

## UNIT 1: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS

### The Ancient East: India and China

#### I. The Land of India

- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ hangs down from the southern edge of Asia. Its diverse geography has a number of core regions.
- B. In the north are the highest mountains in the world, the \_\_\_\_\_. Just south of the Himalaya is the rich valley of the \_\_\_\_\_, one of the most important regions of Indian culture. The relatively dry Indus River valley lies to the west. It runs through modern-day Pakistan.
- C. The \_\_\_\_\_ lies south of these two river valleys. It is a hilly and dry plateau extending from the southern Ganges valley to the southern end of India. Lush plains, historically the most densely populated regions in India, lie on the east and west coasts.
- D. The \_\_\_\_\_ are the most important feature of the Indian climate. Monsoons are seasonal wind patterns. The southwest monsoons bring the heavy rain on which Indian farmers have depended to grow their crops. If the rains are too light or heavy, early or late, crops are destroyed and thousands of Indians likely starve.

#### II. India's First Civilization

- A. Early civilization in India developed in the Indus River valley. A civilization flourished there from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
- B.C. Archaeologists have found remains of over a thousand settlements in this area.
- B. Two sites have ruins of the major cities \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. The advanced civilization that flourished for hundreds of years in these cities is called the Harappan or Indus civilization.
- C. Each of these cities had around 35,000 people and each was planned carefully. The cities had a \_\_\_\_\_ and were divided into walled neighborhoods. Some houses were as high as three stories. Buildings were constructed of \_\_\_\_\_. Public wells supplied water, and bathrooms used an advanced drainage system. A chute system took household trash to public garbage bins. The careful structure of these cities showed that this civilization had \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. Harappan rulers based their power on a belief in divine assistance. As in all ancient civilizations, \_\_\_\_\_ and political power were linked closely.
- E. Priests probably performed rituals to a fertility goddess to guarantee a good annual harvest. The Harappan economy depended on agriculture. The chief crops were wheat, barley, and \_\_\_\_\_.
- F. The Indus valley civilization traded extensively with \_\_\_\_\_. They traded copper, lumber, and various luxury goods for Sumerian textiles and food. Much of the trade was by ship through the \_\_\_\_\_, which lies between present-day Saudi Arabia and Iran.

### III. The Arrival of the Aryans

- A. Aryan invaders ended the civilization of the Indus River valley by conquering the Harappans. The \_\_\_\_\_ were a nomadic Indo-European people living in central Asia. Around 1500 B.C. they moved south across the \_\_\_\_\_ mountain range into northern India.
- B. The Aryans created a new Indian society. Like other nomadic people, the Aryans excelled at war. By \_\_\_\_\_ they had extended their control throughout India.
- C. In India these nomadic warriors gave up the pastoral life for regular farming. The introduction of iron helped make this change, especially the introduction of the \_\_\_\_\_, which could be used to clear the dense jungle growth along the Ganges. Irrigation systems turned the area into productive farmland.
- D. Wheat, barley, and millet were grown in the north. Rice was grown in the fertile river valleys. Vegetables, grains, cotton, and spices such as cinnamon and pepper were grown in the south.
- E. As nomads, the Aryans had no written language. They developed their first written language, \_\_\_\_\_, around 1000 B.C. They wrote down the religious rituals, legends, and chants that previously had been passed down orally.
- F. Early Aryan writings also reveal that between 1500 B.C. and 400 B.C., Aryan leaders known as \_\_\_\_\_ (princes) dominated India. Each carved out a small state and fought other Aryan chieftains.

### IV. Society in Ancient India

- A. The Aryan conquest had a lasting effect on India. The meeting of conquered and conqueror created a set of social institutions and class divisions that last to this day.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ was one of the most important Indian social creations. It set up a rigid hierarchy of classes that determines a person's occupation, economic potential, and social status. In part it was based on skin color.
- C. There were five major classes, or \_\_\_\_\_. The top two castes were the Aryan ruling elites, the priests and warriors. The highest were members of the priestly class, or \_\_\_\_\_. The warriors were called \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. The third caste was made up of commoners, who for the most part were merchants. Members of this caste were called the \_\_\_\_\_. Below this were the \_\_\_\_\_, who made up most of the Indian population. They were the darker-skinned natives the Aryans had conquered. Most were peasants who did manual labor, and their rights were limited.
- E. The \_\_\_\_\_ made up the lowest rung of Indian society. They performed jobs considered degrading by Indian society, like collecting trash and handling the dead. They made up about 5 percent of ancient India's population.
- F. The life of an Untouchable was difficult. They were not considered \_\_\_\_\_ and their presence was considered harmful. They lived in ghettos. When they traveled they had to tap sticks together so others would know they were coming and could avoid them.

- G.** The family was the basic unit of ancient Indian society. The ideal was to have an extended family of three generations under one roof.
- H.** The \_\_\_\_\_ had legal authority over the entire family, which made the family unit patriarchal. Generally, only males could inherit property and were educated. Women could not be priests. Divorce was forbidden, but men could take a second wife if the first was not able to bear children. Children were important primarily because they were to take care of their aging and elderly parents.
- I.** Marriages were arranged. Men married after 12 years of study. Girls married young because they were an economic drain on the family.
- J.** Perhaps the strongest instance of male domination in India is \_\_\_\_\_. In India the dead were burned on funeral pyres. Sutttee required a wife to throw herself on her dead husband's funeral pyre and die herself. Those who refused were disgraced.

### **V. The Mauryan Dynasty**

- A.** After 400 B.C., India faced new threats from the west. first from \_\_\_\_\_, then from Greece and Macedonia, under Alexander the Great.
- B.** Alexander invaded northern India in 327 B.C. He left quickly, but his invasion gave rise to the first Indian dynasty.
- C.** Chandragupta \_\_\_\_\_, who ruled from 324 to 301 B.C., founded the new Indian state. This first Indian Empire was highly centralized and governed by an ideal of exercising power impartially.
- D.** The empire was divided into provinces, ruled by governors. The king had a large army and secret police.
- E.** The Mauryan Empire flourished under the reign of \_\_\_\_\_, Chandragupta Maurya's grandson. Most consider \_\_\_\_\_ the greatest Indian ruler ever. He converted to \_\_\_\_\_ and governed in accordance with \_\_\_\_\_ ideals. His kindness was legendary. He set up hospitals for people and animals, and a system of shade trees and shelters for travelers.
- F.** India flourished economically under Asoka. It became an important crossroads in a commercial network from the Pacific Rim to Southwest Asia and the Mediterranean Sea.
- G.** Asoka died in 232 B.C. The empire then declined. The last Mauryan ruler was killed in 183 B.C., and India fell into disunity.

## VI. The Kushan Kingdom and the Silk Road

- A. In the first century A.D. nomadic warriors established the Kushan kingdom in what is now \_\_\_\_\_ . It spread south as far as the central Ganges Valley.
- B. The Kushans prospered by the trade that went through their country. Most of the trade was between the Roman Empire and China, along a 4,000 mile route called the \_\_\_\_\_. It reached from \_\_\_\_\_ in China to \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ on the coast of the \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Because camel caravans were dangerous and expensive, merchants shipped only \_\_\_\_\_ on the Silk Road. Chinese merchants traded silk, spices, tea, and porcelain. Indian merchants shipped ivory, jewels, and textiles. The Romans traded glass, jewels, and clothes.
- D. The Romans especially desired silk. The Roman name for China was Serica, or “\_\_\_\_\_.”

## VII. The Kingdom of the Guptas

- A. Persian invaders ended the Kushan kingdom in the third century A.D. Chandragupta, a local prince, established a new kingdom in 320. His son, Samudragupta, expanded the empire. He was famous for his physique and exploits in war.
- B. The kingdom of the Guptas became the dominant political force in northern India. It created a new age of Indian civilization, especially under its greatest ruler, Chandragupta II, who ruled from 375 to 415.
- C. A Chinese Buddhist monk named \_\_\_\_\_ described the greatness of its culture. (See page 87.) He spent several years in northern India, and admired the virtuousness of the government, its tolerance of Buddhism, and the region's economic prosperity.
- D. The Gupta Empire prospered principally from mining, farming, and trade. The Gupta rulers owned gold mines, silver mines, and vast lands. They traded salt, cloth, and iron domestically and as far away as China and the Mediterranean.
- E. The Gupta Empire profited greatly from religious trade with religious \_\_\_\_\_. Pilgrims travel to religious sites to worship. Cities famous for their temples and as religious centers rose up along the main Indian trade routes.
- F. Later Gupta rulers lived extravagantly, which weakened the people's loyalty. In the fifth century A.D., invasion by nomadic \_\_\_\_\_ from the northwest weakened the empire. It finally died out completely by the end of the seventh century. North India would not be reunited for hundreds of years.

### VIII. The World of Indian Culture

- A.** India has one of the richest cultures in world history. Indian civilization has made contributions in the arts and sciences.
- B.** The \_\_\_\_\_ are the earliest known Indian literature. These Aryan texts are religious. Originally passed down orally, eventually they were written down in Sanskrit.
- C.** With writing came the early Indian epic poems, the *Mahabharata* and the *Ramayana*. Both recount the legendary deeds of great warriors.
- D.** The *Mahabharata* was probably written around 100 B.C. It is the world's \_\_\_\_\_. It describes a war between cousins for control of the kingdom.
- E.** The most famous part of the poem is the \_\_\_\_\_, in which the god Krishna on the eve of a battle expresses an important idea of Indian society: When deciding how to act, do not consider success or failure, but only the action's morality.
- F.** The *Ramayana* recounts how the fictional ruler Rama is banished from his kingdom and has to fight a demon that kidnapped his wife. This text also teaches moral lessons. Rama stands as the ideal Aryan hero, and Sita embodies perfect wifely loyalty to her husband. These books remain important in Indian culture to this day.
- G.** \_\_\_\_\_ is one of ancient India's most famous authors. His poem, *The Cloud Messenger*, remains one of the most popular poems in Sanskrit.
- H.** Early Indian architecture flourished during the Mauryan Empire, especially under Asoka. He wanted to spread the ideas of Buddhism, and so he built many religious structures.
- I.** The three principal religious structures were the \_\_\_\_\_, the \_\_\_\_\_, and the rock chamber. The pillars marked sites pertinent to the Buddha's life. A carving with a Buddhist message topped these huge pillars.
- J.** Stupas were built like burial mounds and held relics of the Buddha, such as a lock of hair. Stupas rose quite high and each was surrounded by a spire. Legend said that in order to spread Buddhism, Asoka ordered the construction of \_\_\_\_\_ stupas.
- K.** Rock chambers carved out of mountainsides served as houses for monks and halls for religious ceremonies.
- L.** Ancient Indian scientists were most known for \_\_\_\_\_. They charted the movements of the heavenly bodies, recognized that Earth was a sphere, and believed rightly that Earth rotated on its axis and revolved around the sun.
- M.** Ancient Indian mathematicians were very important. \_\_\_\_\_ was the Gupta Empire's most famous mathematician. He devised a decimal system of counting in tens, unknown anywhere else in the world. Arab scholars adopted this system, and European traders spread it throughout Europe. Indian mathematicians also introduced the concept of zero.

## IX. The Geography of China

- A. One of the greatest food-producing areas of the ancient world developed in the valleys of two rivers in China: the \_\_\_\_\_ (Yellow River, so named for its rich, yellow silt) and the \_\_\_\_\_ (Yangtze River).
- B. The Huang He, which flows from \_\_\_\_\_ to the Pacific Ocean, is 2,900 miles long. The Chang Jiang, which stretches across central China to the \_\_\_\_\_, is 3,400 miles long.
- C. Only 12 percent of China can be used for agriculture. \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ cover much of the remaining countryside.
- D. These forbidding features isolated the Chinese from other Asian people. The Mongolian, Indo-European, and Turkish peoples who lived along China's frontiers often \_\_\_\_\_ with the Chinese.

## X. The Shang Dynasty

- A. Chinese history begins with the \_\_\_\_\_, over four thousand years ago. Not much is known about this dynasty.
- B. The Xia was replaced by the \_\_\_\_\_ (1750 to 1122 B.C.). An \_\_\_\_\_ an upper class whose wealth is based on land and whose power is passed on from one generation to another dominated this farming society.
- C. The king ruled over a system of territories run by aristocratic warlords and was expected to defend the empire. There was a strong central government. The king's importance is shown by the \_\_\_\_\_ performed at his death; corpses of servants were placed in the king's tomb.
- D. The Chinese believed that supernatural forces could help with worldly life. To get this help, priests read \_\_\_\_\_. A king's question to the gods would be etched on a bone. The bones were heated until they cracked. Priests would interpret the meaning of the cracks. These bones are a valuable source of information about the Shang period.
- E. Most of the Shang were \_\_\_\_\_, with much smaller groups of artisans, merchants, and slaves.
- F. The Chinese believed strongly in life after death. This belief is the basis for the Chinese veneration of \_\_\_\_\_, known in the West as "ancestor worship." The Chinese believed that the spirits of family ancestors could bring good or bad fortune to the living family, so they treated the spirits well.
- G. The annual festival called Qingming ("Clear and Bright") was for the ancestors. Families cleaned the family graves and brought food for their ancestors' spirits.
- H. The Shang's bronze objects are among the most admired Chinese arts.

## XI. The Zhou Dynasty

- A. The leader of the Zhou territory revolted against the Shang king and established the \_\_\_\_\_, which lasted from 1122 to 256 B.C., making it China's longest dynasty.
- B. The Zhou king continued the Shang political structure and royal duties, but the bureaucracy expanded.
- C. The king was believed to connect \_\_\_\_\_ and Earth. Among the king's most important duties was performing rituals to strengthen this link.
- D. The Chinese began to develop a theory of government. The Zhou dynasty claimed it ruled by the \_\_\_\_\_. This view stated that Heaven, an impersonal law of nature, kept order in the world through the Zhou king. This concept became a basic part of Chinese political theory.
- E. Under the Mandate of Heaven, the king was expected to be virtuous and to rule with goodness and efficiency. The king was expected to rule according to the proper "Way," called the \_\_\_\_\_. If he did, the gods would be pleased.
- F. Events like a bad harvest were signs that the gods were not pleased and grounds for overthrowing the king. The Mandate of Heaven, then, set forth a right of \_\_\_\_\_. It also implied that the king himself was not divine.
- G. The Mandate of Heaven helped legitimate the dynastic cycles that governed Chinese history from its beginning to A.D. \_\_\_\_\_.
- H. Later Zhou rulers were weak and corrupt. Civil war finally broke out in 403 B.C. Thus began the period known as the "Period of the \_\_\_\_\_."
- I. Warfare had changed in China. Armies used iron weapons and were divided into infantry and cavalry. Cavalry was armed with the powerful \_\_\_\_\_, which the Chinese invented.
- J. Peasants worked on land owned by the \_\_\_\_\_, along with a little land of their own. Artisans and merchants lived in walled towns. The merchants were the local lord's property. Slaves also existed. Trade was principally local, along with importing salt, cloth, iron, and luxury goods.
- K. By the sixth century B.C., farmers were using large-scale water works for their fields. Using iron plowshares increased food production because farmers could cultivate more land. The Chinese population reached \_\_\_\_\_ in the late Zhou dynasty, in part due to the increased food production.
- L. \_\_\_\_\_ was one of China's most important exports. Chinese silk from this period has been found all over central Asia and as far as Athens, Greece.
- M. The Chinese had, and have, strong beliefs about the family. It was both the basic economic unit and a symbol of the social order. Most important to Chinese family life is the concept of \_\_\_\_\_.
- N. *Filial piety* refers to the duty of family members to \_\_\_\_\_ their needs to the male head of the family and the older generations.

- O. Men dominated Chinese society. Men were considered so important because they were responsible for \_\_\_\_\_ for the family and caring for their parents later in life. Men governed society, and were warriors and scholars. Women raised children and stayed at home.
- P. Perhaps the most important cultural contribution of ancient China is the Chinese written language. It was primarily pictographic and ideographic.
- Q. Pictographs are picture symbols, called characters. Ideographs combine two or more pictographs. Each character is associated with a sound. Generally, this step leads cultures to replace character writing with phonetic (sound) writing. The Chinese language, however, has not completely abandoned its original form.

## XII. The Qin Dynasty (221–206 B.C.)

- A. The Qin dynasty emerged in 221 B.C. from China's bloody civil wars between 400 B.C. and 200 B.C. \_\_\_\_\_ established the dynasty.
- B. The \_\_\_\_\_ adopted Legalism. Political opponents of the \_\_\_\_\_ (the government in power) were imprisoned or executed. Books that opposed the official views were burned. The Qin made the central government stronger. The government was divided into three ministries: the civil, the military, and the \_\_\_\_\_. Members of the censorate checked on government officials to make sure they were doing their jobs. Future Chinese dynasties adopted this practice and kept this structure.
- C. Qin Shihuangdi unified the Chinese world by creating a \_\_\_\_\_ system and a road system. He extended the empire south to modern-day Vietnam. The harsh rule of the Qin dynasty angered many people. The dynasty fell in 206 B.C.
- D. The Qin emperor was concerned with the \_\_\_\_\_, a nomadic people who lived near the \_\_\_\_\_. The Xiongnu had mastered warfare from horseback. They attacked the Chinese living in the north. To protect these people, Qin Shihuangdi built a system of walls called the \_\_\_\_\_. The Great Wall standing today was built 1,500 years later.

## XIII. The Han Dynasty and Culture in Qin and Han China

- A. The \_\_\_\_\_ was one of China's greatest dynasties. It emerged in 202 B.C. and was founded by \_\_\_\_\_, who was of peasant origin. He replaced Legalism with Confucianism. He kept the division of the central government into three ministries and the division of the empire into provinces.
- B. The Han rulers continued to choose government officials by merit and not birth. The Han instituted the civil service examination and established schools to train candidates for government service. This system for training officials influenced China for two thousand years. Students learned Confucius's teachings, Chinese history, and Chinese law. \_\_\_\_\_ added land to the south to the empire, as far as the \_\_\_\_\_, in what is today northern Vietnam.

- C.** The free peasants suffered during the Han period. Military service and a month's forced labor each year were required. The tripling of the population shrank the size of the individual farm plot to about one acre a person - barely enough to survive. Free farmers became \_\_\_\_\_ farmers.
- D.** Technology progressed under the Han. There were advances in textile manufacturing, water mills, and iron casting, the latter leading to the invention of \_\_\_\_\_. The invention of the rudder and fore-and-aft rigging made sailing into the wind possible for the first time. Chinese traders were able to sail into the \_\_\_\_\_, expanding trade tremendously.
- E.** \_\_\_\_\_ was developed in the Han period.
- F.** Over time, Han rulers too involved with pleasure weakened the government. The aristocratic families filled the power void, often corruptly and brutally. \_\_\_\_\_ became common. The Han dynasty fell in A.D. 220. Civil wars followed, and the next dynasty was not established for four hundred years.
- G.** The Qin and Han dynasties were known for their cultural achievements. The key Confucian works were printed in a set. Generations of Chinese schoolchildren learned the norms of proper behavior from these texts.
- H.** The most remarkable artistic discovery was of a \_\_\_\_\_ containing thousands of life-size, lifelike, terra-cotta (hardened clay) soldiers. Archaeologists believe they are replicas of Qin Shihuangdi's imperial guard accompanying him to the next world. Their most striking feature is the \_\_\_\_\_ of the faces, which reflect the different ethnic types in the army.