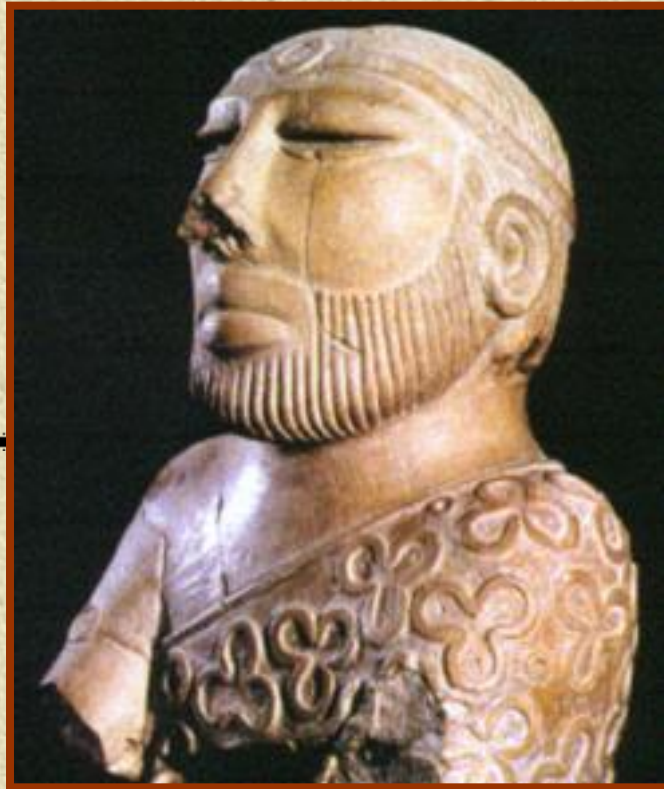


Ancient India



An Overview

Introduction



The Big Idea

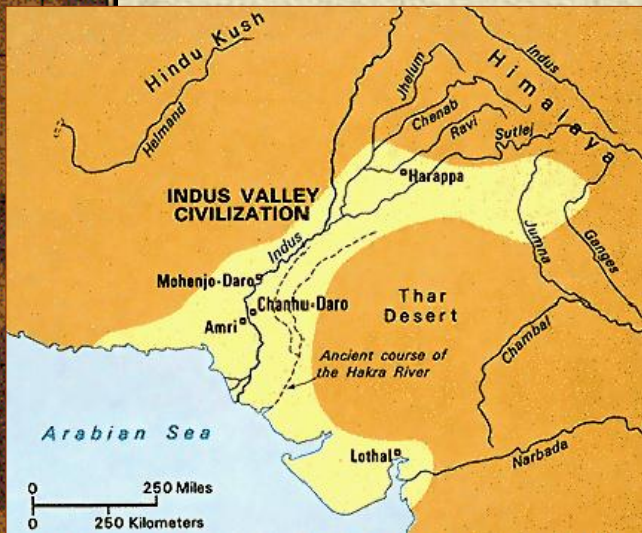
- ✦ Indian civilization first developed on the Indus River.

Main Ideas

- ✦ The geography of India includes high mountains, great rivers, and heavy seasonal rain.
- ✦ Harappan civilization developed along the Indus River.
- ✦ The Aryan invasion of India changed the region's civilization.



Basic chronology



✦ c. 3000 BCE: farming settlements appear along the valley of the river Indus

◆ in what is now Pakistan

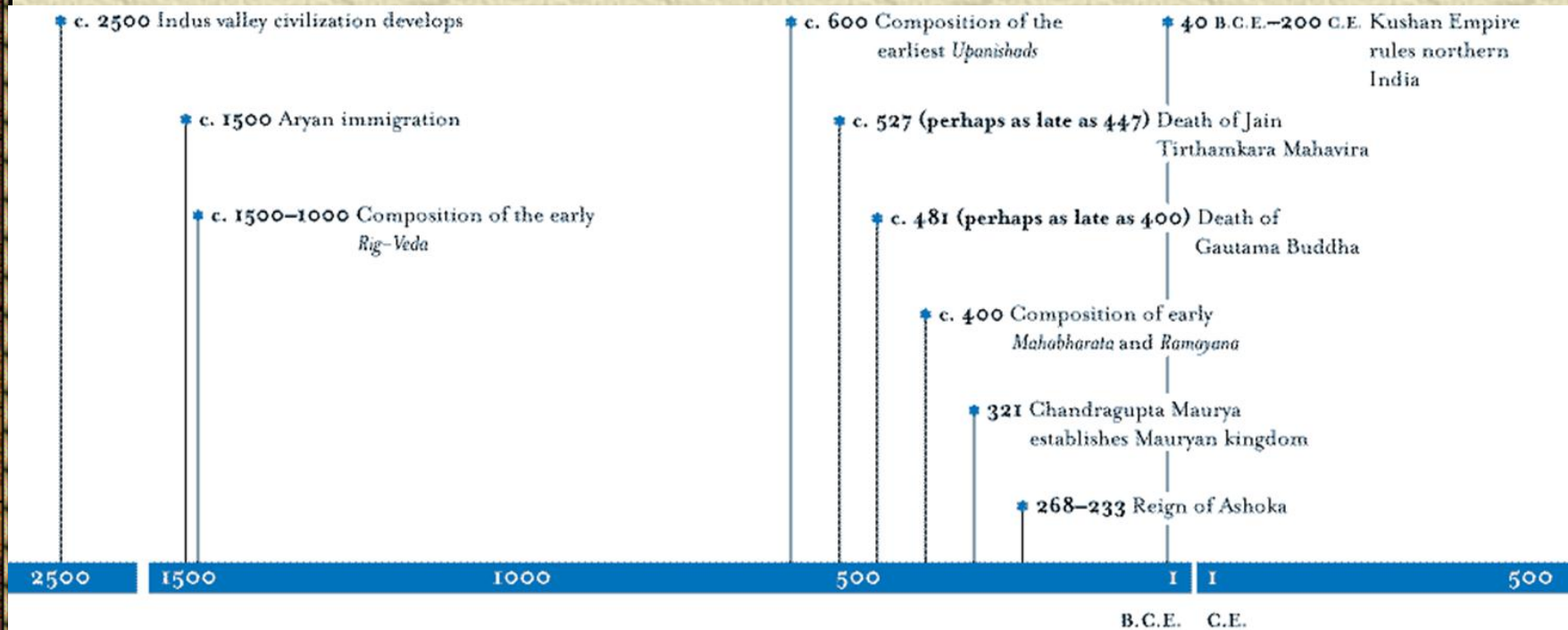
✦ c. 2500 BCE: high point of the Indus Valley civilization

✦ c. 2000 BCE: some Indus sites showing signs of decline

✦ c. 1500 BCE: the Aryan invasions



Timeline





Geography of India

- India is a subcontinent, separated from the rest of the Asian continent by the Himalayas. India can be divided in two, the northern plains, a flat low plain and the Deccan, a land with many hills. In northwest India is the Thar Desert. The Himalayas provided natural protection from northern invasions. The Indian Ocean and the Arabian Sea provided protection for the west and the east.



India: Physical



The highest mountains in the world, the Himalayas, separate India from the rest of Asia.

India is a huge peninsula, so large it's called a subcontinent.

ELEVATION

Feet	Meters
13,120	4,000
6,560	2,000
1,640	500
656	200
0 (Sea level)	0 (Sea level)
Below sea level	Below sea level

Dry monsoon air flow (Winter)
 Wet monsoon air flow (Summer)



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS

- Place** When do the wet monsoons come to India?
- Location** What large plateau occupies the heart of India?

FYI



Historically, India's geographic boundaries were bigger than they are today Bangladesh + India + Pakistan = India

Bangladesh and Pakistan did not exist as separate countries until after India gained independence from Great Britain in 1947

“Northwest India” generally means Pakistan

Ancient Indian cities, such as Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, are located in what is now Pakistan

Indian Geography

Mountains

- North: The Himalayas are the highest mountains in the world.
- West: The Hindu Kush provide protection from enemies.

Plains and Plateaus

- Rivers and melting snow kept the plains fertile.
- Both sides of the river thrived.

Water

- Monsoons
- Heavy rainfall
- Civilizations arose around seasonal rainfall.



The 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. ✦



The River System



The main river in Ancient India was the Indus River. The Indus River deposited fertile soil during annual flooding. The source of the Indus River is in the Himalayas.



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.



Indus Valley civilization



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

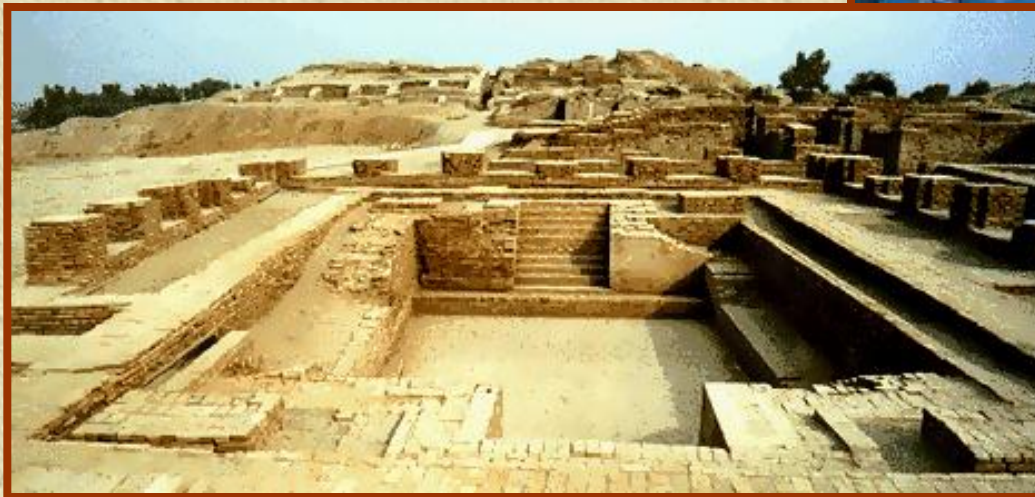
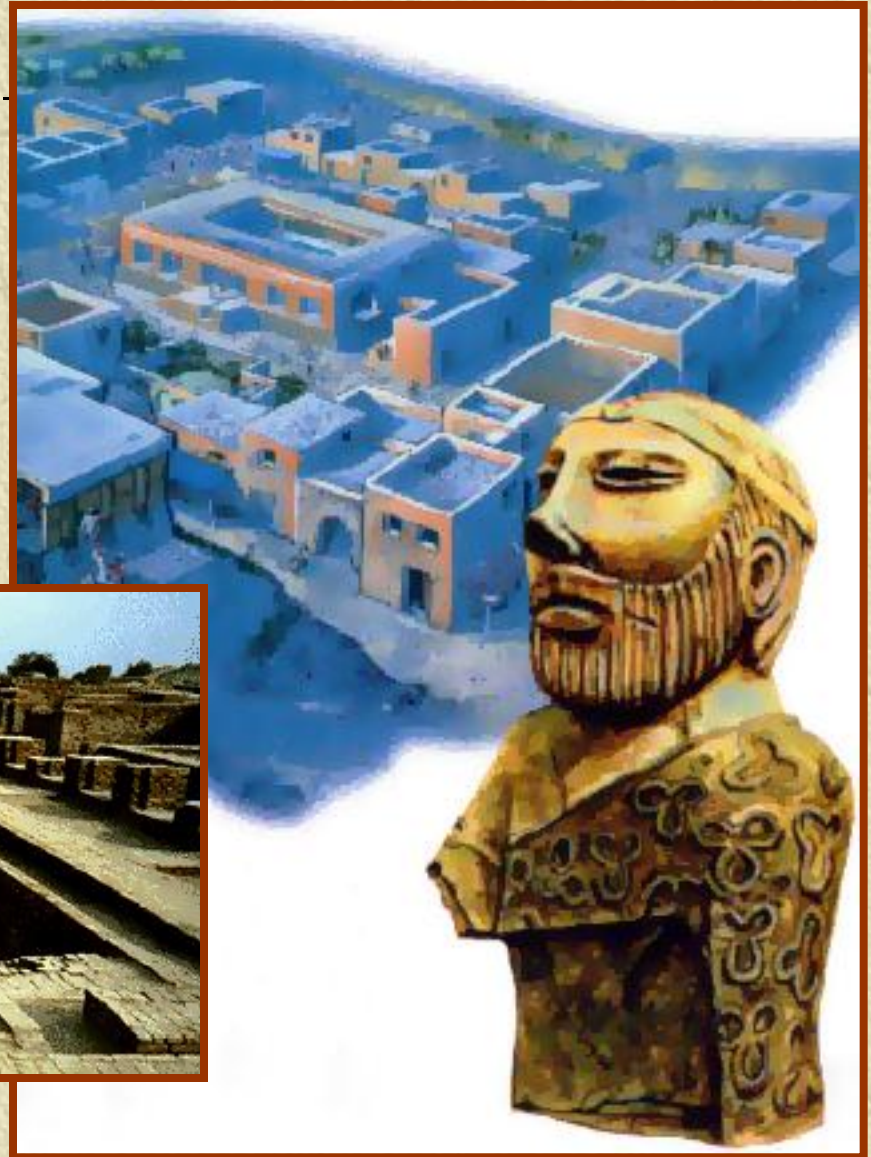
Archaeologists discovered two 4000-year-old cities, 400 miles apart, along the banks of the Indus River in Pakistan. These expertly constructed cities were parts of an advanced civilization comparable to ancient Mesopotamia and Egypt. We don't know what the ancient people of the Indus River Valley called themselves.

Archaeologists named the cities Mohenjo-Daro, which means "hill of the dead," and Harappa, after a nearby city.

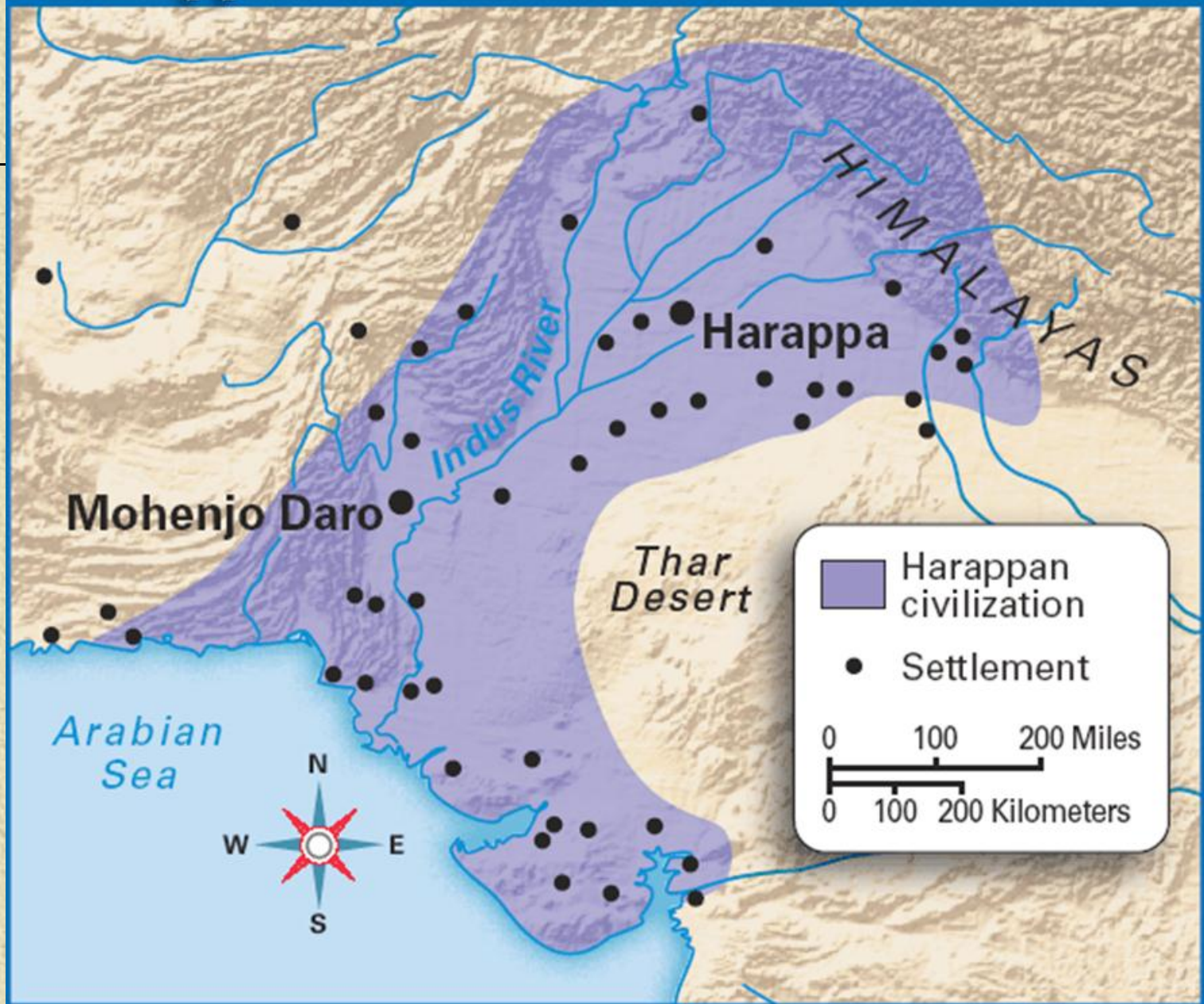


Indus Valley civilization

- ✦ Right: artist's recreation of Mohenjo-Daro
- ✦ Below: Great Bath ruins



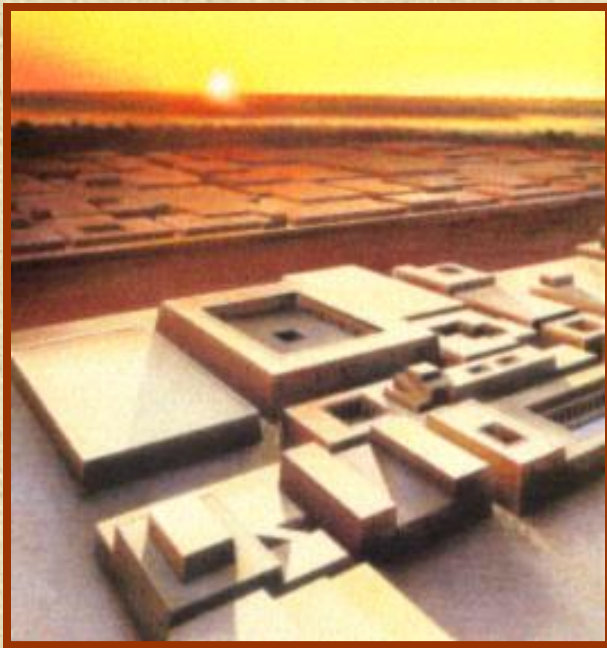
Harappan Civilization



Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa

- ✦ The people of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa lived in sturdy brick houses with as many as three floors. The houses had bathrooms that were connected to sewers. Their elaborate drainage system was centuries ahead of their time. Archaeologists have found the remains of fine jewellery, including stones from far away places. This shows that the people of the Indus Valley civilization valued art and traded with other cultures.



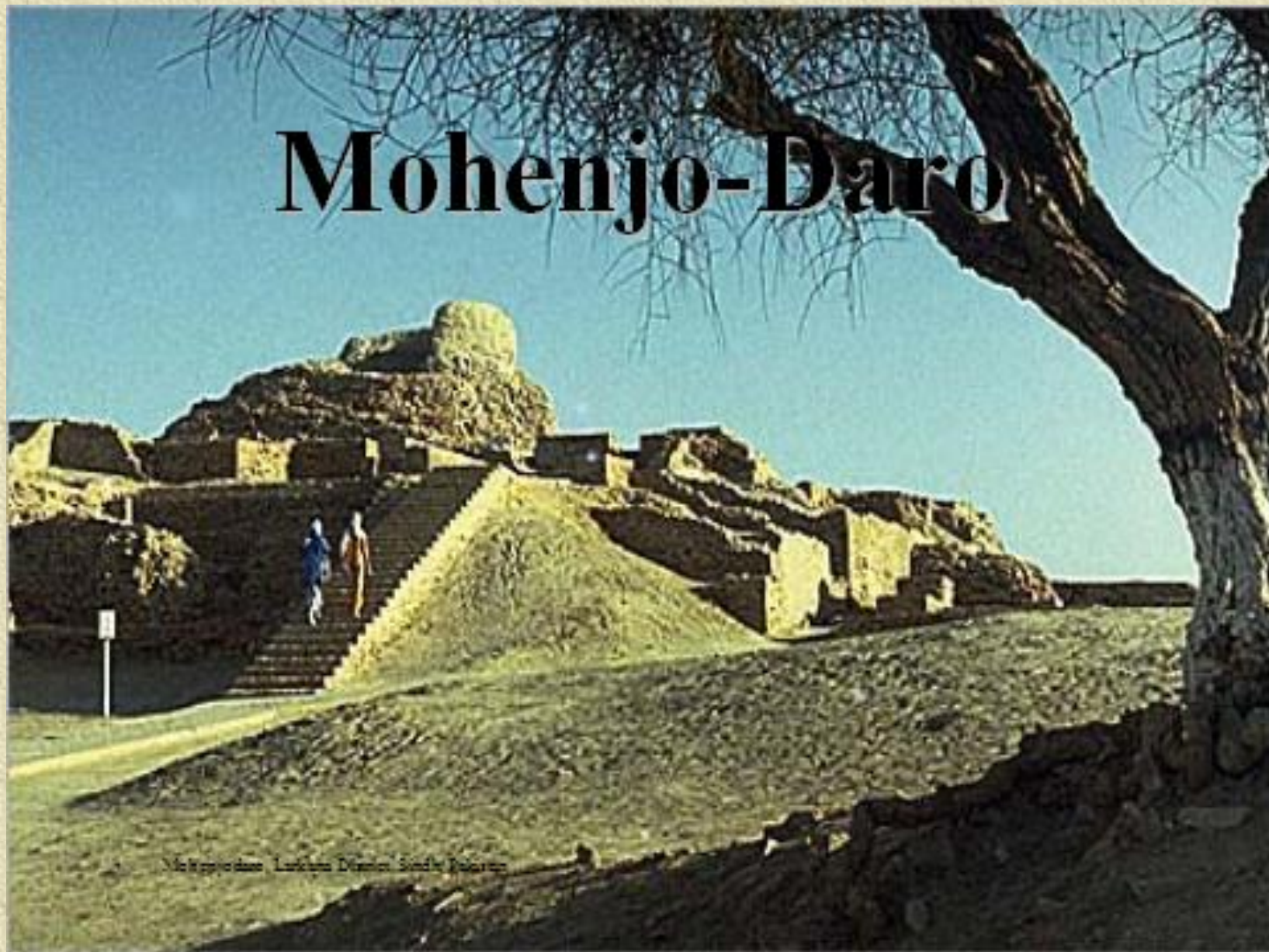


Mohenjo-Daro

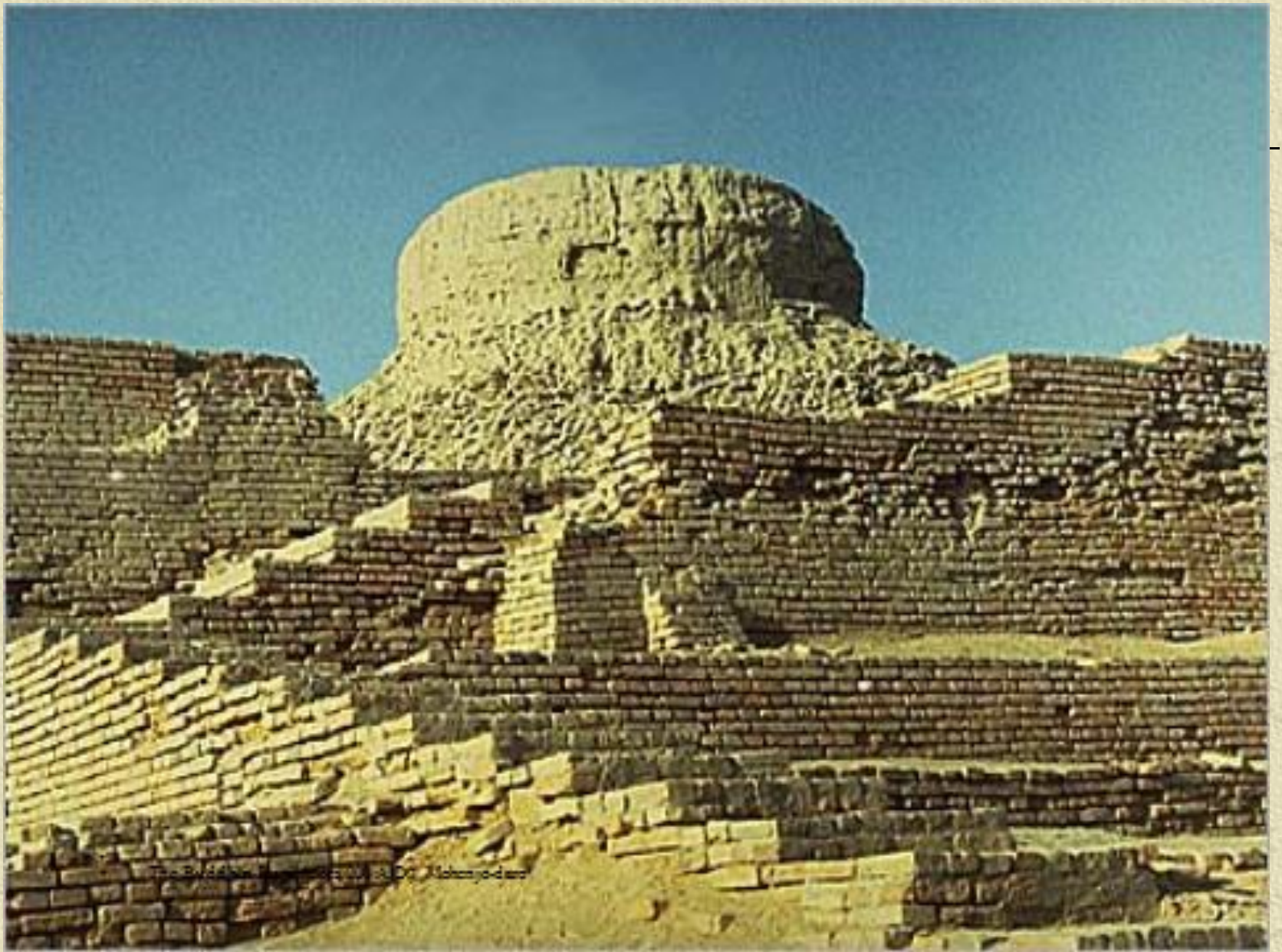
The Indus Valley built walls around their cities which indicated that they might have had to defend themselves against other people. We do not know a lot about them because we cannot yet read their writing.



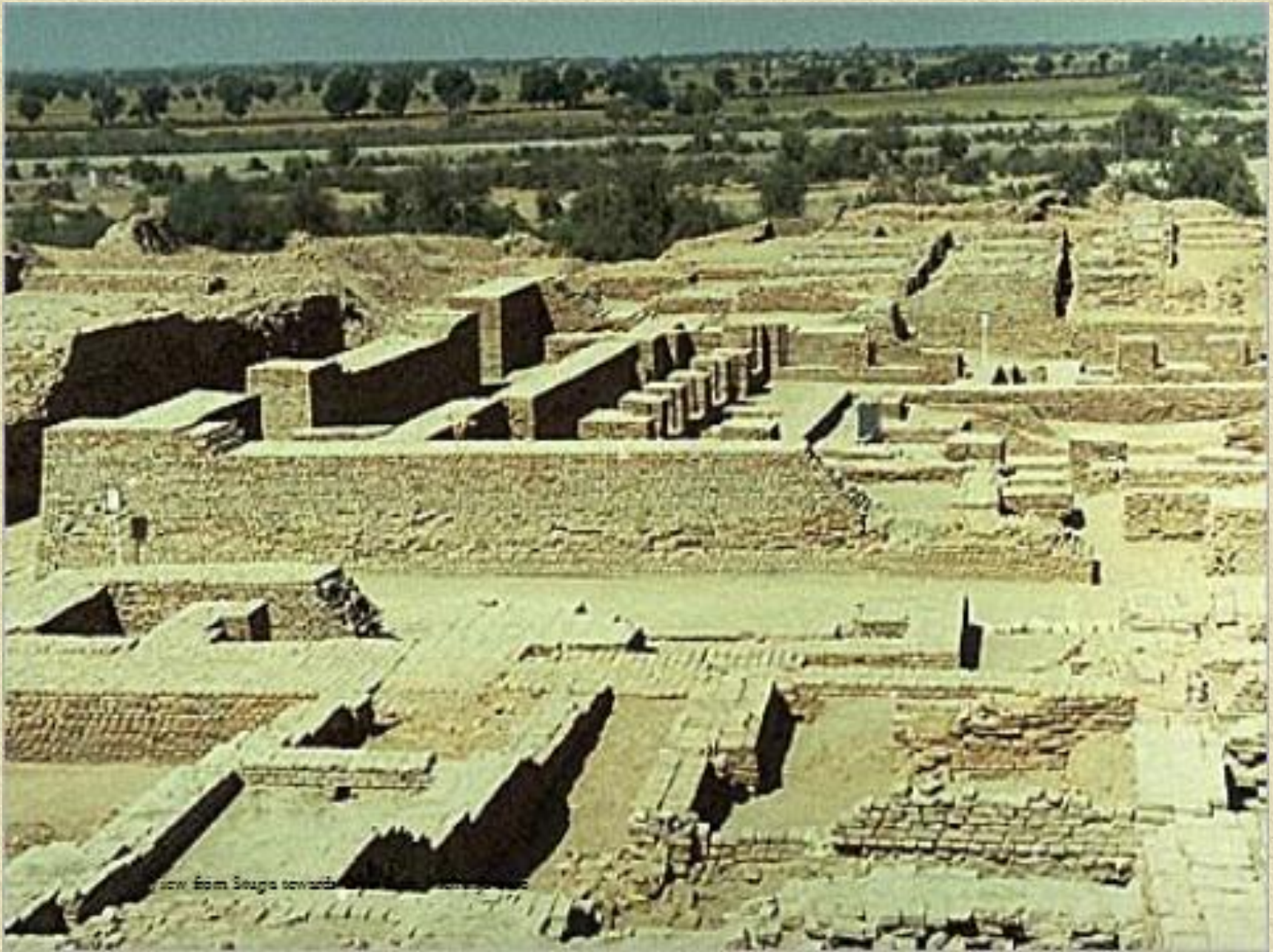
Mohenjo-Daro



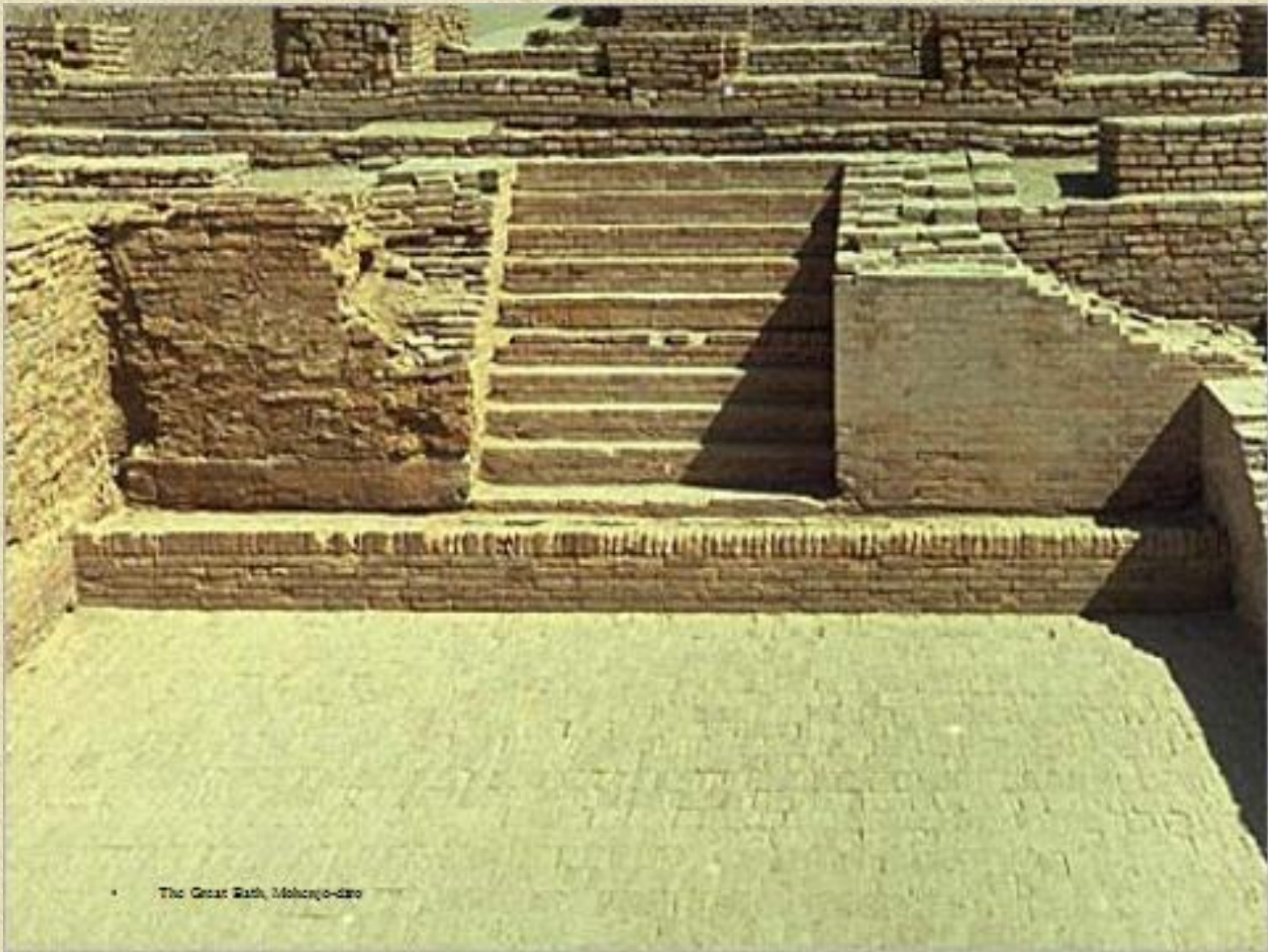
Mohenjo-daro, Larkana District, South Pakistan



The Mausoleum of the Prophet Muhammad



View from the sea towards the ruins.



• The Great Bath, Mohenjo-daro



Ancient India Street, Mohenjo-daro



Indus Valley Street with Covered Drain, Mohenjo-daro, India

Everyday life





Mysterious signifiers

- ✦ Examples of the multitude of Harrapan clay seals whose meaning(s) still elude us.



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.

Indus Valley civilization



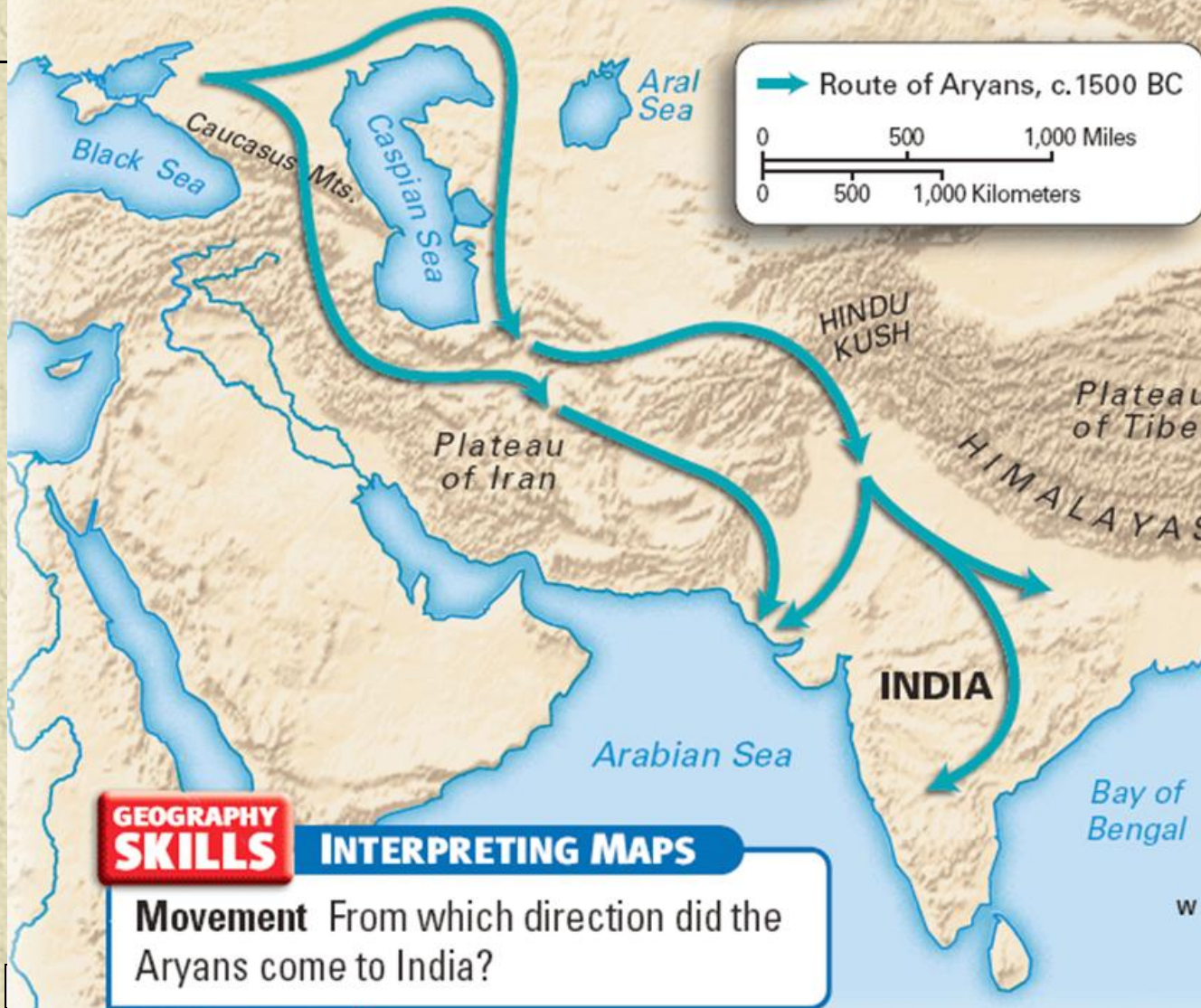
- ✦ We don't know what happened to the Indus River Valley civilization. It seems to have been abandoned about 1700BC. It is possible that a great flood weakened the civilization. The moving tectonic plates that created the Himalayas may have caused a devastating earthquake. It is also possible that the people may have been defeated by another culture.

Aryan invaders

- ✦ 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 Invasions



Two cultures combine

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.

✦ **Below: an illustration of a scene from the *Rig-Veda***



Sanskrit

नमः बालः बाला स सा तौ ते
bow (namaste) boy girl he she they (m) they (f) many

पठ पठति लिख पच खाद चल हस धाव
read reads write cook eat walk laugh run

खेल वद शाखा पत अम्बा जनक
play speak branch fall mother father

पुत्र एव च न कुत्र अत्र तत्र
son also and no where ? here there

अज गज अश्व सिंह ति तः न्ति
goat elephant horse lion does-singular does-(two) does-many

Origins of Hinduism

✦ The Big Idea

- ❖ Hinduism, the largest religion in India today, developed out of ancient Indian beliefs and practices.

✦ Main Ideas

- ❖ Indian society divided into distinct groups under the Aryans.
- ❖ The Aryans practiced a religion known as Brahmanism.
- ❖ Hinduism developed out of Brahmanism and influences from other cultures.
- ❖ The Jains reacted to Hinduism by breaking away to form their own religion.



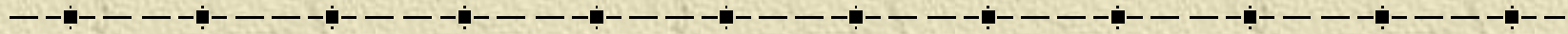


Hinduism

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.



Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva



- ✦ **Below: Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva**
- ✦ **Right: the monkey god**



Hinduism



✦ Hinduism differs from other religions like Christianity, Judaism and Islam in that there is no one single founder or one set of beliefs that must be followed. There are thousands of Hindu gods and goddesses in Hinduism. Most of the beliefs of Hinduism came from the oral traditions of the Aryans which became the Vedas—or holy writings—of the Hindus.



(Shiva)



(Vishnu)



(Brahma)

Temple Architecture



This Hindu temple is covered with incredibly detailed carvings and decorations. Many individual sculptures are images of important Hindu gods, like the statue of Vishnu above.

Jains react to Hinduism



Jain saint

✦ **Origins of Jainism**

- ❖ 599 BC, established as an alternative to Hindu ritualism
- ❖ Based on the teachings of Mahavira, who abandoned his life of luxury to become a monk

✦ **Four principles of Jainism**

- ❖ Injure no life – *ahimsa* (*non-violence*)
- ❖ Tell the truth
- ❖ Do not steal
- ❖ Own no property

**Brahmins**

Brahmins were India's priests and were seen as the highest varna.

**Kshatriyas**

Kshatriyas were rulers and warriors.

**Vaisyas**

Vaisyas were farmers, craftspeople, and traders.

**Sudras**

Sudras were workers and servants.

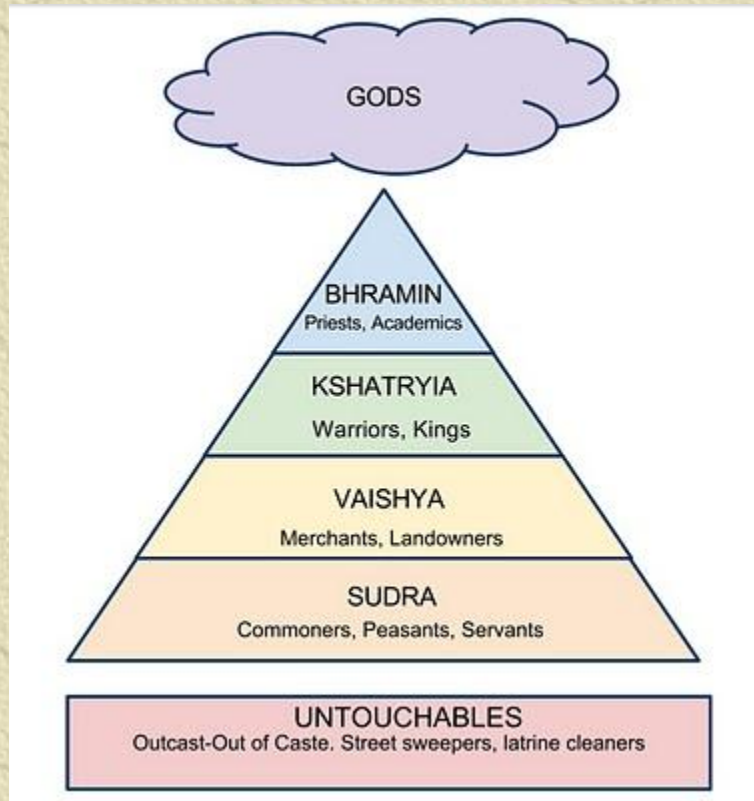
**ANALYSE
SKILL****ANALYZING VISUALS**

Why do you think priests were at the top of Indian society?

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



Top Caste Brahmins

- priests

Second Caste Kshatriyas

- rulers, landowners and warriors

Third Caste Vaishyas

- Farmers, craftspeople, and traders

Forth Caste Sudras

- not Aryan, great part of the Indian population
- Peasants, artisans/manual labour

The Untouchables – panchamas

- performed dirty/menial jobs

Caste system



Brahmins at prayer

Kshatriyas



Sudras



The Untouchables

Vaishyas



Buddhism



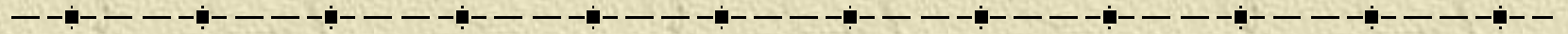
The Big Idea

- Buddhism began in India and became a major religion.

Main Ideas

- Siddhartha Gautama searched for wisdom in many ways.
- The teachings of Buddhism deal with finding peace.
- Buddhism spread far from where it began in India.

Siddhartha Guatama



Around 566 BC, *Siddhartha 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.



Teachings of Buddhism

✦ **Four Noble Truths**

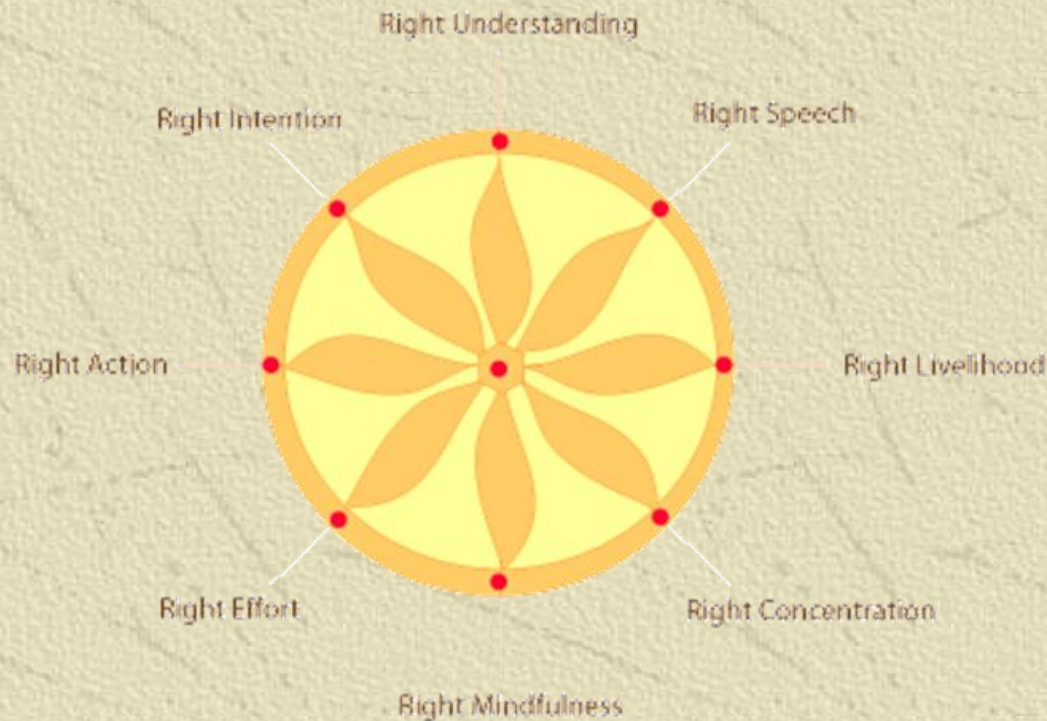
1. Ordinary life is full of suffering
2. Suffering is caused by desire to satisfy ourselves
3. The way to end suffering is to end desire for selfish goal
4. The way to end desire is to follow the Middle Path



Teachings of Buddhism

✦ Middle Path (The Eightfold Path)

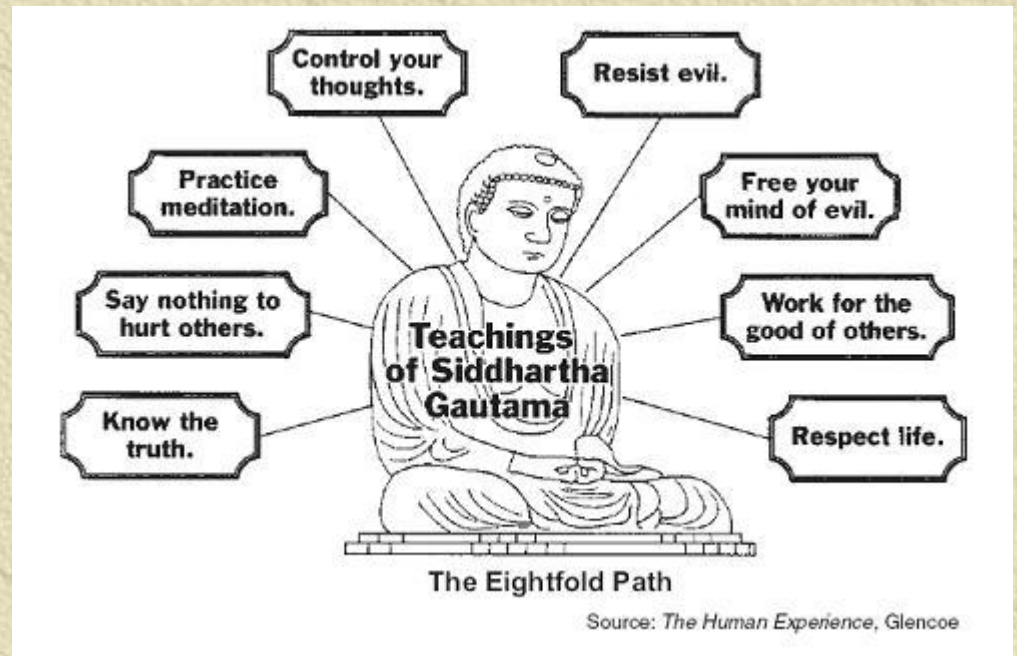
1. Right View
2. Right Intention
3. Right Speech
4. Right Action
5. Right Livelihood
6. Right Effort
7. Right Mindfulness
8. Right Concentration



Teachings of Buddhism

✦ Middle Path (The Eightfold Path)

1. Right View
2. Right Intention
3. Right Speech
4. Right Action
5. Right Livelihood
6. Right Effort
7. Right Mindfulness
8. Right Concentration



Buddhism v. Hinduism



✦ Similarities

- ❖ Self Denial
- ❖ Concept of Nirvana close to Hindu Brahman

✦ Differences

- ❖ denied the ultimate reality of the of the material world
- ❖ physical surroundings of humans were really just an illusion
- ❖ pain/ poverty/ and sorrow caused by attachment to things in this world
- ❖ people let go of worldly cares pain and sorrow can be forgotten
- ❖ opposed the caste system, Buddha's teachings reached all classes

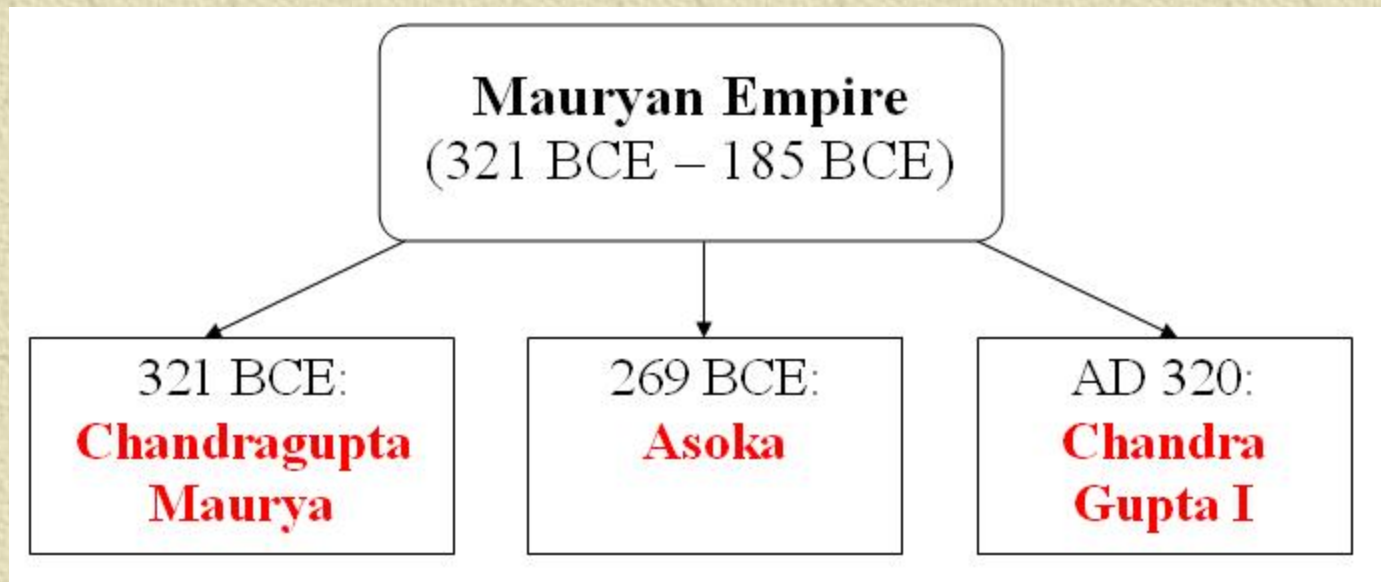
Indian Empires

✦ The Big Idea

- ✦ The Mauryas and the Guptas built great empires in India.

✦ Main Ideas

- ✦ The Mauryan Empire unified most of India.
- ✦ Gupta rulers promoted Hinduism in their empire.



The Mauryan Empire 321-185 BCE

✦ Candragupta Maurya

- ❖ Candragupta seized control of northern India and created a society dominated by war.
- ❖ Candragupta became a Jainist monk and gave up his throne.

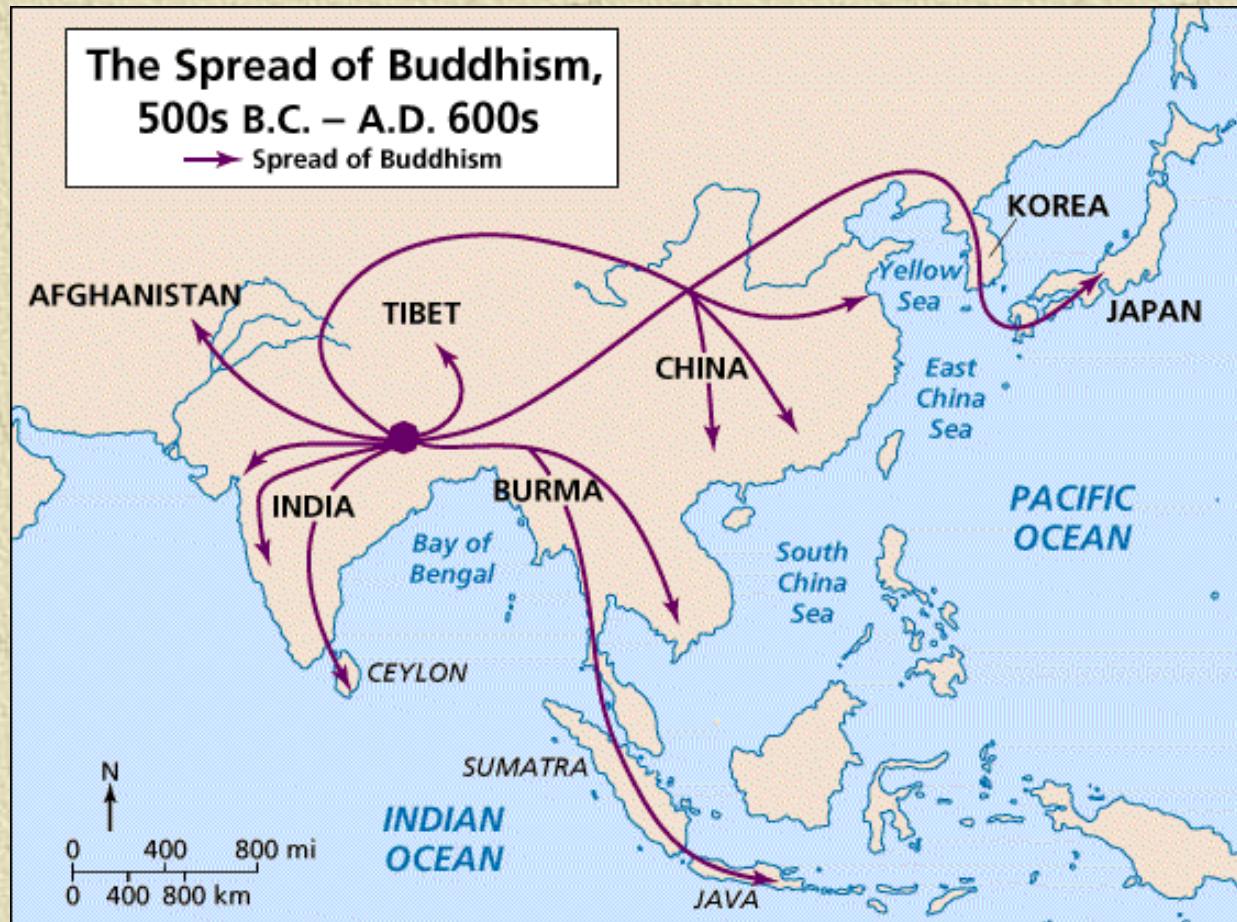


The Mauryan Empire 321-185 BCE

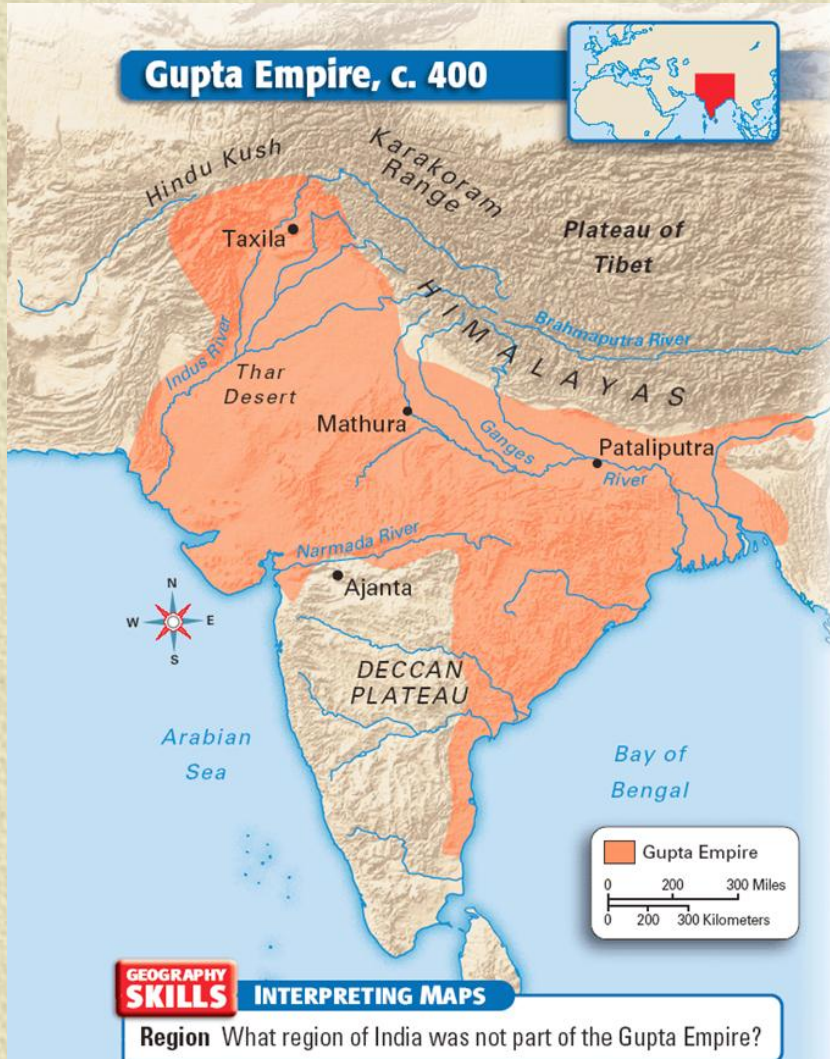


- ✦ Asoka was a famous ruler of India. He became emperor in 268 BC. After fighting a bloody battle, he sickened of war and turned his life in a different direction. He became a Buddhist, or someone who followed the teachings of Buddha. He lived peacefully and built roads for travelers, planted trees 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. Many people became Buddhist after Asoka's example.

The spread of Buddhism



The Gupta Empire

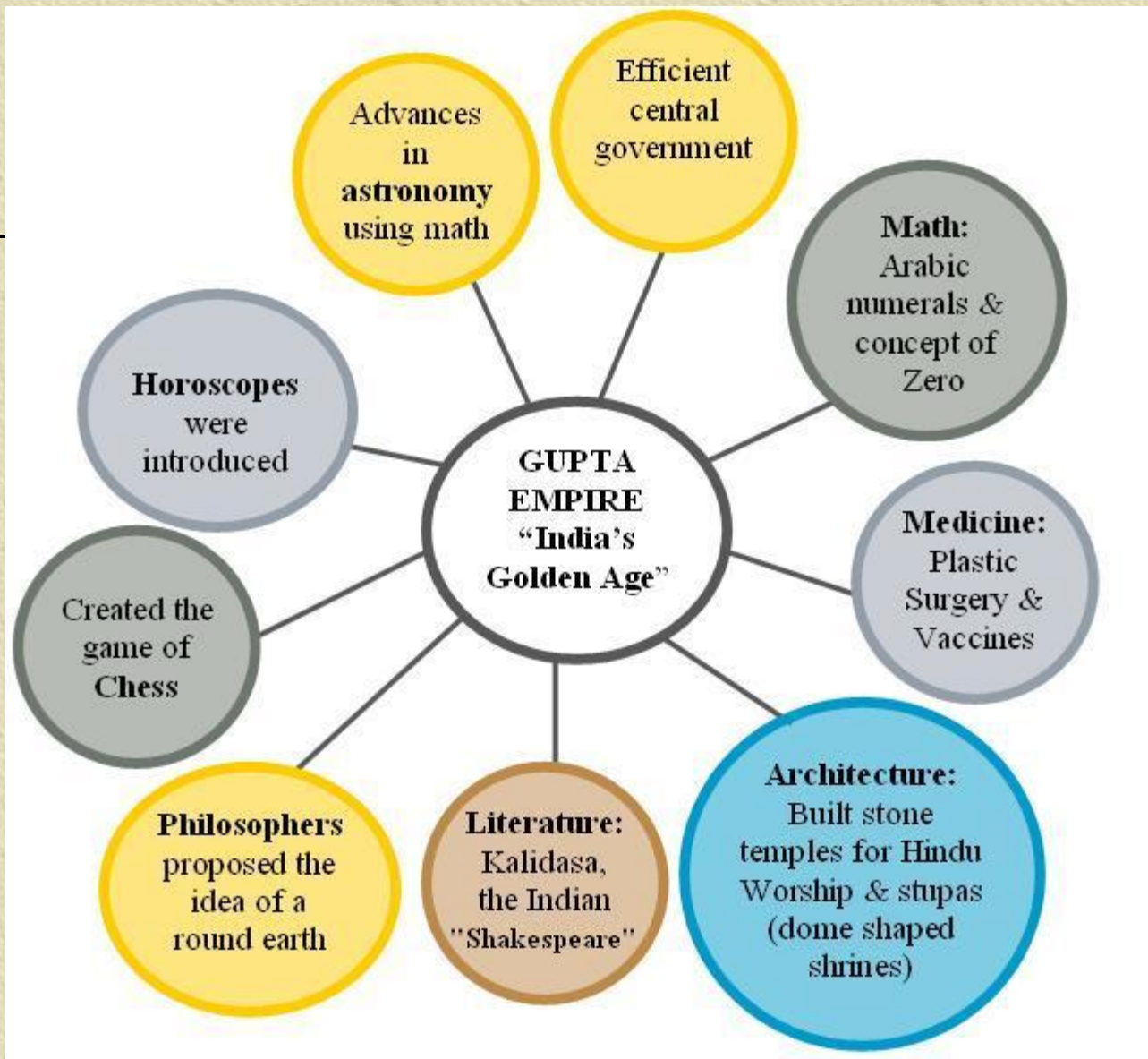


After the decline of the Mauryan Empire, India remained primarily Buddhist for 500 years.

Under the rule of Candra Gupta I, India became unified and prosperous again.

Gupta rulers spread Hinduism in their empire through the building of temples and the promotion of Hindu writings and rituals.

Widespread religious tolerance was encouraged for Buddhists and Jainists.



Indian achievements



✦ **The Big Idea**

- ✦ The people of ancient India made great contributions to the arts and sciences.

✦ **Main Ideas**

- ✦ Indian artists created great works of religious art.
- ✦ Sanskrit literature flourished during the Gupta period.
- ✦ The Indians made scientific advances in metalworking, medicine, and other sciences.



Religious Art - Temples



- ✦ Both Hindu and Buddhist temples began flourishing under Gupta rule.
- ✦ Once simply constructed meeting places, Hindu temples became complex towers covered with intricate carvings.
- ✦ Buddhist temples were large and impressive, some carved out of mountainsides.
- ✦ Buddhist stupas were built to house sacred objects from the life of the Buddha. They were covered with detailed carvings.

Paintings and sculpture



- ✦ Great artists were commissioned by rich and powerful members of society.
- ✦ Paintings offered a perspective on the daily life and religious belief of the ancient Indians; many of these paintings could be found on the walls of temples.
- ✦ Indian sculptors carved columns, statues, and entire temples in the likenesses of the Buddha and Hindu gods.





Sanskrit literature



Mahabharata

- ❖ One of the world's longest literary works
- ❖ The story of two Indian families struggling for control of a kingdom
- ❖ Many long passages of Hindu beliefs and practices

Ramayana

- ❖ The story of a god, Vishnu, who has taken human form
- ❖ Written long after the Mahabharata; contains models for the ideal ruler (Rama) and the ideal mate (Sita)

Scientific advances



- ✦ 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.

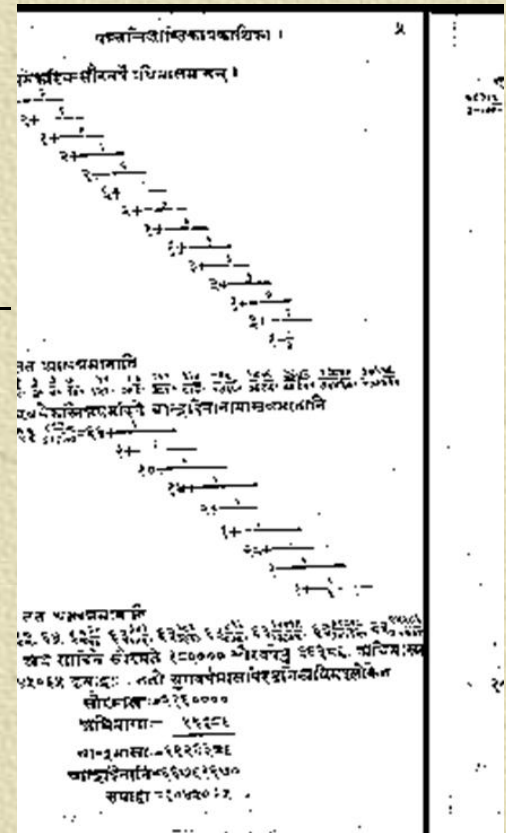
Medicine



- ✦ Using plants and minerals, Indian doctors made advances in medicinal science. They were among the first to practice inoculation and perform surgery.
- ✦ 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.

Mathematics

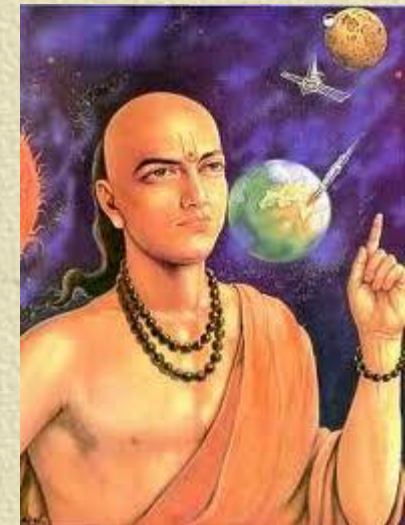
- ✦ This is a sample of elaborate mathematical calculations taken from an Indian text around 600 BCE.
- ✦ An Indian named Brahmagupta is credited with inventing the idea of “0”(zero). This changed greatly how mathematics could be used.
- ✦ They also developed a sophisticated number system, the Hindu-Arabic numerals.



1	2	3	4	5
१	२	३	४	५
6	7	8	9	0
६	७	८	९	०

Astronomy

- ✦ Indian astronomers knew of seven about the nine planets in the solar system and could predict eclipses of the sun and moon.



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.



Metallurgy

✦ Pioneers of metallurgy, the Indians created tools and weapons by mixing iron and other metals together.



Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

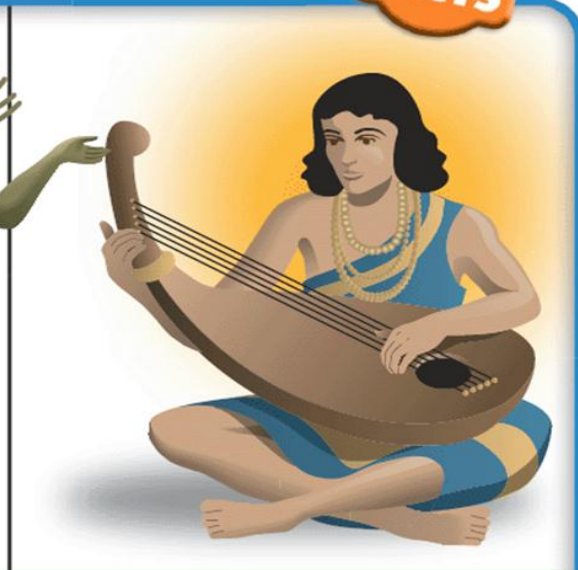
QUICK FACTS



The Harappan civilization began in the Indus River Valley.



Hinduism and Buddhism both developed in India.



Indians made great advances in art, literature, science, and other fields.

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.

