wood from trees which lead to deforestation. As a result, floods became more extreme “and the rising water table undermined the Harappans’ ability to create food surpluses and forced a retreat of the civilization.” (Wallech et al. 2013, 76). In addition to the destruction of the Harappan’s historical records, there is confusion about other ancient Indian civilizations as well. There is speculation as to the origin of the Aryan/Vedic peoples. Some historians argue that the group of people originated in India while others believe they originated in Asia (Wallech et al. 2013, 77). Unanswered questions such as where the civilization originated from cause confusion about ancient India overall.

**Work Cited**

Wallech, Steven, Touraj Daryaee, Craig Hendricks, Anne Lynne Negus, Peter Wan, and Gordon Morris Bakken. World History: A Concise Thematic Analysis. Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013

**OR**

**Posted:** The challenges that you may experience are ensuring that you talk pretty much all the critical things that occurred in India. For even tourist spots of India. For example, the Indus Valley which speaks to the third of the three river frameworks of Eurasia that made up the heartland of the most punctual progress (Wallech 76).

The Harappan individuals, India's oldest civilization, lived along the Indus Waterway (Wallech et al. 2013, 76). Harappan artifacts present proof of a gainful and flourishing society, yet land and climate conditions made any composed records be close obliterated. India's atmosphere and "the plenitude of water and the appropriately high-water table soaked a large number of India's earliest artifacts." (Wallech et al. 2013, 76).

Another human advancement rose in India named as Aryans. There were clashes among the thoughts of researchers about the beginning of this human progress. The discussion was settled by contrasting the likenesses of this human advancement and different developments. Likewise, religious and political clashes of individuals additionally rose in India.

The history uncovers significantly more about the harvests, minerals, and ailments of that period. It likewise incorporates religious and political data. More or less, there is no perspective left which isn't examined. It indicates that it is very hard to accumulate the historical backdrop of ancient human progress.

**Work Cited**

Wallech, Steven, Touraj Daryaee, Craig Hendricks, Anne Lynne Negus, Peter Wan, and Gordon Morris Bakken. *World History: A Concise Thematic Analysis.* Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.