Ancient India: Indus River Valley Civilization

https://youtu.be/vskHZIP

JCE4
Setting the Stage – Ancient India Geography Challenge
Geography and the Early Settlement of India

Big idea: How did geography effect the Indus River Valley civilization?

- Rivers, including the Ganges
- Mountains, including the Himalayas
- Plains
- Plateaus
- Deserts
- Valleys
Identification of Geographic Features in India

- Indus River
- Ganges River
- Peninsula and/or Subcontinent
India’s Geographic Features

- The Indian subcontinent is a large, wedge-shaped peninsula that extends southward into the Indian Ocean.
- Subcontinent: A large region that is part of a continent, but is separated from the rest of the content in some way.
13.1 Geography – Brahmaputra River

- Runs through the Himalayan Mountains in Northern India
- Becomes slower and deeper as it flows into its valley.
- Joins the Ganges River in the plains
Seasonal winds known as **monsoons** bring rain every summer. India is dependent upon monsoons to grow their crops. Not enough rain brings drought. When there is too much rain, rivers rise and cause deadly floods and destruction of crops.
13.2 Geography – Deccan Plateau

- A triangle-shaped area between two mountain ranges in Southern India
- *Plateau* – a flat area of land that is elevated, or raised above the land around it.
- Features
  - Flatter – large rocks formed by volcanoes – world’s oldest
  - Hillier section – thin forests with low, shrubby bushes
  - Dry
  - Few rivers – water comes from the monsoons
- Soil
  - Black – rich in iron (remember Egypt’s silt?!
  - Yellow & red – lack key minerals
13.3 Geography – Eastern and Western Ghats

- Long mountain chains
- Eastern Ghats
  - Several rivers flow through these green mountains, includes hardwoods
  - Rivers unsafe with rocks and cliffs – but rarely floods
- Western Ghats
  - Higher than the Eastern
  - Step slopes
  - Narrow valleys
  - Thick hardwood forests
  - Extremely heavy rains
  - Wet climate – encourages growth
13.4 Geography – Ganges River

- Starts in the Himalayas and flows across the north to the south
- Carries silt from the Himalayans to the northern plains – leaves sediment behind in the plains
- Sufficient water supply from Himalayans melted ices
- In monsoon season – river floods and destroys crops
13.5 Geography – Himalayan Mountains

- Name means “Home of Snow”
- World’s highest mountain ranges and Mt Everest
- Natural border
- Heavy storms bring large amounts of snow – feeds northern India’s major rivers.
- This has often limited India's contact with other cultures. This is known as **cultural isolation**.
- **Reflection** – How would isolation impact the people on Ancient India?
13.6 Geography – Hindu Kush Mountains

- Forms rugged barrier between Indus River Valley and Afghanistan
- Shorter than Himalayas, but still one of the tallest in the world
13.7 Geography – Indus River

- Begins – Himalayans
  - Water – melting snow of Hindu Kush Mountains
  - Runs through present-day Pakistan and empties into the Arabian Sea.

- Some of the world’s best farmland
  - Carries silt from mountains to the plains
  - Comparison to Egypt’s Nile River – important source of water for farmland
13.8 Geography – Thar Desert

- **Massive – mostly sand & stone**
  - Little plants
  - Huge sand dunes
- **Dry conditions**
  - Scarcity of water
  - Dust storms common
- **Wildlife**
  - 45 kinds of lizards and snakes
  - Gazelles & antelopes
  - Birds – ducks, quail & geese
13.9 Early Settlements in India

- About 2500 BC, about the time when the pyramids were rising in Egypt, the first Indian civilizations were forming in the Indus River Valley.
- Geography influenced the location of early settlements
  - Indus and Ganges river valleys vital push-pull factors
- Little is known about these civilizations, but Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were most likely twin capital cities.
Intro – Unlocking the Secrets of Mohenjo-Daro

Big Idea: What can artifacts tell us about daily life in Mohenjo-Daro?

- Early settlements included Mohenjo-Daro ("Place or Hill of the Dead") and Harappa
- Flourished for about 800 years – 2700-1900 BCE
- Two main parts
  - Citadel – safety system
  - Below the citadel – houses and workshops
14.1 The Mystery of Mohenjo-Daro

- On the banks of the Indus River – present day Pakistan
- Layout
  - Below the citadel – 9 streets divided into blocks
  - Houses and workshops made from mud brick
- Advanced culture
- Disappeared around 1900 BCE, but why?
  - Warriors?
  - Natural events
14.2 Weights and Scale

- Found a scale and several kinds of stone weight in citadel walls
  - Granary? – a place to store grain
  - Public structure?
  - Artifacts found nearby
    - Most weights cube shaped – standard weights
    - Marked rods - measurements
14.3 The Great Bath

- A pool built of waterproof brick
- 39’ long x 8’ deep
- Dressing rooms on the side
- Well water room
- Dirty water drained
- Bathing or religious rituals?
14.4 Statue and Beads

- Statue found in lower city – 7” high
  - How they dressed or looked?
  - Beard and hair tied back
  - Patterned robe
  - Possibly priest and/or king

- Stone beads
  - Many shapes and colors
  - Did they wear necklaces, bracelets, earrings, and rings
  - Beads made in a kiln
  - Artisans
14.5 Seals

- Many small stone seals found – carved with pictographs
  - More than 400 pictographs discovered
  - Many with animals
- Unknown purpose
  - Charms to keep away evil
  - Wax tax on their goods to show ownership
- Many small loops on the back
14.6 Sewer Systems

- Great achievement – advanced system
- Contain houses with plumbing systems, including drains, pipes, wells, and bathrooms
- 2000 years before Rome’s system
- Channel system of clay pipes connecting them to the main system.
- Emptied into the Indus River
- People stored water in wells
14.7 Homes

- Most people lived in the lower city – 3xs the size of the citadel
- Row houses - in a grid pattern, the blocks
- Houses:
  - flat roofs, 2 stories high – made of mud
  - Front – faced narrow alleys
  - Back – opened to a communal courtyard
  - 2nd floor window – screen made out of terra cotta or alabaster
  - From 1 to 12 rooms – social structure?
14.8 Games
- Objects found resemble toys and games
  - Dice, stone balls, grooved clay track & game boards
  - War game similar to early form of chess

14.9 Clay Models
- Made of terra-cotta
- One found – 2 bulls attached to a yoke
  - Shows how people transported farm goods to city’s market
Intro – Learning About World Religions: Hinduism

Big idea: What are the origins and beliefs of Hinduism

- The most influential set of religious beliefs in modern India
- Ancient traditions – cultural heritage
- Dharma – laws, duty, and obligation – following a specific set of rules
- Ramayana – one of the most famous ancient literary sacred Hindi texts
- Other beliefs – Brahman, deities, karma and samsara

https://youtu.be/IGV6M4wQ8Os
15.1 The Origins of Hinduism

- **Hinduism** – a religion that developed in India over many centuries; it traces its roots to older traditions, such as Vedic beliefs and Brahmanism
  - The Aryans, nomads, brought their god and rituals
  - Some local traditions – wide range of practices and beliefs
15.1 The Origins of Hinduism – The Vedas

- Vedas – a collection of ancient writings viewed as sacred by many Hindus
- Teachings written in Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language
- Handed down orally before being written in Sanskrit
- Rituals and sacrifices – polytheistic honors – nature and social order
- Brahmans – a class of priests and religious scholars grew to be important and responsible for interpreting the Vedas and performing rituals
- Modern Hinduism – very complex
15.2 Hinduism and the Caste System

- **Brahmanism** – ancient ritual traditions in which Brahmins played a key role; it grew out of the older Vedic religious beliefs that helped lead to Hinduism
- Created a way of life
- Taught – well organized society was divided into different social classes

https://youtu.be/8Nn5uqE3C9w
The Vedas described 4 main social classes, or varnas, each with its own duties:

- **Brahmins** – priests and religious scholars
- **Kshatriyas** – rulers and warriors
- **Vaishyas** – herders and merchants
- **Shudras** – servants, farmers, and laborers
  - Later came known as UNTOUCHABLES
  - Considered “dirty” because of their jobs and responsibilities
  - Could not enter many temples or attend schools
  - Many won’t touch them
15.3 Hindu Beliefs about Brahman

- **Brahman** – name of a supreme power, or divine force – believed to be greater than all deities
  - Only constant in the world
  - All cycles of the world (examples, the sun rising, spring following winter) result of Brahmans work.
  - Everything in the world part of Brahman – including the human soul, **atman**
  - Communicate to their deities through elaborate rituals and outdoor sacrifices outdoors
  - Build massive temples to worship deities
    - Huge size and design
    - Doors face the rising sun in the east
    - Covered in carvings and sculptures showing deities from sacred text
    - Interior – a tower with a small shrine
15.4 Hindu Beliefs about Deities

- Polytheistic religion
- Three important deities:
  - Brahma – created the universe
  - Vishnu – preserves the universe
  - Shiva – destroys the universe
- Other traditions – Devi – female powers in the universe
- Ramayana – includes a story where heroic deities battle evil
  - Rama battles Ravana, an evil spirit
  - Hindu New Year represents Rama’s triumph – celebrated at the Divali (“row of lights”) festival
15.5 Hindu Beliefs about Dharma

- **Dharma** – a belief found in Hinduism and other Indian traditions that a person has a duty or obligation to live an honorable life.

- **Stands for law, obligation, and duty**
  - Duty and honor
  - Duties based on social class
  - Believe – when everyone follows dharma, society works in harmony.
    - The dharma of their own class AND common dharma
      - Importance of marriage, sharing food, caring for one’s soul
    - Nonviolence – respect for life
    - Cow – symbolic – provides people with their needs
15.6 Hindu Beliefs about Karma

Karma – belief found in Hinduism and other Indian traditions that the good and evil done in the past determines the nature of the person’s next life.

Karma and dharma work hand in hand – karma explains the importance of dharma:

- If lived a good life – comes back in a higher social class
- If lived badly – comes back in a lower social class or as an animal
- Sees the universe as just or unjust – rewards and punishments

Now, many believed caste system does not allow for fair treatment of all:

- B.R. Ambedkar – chief architect of India’s first constitution – from lower class
- Today’s law – discrimination illegal – but a part of the system still
Belief in **reincarnation** – the belief that a person’s soul is reborn into a new body after death, called **samsara**.

**Samsara** – cycle of knowing life, pain, and death
- Ends when the soul escapes the cycle of rebirth and reunited with Brahman
  - Behave appropriately
  - Perform social duties
  - Worship faithfully
  - Keep karma in balance

**Used to go on pilgrimages** – a journey to a holy place – normally at the sacred places like the Ganges River
- Dangerous travel
- Lie facedown to worship
- Bathe in Ganges River – act of devotion & purification
Intro – Learning About World Religions: Buddhism

- Big idea: What are the main beliefs and teachings of Buddhism?
  - Developed in ancient India
  - Buddha means “Awakened One”
  - Differs from Hinduism

https://youtu.be/ZTI3P9zx-oY
16.1 Prince Siddhartha’s Birth

- Siddhartha Gautama – an Indian prince
  - He lived from about 563 to 483 B.C.E
  - His mother had a dream before he was born and the Brahmin priest interpreted the dream
    - Priests said the baby would be a “great man” with one of two paths – a prince that rules the universe or the Buddha, Sanskrit word meaning “Enlightened”
16.2 The Prince’s Royal Life

- His father kept him locked in the palace due to his fear the prince would give up his royal duties to seek a spiritual path.
  - Raised in “perfect beauty”
  - Given best educations, homes, food
  - Servants took care of all his needs
- Married at 16 with baby boy at 29
16.3 The Prince Discovers 3 Forms of Suffering

- More freedom to move around after he got married – witnessed 3 forms of suffering
  - Body of an old man weakened by age
  - A man sick, crying on the ground
  - A funeral party carrying the body of their dead
- 4th time – met an ascetic man with an inner glow of peace
  - The ascetic told him “to be free of suffering, one must give up the desires, pleasures, and comforts of the world. I find peace by helping others find peace.”
16.4 The Prince Becomes an Ascetic

- Ascetic – a person who gives up on worldly pleasures
- Empty from all his riches, so he gave up on them to find peace and happiness.
- On a search for enlightenment – the state of gaining spiritual insight and finding universal truth
- What does it mean?
  - To understand the natural world
  - To reach enlightenment through meditation
  - To deny many basic needs
- Did not feel it was effective enough
16.5 The Prince Becomes the Buddha

- Decided to find balance between extreme pleasures and pain – middle way
- On his 35th birthday – feeling he was close – a grass cutter gave him 8 handfuls of grass that he took to a tree
  - The tree is now named the Bodhi, or Enlightenment, Tree
  - Vow – to meditate under the tree until he reached enlightenment
- Visited by a wicked god, Mara, who then sent his 3 daughters: Discontent, Delight and Desire – temptation
- Focused on nirvana, an ideal state of happiness and peace
- Saw his past lives and the importance of karma before breaking free of the cycle, reaching enlightenment
16.5 The Prince Becomes the Buddha – The Four Noble Truths

- Basic principles of Buddhism
- Four Noble Truths

1) Suffering is present in all things, and nothing last forever.
2) Suffering is caused by cravings (desires and wants)
3) The way to end suffering is to give up all cravings
4) The way to give up all cravings is to live life according to the Eightfold Path.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Right Understanding</td>
<td>Having faith in the Buddhist view of the universe</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Right Intention</td>
<td>Making a commitment to practice Buddhism</td>
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<td>3. Right Speech</td>
<td>Avoiding lies and mean or abusive speech</td>
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<td>4. Right Action</td>
<td>Not taking life, not stealing, not hurting others</td>
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<td>5. Right Livelihood</td>
<td>Rejecting jobs and occupations that conflict with Buddhist ideals</td>
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<td>6. Right Effort</td>
<td>Avoiding bad attitudes and developing good ones</td>
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<td>7. Right Mindfulness</td>
<td>Being aware of the body, feelings, and thoughts</td>
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<td>8. Right Concentration</td>
<td>Thinking deeply to find answers to problems</td>
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Adapted from Encyclopaedia Britannica.
Introduction – The First Unification of India

- Big idea: How did Ashoka unify the Mauryan Empire and spread Buddhist values
  - King Ashoka of the Maurya family – first leaders to unite various kingdoms in India
  - Flourished form about 322 to 187 B.C.E
  - After seeing suffering in a fierce battle, he promised to give up the ways of violence – converted to Buddhism
  - Spread Buddhism through laws and edicts
The Mauryan Empire formed in 320s B.C.E by Chandragupta Maurya – found weaknesses in the north by in-fighting

- Negative – harsh ruler – network of spies and use of torture
- Positives
  - created a strong central government
  - Water supply for farmers
  - Built royal roads more than 1,000 miles long

Eventually, became an ascetic (remember Buddha)
17.2 Askoka’s Rule

- Mauryan Empire at its height under him
- After battle against the Kalinga kingdom transformed him, he decided to embrace Buddhist values: love, peace and nonviolence
  - Wanted his people to be respectful, kind and moral
  - Legacy – one a mission, his son Mahinda converted the king of Ceylon, now Sri Lanka, to Buddhism
- Challenges that differed from Buddhist belief
  - Still practiced slavery
  - People still executed for serious crimes
  - Did not give back the land previously conquered
17.3 Ashoka’s Edicts

- Ashoka's edicts were carved on cave walls, rocks, and towering pillars – on important roads / locations
- Designed to promote four main goals
  1. **Buddhist Values:** Edicts in this category are concerned with the Buddha's teachings about how to live a correct life.
  2. **General Welfare:** Edicts in this category are concerned with making sure people have good health, shelter, clean water, and enough food.
  3. **Justice:** Edicts in this category are concerned with fair laws and treatment in court and jail
  4. **Security:** Edicts in this category are concerned with the protection of people from foreign enemies.
Introduction – The Achievements of the Gupta Empire

- Big idea: Why is the period during the Gupta Empire known as the “golden age”?
  - The Gupta Empire – from 320 to 550 C.E.
  - Time of great prosperity and achievement
18.1 The Rise of the Gupta Empire

- The collapse of the Mauyan Empire in 187 B.C.E caused India to break into small parts again – 500 years of fighting over land and power

- Gupta Empire – started by Chandragupta I
  - United the north after conquering them, them created alliances by arranged marriages with other rulers.
  - Re-established a central government
  - New council – advised the king
  - Local provinces empowered to govern themselves
  - Encouraged arts and sciences
Learning encouraged – built many colleges and universities
- Either Hindu or Buddhist
- Primarily male students, unless a teacher’s daughter
- Classes – religion, mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, Sanskrit, sculpture, painting, music, dance

Most famous – a Buddhist school in Nalanda
- 8 colleges and 3 hospitals
- Taught Buddhist and Hindu philosophy, a theory or set of values by which one lives
Different types – poetry, fables, folktales, plays

- The *Puranas* ("Ancient Lore") – collection of Hindu legends taught in the Vedas
  - Guptas – first to gather stories and record them
- The *Mahabharata* ("Great Work") – collection of poems written over hundred of years
- The *Bhagavad Gita* ("Song of the Lord") – one of the most beloved works of Hinduism
  - Says Krishna, an earthly form of the deity Vishnu, taught basic truths of Hinduism to Prince Arjuna
18.4 Painting

- Painting – part of the way of life for noble families
- Life of nobles and royalty usually created on long scrolls
  Ajunta cave murals – depicts the life and stories of Buddha, along with some other persons, animals and items
18.5 Sculpture

- Created from stone, wood, bronze and terra-cotta
- Many include Buddha or Hindu deities
- Human form – simple and graceful
18.6 Metalwork

- Gupta kings controlled huge mines of gold, copper and iron
- Gold and copper coins with engravings of rulers
- Iron pillar at Meharauli
18.7 Mathematics

- Created a way of writing whole numbers using the numerals 1 through 9!!
- Developed the decimal system
- First to use zeroes as a real number
- LEGACY - USE THEIR SYSTEM OF NUMBERS STILL TODAY
- Mathematician, Aryabhata – used mat and astronomy to make important discoveries
  - Year = 365.258 days long
  - Approximate size of the Earth
  - Suggested the Earth spins on its axis
  - Imaginary line through the Earth’s center
18.8 Roads

- Encouraged trade by creating well-built roads
- Designed for safety and comfort
- Ditches installed to help prevent flooding during monsoon season
- Signs so people knew where they were, with distances
- Water wells – drinking & cooking
- Connected India to China and the Mediterranean Sea