

Test Study Guide Ancient India

Review:

All notes/handouts of “Ancient India” unit in your IN
History Alive Ch. 13 – 18

Know the following:

- Geography and physical features of the Indian subcontinent and how it affected them. Be able to locate the Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa on a map.
- Main facts about the Harappan civilization (cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa), which flourished between 2500 and 1700 BCE.
- The Indo-European (Aryan) people who arrived in India c. 1500 BCE; the religion of the Aryans – Brahmanism; the collection of hymns and poems – Vedas; Sanskrit – the language of Aryan people.
- The castes system (the varnas) of Ancient India: Purusa, Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (rulers and warriors), Vaisyas (farmers, craftspeople, traders), and Shudras (workers and servants) and Dalits or untouchables (outcastes.) Locate on a social pyramid or tell who they are from a quote of what they would have said.
- Main concepts and gods of Hinduism: dharma, samsara, reincarnation, ascetic, karma, atman (soul), moksha Brahman (the universal spirit), Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver), and Shiva (the destroyer).

Picture Analysis: Analyze, Interpret and Explain a picture we discussed in class and its relevance to the concept of samsara in Hinduism.

- Origins and beliefs of Buddhism, including the life of Buddha (be able to sequence his life’s events), the Four Noble Truths, nirvana, and the Eightfold Path.
 - Explain ways Buddhism and Hinduism differed
- Mauryan Empire and the Gupta dynasty: leaders (Chandragupta & Ashoka), their major achievements/contributions and historical significance as well as the order in which they appeared. Mauryan Empire 322-187 B.C.E. Battle of Kalinga 262 B.C.E., Ashoka 269- 232 B.C.E. Gupta Empire 320 C.E.-550 C.E.

Short Response: What significant event changed Ashoka and the way he lead his empire. What did he do and what were his goals.

- India’s contributions to the world, including innovations in the art, architecture, literature, math (Hindu/Arabic numerals and the concept of zero), science, and medicine.