

Ancient India Test
Social Studies 6



The Aryan invaders conquered the Dravidian people of the Indus River civilization in India. They gave up their nomadic way of life and settled in the fertile valleys as farmers, raising cattle and horses that they had brought with them. They also brought their own religion, or set of beliefs and social hierarchy, as well as their own cultural customs. These ideas blended with existing cultures to shape life in South Asia.

1. How did the invasion of the Aryans change the Indus River Valley?
 - a. Equality spread in society
 - b. People started to marry outside of caste
 - c. The Caste System formed
 - d. Trading with other civilizations began

2. Which factor contributed most to the spread of the mathematical system developed in India during the Gupta Empire?

“The number system developed by Gupta mathematicians spread around the world largely as a result of Middle Eastern traders.”

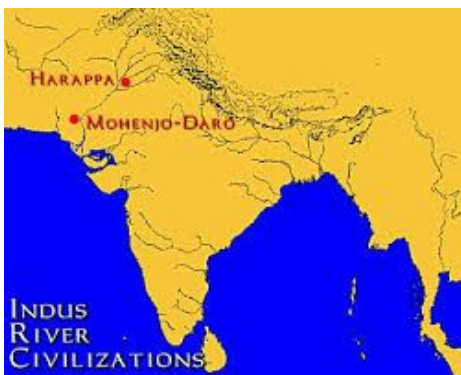
- a. The travels of foreign merchants/traders
- b. The construction of universities
- c. The spread of Buddhism by missionaries
- d. The conquest of the empire by outside invaders

Use the map for questions 3-4



3. Which physical feature assisted Ancient Indians in trading?
 - a. Desert
 - b. Plateau
 - c. Grasslands
 - d. Rivers and ocean

4. Why might ancient cultures have been more likely to settle in northern India than southern India?
 - a. Northern India contained two major rivers
 - b. The mountains prevented rain from reaching the southern portion of India
 - c. Northern India provided better access to the sea
 - d. The southern climate was not as temperate as the northern climate



5. What were the two major cities that developed in the Indus River Valley?
 - a. Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro
 - b. Mecca and Jerusalem
 - c. Sumer and Babylonia
 - d. Egypt and Kush

6. Using the passage below, answer question 6.

"The number system developed by Gupta mathematicians spread around the world largely as a result of Middle Eastern Traders. Traders, who frequently calculate the supply and value of their goods, made use of the best mathematical system available."

Which statement explains why the development of a mathematical system occurred?

- a. The Gupta number system was based on the system of weights and measures that the Phoenicians developed
- b. The Gupta number system was extremely similar to the one in common use throughout the Middle East.
- c. The travels of foreign merchants and traders made use of the best mathematical system available
- d. Traders would frequently purchase slaves who were scholars because many of their customers desired a trade in ideas as well as goods

Use the passage below for question 7.

A person's status and job within society was tied to the group, or caste, he or she belonged to. Different groups in society had different jobs and responsibilities. People in one group were not allowed to marry people from another group. A person was born into a group and was not allowed to change groups at any point in life. The Aryans called this system the caste system, and it remained a dominant force in Indian society for many centuries.

7. Which of these is the best argument against using a caste system to organize a modern society?

- a. The caste system prevents a nation from using people's skills efficiently because they couldn't do a job even if they were good at it.
- b. The caste system increases the level of corruption in the economic system
- c. The caste system restricts trade and contact with people in other countries
- d. The caste system undermines incentives for people to obey their political leaders

Use the passage below for question 8.

While ancient Indian farmers who lived near the Indus and Ganges Rivers had a constant source of water, those who lived farther away from the rivers depended on the seasons created by the monsoon. The heavy summer rains provided water for crops and made agriculture possible in these regions.

Farmers planted in the summer months, when water was available, and harvested in the fall. If the monsoon rains were late, farmers and their crops suffered, and farmers may not have had enough food to sustain them through the dry season. Even today, Indian farmers depend on the seasonal monsoon rains.

8. Which statement best explains how the monsoons affected the development of early Indian civilizations?

- a. The flooding caused by monsoons slowed the growth of the population in early Indian civilizations
- b. The water brought by monsoon rains allowed agriculture to develop away from India's major rivers
- c. The wetness from the monsoons pushed many to migrate farther south in search of a better climate
- d. The harsh winters caused by strong monsoon winds blowing in from Central Asia made life more difficult

Use the passage below for question 9.

Hinduism has no founder and no central organization. There is no prophet who handed down its basic ideas or a legend of its origin. Historians believe that the beginning of Hinduism occurred when certain beliefs of the early inhabitants of the region were incorporated into the religion of the Aryan people, whom most historians believe conquered India around 1500 BCE. These sacred teachings were passed down orally—by mouth—for hundreds of years. They were later written down in Sanskrit, the Aryan language, in a collection of writings called the Vedas.

9. How did Hinduism develop as a religion?
- Indian leaders were considered to be gods, and they established Hinduism
 - Aryan invaders brought their religion to India, and it combined with other local religions to form Hinduism
 - A prophet lived among the people and taught them the basic beliefs of Hinduism
 - The first people to settle in India had a creation story that developed into Hinduism

Use the passage for question 10.

“The Ganges spreads out into smaller waterways, depositing sediment that creates a large fertile area of land known as a delta. Like the Indus, the Ganges also carries sediment from the Himalayas into the valleys, creating an alluvial plain in northern India.”

10. According to the passage, what similarity did the Indus and Ganges Rivers share?
- They provided water that made the monsoons stronger
 - They created canyons that protected the Indian subcontinent
 - They added important nutrients to the soil that improved farming
 - They provided transportation routes that connect *distant* peoples

Use the passage below for question 11

The Gupta rulers built roads throughout the empire, linking neighboring cities with one another. This improved travel and trade throughout the region. It also allowed for greater interaction among people and encouraged cultural diffusion.

11. Which factor most contributed to the improvement of trade in India during the period of Gupta rule?
- The development of smaller ships
 - The rapid growth of the population
 - The construction of a network of roads
 - The establishment of colleges and universities

Use the passage below for question 12.

“*The Indian caste system places warriors and soldiers at a higher level than merchants and farmers*”

12. Which statement best explains this feature of the caste system?
- The priests who occupy the highest caste are first trained as soldiers
 - Security was a concern in ancient India because of its vulnerability to invasion
 - There were fewer merchants and farmers in ancient India than warriors and soldiers
 - Military strength and security were important to the Aryans when they were nomads

Use the following passage for questions 13-15.

The Caste System

The caste system developed during the Gupta period in India, about 400 CE. Castes created social and political order. People could not rise to another caste or change caste by marriage. A person could fall to a lower caste by behaving badly. The rules of the caste system covered marriage, jobs and social habits, such as the way someone ate or drank. There was little need to have powerful local leaders because the strict rules of the caste system kept order.

13. What did the caste system create?
- A set of rules for the Brahman
 - Social and political order
 - Fairness and equality for all people
 - chaos and disorder
14. The reason local leaders (a government) were unnecessary in villages was probably due to:
- No one would listen to the leaders
 - The lack of a written language
 - People did not want to become politicians
 - The existence of a caste system kept order on its own
15. The caste system developed in what region of the world?
- India
 - South America
 - Australia
 - African sub-continent

Use the passage below for question 16.

Mohenjo-daro, located in modern-day Pakistan, was the largest city of the Indus Valley civilization, and it is one of the most advanced ancient cities archaeologists have discovered. It was constructed in a way similar to Harappa. The city was divided into two parts. One part was a largely administrative and religious center, and the other, called the lower city, was purely residential. Similar to a modern downtown, the administrative center consisted of government buildings, religious sites, and assembly areas. It was protected by a citadel. Like Harappa, Mohenjo-daro was home to a large granary. There was also a large water pool, which may have been used for religious reasons—or residents may have used it to keep themselves clean.

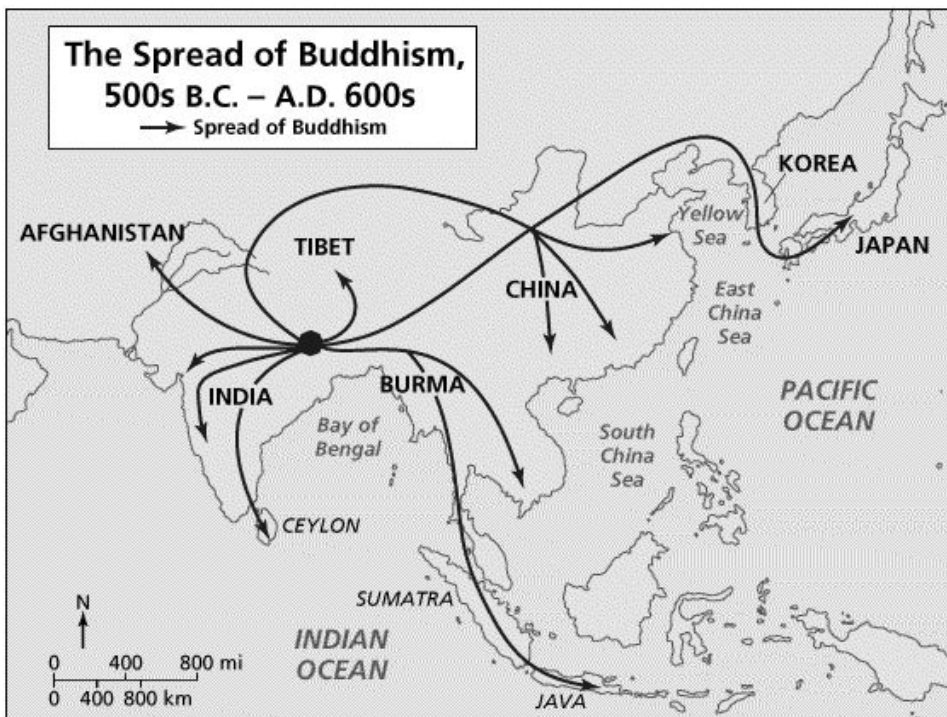
16. According to the passage, what is one factor that influenced how Mohenjo-Daro was constructed?
- Education
 - Job Specialization
 - Philosophy
 - Religion

Use the picture below for question 17.



17. Based on this image, which challenge faced by early Indian civilizations is still an issue today?
- A. how to stop food from spoiling during the hot summer months
 - B. how to provide a large enough water supply during the dry season
 - C. how to make sure water erosion did not strip nutrients from the soil during the monsoon seasons
 - D. how to prevent seasonal flooding of the rivers from destroying crops and other possessions

Use the map below for question 18.



18. What can be inferred using the map of the spread of Buddhism?

- A. Buddhism spread slowly from Asia to the Americas
- B. Buddhism spread rapidly from 500 BC to 600 AD to many places in Asia
- C. Buddhism spread rapidly to many inland areas of Asia
- D. Buddhism's spread declined from 500 BC to 600 AD in Asia

19. Read the passage 'Spread of Buddhism' and answer the question below:

Spread of Buddhism Source: Donald S. Lopez, Jr., "Buddhism in Practice,"

"The Buddha is reported to have exhorted [urged] his monks to "go and travel around for the welfare of the multitudes, for the happiness of the multitudes, out of sympathy for the world, for the benefit, welfare, and happiness of gods and humans. No two should go in the same direction." Although this last admonition [caution] seems not to have been heeded [obeyed], it is true that Buddhist "missions" were not large and well-organized movements, and instead often took the form of itinerant monks (or groups of monks) traveling by land and sea in the company of traders and royal emissaries. According to traditional accounts, the first foreign mission was to the island of Sri Lanka, and was led by the son of Asoka. . . ."

Asian Religions in Practice, Princeton University Press, 1999 . . .

19. According to the text, by what method of travel did Buddhist monks spread their ideology?

- A. Traveling by sea on pirate ships
- B. Along trade routes with merchants and royals
- C. Riding on camels through the desert
- D. With the Spanish conquistadors to the Americas

Use the photo below to answer question 20



20. Does this photo illustrate a negative or positive impact that the monsoons have on India?

- A. The photo illustrates a positive impact because the monsoon floods destroyed her home.
- B. The photo illustrates a positive impact because the monsoon floods help rice grow.
- C. The photo illustrates a negative impact because the monsoon floods destroyed the crops
- D. The photo illustrates a negative impact because the monsoon floods watered the crops.

