

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Class:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**A.P. World History CHAPTER 3: CLASSICAL CIVILIZATION: INDIA Worksheet and Study Guide :**

**Summary -**

**A. The Framework for Indian History: Geography and a Formative Period**

Geography and climate shaped Indian civilization, which help explain some differences from China. Classical Indian civilization was prepared by cultural and social developments during the centuries of Aryan invasion and consolidation.

**B. Patterns in Classical India**

Two major empires formed at the crucial periods in classical Indian history, the Mauryan and, later, the Gupta. The Greek conquest of the Indus and the exchange of ideas with the Mediterranean basin and Southwest Asia influenced the rise of the Mauryan dynasty. The Guptans arose after a period of nomadic invasions.

**C. Political Institutions**

Over most of the areas in India where the Aryans settled, religious leaders or Brahmins became the dominant force about 1500 B.C.E. In this era, earlier patterns of social stratification rigidified into a religiously sanctioned hierarchy of social groups, based in part on occupational differences. Brahmins and regional warrior groups dominated shared political power and the highest status.

**D. Religion and Culture; Economy and Society**

By the last centuries B.C.E., the Indian or Hindu civilization developed a written language, built cities, and produced art and literature, and nurtured two of the great world religions, Hinduism and Buddhism. Artistic patterns linked to religion and a significant scientific tradition developed. India developed extensive internal commercial and international maritime trade. Family life combined patriarchy with an emphasis on affection.

**Conclusion: The Legacy of the Classical Age in India**

Although Indian civilization after 500 B.C.E. developed several empires, the system of social hierarchy and Hinduism remained the most prominent conservators of Indian culture. Able to withstand the challenge of Buddhism, Hinduism and the caste system was also capable of absorbing and transforming numerous invaders of the Indian subcontinent. Despite its social rigidity, the culture of the Brahmins produced great literary classics and innovated in science and mathematics. India emerged as the center of a Eurasian trade system, a source of great wealth and a means of exporting Indian culture abroad.

**VOCABULARY: Define the following terms in complete sentences.**

1. **Monsoons**
2. **Aryans**
3. **Jatis**
4. **Castes**

**5. Untouchables**

**6. Vedas**

**7. Brahmin**

**8. Dharma**

**9. Karma**

**10. Nirvana**

**11. 4 Noble Truths**

**12. Brahma**

**13. Upanishads**

## **Comprehension Questions:**

- 1. How did geography and environment influence Indian civilization?**
- 2. Describe Aryan society and their social and religious institutions.**
- 3. Explain the beliefs of Hinduism and its evolution from the Aryans to the Guptas.**
- 4. Describe the Hindu political hierarchy, caste structure, and gender relations.**
- 5. What did Buddha teach and how did Buddhism challenge Hinduism?**
- 6. Describe the Maurya and Guptan political and economic institutions.**
- 7. What were the intellectual accomplishments of the Mauryas and Guptas?**
- 8. How and where did Hinduism and Buddhism spread?**
- 9. How did Hinduism respond to the various challenges of Buddhism?**

## **MAP EXERCISES**

**Map: *India in the Time of Ashoka*; Map: *The Gupta Empire***

- 1. What areas were the cores of Ashoka's state and the Guptan Empire?**
- 2. Which areas remained outside Mauryan and Guptan control?**
- 3. What might this have meant for the development of culture? Explain.**

## **Visualizing the Past: *Patterns of Trade in the Eurasian World***

- 4. What physical geographic features would have defined:  
The Arab zone?**

**The Indian zone?**

**The Chinese zone?**

## **Missing from the map is the Greco-Roman pattern of trade.**

- 5. What physical features defined this area? Use the physical map at the front of the book.**
- 6. What areas would have been centers of exchange between zones? Why?**
- 7. If monsoons in the area blow northeast to southwest (November to March) and Southwest to Northeast (April to October) how would this have affected movement?**

8. What products would you have considered luxury goods? Staples, foodstuffs, and raw materials?

9. Which products would have had the highest profit margins? Why?

10. Why would trade in foodstuffs have been less profitable?

**PHOTO ESSAY: *A Civilization's Art***

**Indian art was largely symbolic, often religious, and had a multiplicity of meanings.**

1. How is each of these works of art symbolic?

2. What concept is each intended to represent?

3. We can learn a lot about society from art. Describe Indian social values, material culture, and lifestyles.

**MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS: In pencil.....underline the correct response:**

1. **The highest Hindu caste in India was the**  
Shudras (workers)  
Vaisyas (merchants, herders)  
Kshatriya (warriors, rulers)  
Brahmans (priests, scholars)  
Dasas or the Dravidian peoples.
2. **The Indian caste system**  
differed little from other systems of inequality in the ancient world.  
closely resembled the Greco-Roman class structure.  
was extremely complex and stratified; a person could not change caste.  
had little basis in Hindu religious writings.  
integrated non-Aryans into ruling castes as a way of political control.
3. **In the famous Hindu story, the *Bhagavad Gita*, Prince Arjuna (Kshatriya caste)**  
questions his caste dharma. In his next incarnation, Arjuna  
would likely become a Brahmin.  
could expect to be punished for his sins and be denied paradise.  
might be reincarnated again as a warrior.  
would be denied rebirth.  
would incur karma and suffer more rebirths for doubting his dharma.
4. **The major difference between Buddhism and Hinduism was**  
Buddhism denied the need for caste, rites, and sacrifice to achieve nirvana.  
Hinduism was monotheistic and Buddhism was polytheistic.  
Buddhism denied rebirth, reincarnation and emphasized the real world.  
Buddhism encouraged its followers to renounce the political world.  
Hinduism taught respect for all living things and prohibited killing.
5. **The center of the Buddhist world was**  
the caste system.  
ritualistic sacrifice and the performing of intricate rites flawlessly.  
the monastic community of monks and nuns.  
the ruler and the worldly realm of power.  
the permanence and unavoidability of rebirth.
6. **Alexander the Great's invasion of India**  
led to the spread of Hinduism and Buddhism to the Mediterranean world.  
disrupted the existing trade routes between India and the Mediterranean.  
had little lasting influence on either region.  
led to the rise of the Mauryans and spread of Buddhism to central Asia.  
isolated India from contacts with other regions.
7. **Buddhism lost its appeal and influence in Guptan India because**  
Buddhist monks and nuns were isolated from the Indian population and did not  
interact much with them.  
unpopular Guptas supported Buddhism, which led to Buddhism's decline.  
Islam was introduced and replaced both Hinduism and Buddhism.  
Hindus abandoned the caste system, making Hinduism more attractive.  
merchants, the chief patrons of Buddhism, abandoned the religion for Islam.

8. **During the Guptan era, an example of syncretism in Hinduism was its borrowing the Christian concept of the trinity to create the Hindu Trimurti. introduction of the Muslim concept of purdah, or the isolation of women. spread through trade to southeast Asia, especially Java and Cambodia. rejection of any form of accommodation with Islam. recognition of Buddha and Buddhist saints as Hindu gods and heroes.**
9. **Over time in classical India, castes were replaced by simpler social groups. died out as Buddhism spread throughout India. intensified and began to differ from region to region. lost their religious significance. removed restrictions on gender.**

**In Mesopotamia, the cuneiform culture of the Mesopotamians assimilated invaders and provided continuity. The same role in India was performed by Buddhism. the Hindu social hierarchy. Jain philosophy. the Greek culture introduced by Alexander the Great. the culture of the Indus Valley peoples.**

#### **ESSAY QUESTIONS (You will be assigned one of the following items, see me.)**

1. **Compare and contrast Buddhism and Hinduism for their views on gender, social hierarchy, and inequalities. (Or an Indian belief with a Chinese philosophy.)**
2. **Compare and contrast the classical civilizations of India and China.**
3. **Compare and contrast gender roles in India and China.**
4. **How did women's status decline over time in south Asia?**
5. **Describe the change over time of Hinduism from the Aryans to the Guptas.**
6. **Compare and contrast the lifestyles of peasants, merchants, and elites in any two classical civilizations.**