

Name:

Document Packet Week 9 – Golden Ages: China & India

Date:

In this packet you will have all the documents for the week. This document packet must be in class with you every day. We will work with these documents every day.

WEEK 9 DAY 1 DOCUMENTS: 9.1.1 Whole Class

Dynastic China

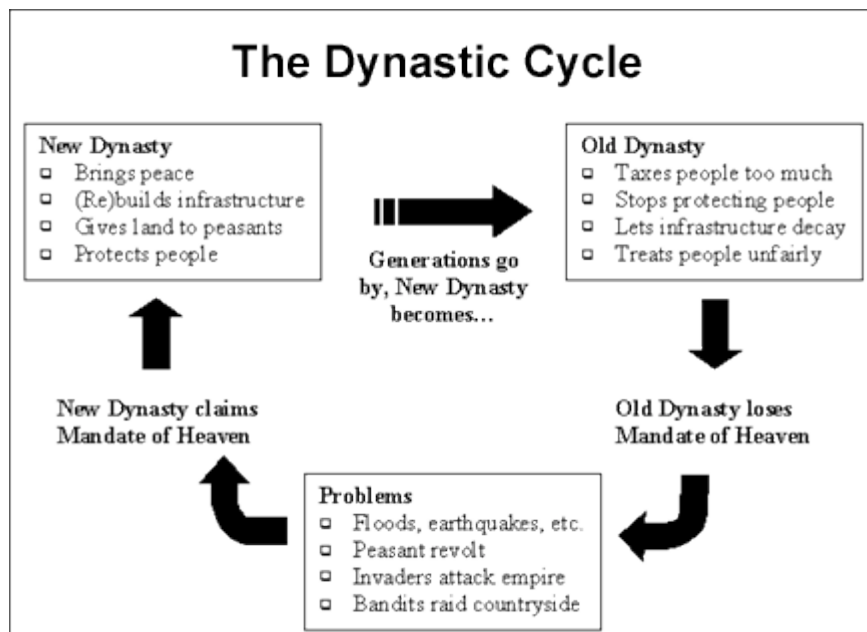
Shang Dynasty 1650 - 1027 BCE

The Shang Dynasty is considered to be the earliest **dynasty** in China. Little is known about the Shang, other than their major contribution to Chinese **culture**, a system of writing. The Chinese system of writing includes tens of thousands of characters, and is very difficult to learn. This resulted in on a very privileged few ever learning to read and write in ancient Chinese society.

The ancient Chinese system of writing used **pictographs**, or drawings of objects, and **ideographs**, or drawings that expressed a thought or idea. Examples of this type of writing can be found on oracle bones. **Oracle bones** are pieces of bone of turtle shell used by Shang priests to tell the future. They would write a question addressed to either one of the gods, or an ancestor on the bone, then heat it until it cracked. They believed that by studying the pattern of cracks, one could learn the answer to the question. Oracle bones are the oldest example of Chinese writing.

Zhou Dynasty 1027-256 BCE

The Zhou overthrew the Shang and setup their own dynasty in 1027 BCE. They explained their actions by claiming the **Mandate of Heaven**, or **divine right** of rule. Divine right is the justification of monarchy (rulers) through the word of God. The Mandate of Heaven was later used to explain the **Dynastic Cycle**. A dynasty would remain in power only as long as it was providing good **government**. When a dynasty went into decline, and began to abuse its power, it was said to lose the Mandate of Heaven, or the favor of the gods. A strong leader would usually emerge to claim the Mandate, and establish a new dynasty. The dynastic cycle would then begin again.



Under the Zhou, the Chinese discovered how to make silk from the cocoons of silkworms. Silk would become China's most valuable export, eventually linking them with most of the world

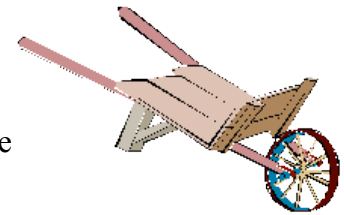
through **trade**. Chinese **artisans** also excelled in book making. The first books were made by binding together long, thin strips of wood or bamboo. Chinese **scholars** would then carefully paint characters on with brush and ink. Early books include the *I Ching*, a book for diviners, or fortune tellers, and the *Book of Songs*, which includes a poetry describing a variety of Chinese life.

Han Dynasty 206 BCE – 220 CE

China enjoyed a true **golden age** under the Han. Many cultural and intellectual achievements came as a result of the strong leadership of the Emperor Wudi. Under Wudi, China strengthened both its government and economy, setting the conditions for the golden age. This included a period of expansion that saw the opening of the **Silk Road** as a major trade route. This trade route was from China to Constantinople, Turkey (in the Middle East) and on to Rome. It was called the Silk Road due to China's most important export, silk. Trade along the Silk Road brought China in contact with other **civilizations**, and introduced new products such as cucumbers and grapes.

Under the Hans, **Confucianism** became the official belief system of China. They also setup a **Civil Service Exam** based on Confucianism. This exam was required to enter service in the government. The Confucian system of government was used in China for most of the last 2000 years.

Han scientists wrote textbooks on subjects ranging from **zoology** to **botany** and **chemistry**. They were advanced **astronomers**, which enabled them to create more accurate clocks. Han scientist also invented the process to make **paper** from wood pulp; they invented the **rudder** for use on ships, and created other such useful devices as the **fishing reel** and the **wheelbarrow**. Later, they also invented **gunpowder**.



Han physicians developed **acupuncture** to alleviate pain and to treat various illnesses. They also made use of certain plants as herbal remedies. They were able to diagnose and successfully treat various illnesses with these techniques.

Han artists and **architects** are noted for their detailed carvings in jade, wood, or ivory, and the building of elaborate temples. They also refined the process of silk making, which set the standard in China for centuries.

- 1) What is the Mandate of Heaven? Create a BLPT card for it.

- 2) What is the Silk Road Trade Route? Create a BLPT card for it.

- 3) How did the Silk Road Trade Route help cultural diffusion?

- 4) What are some important inventions from the Chinese that we still use today?

- 5) Create a BLPT card for Golden Age of China/Han Dynasty.

Gupta Empire

Background

The **Golden Age** of India occurs under the rule of the **Gupta Dynasty (320 - 550 CE)**. The Gupta established a strong central government which also allowed a degree of local control. Gupta society was ordered in accordance with **Hindu** beliefs. This included a strict **caste system**, or **class system**. The peace and prosperity created under Gupta leadership enabled the pursuit of scientific and artistic endeavors.

Math & Science

Gupta mathematicians developed the concept of zero in the use of math, and also developed the **decimal system** based on the number 10. They also created a number writing system that was later adopted by the **Islamic Empire**. This system became known as **Arabic Numerals**, but is really a Gupta achievement. This is the number writing system used throughout the world today.

Medicine

Gupta physicians developed **herbal remedies** to treat various illnesses. They also developed a form of **plastic surgery** for the treatment of facial injuries. Physicians **vaccinated** against **smallpox**, a practice later used in China (10th century) and Europe (17th century.)

Arts & Literature

Gupta architecture was dedicated to building stone temples to the various Hindu gods. Also, **Buddhists** built shrines to house the remains of select holy people. These structures were called **Stupas**. This form of architecture made its way to China where it was altered slightly and renamed the **pagoda**.

Gupta literature consists of fables and folktales written in **Sanskrit**. These stories spread west to Persia, Egypt, and Greece, and became the basis for many Islamic literary works such as, *Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves* and *Aladdin and his Magic Lamp*.

The Gupta Dynasty declined due to weak rulers and a series of invasions, but many of their cultural and intellectual achievements were saved and transmitted to other cultures and live on today.

1) What are 4 achievements or advancements of the Gupta Empire?

2) Name 3 achievements or advancements from the Gupta Empire that we still use today.

3) Create a BLPT card for Golden Age of India/Gupta Empire

WEEK 9 DAY 2 DOCUMENTS: 9.2.1

DOCUMENT 1 WHOLE CLASS

This excerpt, about Han China's technology advancements, is from the World History: Connections to Today (Ellis, Elisabeth Gaynor, Esler, Anthony Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1999)

In its time, Han China was the most technologically advanced civilization in the world. Cai Lun, an official of the Han Court, invented a method for making durable paper out of wood pulp. His basic method is still used to manufacture paper today. The Chinese also pioneered advanced methods of shipbuilding and invented the rudder to steer.

1. Identify two achievements that occurred under the Han Dynasty. [2]

9.2.2

This excerpt, about Gupta India's medical achievements, is from the textbook *World History: Connections to Today* (Ellis, Elisabeth Gaynor, Esler, Anthony. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 1999).

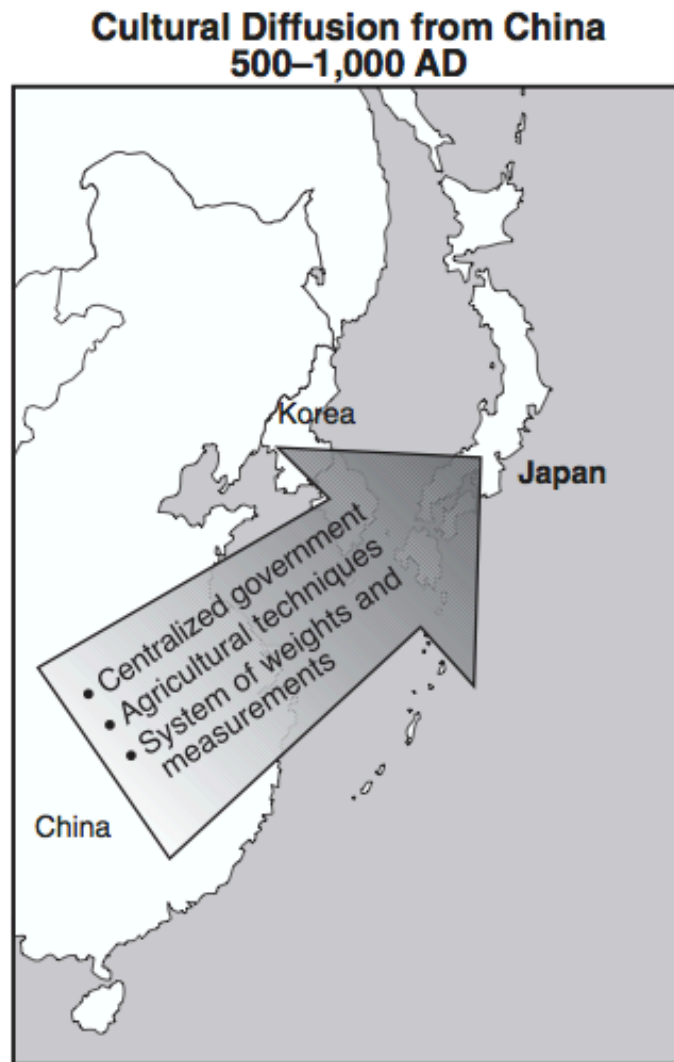
By Gupta times, Indian physicians had pioneered the use of herbs and other remedies to treat illness. Surgeons were skilled in setting bones and in simple plastic surgery to repair facial injuries. Doctors also began vaccinating people against smallpox about 1,000 years before this practice was used in Europe.

2a. Identify two advancements made by Gupta physicians in the treatment of wounds and illness. [2]

2b. Which Gupta medical practice was not transmitted to Europe for almost 1,000 years? [1]

9.2.3

**Cultural Diffusion from China
500–1,000 AD**



1. What effect did Japan's location have on cultural diffusion from China?

2. What was one effect on Japan came from China?

9.2.4

... 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. . . .

4. According to this excerpt from “Buddhism in Practice,” how did Buddhism spread from its place of origin in ancient India to other parts of Asia? [1]

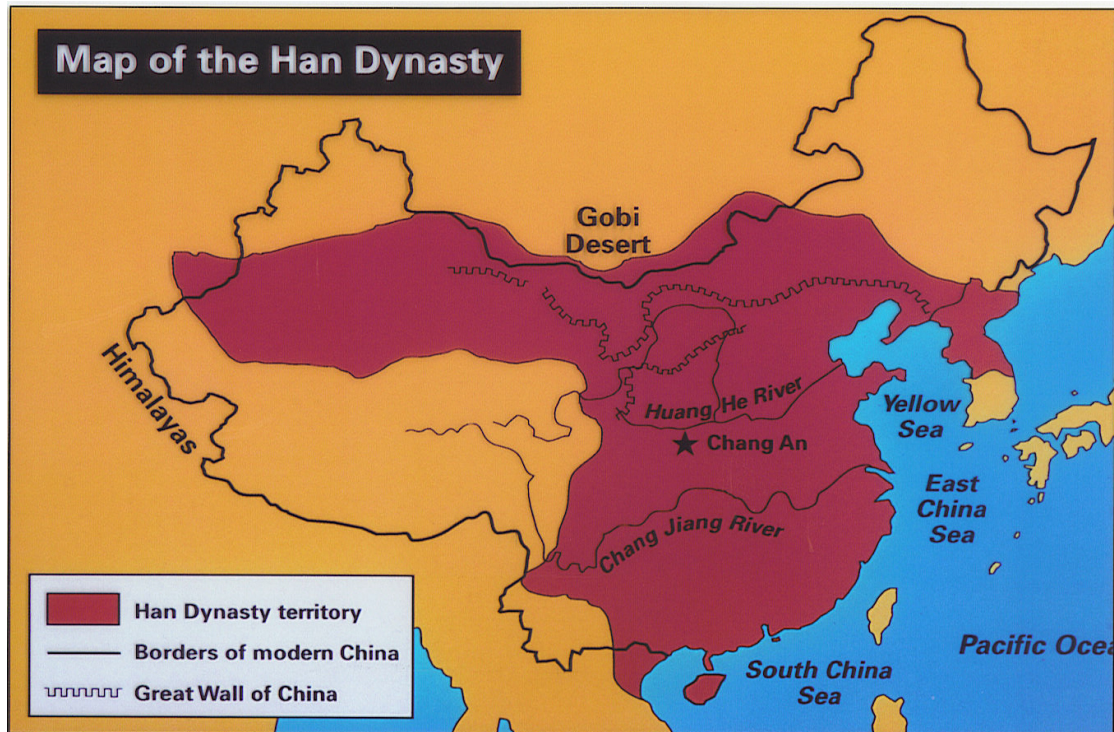
9.2.5

... With the rise of Buddhism, Korea’s contacts with the outside world grew, and scholarship, arts, science and technology which were imported to Korea from China, India and regions beyond brought about the enrichment of Korean culture. As a result, one of the oldest astronomical charts in the world was produced, the oldest astronomical observatory called Ch’ömsöngdae was built, tumuli [burial mounds] architecture represented by the Ssangyöng tomb developed, and the system of doctor of medicine was established in Korea. During the Three Kingdoms period, Korea’s cultural progress in the fields of astronomy, mathematics, medicine, architecture and metallurgy reached the level of other advanced civilization of the world. . . .

5. According to Andrew C. Nahm, what is **one** aspect of Korean culture that was influenced by the spread of Buddhism? [1]

WEEK 9 DAY 3 DOCUMENTS 9.3.1

DOCUMENT 1 WHOLE CLASS



We are going to _____.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

DOCUMENT 2 PAIR WORK 9.3.2



We are going to _____.

1)

2)

3)

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DOCUMENT 3 INDIVIDUAL WORK 9.3.3



We are going to _____.

1)

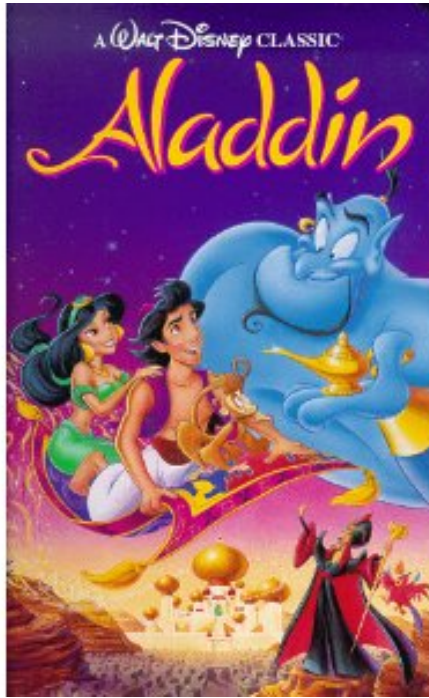
2)

3)

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5)

DOCUMENT 4 INDIVIDUAL WORK 9.3.4



We are going to _____.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

Week 9 Day 4: Grouping and Ordering Golden Ages: Han & Gupta
9.4.1

In your groups arrange the documents into different groups. You should have at least 2 different groups of at least 3 documents EACH. Your groupings can be based on anything that you can support. When you have made your groups list them below. Then answer the questions about your choices.

Group 1:

Group 3:

Group 2:

Group 4:

1) What is the main idea that holds each of the groupings together?

2) What did you see that made you combine the documents into each group?

3) Write the main idea for each grouping.

4) Do any of them overlap or fit together in some way?

5) Do they address similar elements or similar points of view?

If you have finished and there is time left create a new order of groups for your documents. List your groups below and then answer the questions. Remember these groups must be different from your previous groups.

Group 1:

Group 3:

Group 2:

Group 4:

1) What is the main idea that holds each of the groupings together?

2) What did you see that made you combine the documents into each group?

3) Write the main idea for each grouping.

4) Do any of them overlap or fit together in some way?

5) Do they address similar elements or similar points of view?

This is a new section to our week. In this section you will read a newspaper article FROM TODAY'S NEWS and connect it to our topic.

Lowest-Caste Hindu Takes Office as India's President

By JOHN F. BURNS

Published: July 26, 1997

Half a century after Mohandas K. Gandhi led India to independence with a vision of a society that would rid itself of its ancient system of caste discrimination, a member of Hinduism's lowest caste took the oath today as the country's President and declared his elevation (rising) as proof that "the concerns of the common man" have finally taken precedence (become most important) in the nation's affairs.

K. R. Narayanan, a 76-year-old former scholar, diplomat and Cabinet minister who once served as India's Ambassador to the United States, was chosen for the ceremonial post last week by an electoral college comprising all the country's federal and state lawmakers. While others have risen to be senior Cabinet ministers, top judges and high-ranking military officers, Mr. Narayanan is the first to realize Gandhi's standard of proof that India was finally resolved to stamp out the humiliations of the caste system -- the election of an untouchable as President.

Real power in India rests with the Prime Minister and Cabinet. But at a time when India seems destined to elect politically unstable coalition governments, some Indians believe that the President's role in choosing the Prime Minister and the Cabinet, judging who is most likely to be able to command a majority in Parliament, could see Mr. Narayanan emerge as crucially important political figure.

1) Write a summary of this article. (3 sentences)

2) How does this article about MODERN India compare or contrast to how ANCIENT India was during a golden age? (4 sentences)
