

Chapter 3: Classical Civilization: India

Vocabulary:

Monsoons

Aryans

Jatis, castes

Untouchables

Vedas

Brahmin

Dharma

Karma

Nirvana

4 Noble Truths

Brahma

Upanishads

Ashoka

Short Answer:

1. The vast Indian subcontinent is partially separated from the rest of Asia, and particularly from East Asia, by northern mountain ranges, most notably the _____.
2. During the Indian formative period, called the Vedic and Epic ages, the _____ conquerors impressed their own stamp on the culture and social structure of India.
3. Most of what we know about the preclassical period in Indian history comes from literary epics developed by the Aryans, initially passed on orally and only later written down in _____.
4. Chandragupta's grandson, _____, constitutes one of the greatest figures in early Indian history.
5. It remains true that the Maurya and _____ dynasties constituted the most successful political regimes in India.
6. The priestly caste, or _____, stood at the top of the caste system.
7. Unlike all other world religions, _____ had no single founder, no central holy figure from whom the basic religious impulse stemmed.
8. The Hindu ethical concept of _____ was far less detailed and prescriptive than the ethical codes associated with the most other world religions, including Christianity and Islam.
9. These southern Indians, _____, were active in trading networks all over the Middle East.
10. Toward the end of the Epic period one religious leader, _____, built on Hindu mysticism to create another major world religion.