

Chapter 6 Section 1

I. The Land of India

- A. India is a subcontinent because it is separated from the rest of Asia by the Himalayas, the highest mountains in the world.
- B. The Indian subcontinent contains five nations: India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Nepal.
- C. India has two fertile river valleys created by the Ganges River and the Indus River.
- D. A monsoon is a strong wind that blows one direction in winter and the opposite direction in summer. Monsoons bring rain in summer.
- E. The first civilization in India arose near the Indus River after the river flooded and left fertile soil behind. This civilization started about 3000 B.C. and lasted until about 1500 B.C.
- F. Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were large, well-planned cities in ancient India.
- G. The cities had wells, drains for wastewater, garbage chutes, and

organized governments. The houses were made from baked mud bricks.

H. Most people were farmers. They grew wheat, barley, peas, and cotton. City dwellers were artisans, who made jewelry, pottery, tools, and cloth. The Harappans traded their goods with people from other lands.

II. The Aryans Invade

A. The Aryans were hunters who also raised and herded cattle.

B. Because they herded animals, Aryans were also nomads and expert warriors. They had metal-tipped spears and wooden chariots.

C. The Aryans invaded Harappan civilization and destroyed it. They later conquered all of the Indian subcontinent except the southern tip of India.

D. After conquering India, the Aryans became farmers but continued to raise cattle. The cattle were so important, the Aryans eventually declared them sacred.

E. The Aryans invented an iron plow and built canals to improve farming.

F. The Aryan's written language is called Sanskrit.

G. Aryan tribes were led by a raja, or prince.

III. Society in Ancient India

A. A caste is a social group that someone is born into and cannot change.

B. The Aryans believed in four levels of society. The top level included priests and warriors. The next level was common people, such as merchants and farmers. The third level included laborers and servants. The lowest level was made up of the Untouchables. These people did work others did not want to do.

C. Men's lives were considered more important than women's lives.

D. In most cases, only men could inherit property. Only men were allowed to go to school or become priests.

E. Parents arranged marriages, and divorce was not allowed.