

# Ancient India





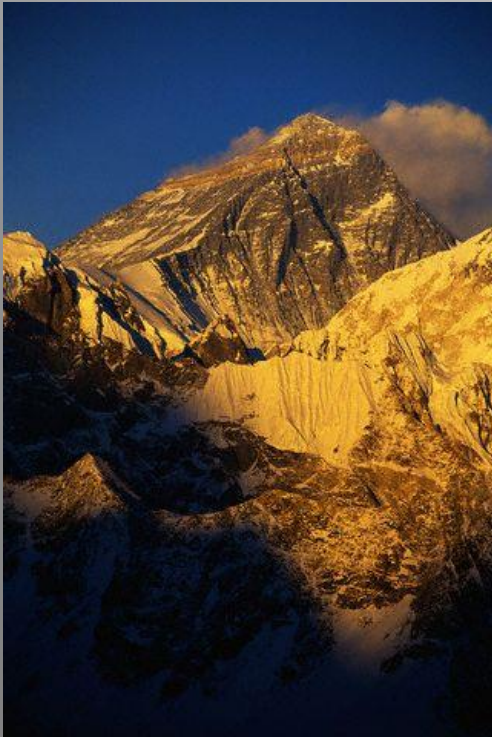
**Himalaya**  
Tallest mountains  
in the world.

**Hindu Kush**  
To the NW,  
above the Indus  
river.

**Khyber Pass**  
Mountain pass in  
the Hindu Kush.  
This was the  
passage for  
invaders who  
entered India.



# Himalaya



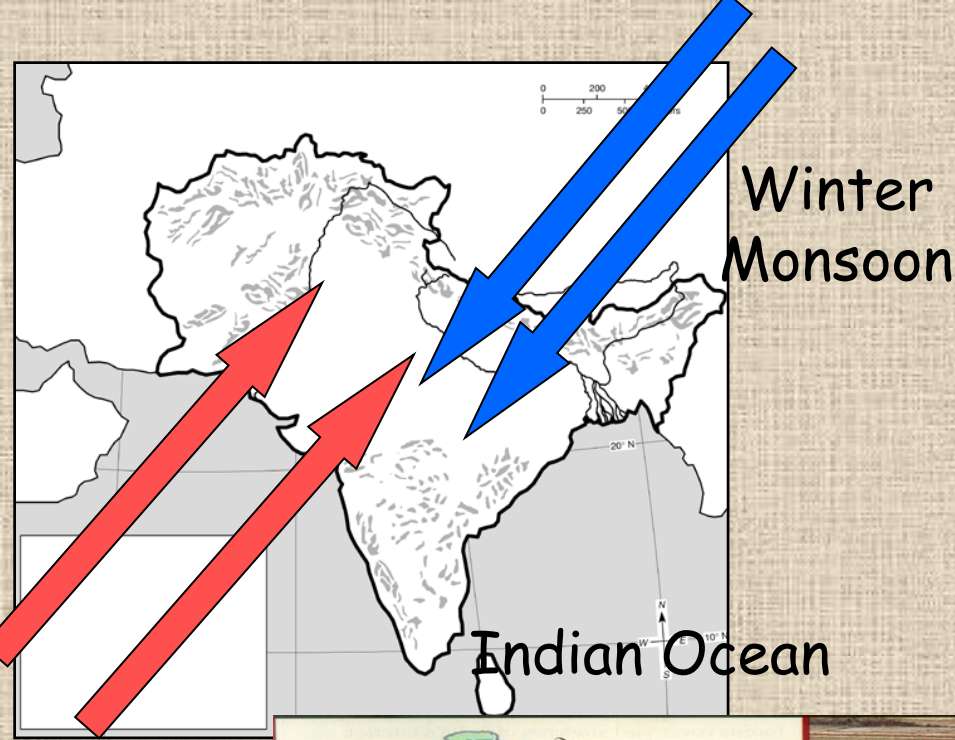


## Monsoons

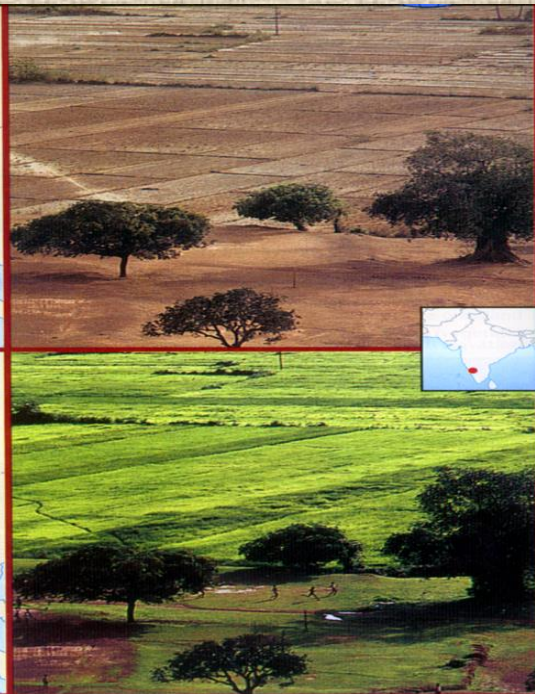
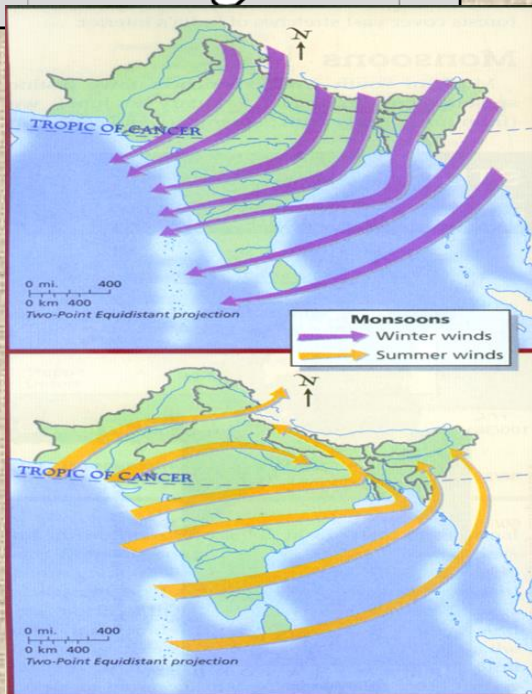
Monsoons are seasonal winds. These winds blow from different directions during different times of the year.

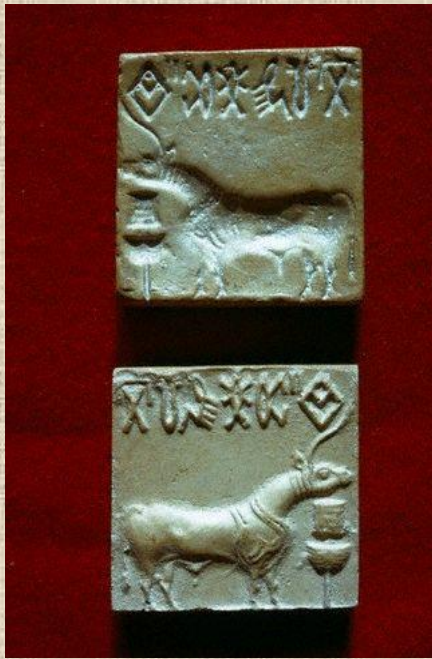
Summer Monsoon Blows over the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean bringing rain to India.

Winter Monsoon Blows over land and is dry.



Summer Monsoon





**Began in:** 3000 B.C. to 1500 B.C. in the Indus River Valley. It is thought that a civilization existed here that reached hundreds of miles from the Himalaya mountains to the shore of the Arabian Sea.

**Two main cities found are:**  
Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro

India First Civilizations

## Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro

**Population:** It is thought that Harappa had up to 35,000 people at its height and that Mohenjo-Daro has between 35,000-40,000 people.

**Organization:** These cities were very carefully planned.





**Features:** There is evidence of streets laid out in grids, walled neighborhoods, multi-story buildings, water and sanitation systems, garbage chutes that took trash from houses to street-level garbage bins.

Houses were made of mud bricks baked in ovens and were square forming a grid pattern.

**Rulers and Economy:** Rulers said their powers came from the gods. It is thought that religious and political life were closely linked.

Their economy was based on agriculture, including wheat, barley, and peas. They probably traded with other city states in Mesopotamia by sailing across the Persian Gulf. They traded copper, lumber, gemstones, and luxury goods for Textiles and food. Trade may have also gone over land through the Khyber pass.



# Hazappa

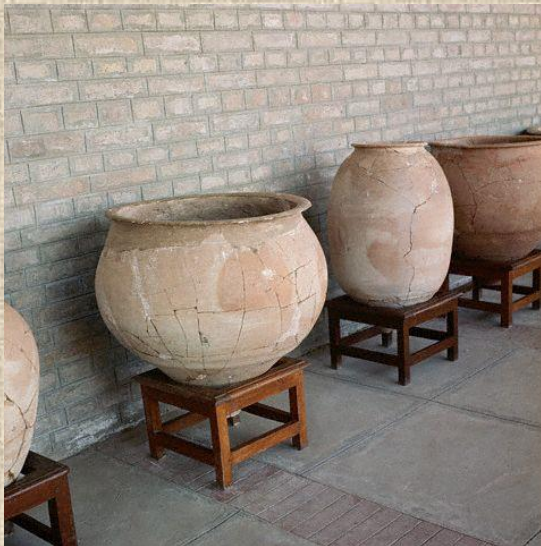
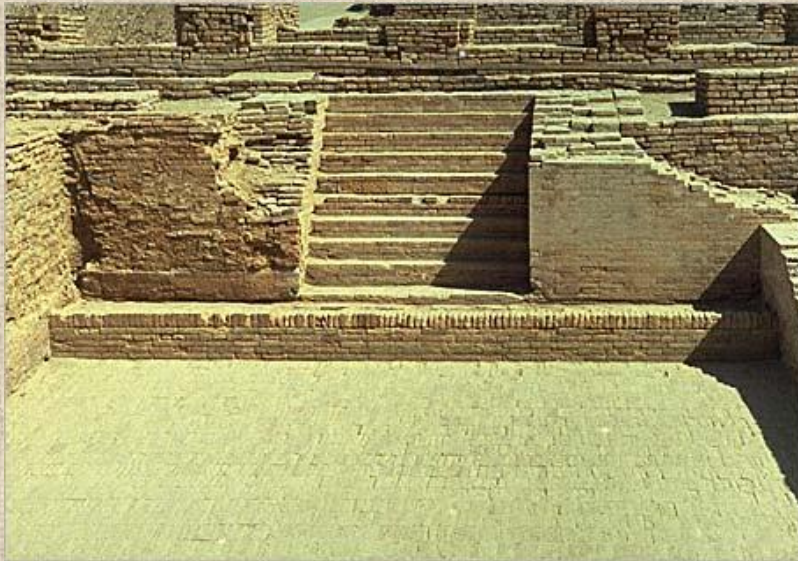


One of 8 public wells found so far





# Mohenjo-Daro





# The Aryan Invasion Theory of India

Historians are not exactly sure what brought an **end to the Indus Valley Civilizations**. It may have been a natural disaster, climate change or a change in the course of the Indus River.



1500 B.C.: In this year many historians believe a group of Indo-European nomads began to move out of C. Asia. These people were known as the Aryans.

It is thought that they migrated south through the Hindu Kush using the Khyber pass.

Arrival in India: Advanced East from the Indus Valley, eventually occupying almost all of India. Some theorize that the Dravidians (The original people of India) recognized the advanced technology of the Aryans and eventually assimilated into Aryan culture and were not forced to migrate south.

Warfare: Were advanced fighters.

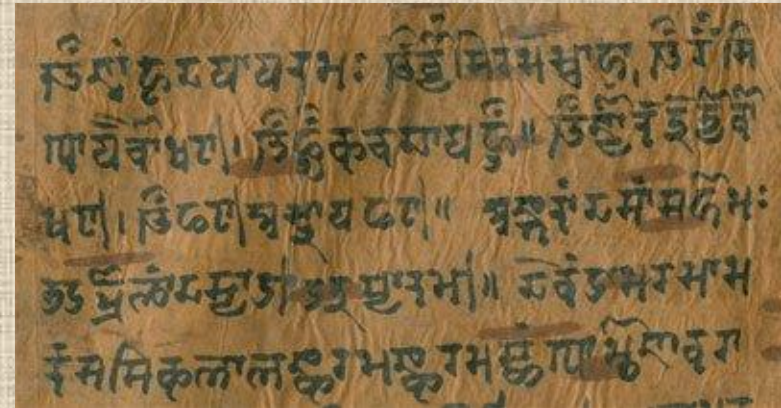


**Influence of Iron:** Iron tools allowed for improvements in Agriculture including the plow.

**Agriculture:** Tools and irrigation made it possible for the people to clear the jungle around the Ganges and create a rich farming region.

Basic crops in the north were grains, and in the south rice was common. People also began to grow cotton and spices.

**Sanskrit: 1000 B.C:** The written language known as Sanskrit enabled the peoples to write down their stories and religious chants and rituals. These eventually became the sacred texts of Hinduism, the Vedas.



**Rajas:** Princes of the Aryans, warring chieftains who fought each other seizing territory and prisoners.



## Family Life in Ancient India

Family was the most basic unit of Indian society. There was an ideal of an extended family including multiple generations living together.

**Patriarchal:** Indian society was male dominated. Only men could inherit property and only boys were educated.

**Arranged Marriages:** Parents usually arranged marriages for political and economic reasons when children were very young.

**Status of Women:** Women had very low social status.

There was a ritual of Suttee (Sati) where women were expected to throw themselves on the crematory fires of their dead husbands.

If they refused they were disgraced.





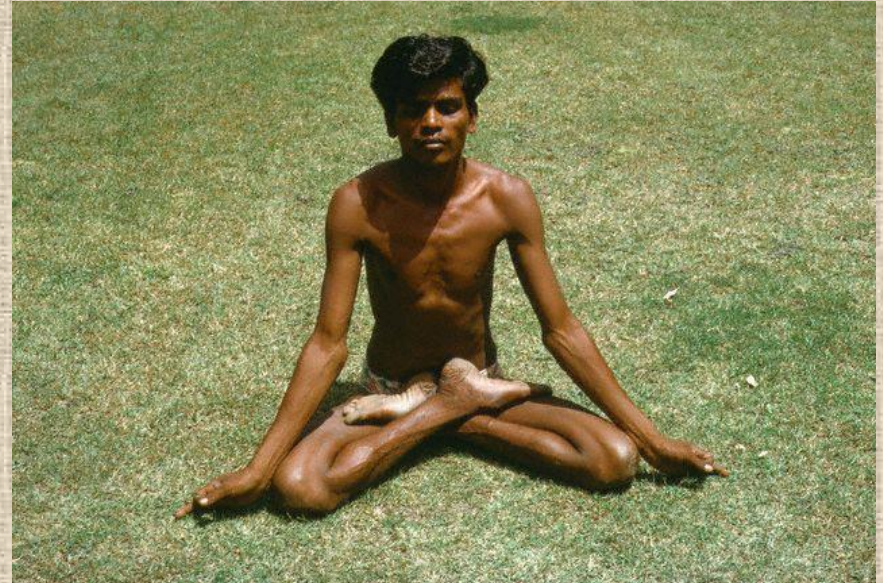
# Yoga

Was developed as a method of training the body to achieve oneness with Brahman.

It is a form of meditation

Yoga entails mastery over the body, mind, and emotional self, and transcendence of desire. According to the followers, the Yogi eventually reaches the enlightened state (*Moksha*) where there is a cessation of thought and an experience of blissful union.

(Wikipedia)





# The Caste System!!!

The Caste System is a system of social division in India.

There is some debate as to its origins, but it is made up of four main castes and several sub-castes. You are born into your caste and may not change your caste within your lifetime.

## Brahmins

The top caste, the priests. They are the closest to Brahman

## Kshatriyas

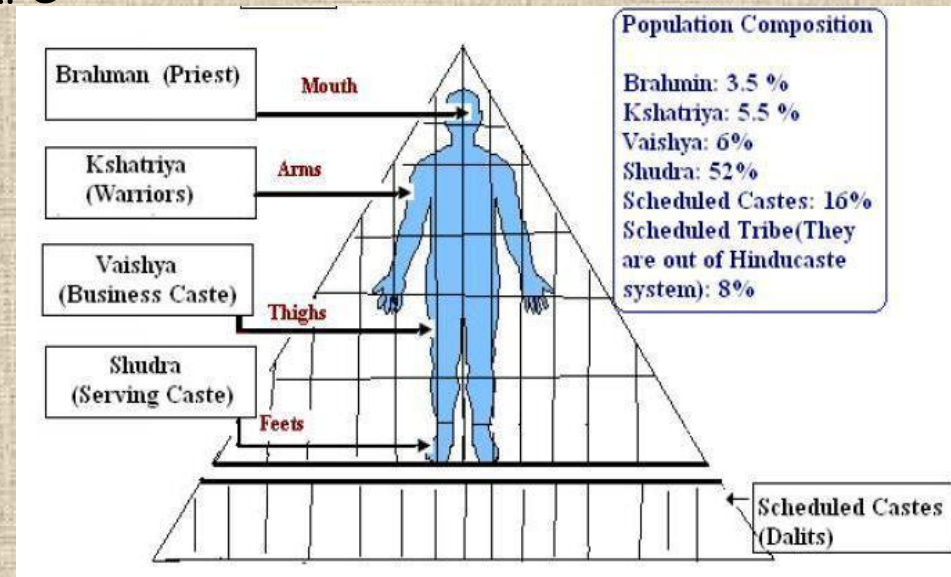
Second Caste, the warriors and princes

## Vaishya

Merchants, artisans and landowners (Skilled workers)

## Shudra

The workers, the lowest caste. (unskilled workers)



Each caste has its own Dharma, or duty. You must obey the dharma of your caste to earn good Karma and be able to be reincarnated at a higher caste in the next life.



## Untouchables

These people were the bottom of Hindu society, they are not considered part of the caste system.

About 5% of the population of India. They are required to perform the dirtiest jobs dealing with trash, human waste, and death.

People of other castes refuse to do these jobs because they may damage their Karma.

In the past Untouchables were not allowed to associate with people of other castes. They were even required to carry of noisemaker to warn people of the approach so they would not accidentally run into someone.

Discrimination against them continues today, even though the caste system has been declared illegal.





## Section 2

### Mauryan Dynasty

Aryan Influence: Aryans influenced the language and social structure of Indian Society.

Aryan influence also led to the development of Hinduism and Buddhism.

Later Invasions: Alexander the Great eventually spread into India in 327 B.C., but his soldiers couldn't deal with the Monsoon rains and so they forced him to turn back.





**Founding of the Mauryan Dynasty**  
Founded by Chandragupta Maurya,  
who ruled from 324 to 301 B.C.

## **Organization**

The King set up his government  
with governors and secret police.  
He feared being poisoned and so  
had people taste all of his food.





**Asoka (Ashoka):** The empire flourished under his rule  
He is often considered the greatest ruler in the history of India.



## Religious Conversion

After he converted to Buddhism he used Buddhist ideals for his rule.

## Buddhist Ideals

He set up hospitals for animals and people. He ordered trees to be planted along the roads to provide shade for travelers. He gave up war and violence being almost the exact opposite of his grandfather, Chandragupta. He freed his prisoners and gave them back their land

## Missionaries

Asoka sent missionaries throughout Asia.

He is greatly responsible for spreading Buddhism outside India into the rest of Asia.



सत्यमेव जयते





Ashoka erected pillars and stupas → throughout his empire and beyond. He inscribed them with Buddhist teachings to spread the religion.



The Guptas: India had its golden age under the Guptas

Chandragupta (No Relation): Founder of the Gupta Empire. He established his capital at the old Maurya city of Pataliputra.



Samudragupta: Expanded the Empire

Dominant Political Force  
The Guptas became the most powerful force in the region.  
They engaged in trade with China, SE Asia, and the Mediterranean.





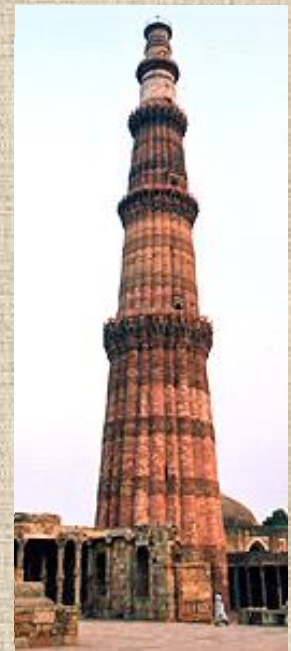


**Chandragupta II:** The Gupta Empire reached its greatest point under him. He controlled a vast empire, from the mouth of the Ganges to the mouth of the Indus River and from what is now North Pakistan

**Trade:** The Guptas traded with people from China, SE Asia, and the Mediterranean.

**Pilgrim routes:** Religious trade was also vital to their economy. Religious travelers, or pilgrims, journeyed through India for different religious reasons.

**Huns:** Eventually the Huns invaded from central Asia and brought an end to the Golden age of the Guptas.



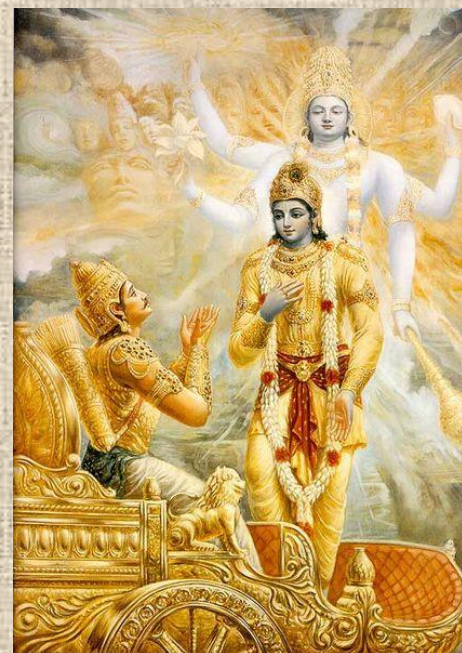
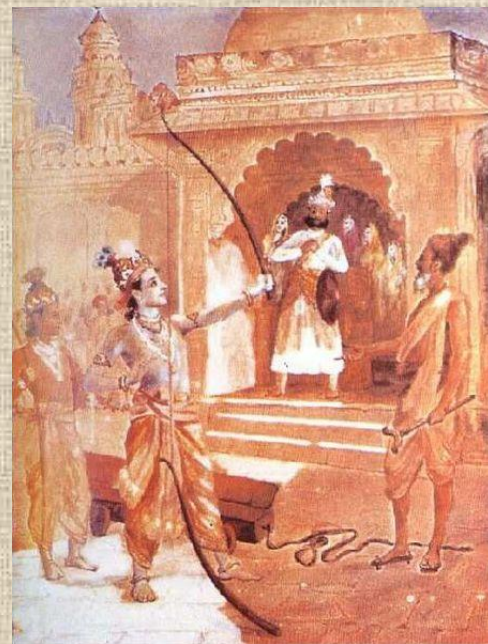
# Indian Culture Literature

**Vedas:** main scriptural texts of Hinduism

**Upanishads:** are part of the Vedas and form the Hindu scriptures which primarily discuss philosophy, meditation, and the nature of God

**Ramayana:** an ancient Sanskrit epic attributed to the poet Valmiki and is an important part of the Hindu canon

**Mahabharata (Bhagavad Gita):** Holy text of a conversation between Krishna and Arjuna taking place on the battlefield of just prior to the start of a war. It explains many moral principles of Hinduism and explains Karma





# Architecture

Ashoka erected pillars to spread Buddhist teachings throughout his empire.



# Science and Mathematics

The decimal numeral system, including the concept of zero, was invented in India during the reign of the Guptas

## Algebra

Our Numbering System, now called Arabic Numbers

During the Gupta empire philosophers first proposed that the earth was not flat, but was instead round and rotated on an axis by viewing a lunar eclipses.

