

Chapter 6 Section 3

I. The Mauryan Dynasty

- A. Chandragupta Maurya, an Indian prince, founded India's first empire after Alexander the Great left India. This empire was called the Mauryan dynasty.
- B. Chandragupta controlled his dynasty by retaining a strong army and using spies.
- C. Many historians consider Asoka the Mauryan dynasty's greatest king.
- D. After he was a strong military leader, Asoka turned away from violence. He made a vow to live a peaceful life and follow Buddhism.
- E. Asoka did many great things for his people. For example, he built hospitals and new roads and sent

teachers throughout India to teach Buddhism.

F. The empire grew weak after Asoka's death. The kings made poor decisions, and the Mauryan Empire fell.

II. Gupta Empire

A. After 500 years of fighting, another Chandragupta took power and founded the Gupta dynasty.

B. After Chan died, his son, Samudragupta, took over and expanded the empire.

C. The Guptas ruled for about 200 years. They grew wealthy from trade with China and kingdoms in southeast Asia and the Mediterranean.

D. Pilgrims were people who often used the trade routes to travel to a religious shrine or site. Visiting

pilgrims helped make cities wealthy just as tourists make cities wealthy today.

- E. The Guptas were Hindus, and they made Hinduism the official religion.
- F. The golden age of art and learning in India was during the Gupta empire.

III. Indian Literature and Science

- A. The Vedas of India are hymns and prayers used in religious ceremonies. The Vedas were recorded in Sanskrit after the Aryan people came to India.
- B. The epics *Mahabharata* and *Ramayana* are two poems that are still famous in India today. Both epics tell about warriors and their brave deeds.

- C. Kalidasa was a writer who lived during the Gupta dynasty. His poem *The Cloud Messenger* is one of the most popular Sanskrit poems.
- D. Aryabhata was a mathematician who lived during the Gupta dynasty. He was one of the first scientists to use algebra.
- E. Mathematicians in the Gupta empire developed the symbols for the numbers 1 to 9 that we use today. They also invented algorithms and the idea of zero.
- F. Indians also developed ideas in astronomy and medicine.