

Check your graphic organizer for Chapter 3

Indo-Europeans

The Hittites were a nomadic warrior type people who settled in the area that is now Turkey.

They later moved to the area of Mesopotamia and conquered that area too. They used 2 wheeled chariots and iron weapons.

The Aryans were another group of Indo Europeans who moved into what is India today.

The caste system is a complex set of rules for classes of society. There were 3 main classes; priests, warriors, and peasants or traders. There was a 4th class, considered the lowest class, who the non-Aryans.

Some "impure" people were outside the caste system. They were the "untouchables" and had jobs that were thought to be not clean such as butchers, grave diggers, and trash collectors. They were not allowed to interact with members of the caste system.

Hinduism and Buddhism

The Hindus believe that each person has an individual soul but there is also an additional larger soul, called Brahman that brings together all the individual souls.

Hinduism is a polytheistic religion with 3 main gods and many lesser god/goddesses. There was no founder but it grew over many years out of a collection of beliefs.

The main goal of Hinduism is for a person to become free of desire, and not be bothered by suffering. Until the person reaches this state Hindus believe that each person is born again into another body. This is called reincarnation. Each life affects the next life; if you live a good life you will have good karma and be rewarded in the next life.

Jainism is a religion which believes that every creature in the world, including animals, has a soul.

Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Guatama around 528 BCE. He searched for a way to escape human suffering. He meditated and search for a long time. After meditating under a tree for 49 days be became "enlightened" and found the answer to his quest.

Siddhartha became known as the Buddha and he taught the Four Noble Truths. The 4th Truth shows how to become enlightened through the Eightfold Path.

The Four Noble Truths: 1 Life is filled with suffering.

2 Suffering is caused by people pursuing the immediate pleasures of the world.

3 The way to end suffering is to end all desires.

4 the way to end all desire is to follow the Eightfold Path leading to nirvana- release form selfishness.

Seafaring Traders

The Minoans were a peaceful people that lived on an island called Crete in the Mediterranean Sea. They were wealthy and controlled sea trade. They traded fine pottery, swords, and metal drinking cups with other lands. They contributed to other cultures by sharing their art and architecture.

Women appeared to have great power in the Minoan culture.

The cities of Crete were destroyed by natural disasters. 1- earthquakes, 2. a volcanic eruption,3 huge waves and a cloud of ash.

The Phoenicians were another group of traders that settled in the today area of Lebanon.

The Phoenicians put colonies all around the Mediterranean within 30 miles of each other. That was the distance a ship could travel in 1 day. One later important colony was Carthage in North Africa.

Phoenicians traded wines, weapons, metals, ivory, slaves, and objects made of wood and glass. They also made red-purple dye.

The most important achievement of the Phoenicians was the alphabet.

Judaism

The Hebrews settled in the area that is called Palestine today. The Jewish people are the descendants of the Hebrews.

Abraham is the father of Judaism. Judaism is a monotheistic religion. They believe in one god.

After Abraham moved his people from Canaan to Egypt they were eventually made into slaves. Later on Moses convinces the pharaoh to let the slaves leave Egypt. This is known as the Exodus.

Moses gives the Hebrews the laws of God as the Ten Commandments.

The first 5 books of the Old Testament is the Torah.