

Johnston Social Studies Week 1

Chapter 6 ANCIENT INDIA

4/ 20 GEOGRAPHY OF ANCIENT INDIA Read Sect 1-1 answer 3 questions

4/21 HARAPPAN CIVILIZATION Read Sect 1-2 answer 3 questions

4/22 \* video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AB8VCihgqXs>

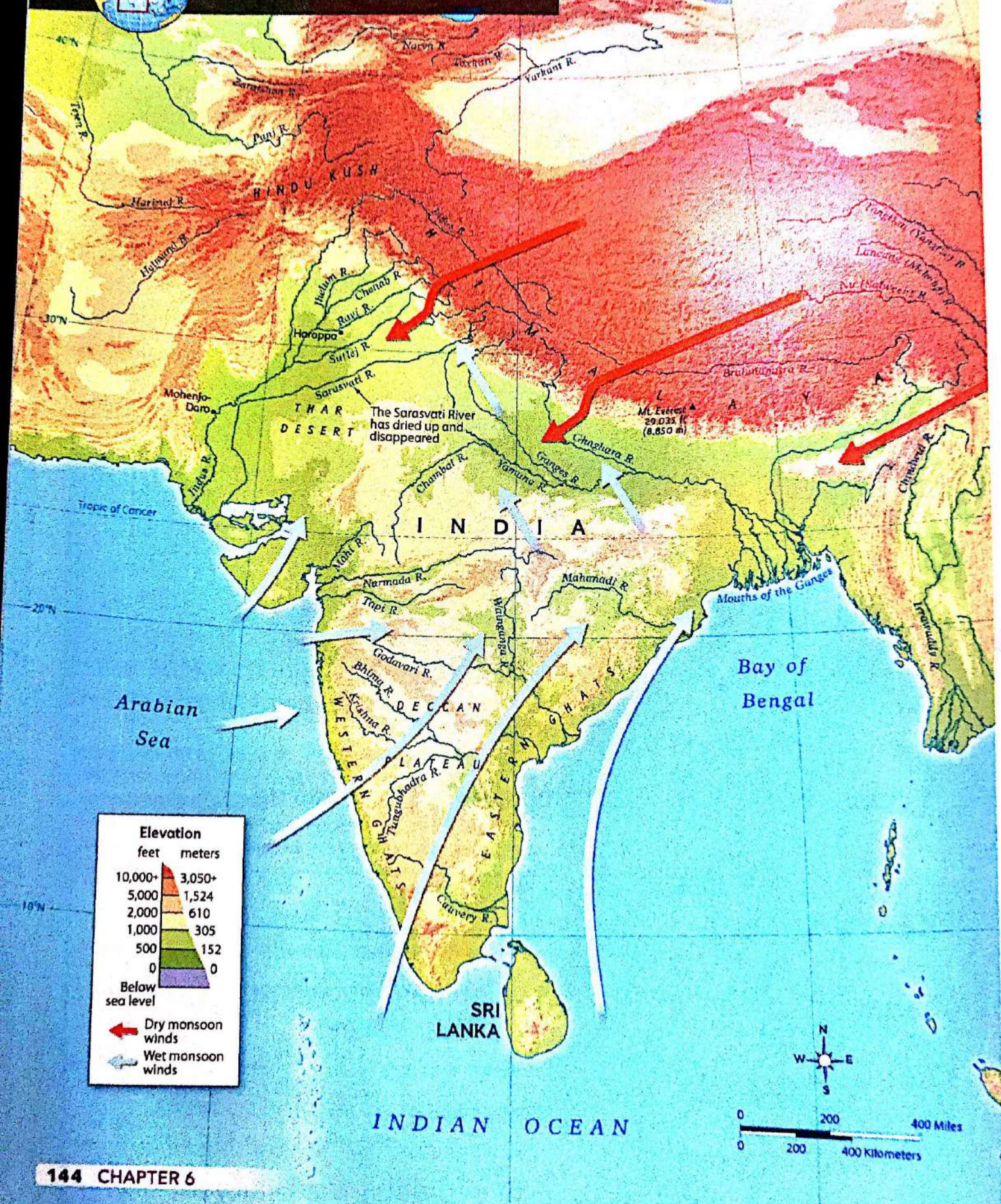
WORKBOOK PAGE 59 (begin this section, you should have it completed after this section)

4/23 THE VEDIC PEOPLE Read Sect 1-3 answer 3 questions

4/24 workbook page 63 6 definitions



# THE INDIAN SUBCONTINENT





# 1.1

## The Geography of Ancient India



Geographically, India has it all. If you were to travel around India, you could climb snowcapped mountains, cross wide grassy plains, hack through dense tropical forests, sail down mighty rivers, and skirt around sun-scorched deserts. You might travel under a bright blue sky or get soaked by seasonal rains.

### MAIN IDEA

South Asia's physical geography affected the development of Indus Valley civilizations.

### MOUNTAINS, RIVERS, AND MONSOONS

Present-day India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal, and Pakistan make up the large landmass, or **subcontinent**, of South Asia. This diamond-shaped landmass was originally an island. However, 40 million years ago, the large moving plates on which the continents lie drove the subcontinent into Asia. As the lands collided, they

### REVIEW & ASSESS

**1. READING CHECK** How did physical geography affect the development of Indus Valley civilizations?

**2. INTERPRET MAPS** What physical feature separates India from the continent of Asia?

**3. MAKE INFERENCES** What positive and negative effects might the summer monsoons have had on farmers?

pushed Earth's crust upward to form the Himalaya, a 1,500-mile mountain range.

The Himalaya are the world's highest mountains. Many Himalayan peaks rise about 24,000 feet. Thirty peaks, including Mount Everest—Earth's highest point—are over 25,000 feet high.

On either side of the Himalaya lie lower mountain ranges, including the Hindu Kush, which separates what was once northwest India from present-day Afghanistan. These northern mountains form a natural barrier against invaders. The Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, and Bay of Bengal have provided further protection. The Deccan Plateau, which contains smaller mountain systems, makes up much of southern India.

The two major rivers of northern India, the **Indus** and the **Ganges**, both start in the Himalaya. Like the Tigris and the Euphrates in Mesopotamia, these rivers provide water for irrigation and deposit fertile soil for farming.

Strong seasonal winds called **monsoons** have long been an important element of the subcontinent's climate. These winds bring a dry season in winter. In summer, they bring a wet season with heavy rainfall.

### INDUS RIVER VALLEY

Physical characteristics of the Indus River Valley offered nearly ideal conditions for agriculture. The valley's fertile soil and plentiful water supply most likely encouraged nomadic herdsmen to settle there and farm. Villages emerged. Then some villages grew into cities and a civilization developed, reaching its peak between 2600 and 1900 B.C.

6.5.1 Locate and describe the major river system and discuss the physical setting that supported the rise of this civilization; CST 3 Students use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries and to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires, and the growth of economic systems.



## 1.2 Harappan Civilization



Historians have studied ancient Egyptian civilization for many centuries. But evidence of ancient India's great civilization was not discovered until the early 20th century. Then, in 1921, archaeologists unearthed an Indian culture every bit as vast and sophisticated as that of ancient Egypt: the Harappan civilization.

### MAIN IDEA

One of the world's earliest and most advanced civilizations emerged in ancient India's Indus River Valley.

### WELL-PLANNED CITIES

Around 3300 B.C., civilization developed in the Indus Valley. Fertile soil and irrigation delivered food surpluses that generated wealth. As populations boomed, villages grew into large cities. **Mohenjo-Daro** (moh-HEHN-joh DAHR-oh), one of the civilization's major cities, covered over 250 acres. Another important city, **Harappa** (huh-RA-puh), gave the Harappan civilization its name. These cities were the largest of their time. Their influence spread across a 500,000-square-mile area, which was greater than that of either ancient Egypt or Mesopotamia.

Indus Valley cities were among the world's first **planned cities**. Many were built with the same layout and the same features. Such cities had an eastern housing and business area guarded by defensive walls. To the west were public buildings, as well as structures that may have been used to store grain. Main roads as straight as rulers intersected at right angles with streets exactly half their width. Wells were another common feature. People used bricks that were all the same size to build houses. Homes had indoor plumbing with a bathroom and a toilet that emptied into excellent underground sewers.

Archaeologists have found similarly styled pottery, jewelry, toys, and tools at more than 1,000 Harappan sites. These similar goods demonstrate strong cultural ties among people living hundreds of miles apart. The similarities also suggest that the Harappan civilization was a single state with a strong central government. However, historians have no idea how it was ruled.

### AN ADVANCED CULTURE

In fact, there is a lot historians do not know about Harappan civilization because archaeologists have not figured out its writing system. It seems to be based, at least in part, on pictograms, like Sumerian cuneiform. The only writing found is on small items such as pottery, tools, and tiny square stone seals. Traders probably pressed these seals into soft clay to leave their mark on trading goods. Traders also used stone cubes as standard weights and measures.

The Harappans were long-distance traders, using boats and possibly the world's first wheeled vehicles. Their enormous trade network stretched over the mountains into what are now Afghanistan, Iran, and Iraq. There, archaeologists have found records of Harappan copper, gold, and ivory.

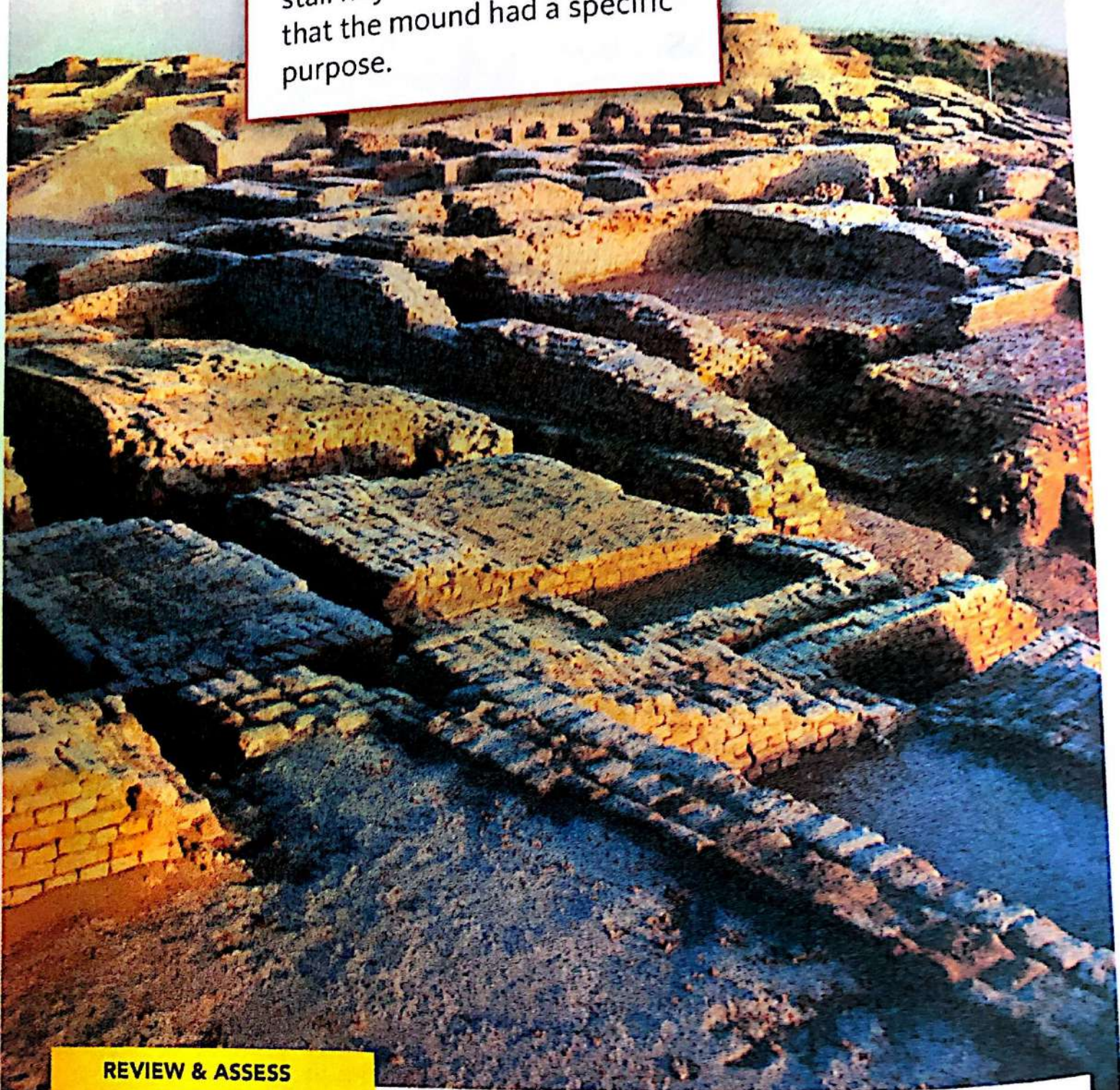
Some of the images on Harappan seals show features that are all present in modern Hinduism, such as a male figure that resembles the Hindu God Shiva.



## **+ POSSIBLE RESPONSE**

The elevation of the mound and its accessibility to a stairway and roads indicate that the mound had a specific purpose.

**Critical Viewing** This photo shows the ruins of Mohenjo-Daro. What detail indicates that the high mound had a specific purpose?



### **REVIEW & ASSESS**

- 1. READING CHECK** What is one characteristic of the advanced culture of Harappan civilization?
- 2. INTEGRATE VISUALS** What details in the photo support the conclusion that Harappa was an advanced civilization?
- 3. MAKE INFERENCES** Why do you think it is important to use standard weights and measures in trade?



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**UNIT 2** CHAPTER 6 SECTION 1  
**Indus Valley Civilizations****READING AND NOTE-TAKING****CATEGORIZE RELIGIONS**

Keep track of the ideas and beliefs of Hinduism and Buddhism as you read Section 1. Read each sentence below and decide which religion it applies to. On the line to the left of the sentence, write in either **H** or **B**.

- \_\_\_ This religion has many gods and goddesses and developed out of Brahmanism.
- \_\_\_ This religion teaches that the Eightfold Path leads to nirvana.
- \_\_\_ The totality of the teachings that have come down from the founder are known as the dharma, or divine law.
- \_\_\_ According to this religion's beliefs, a person's conduct determines the kind of life he or she is reborn into.
- \_\_\_ The founder of this religion was named Siddhartha Gautama.
- \_\_\_ This religion includes practices of yoga that help a person achieve spiritual insight.
- \_\_\_ Followers of this religion observe cultural practices associated with the caste system.
- \_\_\_ This religion's teachings say that material possessions bring suffering.
- \_\_\_ Sacred texts of this religion are found in epic poems.
- \_\_\_ A god in this religion is Shiva, the Destroyer, who is responsible for all kinds of change, as well as death.



## 1.3

# The Vedic People



Historians believe the Indus Valley suffered a series of earthquakes from which the Harappan civilization never recovered.

Other forces were also in play. Eventually, a people referred to as Aryans are said to have forged a new Indian civilization.

### MAIN IDEA

After the Harappan civilization declined, a people referred to as Aryans are said to have forged a new Indian civilization.



### HARAPPAN SEAL

Found at Mohenjo-Daro, this soft stone seal was probably used to mark trade goods. The marks at the top are an example of the Harappan language, which archaeologists have not yet learned to read.

### END OF HARAPPA

A combination of natural forces probably contributed to the Harappan civilization's downfall. First agriculture declined when rainfall diminished. Then earthquakes caused flooding and drastically changed the course of rivers. One river, the Sarasvati, no longer flowed near Harappan cities. With reduced access to river water for irrigation, agriculture became more difficult.

As food supplies declined, people abandoned the cities. By 1900 B.C., a simple village way of life had largely replaced the Harappans' advanced urban civilization.

According to many historians, around 1500 B.C., waves of

new people began crossing the Hindu Kush into India. The migrants were a collection of tribes called **Aryans**, meaning "noble ones." They belonged to the Indo-European people who had populated central Asia. (Some scholars have begun to dispute this theory, however. They believe that the Aryans were descendants of earlier Indus civilizations and there was no invasion or migration at all.)

The Aryans were seminomadic herders of horses and cattle and were also fierce warriors. They built only basic houses but rode horses and used wheeled chariots.

Around 1000 B.C., what became known as **Vedic civilization** expanded south and east. There the people adopted agriculture, cleared the forests to cultivate crops, and settled down in villages. The villages grouped together into chiefdoms and then into kingdoms. Over time, the people referred to as Aryans had a huge impact on religion, class, and language. The culture that arose is called the Vedic culture and its people the Vedic people.

### IMPACT ON INDIAN SOCIETY

The Vedic people worshipped many gods from nature. They also had gods for friendship and for moral authority. To honor their gods, priests known as Brahmins performed rituals in the ancient language of **Sanskrit**. Their religion came to be called Brahmanism, or early Hinduism.

In time Brahmanism's rituals and hymns were recorded in sacred texts called the **Vedas**. The oldest text is the Rig Veda, which contains 1,028 melodic hymns. Hindus later developed the Upanishads, which contain many spiritual

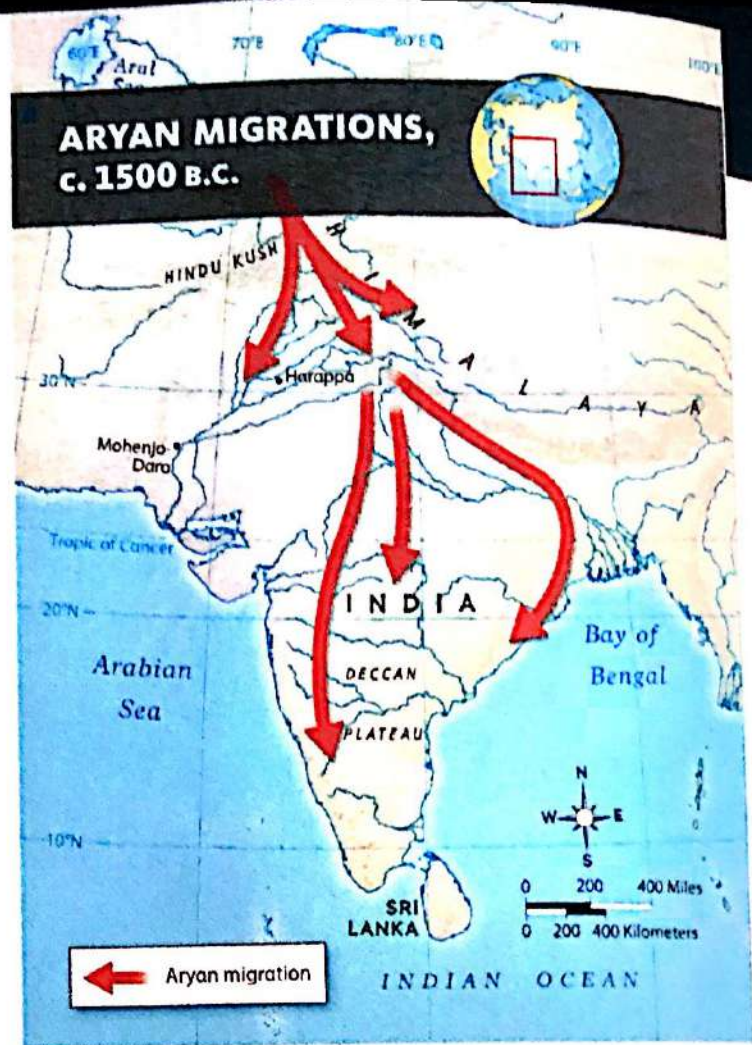




### SANSKRIT AND TAMIL LITERATURE

The Vedas (shown above) were probably composed between 1500 and 1200 B.C. For a thousand years, people passed the Vedas down orally, along with other religious and secular texts.

Texts in Tamil began to appear around 300 B.C. These works were also transmitted orally for many centuries before being written down.



ideas. These texts discuss the Hindu belief in the oneness of all living beings.

As in all early civilizations, a social class system developed in ancient India. Society formed into groups, or jatis, that were determined by birth. The Vedas also describe four main social categories, known as varnas: Brahmins (priests), Kshatriyas (warriors), Vaishyas (merchants), and Sudras (laborers). People belonged to these classes primarily by birth but also by professional achievement and good

conduct. For example, two of Hinduism's most revered sages, Valmiki and Vyasa, were not born Brahmins. Many centuries later, another group, the Dalits, developed outside of this system. People belonging to this class did the most unclean work.

This system, called the **caste system** by Europeans, provided each group with its own culture. People's castes impacted the kind of work they did and also whom they could marry. Such definitions applied to people's children as well.

### REVIEW & ASSESS

- 1. READING CHECK** Who were the Aryans?
- 2. INTERPRET MAPS** What physical features did the Aryan migrations pass through?
- 3. DETERMINE WORD MEANINGS** What does waves mean in the sentence, "Around 1500 B.C. waves of new people began crossing the Hindu Kush into India"?

6.5.2 Discuss the significance of the Aryan invasions; 6.5.3 Explain the major beliefs and practices of Brahmanism in India and how they evolved into early Hinduism; 6.5.4 Outline the social structure of the caste system; CST 3 Students use a variety of maps and documents to identify physical and cultural features of neighborhoods, cities, states, and countries and to explain the historical migration of people, expansion and disintegration of empires, and the growth of economic systems.



# UNIT 2 CHAPTER 6 SECTION 1 Indus Valley Civilizations



## VOCABULARY PRACTICE

### KEY VOCABULARY

- **caste system** *n.* a rigid social hierarchy in India that divides people into hereditary classes
- **dharma** (DUHR-muh) *n.* the Buddha's teachings; divine law
- **monsoon** *n.* a strong seasonal wind in South and Southeast Asia
- **nirvana** (nihr-VAH-nuh) *n.* in Buddhism, a state of bliss or the end of suffering caused by the cycle of rebirth
- **planned city** *n.* a city built with a specific layout in mind
- **subcontinent** *n.* a large, distinct landmass that is part of a continent

### THREE-COLUMN CHART

Complete the chart for each of the six Key Vocabulary words. Write each word's definition, and then provide a definition in your own words.

Word	Definition	In My Own Words
caste system		