Name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Ancient India Study Guide

1. What two rivers were important to ancient India? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Rivers.
2. What is the more arid region of southern India called? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
3. Name four improvements invented by the people of ancient India:

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1. What religion did the Aryan’s bring when they migrated to India? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. Name three important texts from this religion

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1. What religion evolved later when Siddhartha Gautama meditated on the meaning of life, eventually achieving “enlightenment”? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
2. What are the Four Noble Truths that this religion centers on?

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1. Who was the king of the Maruya Empire that both made the empire expand to its largest size AND sought peace and lawfulness?

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1. In what ways did this king achieve peace and lawfulness?

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1. Be able to answer each of the following.

Name at least 3 characteristics that ancient India had in common with ancient Mesopotamia and/or ancient Egypt.

What happened that made Ashoka embrace Buddhism? **Why** would an event like this make him embrace Buddhism?

We learned that much of our information about the Gupta Empire comes from the writings of Faxian, a Chinese Buddhist monk. **Why** is it important to have sources from outside a region to better understand that region?

What is the importance of the Bhagavad Gita in Hindu religion? How do Karma and Varna (caste system) relate? Do you remember what Bhagavad Gita stands for?

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|  | Column 1 |  | Column 2 |  |  |
| 1.\_\_\_\_\_ | A group of classes into which the Hindu people of India were traditionally divided. | A. | Buddhism |  |  |
| 2.\_\_\_\_\_ | A religion based on giving up earthly desires through seeking truth, respecting others, and controlling ones thoughts and feelings. | B. | Varna (caste system) |  |  |
| 3.\_\_\_\_\_ | Name of the political entity that existed during the Golden Age of India, when many advances were made. | C. | Sanskrit |  |  |
| 4.\_\_\_\_\_ | A religion with a pantheon of gods, belief in reincarnation, and the importance of doing your social duty in life. | D. | Gupta Empire |  |  |
| 5.\_\_\_\_\_ | An ancient Indo-Aryan language that is the classical language of India and is still used in the practice of Hinduism. | E. | Hinduism |  |  |
| 6.\_\_\_\_\_ | State of removal from the wheel of life that both Hindus and Buddhists seek. | F. | subcontinent |
| 7.\_\_\_\_\_ | The idea or belief that people are born again with a different body after death. | G. | Untouchables |
| 8.\_\_\_\_\_ | The name for any member of a wide range of low-caste Hindu groups and any person outside the caste system (also called Dalits). | H. | Moksha/Nirvana |
| 9.\_\_\_\_\_ | The wheel of life and suffering that Hindus (and Buddhists) seek to escape. | I. | reincarnation |
| 10.\_\_\_\_ | A large landmass smaller than a continent; especially a major subdivision of a continent. | J. | Samsara |