

Chapter Six Social Studies: Ancient India Study Guide

Lesson One

Indus River-flows through China, India, and Pakistan.

- First place in the world that farming developed. (Around 6000 B.C.)
- Begins in the world's tallest mountains-the Himalayas

Subcontinent-is a large landmass that is geographically separated from the rest of a continent.

Indus Plain

- Located on a plain where the Indus River spills out and fertile silt is deposited.

Farming

- Indus Valley began being farmed around 6000 B.C. (1000 years before Egypt)
- Grew wheat, barley, beans, sesame, rice, banana, black pepper, mustard, and cotton crops,
- Domesticated cattle and water buffalo
- Built irrigation canals
- Crops grew quickly because of hot climate; they could harvest twice a year
 - Wheat and barley were planted in the fall
 - Sesame and cotton were then quickly planted after the fall harvest
 - Dirt walls were constructed to protect these crops from the Indus flood
- Flooding and wildlife made farming difficult.

Lesson Two

Indus Valley Civilization

- Called the Harappan Civilization
- Lasted from about 2500 B.C. until about 1600 B.C.
- Mohenjo-Daro -city found located in the south
 - Have paved and unpaved streets
 - May have been home to more than 40,000 people
 - Citadel was located in the west end
 - Had sewer system and wells were dug throughout the city
 - Workers were highly skilled and included: Potters, Metalworkers, Weavers, and Farmers

Citadel-Massive fort

Migrated-move from one place to another to live.

Lesson Three

Vedas-books of knowledge

- first building blocks of Hinduism
- told how they should live and explained life
- contained more than 1000 hymns

Hinduism and Culture

- Caste System-a way of organizing people into hundreds of different levels (Hinduism had 4)
 - Place in society was determined by rank of the family you were born into
 - Priests were the highest rank and respect
- Reincarnation-constant cycle of rebirth
 - Hindus believe that bad deeds done in one lifetime must be paid for in the person's next lifetime.
- Dharma-laws and duties
 - People who married against the rules of their caste or who did a job that was not allowed in their caste were forced to live outside their caste and lived their lives as "Untouchables"

-Hinduism allowed the existence of more than one god and more than one truth.

Hinduism Today

- Worship many different gods and goddesses
- Many Hindus still consider the Vedas the most holy book of their religion
- 1950 the Indian government made it illegal to mistreat or to show disrespect for Hindu "outcasts"
- One of world's oldest religions
- Has hundreds of millions of followers

Lesson Four

Buddhism

- Today there are more than 330 million Buddhists
- A young prince named Siddhartha became the first Buddha
- Believed that people went through a cycle of rebirth, death, rebirth or reincarnation
- Believed in Karma (a force caused by a person's good and bad acts)
- Felt it most important to reach peace by ending suffering - Four Noble Truths
 - 1)Life is filled with suffering
 - 2)Suffering is caused by people's wants. People may want more pleasure, more power, or a longer life.
 - 3)Suffering can be ended if people stop wanting things.
 - 4)To stop wanting things, people must follow eight basic laws
- The way to end suffering was the Eightfold Path which is a set of instructions on the proper way to live.
- The Eightfold Path was meant to be a middle way of life for Buddhists
- After Buddha's death in 483 B.C. Buddhism spread throughout southern and eastern Asia.

Monk-a man who devotes his life to a religious group.

Current Buddhist beliefs

- honor Buddha and his teachings and helping others to end suffering