



Guided Reading Activity 3-1

Early Civilization in India

DIRECTIONS: Answer the following questions as you read Section 1.

1. List the core regions of the land of India.

2. Which are the highest mountains in the world?

3. What is the importance of the monsoon rains in southern Asia?

4. Describe the buildings of Harappa and Mohenjo Daro.

5. Who were the Aryans?

6. What did the iron plow and irrigation make possible for the Aryan people?

7. What did the development of a writing system known as Sanskrit enable the Aryans to do?

8. What was the caste system of ancient India?

9. On what was the caste system based?

10. Name the five major divisions of Indian classes in ancient times.

11. What were the beliefs of the early Hindus?

12. What religion appeared in the sixth century B.C. that became a rival of Hinduism?

**Guided Reading Activity 3-2****New Empires in India**

DIRECTIONS: As you are reading the section, decide if a statement is true or false. Write **T** if the statement is true or **F** if the statement is false. For all false statements, write a corrected statement.

- _____ 1. Chandragupta Maurya, who ruled from 324 to 301 B.C., founded the first highly centralized Indian Empire.

- _____ 2. Aśoka, generally considered to be the greatest ruler in the history of India, converted to Hinduism and used Hindu ideals to guide his rule.

- _____ 3. The Silk Road, which had arisen sometime between 200 B.C. and A.D. 100, reached from the city of Chang'an in China to the city of Rome.

- _____ 4. Only agricultural goods were carried on the Silk Road because camel caravans were difficult.

- _____ 5. A Chinese traveler, Faxian, who spent several years in India in the fifth century, reported the greatness of the Gupta culture.

- _____ 6. The earliest known Indian literature comes from the Aryan tradition in the form of the Vedas.

- _____ 7. In a sermon by the god Krishna, he sets forth one of the key points of Indian society: Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

- _____ 8. In Indian architecture, there were three main types of structures, all serving religious purposes: the arch, the mound, and the portico.

- _____ 9. Ancient Indians charted the movements of the heavenly bodies and recognized that Earth was a sphere that rotated on its axis and revolved around the sun.


Guided Reading Activity 3-3

Early Chinese Civilizations


DIRECTIONS: Fill in the blanks below as you read Section 3.

Historians of China have traditionally dated the beginning of Chinese civilization to the founding of the **(1)** _____ dynasty over 4,000 years ago. This was replaced by a second dynasty, the Shang, ruled by an **(2)** _____. An aristocracy is an upper class whose wealth is based on land and whose power is passed on from one **(3)** _____ to another.

To communicate with the gods, rulers made use of **(4)** _____ bones. Priests scratched questions on the bones, stuck heated **(5)** _____ into the bones, and discerned answers from the resulting cracks. Remains of human **(6)** _____ found in royal tombs are evidence of the Chinese people's efforts to win the favor of the gods.

The Zhou dynasty lasted for almost 800 years, making it **(7)** _____ dynasty in Chinese history. The king in the Zhou dynasty was seen as the link between **(8)** _____ and **(9)** _____. If the king failed to rule effectively, he could be **(10)** _____ and replaced by a new ruler.

By **(11)** _____, the nature of warfare had changed in China. Members of the cavalry were now armed with the powerful **(12)** _____, a Chinese invention of the seventh century B.C. By the sixth century B.C., **(13)** _____ was in wide use. Filial **(14)** _____ refers to the duty of members of the family to defer to the needs and desires of the male head of the family. Toward the end of the Zhou dynasty, three major **(15)** _____ about the nature of human beings and the universe emerged in China—Confucianism, Daoism, and Legalism.


Guided Reading Activity 3-4
Rise and Fall of Chinese Empires

DIRECTIONS: Fill in the blanks below as you read Section 4.

- I. The Qin dynasty dramatically changed Chinese _____.
 - A. The central bureaucracy was divided into three parts: the _____ division, the _____ division, and the _____.
 - B. Qin Shihuangdi _____ the Chinese world.
 1. He created a single _____ system.
 2. He ordered the building of a _____ throughout the entire empire.
- II. The Qin emperor's major foreign concern was a _____ people in the north known as the Xiongnu.
 - A. The Xiongnu had mastered the art of fighting on _____.
 - B. Qin Shihuangdi's answer to the problem in the north was a project known as _____.
- III. The _____ dynasty was one of the greatest and most long-lasting in Chinese history.
 - A. _____ principles, rather than _____, soon became the basis of a new state philosophy.
 - B. China under the Han dynasty was a vast _____.
 1. The _____ increased rapidly, from 20 million to over 60 million.
 2. This increase created a growing need for a large _____.
 - C. The Han period was one of great _____.
 1. New _____ added to the economic prosperity of the Han Era.
 2. Much progress was made in _____, _____, and _____.
 3. Invention of the _____ and _____ made it possible to sail into the wind for the first time.
- IV. The Qin and Han dynasties were known for their _____ achievements.
 - A. The key works of the _____ school were made into a set of classics.
 - B. A vast army of terra-cotta _____ was discovered in a burial mound in 1974.