

Topic Test: Early Civilizations of India

Name _____ Date _____

Read each question carefully. Determine the best answer to the question from the four answer choices provided.

- 1 Look at the photo of Mohandas Gandhi.



What main principle of Hinduism does this protest show?

- A dharma
 - B Brahman
 - C moksha
 - D ahimsa
- 2 The lowest _____, or social grouping based on skill, identified in the Vedas was the _____.
- A varna; Brahmins
 - B jati; Kshatriyas
 - C varna; Sudras
 - D jati; Vaishyas

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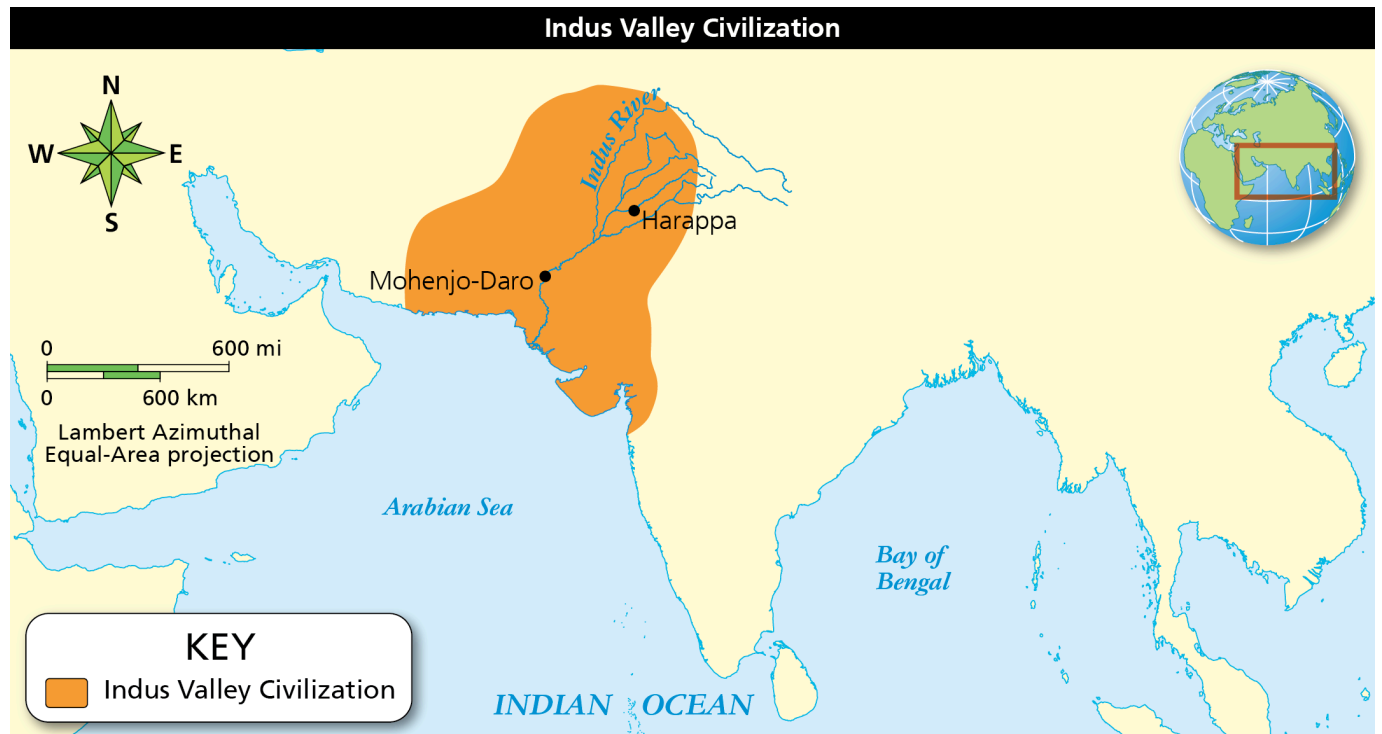
- 3 Which of the following did the Indian scientist Aryabhata discover? Choose the TWO correct answers.
- A The motion of Earth and the moon cause eclipses.
 - B The Ayurvedic medical system effectively treats many diseases.
 - C The moon shines because it reflects sunlight.
 - D Metal can be extracted from ore to create useful objects.
- 4 The strength of the Maurya empire depended on which of the following?
- A the happiness of the empire's people
 - B the power and authority of the ruler
 - C the efficiency of the bureaucracy
 - D the money collected in taxes
- 5 Scholars believe that Indus Valley people used granaries to
- A store surplus crops.
 - B make cloth from cotton.
 - C hold religious ceremonies.
 - D defend their villages.
- 6 Most historians think that Indo-Aryan culture spread through India by
- A rapid conquest.
 - B overland trade.
 - C gradual mixing.
 - D forceful integration.
- 7 According to the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism, what must be overcome to end suffering?
- A all forms of desire
 - B all selfish desires
 - C nirvana
 - D anger
- 8 Read the following excerpt from the *Bhagavad Gita*.
- “For the soul there is neither birth nor death at any time. He has not come into being, does not come into being, and will not come into being. He is unborn, eternal [unending], ever-existing and primeval [ancient and original]. He is not slain [killed] when the body is slain.”
- What central part of Hinduism does this quote illustrate?
- A ahimsa
 - B reincarnation
 - C dharma
 - D karma

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- 9 Why do scholars believe that the Indus Valley had a highly developed civilization?
- A It left behind many written records.
 - B Its cities show a high level of planning.
 - C It had a highly organized religion.
 - D Its royal tombs hold many artifacts.
- 10 What is the correct order of cultures and empires in ancient India?
- A Vedic, Indus, Gupta, Maurya
 - B Indus, Vedic, Maurya, Gupta
 - C Indus, Vedic, Gupta, Maurya
 - D Maurya, Gupta, Indus, Vedic
- 11 Which of the following statements about modern Buddhism is accurate?
- A Buddhism is still widely practiced in India.
 - B Few Buddhists live in Asia.
 - C Most Buddhists live in monasteries.
 - D More than two million Buddhists live in the United States.
- 12 A popular form of literature during the Gupta empire was the fable, which was
- A a type of poetry written in Sanskrit.
 - B based on Buddhist and Hindu writings.
 - C the world's first novel.
 - D a short story with a moral at the end.
- 13 In Hinduism, a person's duty to do what is right is called
- A ahimsa.
 - B dharma.
 - C karma.
 - D moksha.

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14 Look at the map.



How did the location of the ancient cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro contribute to their development?

- A Their location was near major trade routes.
- B Their location near rivers provided rich soil that produced plentiful crops.
- C Their location allowed crops to receive enough rainfall.
- D Their location provided abundant natural resources and little need to trade.

15 What is the main focus of Mahayana Buddhists?

- A Buddha's good deeds
- B Buddha's commitment to a life of poverty
- C Buddha's compassion
- D Buddha's writings

16 Chandra Gupta I

- A founded the Maurya empire.
- B conquered all of India.
- C was the father of Asoka.
- D founded the Gupta empire.

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- 17 What strategy did Chandragupta use to conquer Magadha?
- A cause so much destruction that people will be forced to flee
 - B seize the capital, and then the rest of the kingdom will fall
 - C follow Buddhism's teachings and Magadha will eventually surrender
 - D attack the borders first, then the capital city
- 18 Look at the photograph.



What development that occurred under the Guptas is illustrated by this image?

- A contributions to the decimal system
- B advances made in metallurgy
- C the renewed importance of Buddhism
- D advances in art and engineering

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19 Beginning with the earliest, what is the correct order of Indian emperors?

- A Asoka, Chandra Gupta I, Samudra Gupta, Chandra Gupta II
- B Chandra Gupta I, Chandra Gupta II, Samudra Gupta, Asoka
- C Chandra Gupta I, Samudra Gupta, Chandra Gupta II, Asoka
- D Asoka, Chandra Gupta I, Chandra Gupta II, Samudra Gupta

20 The strongest kingdom in India before the Maurya empire was

- A Kalinga.
- B Kautilya.
- C Magadha.
- D Ming.

Short Answer

Read each question, and write your answer in complete sentences.

21 Why do Hindus worship many different gods while believing that there is one supreme being?

22 How did the caste system develop over time, and how did it go beyond the four original varnas?

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23 What information about ancient India have scholars learned from the Vedas? Do you think the Vedas are a reliable source of information? Why or why not?

24 What advancements did India make in medicine during the Gupta empire?

25 Look at the photograph.



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Which emperor had structures like this built and for what purpose?
