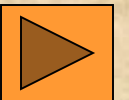


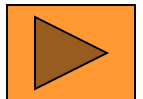
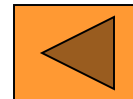
Ancient India



Geography of India

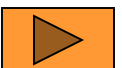


- India is considered a “**subcontinent**” because of its size. It is actually a part of Asia. In the north are high mountains, the **Himalayas** and **Hindu Kush**. In the center is the Deccan Plateau.



Indus Valley

- The **Indus River** is located in Pakistan. Find it on the map. It was along this river that a civilization developed around 2,500 BCE. It is called the Indus Valley Civilization. Two major cities of this civilization were **Harappa** and **Mohenjo-Daro**.



Geography & Early Civilization

Ganges River

The Ganges flows from the Himalayas and flows across northern India

It joins the Brahmaputra River as it flows into the **Bay of Bengal**



Geography & Early Civilization

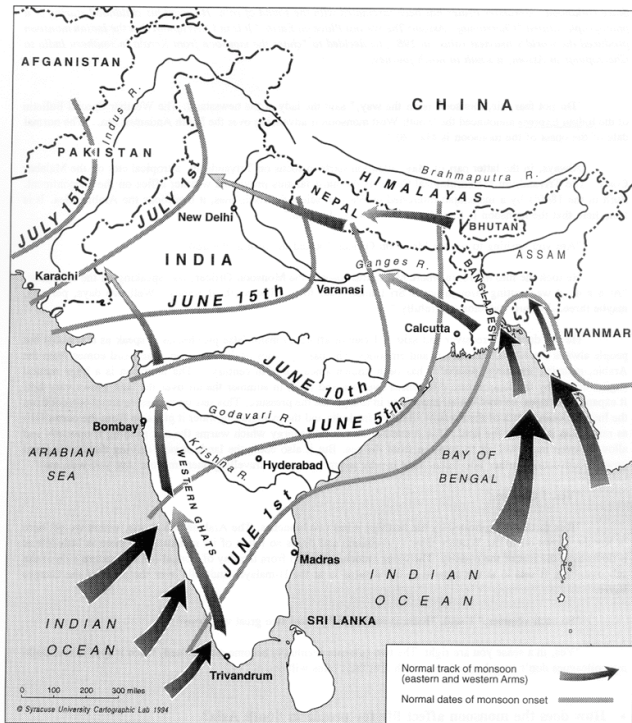
Seasonal winds called **monsoons** dominate India's climate

Environmental challenges

Yearly floods- unpredictable (remember the Nile River in Egypt?)

The rivers sometimes change course

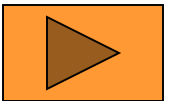
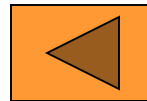
Monsoons brought unpredictable cycles of wet and dry seasons



The Indus Valley Culture



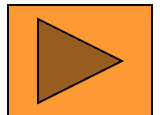
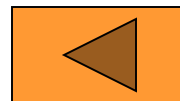
- The people of the Indus Valley were mostly peaceful farmers. They built large cities with ordered streets and bricks made all the same size. This indicates they had a strong central government. This statue is probably a priest or king.



The Indus Valley people had an advanced civilization with large cities, running water and sewer systems. They built walls around their cities which indicated that they might have had to defend themselves against other people. We do not know a lot about them because we cannot yet read their writing.

The picture at the right shows an example of Indus Valley writing.

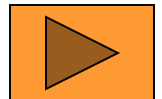
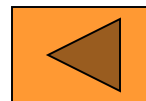
Linguists are still trying to decipher the language. We know they traded with the people of Mesopotamia and Egypt so perhaps those people knew how to read and speak this language!

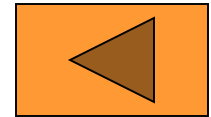
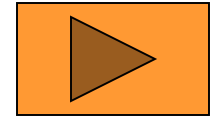


Indus Valley Script



- Here are several examples of Indus Valley writing. It is believed that the Indus Valley people may have also written on palm leaves or cloth but no evidence of this has survived.

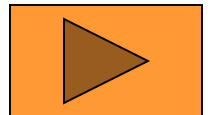
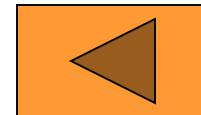




This is a photograph of “The Great Bath” at Mohenjo Daro. This is one of the earliest examples of a public bath or water storage system found in the world. The Indus Valley people were great architects and city planners.



Here is a reconstruction of what the entrance to Mohenjo Daro might have looked like.



Aryan Invasion

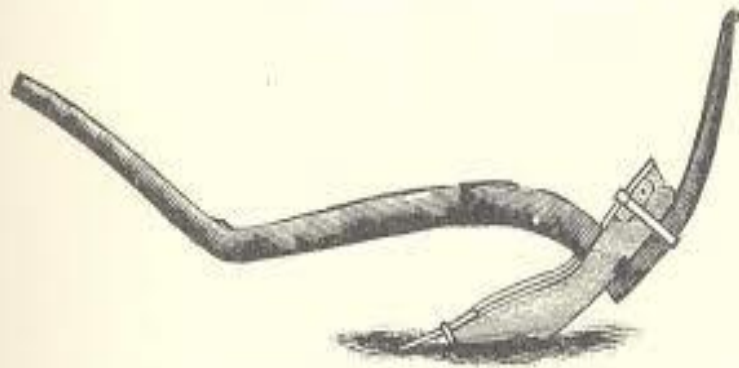
- Around 1500 BCE, a group of nomadic warrior-herders crossed the narrow **Khyber Pass** in the Hindu Kush Mountains and invaded the Indus Valley culture. These people, the **Aryans**, came from Eastern Europe between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, probably looking for pastures for their animals. Flooding and earthquakes had weakened the Indus Valley culture and they were unable to withstand the newcomers.



Aryan Invasion



- The Aryans learned to use iron after their invasion of India.
- Iron was used to make plows which made farming much easier.
- It was also used to make iron weapons which the **Aryans** used to carve out more territory in the **Ganges** River basin
 - Soon cities ruled by chiefs called **Rajahs** arose
 - By 500 B.C., the **Aryans** had built a new Indian civilization

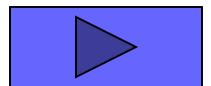
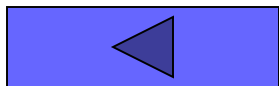


ANCIENT EAST INDIAN PLOW.



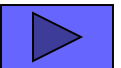
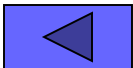
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The Aryans brought with them their own language, called **Sanskrit** and religious and cultural beliefs. The Indus Valley people eventually became intermixed with the Aryan people and the two cultures together make up what is now much of the culture of modern India. Hinduism, the major religion of India, was a mixture of Aryan and Indus Valley beliefs. The **caste system**, which keeps people in strict social classes, was brought to India by the Aryans.



Hindu Religion

The Aryans and the Indus Valley culture eventually produced what is known today as **Hinduism**. This religion is polytheistic, which means believing in many gods. We know about this ancient religion because of Aryan books called “**Vedas**” that record the beliefs of the Aryans. Pictured here is one of the many gods of Hinduism, Krishna.



Hinduism

Hinduism is derived from the Persian word “Hind” for “inhabitant of India”.

It is different than Christianity and other religions because it does not have a single founder like Abraham or Jesus Christ.

It grew over a period of 4,000 years.

Hinduism is composed of many different groups and has no well-defined organization.

Its two most general features are the caste system and acceptance of the Vedas as the sacred scriptures.

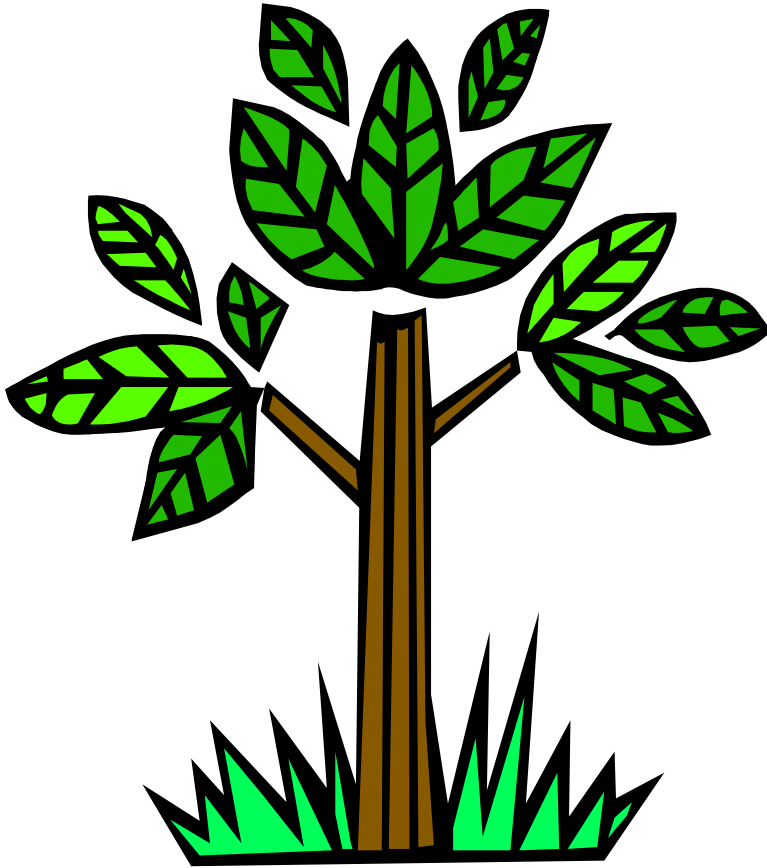


Hindu **Trinity**



- **Brahma** - the Creator
- **Vishnu** - the Preserver
- **Shiva** - the Destroyer
- Three aspects/powers of the same divine being
- trinity

Reincarnation

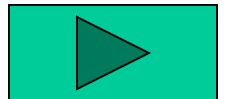
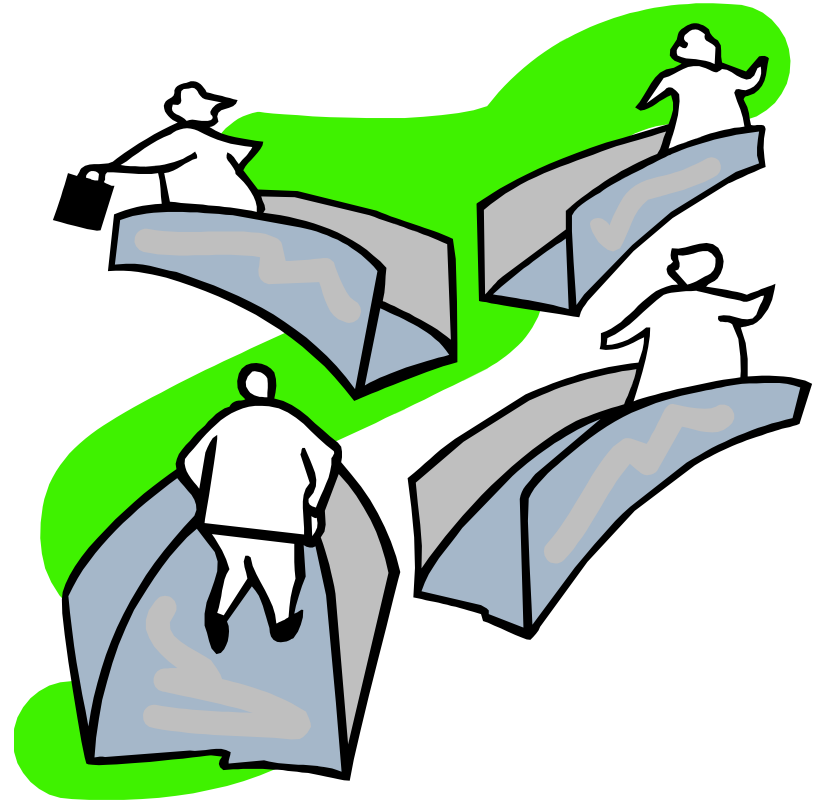


- Central to Hinduism is the belief in **reincarnation**. Hindus believe that after a person dies, they will be re-born as some other creature or thing. What you are re-born as depends on your **“Karma”** or the deeds you did in your previous life. If you did good deeds, you will reborn into a higher, better life. If you had bad Karma, you may be re-born as an insect or even a tree.



Caste System

- One social custom brought to India by the Aryans was the **caste system**. This system put every person in society into a certain class from which they could never advance. The caste system was very effective in keeping social order but it was rigid and strict. Those in the lowest caste were looked down on by upper caste members and could **never change castes**.



Caste System



- India's caste system is divided into many different classes, each with its own job. The highest class is the **Brahmans**, or priests. They have great authority and respect.



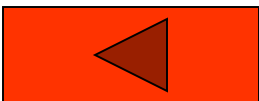
Caste System

- The next level are the warriors, or land-owners. They are often in the wealthy, ruling class. In early times, they were the armies for the many princes of India. They are called **Kshatriya**



Caste System

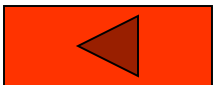
- The **Vaishya** are the merchants and artisans. They are the people who sell products. They, like all members of each caste, cannot ever change their caste.



Caste System



- The lowest level are the artisans and farmers. They are called **Shudra**. They are very important because they provide food and goods for society. Like members of every caste, they must marry within their own caste.

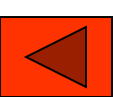


Caste System



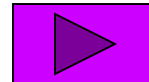
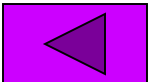
The lowest group in India are the **Harijan**. They are also called the “untouchables” or “outcasts” because they are not even considered part of the caste system. Their job is to do all the worst jobs in the community such as cleaning latrines and sewers

and sweeping the streets. Members of the caste system were not even supposed to have the shadow of an untouchable touch them. These people believed that the only way to get out of their lot in life was to perform their jobs without complaint so they could be born into a higher caste in the next life.



Siddharta Gautama

Around 566 BC, **Siddharta Guatama** was born into the warrior or **Kshatriya** caste. He was a prince who was kept isolated inside a beautiful palace and not allowed to see the real world. One day he left the walls of his palace and saw the pain and misery of life. He decided from then on that he needed to find a way of living that would allow people to find peace in life. He spent many years trying different ways of life, following different philosophies. Finally he came up with his own way, which is now called **Buddhism**. Gautama became known as **Buddha**, which means “enlightened one.” He developed the **Four Noble Truths** and **The Eightfold Path**. These are rules to live by that help people live morally and find the “middle path,” without too much pain, or too much pleasure.



The Maurya Empire

- **Chandragupta Maurya** captured the capital of Magadha in 321 BCE and Maurya was installed as king, founding the Maurya Empire, India's first.
- Chandragupta Maurya expanded the Maurya Empire north and west during his reign.
- Chandragupta Maurya was succeeded by his son Bindusara in 298 BCE, and then by Bindusara's son **Ashoka the Great** in 272 BCE.
- Under Ashoka the Great, the Maurya Empire expanded into the southern part of the Indian subcontinent.
- Ashoka erected the **Edicts of Ashoka**, which state his policies and accomplishments, and which were written in both Greek and Sanskrit.
-

Ashoka

After fighting a bloody battle, he sickened of war and turned his life in a different direction. He became a **Buddhist**, or someone who followed the teachings of Buddha. He lived peacefully and built roads for travelers, planted trees to give shade, constructed rest houses and dug wells. He considered all his subjects his children and tried to care for them with love and kindness. He built a road system and every nine miles he had wells dug and rest houses built. This allowed travelers to stop and refresh themselves. Many people became Buddhist after Ashoka's example.

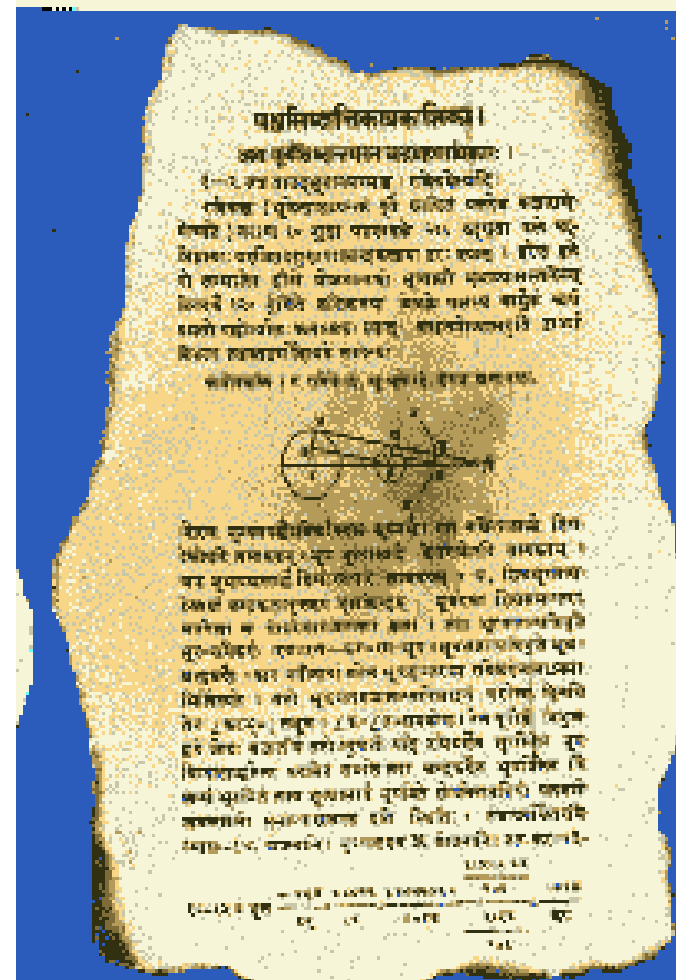


The Gupta Empire

- **Chandra Gupta** established India's second empire, the Gupta Empire, which oversaw a great flowering of Indian civilization, especially Hindu culture.
- **Chandragupta II** promoted the synthesis of science, art, philosophy, and religion in part because his court contained the Navartna (or the Nine Jewels), a group of nine scholars who produced advancements in many academic fields.
- He also conquered the whole Indian subcontinent, including the **Tamil** people of middle India whose society was one of the few **matriarchal** societies in ancient times.

Contributions

- Many advances in science, medicine, astronomy, and mathematics came out of India. This is a depiction of an ancient Indian book that predicts eclipses of the sun and moon.



Contributions

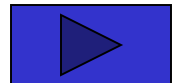
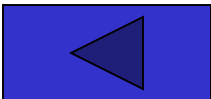
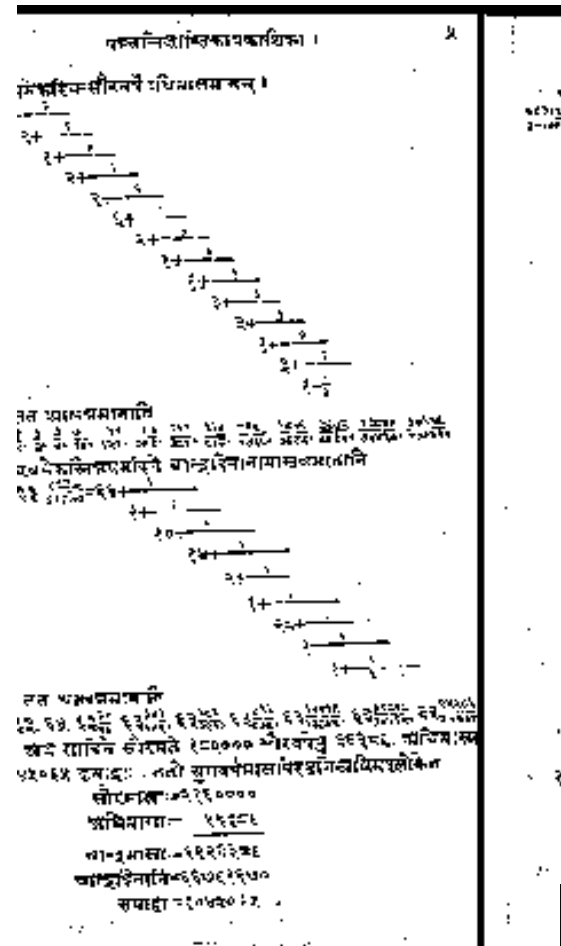


India had many advances in medicine. One doctor from Ancient India wrote a book on how he rebuilt noses through plastic surgery. He no doubt needed to do this often since having one's nose cut off was one of the punishments for committing a crime.

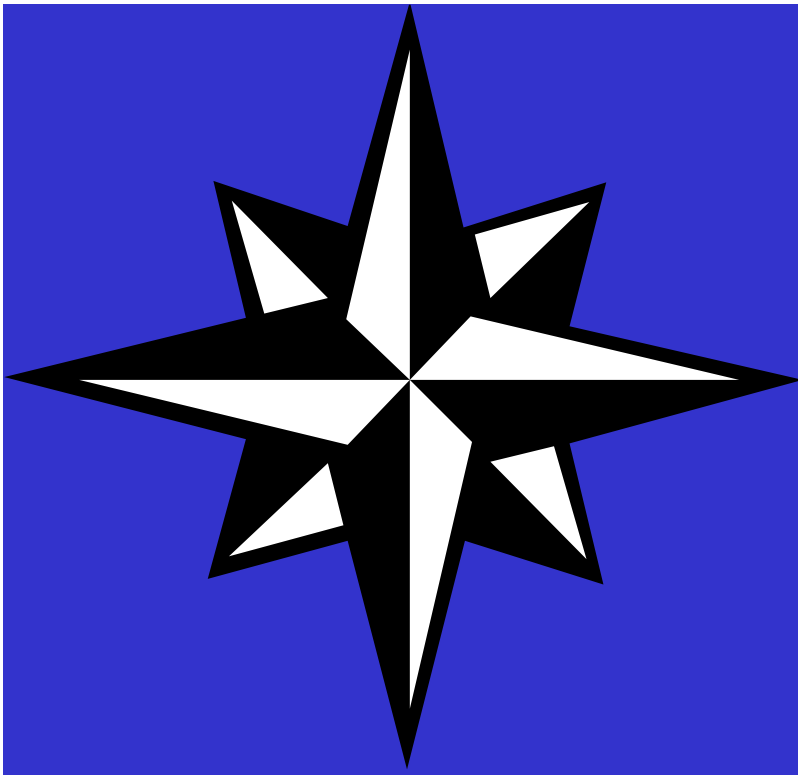


Contributions

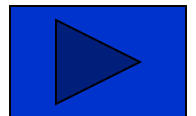
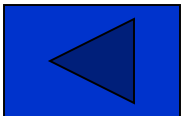
- This is a sample of elaborate mathematical calculations taken from an Indian text around 600 BC. **An Indian named Brahmagupta is credited with inventing the idea of “0”(zero).** This changed greatly how mathematics could be used.



Contributions



- Ancient India is also credited with inventing the magnetic compass. Indians sailed the Indian Ocean in boats they were guided by a metal “fish” floating in oil. The fish pointed north, acting as a compass for the boats.



Ancient India

Ancient India brought inventions, ideas, philosophies and social and cultural traditions that have spread throughout many of the world's cultures. This huge subcontinent with its rich and varied history was certainly one of the greatest early civilizations in the world.

