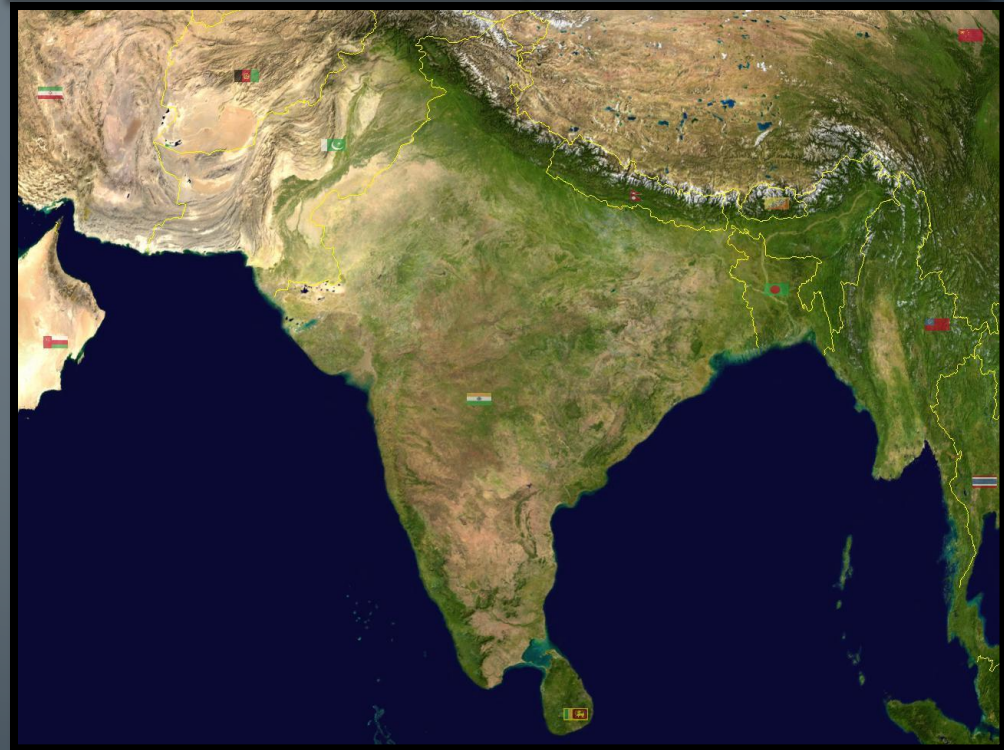


ANCIENT INDIA NOTES



GEOGRAPHY-

- *Indus River Valley Civilization*- Named for the Indus River which begins in the Himalayan Mountains of north India and flows to the Arabian Sea.
- Rich soil ideal for farming. Irrigation used in farming. Monsoons brought flooding rains.
- Indo-Aryan people migrated through a pass in the northern Hindu Kush mountains in approximately 2000 BCE



GEOGRAPHY *continued*

- Mauryan Empire— Expanded to include most of the subcontinent of India and into modern Pakistan and Afghanistan. Then, broke into small kingdoms after fall.
- Gupta Empire— Central India in Ganges Plain, South of Himalayas.



ACHIEVEMENTS-

Indus River Valley Civilization or “Harappan Culture”



- *Harappan Culture* used wheeled transportation and sailboats with a single mast and sail.
- Houses had baths, toilets, running water, drains and a center courtyard.
- Agrarian society which domesticated the water buffalo.
- Pools in the center of town for unknown use.
- Granaries for storing surplus grain.
- Harvested wheat, barley, rice, cotton, peas, dates and melons.
- *Harappan Culture* written language has still not be deciphered.

GOVERNMENT

Indus River Valley Civilization or “Harappan Culture”

- Well-planned cities laid out in grid-like pattern that followed cardinal directions.
- Tens of thousands of people to govern by a priest, king or some other elected official.
- Twin capitals of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. Highest point served as a citadel, or fortress away from floods.



ECONOMY - Indus River Valley Civilization or "Harappan Culture"

- Used natural resources such as fresh water, fish, timber, gold, silver and semiprecious gems. These natural resources were traded.
- Used a standard set of weights and measurements for trade.
- Artisans produced fine pottery, cotton clothing and jewelry.



Indus River Valley Civilization or “Harappan Culture” – RELIGION & CULTURE

- Based on sculptures *Harappan* people were believed to have been polytheistic (the belief in many gods).
- Animals such as the bull made of clay, bronze and silver were believed to have been objects of worship.
- *Harappan Culture* mysteriously disappeared. Some historians believe Aryans attacked, but this theory lacks evidence. Others believe a drought caused them to move.



INDO-ARYANS

2000 BCE-300 BCE

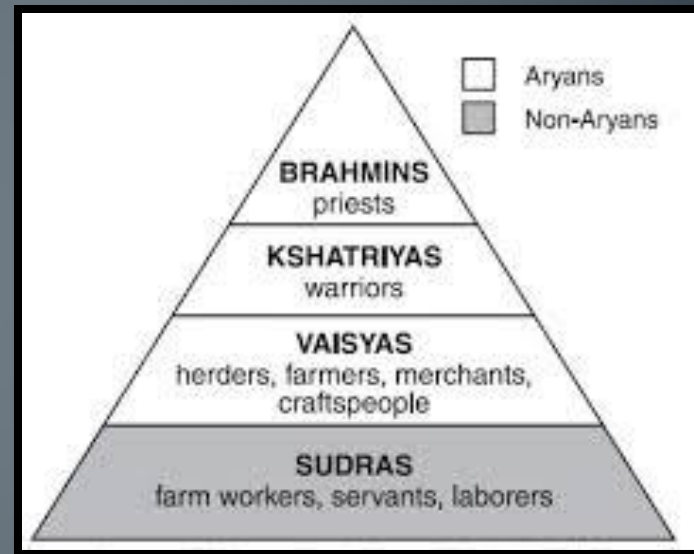
- *Religion-* Since many of the same Hindu deities and rituals were practiced by priests, historians believe Hinduism had roots in this region.
- Vedas, referred to as “books of knowledge”, formed the basis of religious practice.



SOCIAL CLASSES

Indo-Aryans

- Social Classes: *Aryans* brought the caste system to this area with a strict social stratification. See visual to right.



THE MAURYAN EMPIRE-

321-274 BCE

- Siddhartha Gautama founded Buddhism, 566 BCE King Ashoka spread Buddhism throughout India with missionaries.



GOVERNMENT-

The Mauryan Empire

- Leader Ashoka the Great in 274 BCE. recorded laws in local language on tall stone pillars called rock edicts. He also provided free hospitals, veterinary clinics and built roads.



GUPTA EMPIRE-

310 CE – 600 CE

- *Gupta Empire* is called the “Golden Age”- saw further advancements in mathematics, art, literature, medicine and astronomy.
- *Economy*- achievements were traded all over the world through land and sea routes that connected Arabia, China and Rome.
- *Religion*– Rulers made Hinduism the religion of the empire building elaborate temples.

