

■ Essential Question:

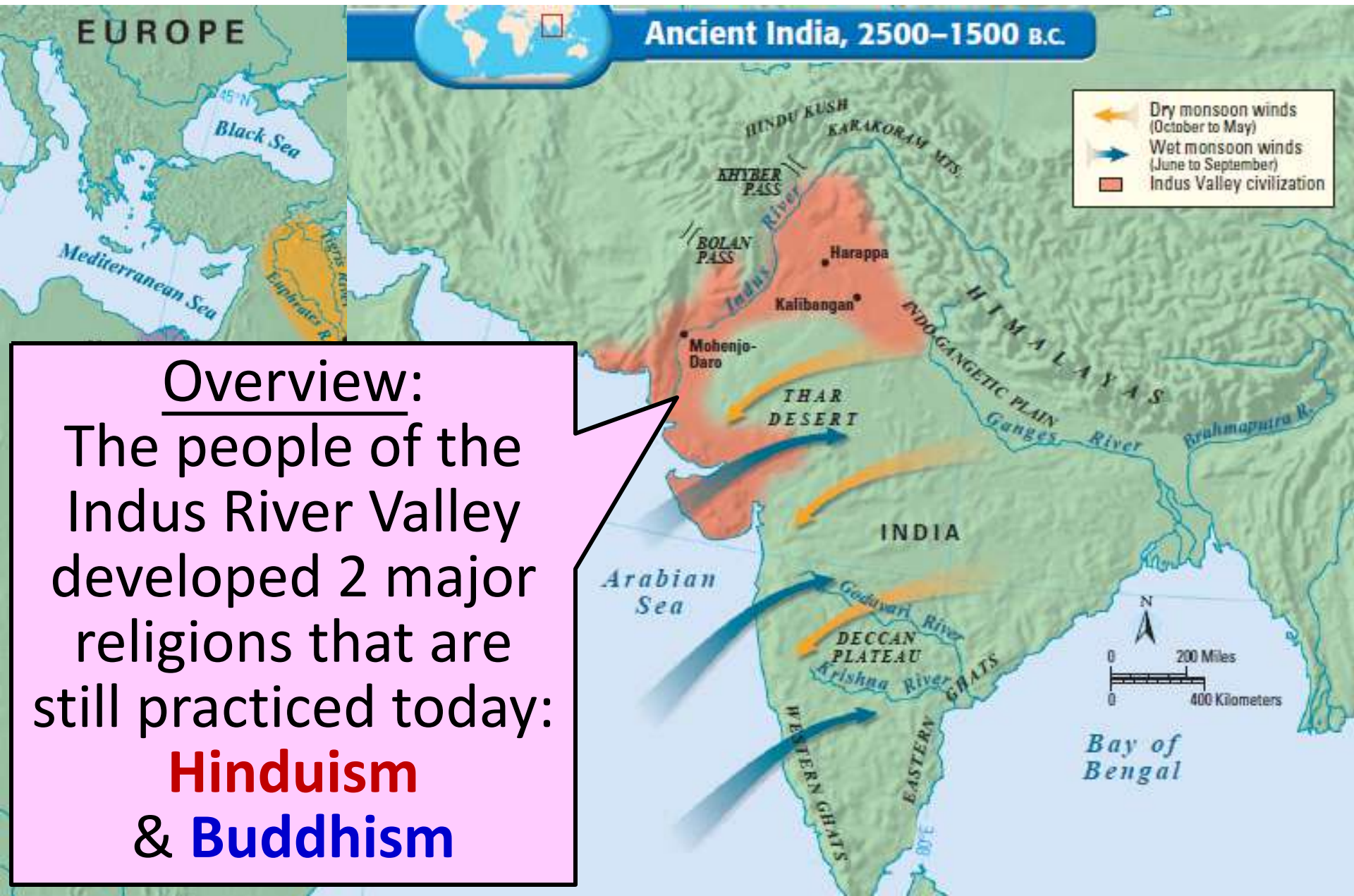
- What are the major differences between the Indian religions of Hinduism and Buddhism?



■ Warm-Up Question:

- How was Indian society different from that in Mesopotamia & Egypt?
- Compare the geography of India to either Mesopotamia or Egypt

The Religions of Ancient India



Overview:

The people of the Indus River Valley developed 2 major religions that are still practiced today:

Hinduism
& **Buddhism**

Hinduism

■ Basic beliefs:

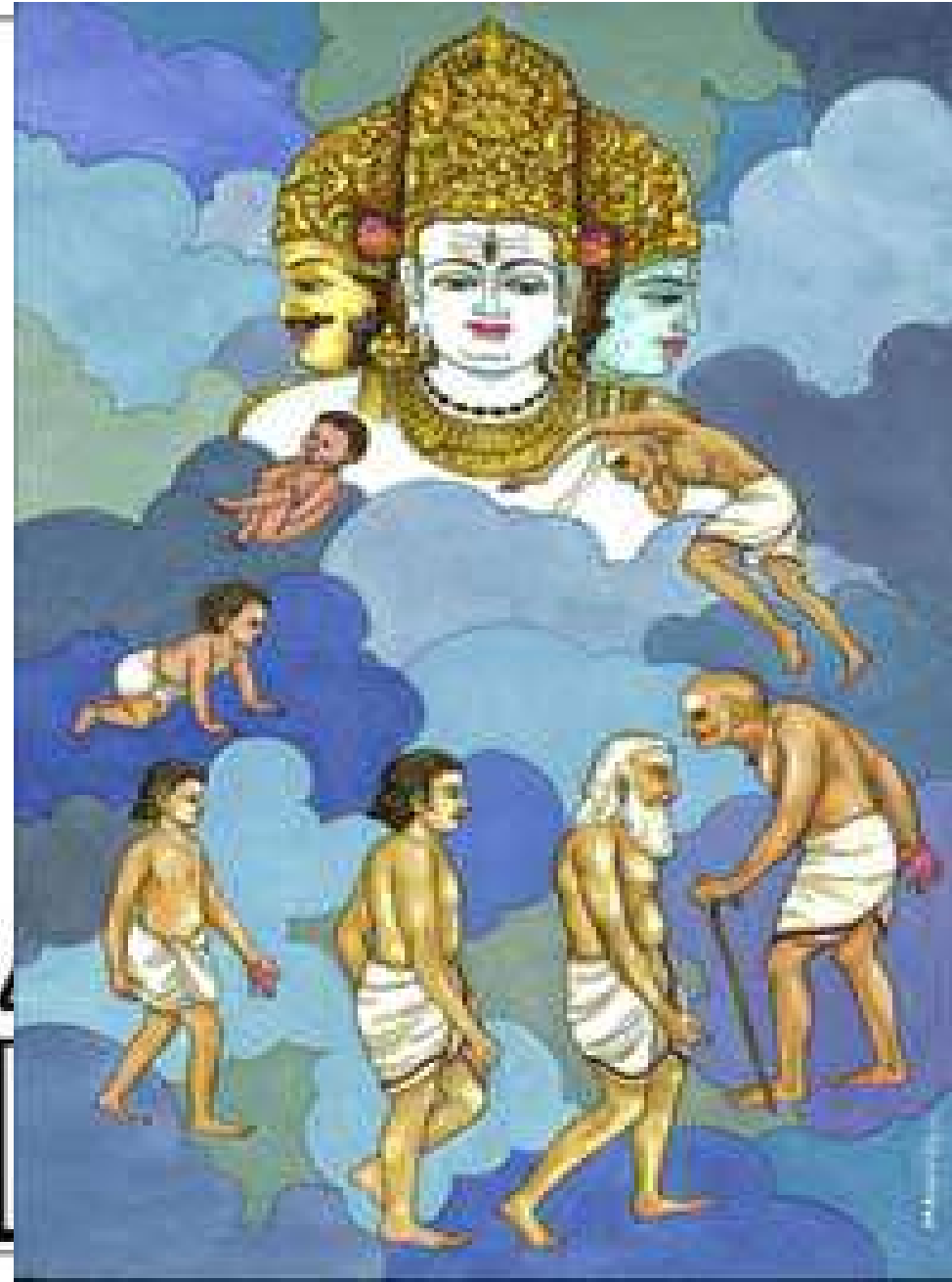
- Hinduism is based upon the search for “**perfect understanding**” & the liberation from the human world
- This understanding is called **moksha** (also called nirvana or enlightenment)



Hinduism

■ Basic beliefs:

- Only the top of the caste system can achieve moksha
- Hindus believe in reincarnation (people are reborn into another form)
- Moving up in the caste is based on fulfilling dharma (duty) & gaining karma (good deeds)



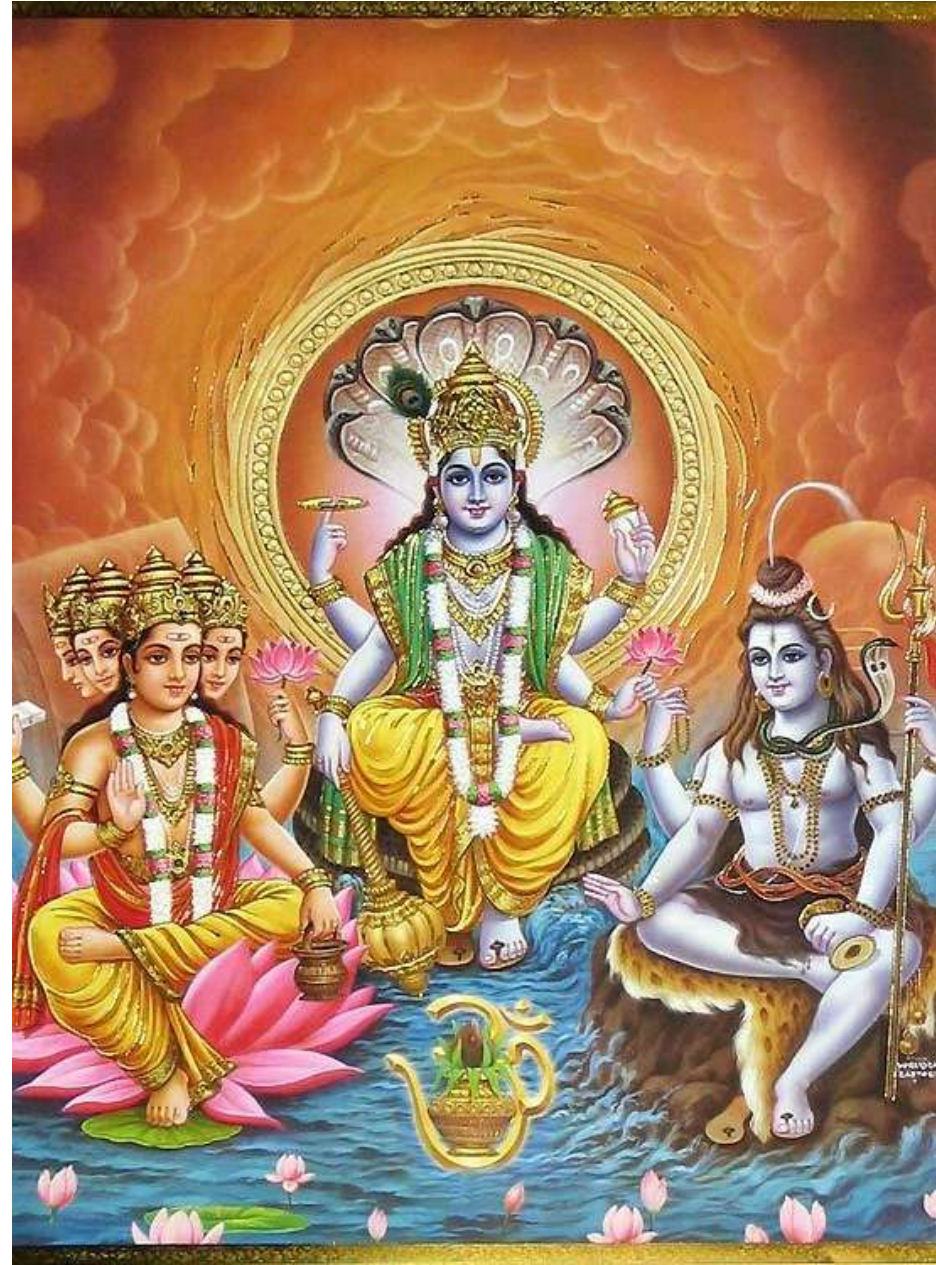
Hinduism

■ Gods:

- Hindus believe in thousands of gods, but 3 are supreme
- Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver, & Shiva the destroyer

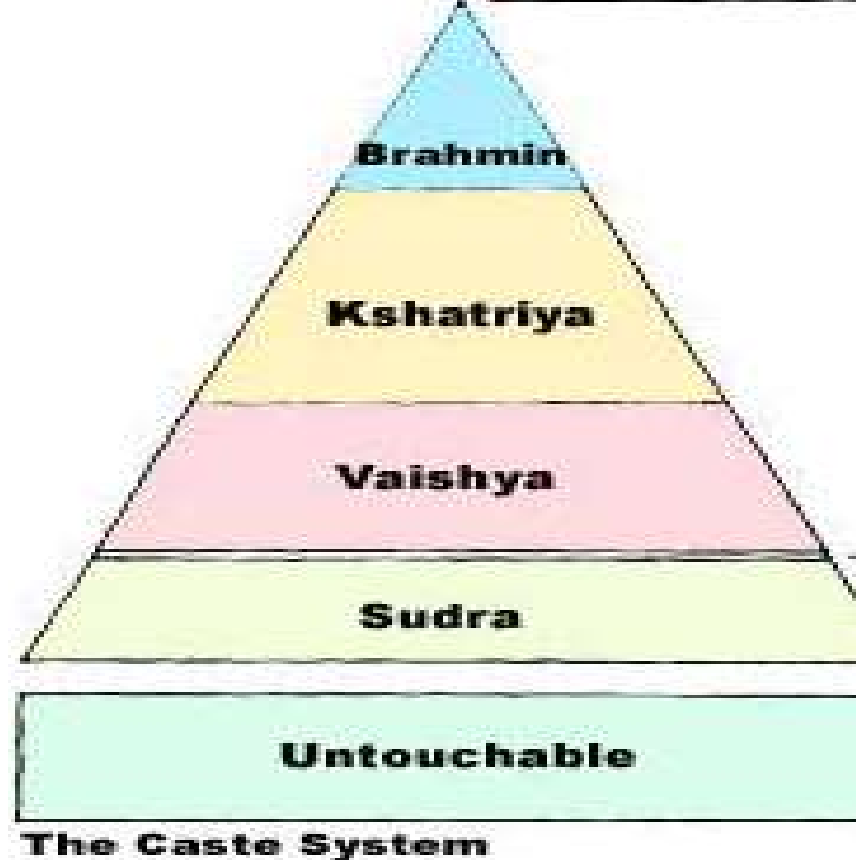
■ Texts:

- There is no single Hindu text, but the *Upanishads* & *Vedas* are important works



Hinduism

- Impact on society:
 - Hinduism & caste system dominate all aspects of one's life, such as who people can marry & how to dress



Quick Class Activity:

Examine the image and the quote below & guess how Buddhism is different from Hinduism

Let him not despise what he has received, nor should he live envying the gains of others. The disciple who envies the gains of others does not attain concentration.

—Buddhist scripture,
The Dhammapada
(Verses of Righteousness)



Buddhism

■ Origins:

- Buddhism was created by Siddhartha Gautama who abandoned a noble life in search of enlightenment
- After a period of meditation, Siddhartha gained enlightenment & became known as the “Buddha”



Buddhism

■ Basic Beliefs:

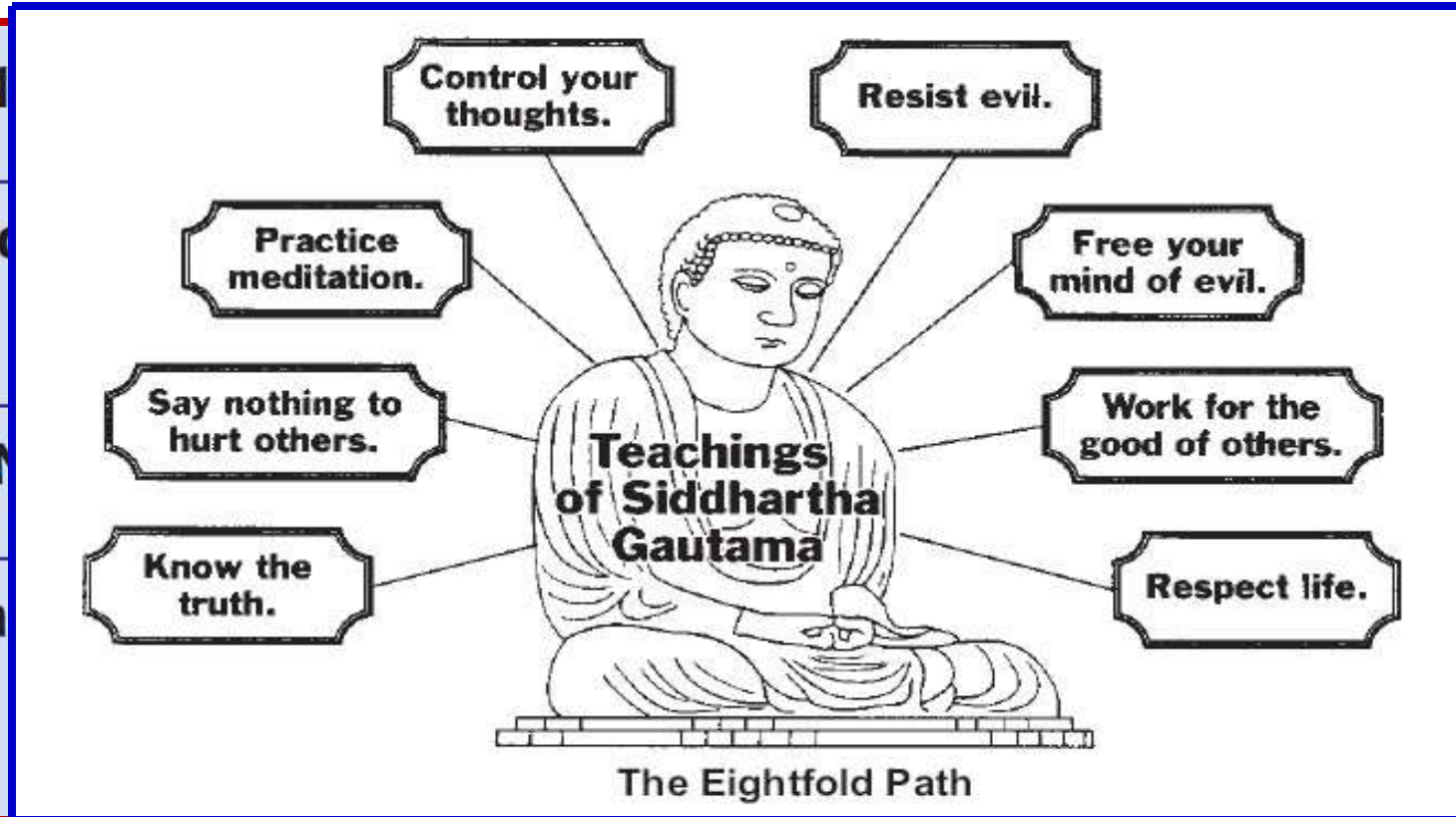
- Like Hinduism, Buddhists believe in moksha & reincarnation
- But, Buddhists rejected the caste system & the idea that only Brahmins can achieve nirvana



Buddhism

■ Basic Beliefs:

- The major teaching of Buddhism are the Four Noble Truths

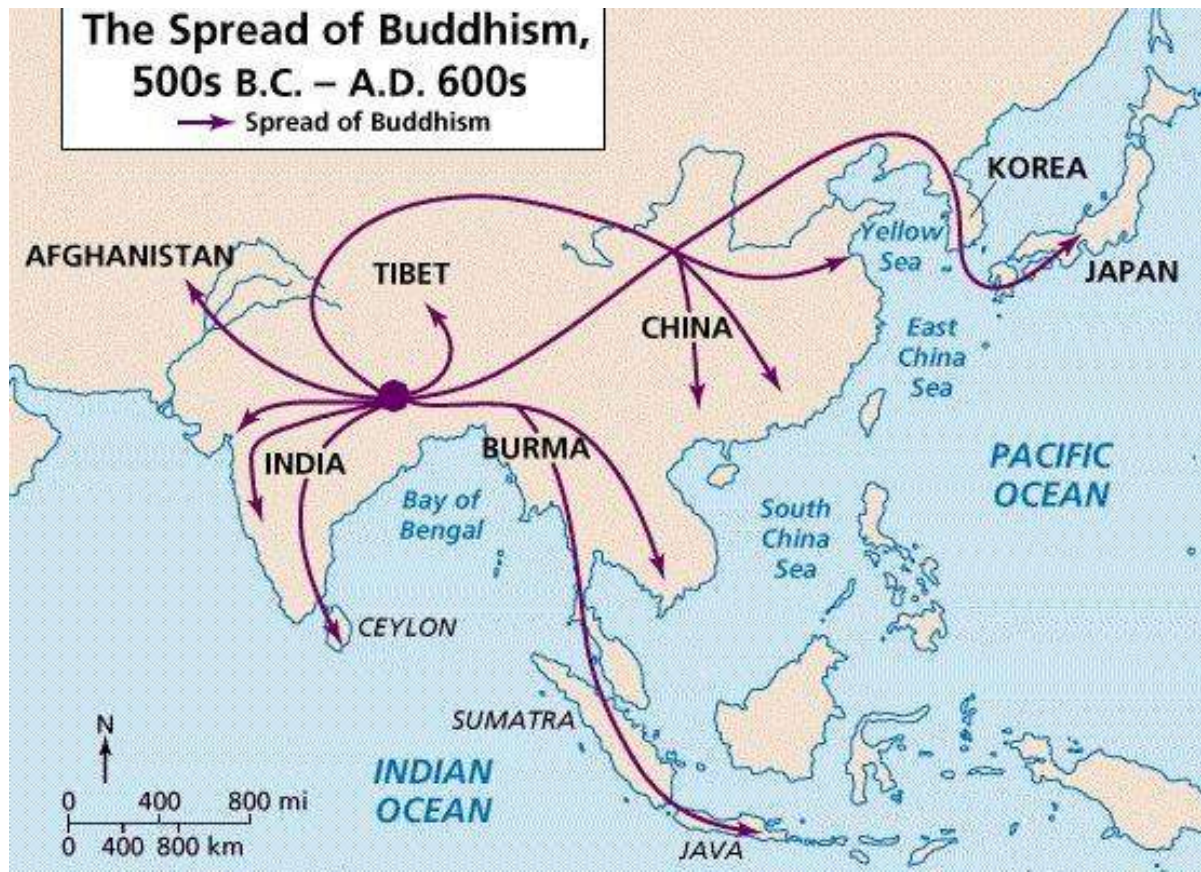


- Buddhists believe they can achieve nirvana by following the Eight-Fold Path

Buddhism

■ Impact on society:

- Women & Hindus in the lowest castes were attracted to Buddhism
- Missionaries spread Buddhism into Asia






Closure Activity

- Complete the comparison chart on the back of your notes

What are the characteristics of
Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism?

- Be prepared to answer some discussion questions when finished

Three Major Religions

	 Hinduism	 Buddhism	 Judaism
Number of Gods	Many gods, all faces of Brahman	Originally, no gods	One God
Holy Books	Vedas; Upanishads, <i>Mahabharata</i> , and others	Books on the teachings and life of the Buddha	The Torah and other books of the Hebrew Bible
Moral Law	Karma	Eightfold Path	Ten Commandments
Leaders	Brahmins	Monks	Priests, judges, kings, prophets
Final Goal	<i>Moksha</i>	Enlightenment, Nirvana	A moral life through obedience to God's law