Chapter 9: Outline Notes
“Ancient India”

Lesson 9.1 – Early Civilizations

The Geography of India:
- India and several other countries make up the _______________ of India.
  o A subcontinent is a large _______________ that is smaller than a continent. The Indian subcontinent is part of the _______________.
1. Mountains, Plains, and Rivers:
   a. To the north, India is separated from the rest of Asia by rugged mountain system. One of these mountains systems is the _______________ that has the tallest mountain in the world _______________.
   b. Wide fertile plains lie at the foot of India’s extensive mountain ranges. The plains owe their rich soil to the three great rivers that flow through the region. These are the ________, Ganges, and ________ rivers.
   c. The landforms in central and southern India are much different from the landforms in the north.
   d. Along the west and east coasts are lush ______________ ________. Further inland there are eroded mountains that left areas of rugged _________.
   e. Between the mountains is a dry highland known as the ____________________ ______________.
   f. Seasonal winds called ____________________ have a large influence on India’s climate.
      - The summer rains bring farmers ___________ that they need for their ____________.
      - People _________ the arrival of the monsoon rains.
      - However, they sometimes cause ________________ that destroy crops and can even kill _________ and _______________. If the rain comes too late, there may be a long dry period called a _________________.

The Indus Valley Civilization:
- India’s first civilization began in the valley around the ____________ River.
- The _______________ is called the cradle of ancient India and developed near a great ______________ system.
  a. About 5,000 years ago, nomads settled in valleys on the shores of the river. The soil was rich there, and farmers grew large crops of ______________, ______________, and _______________.
  b. The Indus people prospered and built _______________.
    1. Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa:
      a. At their peak, both Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa had more than ______________ residents.
      b. Each city had dozens of _______________, some paved with tan-colored ______________. At the west end of each city stood a _______________ built on a brick platform and surrounded by strong, thick walls.
      c. The Indus Valley people used oven-baked bricks to build their homes. Most houses had ______________ and some were several stories tall.
      d. The civilization’s engineers and builders were highly ______________. Large buildings stored grain, wells supplied _______________ and every house had at least one indoor _______________.
      e. Wastewater flowed through pipes and houses also had _______________ _______________ connected to bins in the streets
  2. What Was Life Like?
    a. Ruins show that cities’ royal palaces and temples may have been enclosed in a ________________.
    b. This shows the importance of both _______________ and _______________ in the settlements.
    c. Most Indus Valley people resided in _______________ _______________ surrounding the cities. City residents were merchants, shopkeepers, and artisans.
    d. Indus Valley merchants traveled as far as _______________ to trade. They made and sold copper and ________ tools, clay pottery, and ________ cloth.

Aryan Migrations and Settlements:
- Around 1900 B.C., the people of the Indus Valley began to ______________ their cities and villages due to severe drought that destroyed _______________ and caused people to _______________.
- Earthquakes and _______________ killed many people and changed the course of the Indus River.
Meanwhile, groups of people called the ___________ migrated to India and soon a new ______________ emerged.

1. The Indo-Europeans:
   a. The Aryans were not a race or ethnic group, many historians believe that the Aryan’s _______________ was part of a large language family known as the Indo-Europeans. A language family is a group of
   b. Indo-Europeans lived in _______________ ______________ but began __________________ to other places. Some moved west to Europe or south to Iran.
   c. The Aryans went to India and raised ______________ for meat, milk, and butter. They were expert horse ___________ and _______________ as well as fierce warriors.
   d. Overtime, the Aryans adopted a new way of life. They _______________ in one place and became _______________
   e. Eventually, the Aryans saw their herds as _______________ and banned the use of cattle as ____________.
   f. The Aryans began to make iron tools to clear _______________ so they could farm the land and build _______________ systems. Gradually, they turned the _______________ River valley into productive _______________.
      • The Aryans lived in _______________ that were led by a _______________. Rajas created their own small kingdoms that fought ________________ over cattle, treasure, and land.
   g. Like most nomads, early Aryans had no written _______________. After settling in villages, they developed _______________ which gave people a way to record sales, trade, and land ownership. Eventually hymns, _______________, poems, and _______________ were written in Sanskrit.
      • Later, they were recorded and collected into sacred texts known as _______________

Ancient Indian Society:

   • As Aryans settled into India, people set up towns along India’s ______________ River. As India’s economy grew, a system of social _______________ gradually developed.

1. What Were the Varna’s:
   a. The _______________ social classes of ancient India are called _______________. People were considered members of the Varna into which they were born.
      • The most powerful were the _______________ and _______________.
         1. Brahmins – were the _______________ who performed religious ceremonies.
         2. Kshatriyas – were _______________ who ran the government and army.
      • The _______________ or commoners were usually farmers craftspeople and merchants.
      • The _______________ who were manual workers and servants who had few _______________.
         Most Indians are in the Sudra Varna.
      • The four Varna were divided into thousands of smaller groups known as _______________. Most jati were based on the type of work a person did – they had their own strict rules for ______________, marriage, and _______________.
   b. In such a system, people remain the same _______________ or social group for life. People’s castes determine the jobs they take and who they _______________. The _______________ system helped the Aryans rule people who outnumbered them.
   c. At the lowest level of society were the _______________. These people were not even part of the Varna system. They did work that Varna Indians would not do such as collecting ______________, skinning ______________ and carrying ______________ bodies.
   d. In ancient India, the family was the _______________ of life. Grandparents, parents, and children lived together in an _______________ family. The oldest male in the family was in charge of the entire household.
      • Indian _______________ had more rights than women.
      • Males inherited property unless there were no sons, and men attend _______________ or became _______________.
      • Women were educated at _______________.
   e. In India’s leading families, boys had a _______________, or teacher, until he attended school in the city.
   f. Young men from these families could _______________ only after finishing _______________ of education
   g. Parents _______________ marriages for children and even today, marriages are _______________. In early India, boys and girls often married in their _______________ and people could not get _______________.
Lesson 9.1 Review Questions:

1) Why was the development of the Sanskrit important to making the Vedas last?

2) What are the four major social groups in the varna system?

Lesson 9.2 – Religions of Ancient India
Origins of Hinduism:

- Hinduism is one of the world’s oldest religions and the __________ largest religion after Christianity and __________. Hinduism developed from the faith of the __________.
- The sacred writings called ____________, teach the key ideas of Aryan religion.

1. What is Hinduism?
   a. A core belief of Hinduism is that there is one universal spirit called __________.
   b. The __________ describe the search for Brahman, saying that every living thing has a __________ that is a part of __________.
   c. Most ancient Indians could not understand the idea of Brahman. They believe in many different __________ that were more like people. Overtime, many Hindus came to think of all the deities as __________ of Brahman, the one __________.
   d. Hindus also believe in __________ or rebirth of the soul. They believe that each __________ must pass through many lives.
   e. According to karma, people’s status in life is not an __________. It is based on what they did in past lives.
   f. To earn a better existence in the next life, Hindus believe that they must follow __________, or personal duty. People’s duties are __________ depending on their society.
   g. Indians accepted the Hindu idea that __________ is sacred. __________ as well as people are treated with __________.
   h. The belief in __________ also made Indians more accepting of the __________ system. It was thought that if a person led a good life, they would be reborn into a __________.
   i. The ancient Hindus played musical instruments such as __________.

Rise of Buddhism:

- During the 500s B.C., some Indians felt __________ with the many ceremonies of the Hindu religion. They left their homes and looked for __________ in the hills and forests. Many trained their minds to focus and think in positive ways – this training was called __________.
- A teacher, __________ became known as the __________. He founded a new religion called Buddhism.

1. The Buddha:
   a. Today, __________ is a major world religion. Siddhartha grew up as a __________ in a small kingdom located in __________ India. Then one day he left his palace to explore the life of ordinary __________ in the kingdom.
   b. For the first time, he understood the world was filled with __________.
   c. He gave up everything and became a __________. His teaching became known as Buddhism.

2. What did the Buddha Teach?
   a. The Buddha taught his followers the __________.
      • 1. Life is full of __________.
      • 2. People suffer because they desire worldly things and want to satisfy themselves.
      • 3. The way to end suffering is to __________ desiring things.
      • 4. The only way to stop desiring things is to follow the __________ Path.
   b. When people were finally free from all earthly concerns, they would reach __________ - a feeling of perfect peace and happiness.
   c. Buddhism spread because it welcomed people from __________ walks of life. The Buddha placed little importance on the Varna system and explained that the success of life __________ on people’s behavior now.
   d. Buddha believed in reincarnation but in a different way. He taught that people could end the __________ of rebirth by following the Eightfold Path rather than their dharma.
3. Theravada Buddhism:
   a. Theravada means “________________________”. Followers view Buddha as a
great teacher not a __________. This is the major religion of the modern-day country of __________.

4. Mahayana Buddhism:
   a. Teaches that Buddha is a __________. They believe that the ________________ Path is too
for most people.
   b. Mahayana Buddhism spread northward into China and from there to __________ & ____________.
   Buddha teachers called __________ led the government of Tibet.

5. Buddhism Today:
   a. Few Buddhists live in India, however it is widely practiced in __________. There are an estimated
_____ million Buddhists in the world today.

Jainism:
- Today there are _____ million followers of Jainism – most of them live in ____________.

1. Who is Mahavira?:
   a. The current form of Jainism was developed by a religious leader named ________________.
   b. He came from a __________ family in northern India. After his parents died, he gave up his wealth and
   property – he owned __________ and begged for his food.
   c. Many of Mahavira’s teachings were like those of the ________________. The Jains practiced __________
poverty.

2. What is Ahimsa?:
   a. Ahimsa means practicing ________________ toward all living things. Believing that all life is
______________. Mahavira’s followers tried to avoid harming any living ____________.
   b. This idea has long influenced India’s culture and politics.
   c. In the 1900s, the Indian leader Mohandas Gandhi wanted to free __________ from Great Britain. He
led a nonviolent struggle against British __________ and eventually gained ________________
__________.
   d. Gandi’s method of nonviolence resistance influenced many others, including ________________.

Lesson 9.2 Review Questions:

1) What do the ideas of reincarnation and karma have in common?

2) How would practicing Buddhism affect people’s daily lives?

Lesson 9.3 – The Mauryan Empire

Origin of an Empire:
- By the 500s B.C. India was __________ into many small kingdoms. The Greeks, under ________________
the Great, entered India but turned back when his homesick troops threatened to ________________.

1. India’s First Empire:
   a. After Alexander left India, an Indian military officer named ________________ built a strong
   army. He set out to conquer northern India and ____________ the region under his rule.
   b. Chandra Gupta was the first ruler of the __________________ dynasty. He set up a government in the
   capital city of the ________________ where he set up an efficient ____________ system.
   c. Chandra Gupta’s powerful army crushed any ____________ to his rule.

2. What did Ashoka Accomplish?:
   a. The Mauryan Empire reached the height of its glory under Chandra Gupta’s grandson ________________.
   b. While he started his rule with fierce ________ of conquest, he came to hate killing and decided to follow
   ________________ teachings and became a man of ________.
   c. Ashoka made laws that encouraged people to do ________ deed, practice ________________, and
   respect others.
   d. The first ruler to promote Buddhism, Ashoka also had thousands of ____________ built throughout India.
   Although he was a devout Buddhist, Ashoka was ________________ of all beliefs and allowed ________________
   ________________ to practice their religion.

3. The End of the Mauryan Empire:
   a. After Ashoka died in 232 B.C., the Mauryan Empire _________________. The new rulers made merchants
pay ________________ and took land from the __________________.
b. The Indian people rebelled and the land of the Mauryan Empire _______ into many small warring kingdoms.

The Gupta Empire:
- In A.D. 320, the Gupta dynasty came to power in the Ganges River Valley. Chandra Gupta I, the first Gupta ruler, had the same __________ as the first ruler of the Mauryan dynasty. He ruled for 10 years.
- Chandra Gupta I’s son, _________________, expanded the Gupta Empire in northern _______________. Under Samudra Gupta, India entered a ___________ age.
- Trade helped the Gupta Empire thrive. Salt, ___________, and _______ were common good traded in India.
  Gupta rulers ___________ from their control of much of the trade – they owned ___________ and _______
  mines and large estates.
- Cities arose along trade routes. _______________ used the routes to travel to _______________.

Culture in Ancient India:
1. The Literature of India:
   a. Along with Vedas, the literature of ancient India included ________ epics, sacred texts that teach important ________ lessons.
   b. The ___________ is the longest poem in any language with about ________ verses. The epic describes a struggle for __________ of an Indian kingdom.
   c. The ___________ Epic tells the story of Rama and is about ________ verses long.
2. The Arts and Architecture:
   a. Ancient Hindus believed that music was a __________ from the gods. Many sacred texts were probably ____.
   b. The most important structures in early India were the rulers’ ___________ and the temples used for ___________. During Ashoka’s reign, many stone pillars carved with Buddhist messages were placed alongside ________.
3. Mathematics:
   a. Aryabata was one of the first scientists known to have used ___________. The Indian’s invention of ___________ affected the study of _________.
   b. Indian mathematicians explained the idea of ___________ - something without an end.
   c. Gupta mathematicians developed symbols for the numbers ________ that we used today.
4. Advances in Science:
   a. Indian astronomers mapped the movements of ________ and _________. They also proposed the theory that the Earth was ________ and revolved around the ________.
5. Advances in Medicine:
   a. Indian doctors treated __________ problems using tools such as the bow drill.
   b. Doctors during the Gupta era could set ________ bones, sew wounds, and perform ___________.
      Fixing damaged noses was an early type of __________ surgery.

Lesson 9.3 Review Questions:
1) How did religion influence the Mauryan Empire?
2) How did the Gupta Empire grow powerful?