



LIFE·PAC®

History & Geography



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HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 1002 ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS II

CONTENTS

I. THE FAR EAST	2
India	3
China	7
II. THE GREEK CIVILIZATION	11
Geography	12
History	12
Culture	24
III. THE ROMAN EMPIRE	32
History	32
Christianity	38
Culture	41
GLOSSARY	46

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ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS II

In this LIFE PAC® the study of civilizations is continued from the previous History and Geography LIFE PAC. The primary emphasis will be upon Greece and Rome, two of the most significant world empires and civilizations in history, and upon the spread of Christianity. Consideration will be given also to the civilizations that developed in India and China.

OBJECTIVES

Read these objectives. The objectives will tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC.

When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe the geographical boundaries of India.
2. Discuss the origins of the Indian people.
3. Identify the major characteristics of ancient Indian culture.
4. Explain the geographical importance of rivers on Chinese civilization.
5. Trace the history of the major Chinese dynasties.
6. List major contributors to Chinese philosophy and religion.
7. Describe the origins of Greek civilization.
8. Trace Greek history from earliest times to the decline and fall of the Greek Empire
9. Describe the rise of the city-states, such as Athens and Sparta, and their impact on the history of Greece.
10. Discuss the rise of Macedonia and its effect upon Greek decline.
11. List major Greek contributors to man's thought and government to the present time.
12. Discuss the rise of Roman civilization from the ruins of Greece.
13. Discuss the origins of the city of Rome.
14. Outline the history of the Roman Empire, emphasizing its historical divisions.
15. Describe the emergence of Roman democracy.
16. Discuss the cultural impact of Rome on the world.
17. Explain the decline and fall of the Roman Empire.
18. Explain how God prepared the way for the birth, life, and ministry of Jesus Christ in a secure Roman world.
19. Summarize the birth, life, and death of Jesus Christ.
20. List the disciples who were most influential in carrying the gospel throughout the world.
21. List the major contributors to Roman thought and culture.

Survey the LIFEPAAC. Ask yourself some questions about this study. Write your questions here.

I. THE FAR EAST

Because we live in the West and because Western civilization has dominated modern history, the study of civilization is often concentrated in the roots of European thought and life. At the same time the Near East was developing a civilization that was spreading into Europe, advanced cultures were also developing in India and China.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe the geographical boundaries of India.
2. Discuss the origins of the Indian people.
3. Identify the major characteristics of ancient Indian culture.
4. Explain the geographical importance of rivers on Chinese civilization.
5. Trace the history of the major Chinese dynasties.
6. List major contributors to Chinese philosophy and religion.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

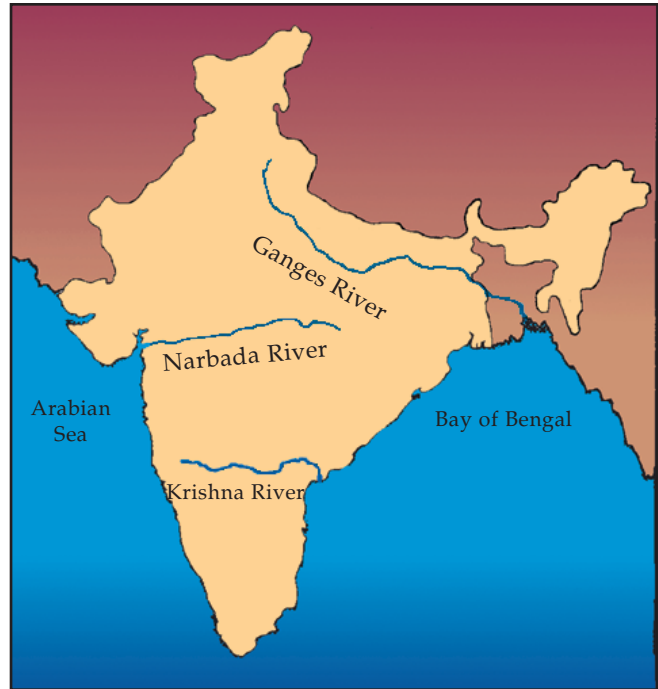
ascetic	ideographic	rajah
deify	metaphysics	subcontinent
diffuse	paternalistic	theosophy

INDIA

The Indian culture is an ancient one. A land of many rivers, India attracted very early settlers who came to farm and raise their livestock. Many invasions by outsiders followed, each of which contributed to the Indian language and culture we know today. Early Indian literature was comparable in some ways to the later epics of Greece and Rome. The religion of India was Hinduism, which is still practiced and is highly influential on Indian life today.

Geography. India is often called a **subcontinent**. Its land area is vast. To the northwest are two ranges of mountains that seem to follow the Indus River: the Kithar Range and the Sulaiman Range. More northeasterly are the Himalayas. Throughout history these mountains have served as a wall to isolate India from its neighbors in the rest of Euro-Asia. To the west of India is the Arabian Sea, to the east is the Bay of Bengal, and to the south is the Indian Ocean. Also on the east, India borders Burma.

India is a land of many rivers, the greatest of which is the Ganges. The Ganges is one of the largest waterways in the world. This river is sacred to the Hindus of India, thousands of whom travel long distances to bathe in its water to cleanse and purify themselves.



India

Ancient India is divided into several parts; Tamil Land south of the Krishna River; Deccan between the Krishna and the Narbada rivers; Bengal, including the Ganges delta; Baluchistan northwest of the mountains in what is now Iran; and Punjab, Sind, and Hindustan to the east. The area of greatest importance is Hindustan, the Indus valley.



Complete these activities.

1.1 The borders of India are these:

- to the northwest _____,
- to the northeast _____,
- to the west _____,
- to the east _____, and
- to the south _____.

1.2 Three rivers of India are these:

- _____,
- _____, and
- _____.

History. Some historians date India's earliest civilization at about 2500 B.C., but most now consider the Indus civilization to have lasted from 2200 to 1300 B.C. At one time the Indus civilization extended from the coast up the Indus River 950 miles to the Himalayan foothills. The chief cities were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, some 350 miles apart. The river was used for transportation.

Communication existed between Sumer and the Indus valley. Erech and its sister cities conducted trade with the cities of this civilization beyond the mountains. Coming not long after the Flood and the Tower of Babel, such contact is no surprise. The Indus people had all the trappings of civilization: a written script, manufacturing, standard weights, metallurgy, agriculture, and so forth.

From about 1500 to 900 B.C., India was invaded by Aryan people from the Caucasus area near the Black and Caspian seas. These people conquered the Indus valley and began to settle the Ganges area. They were cattlemen who lived in tribes headed by a **rajah**. The Aryans subjugated some of the native population and drove others south. Their conquerors called them Dasyu, and they may have been the same as the Dravidians of southern India. The combination of Indus and Aryan cultures resulted in the Sanskrit language, which is considered foundational to the Indo-European language group.

From 900 to 500 B.C., the center of Indian civilization shifted eastward to the Ganges valley. There Indo-Aryan city-states were developed. As in the villages of the Indus valley, each city-state was led by a rajah.

The Indo-Aryans developed the *caste system*, one of the three "pillars" of Indian Society (the other two were the autonomous village and the joint-family). They developed this system to preserve their racial purity. The four main castes were (1) the Brahmans, who were the priests; (2) the Kshatriyas, who were the warriors; (3) the Vaisyas, who were the artisans, merchants, and bankers; and (4) the Sudras, who were the peasants. Those outside the caste system were called the untouchables. To an astonishing degree, the caste system has maintained itself to the present day.

Alexander the Great crossed into India in 326 B.C., but he did not stay long because of the distance from his Greek homeland. In 321 B.C., Chandragupta Maurya took control of all northern India. The Mauryan dynasty lasted until about 185 B.C. That dynasty maintained contact with the Seleucid empire of Greece.

The Mauryan empire was greatly expanded by the highly religious Buddhist, Asoka (273-232 B.C.). He is very important in the history of Buddhism.

In 185 B.C. much of the old Mauryan empire was conquered by Demetrius, a Bactrian Greek. He was followed by his general, Menander. Demetrius and the Bactrians ruled in the Punjab and northwestern India as well as in the Ganges region. The Bactrians lost power when nomadic tribes began to invade India from central Asia at the close of the second century B.C.

After a period of chaos, one of the invading tribes, the Kushans, ruled northwestern India and much of Afghanistan. Their rule lasted until A.D. 220.



Write the letter for the correct answer on each line.

- 1.3 The civilization that probably lasted from 2200 to 1300 B.C. was the _____.
- | | |
|----------|-------------|
| a. Hindu | c. Egyptian |
| b. Indus | d. Himalaya |
- 1.4 The chief cities of the Indus civilization were Mohenjo-Daro and _____.
- | | |
|------------|------------|
| a. Harappa | c. Erech |
| b. Thebes | d. Antioch |
- 1.5 The Indus civilization carried on trade between the Indus valley and _____.
- | | |
|------------|-----------|
| a. Memphis | c. Canaan |
| b. Sumer | d. China |