

Chapter 4 Ancient India



Main Ideas

India's First Civilizations

- **People's social status affects how they live.** The earliest Indian civilization developed on the Indus River. Later, the Aryans arrived in northern India. They created a new social system that determined how people lived.

Section 1 Focus

In India, just as in Egypt and Mesopotamia, the first civilizations developed in fertile river valleys.

- Climate and geography influenced the rise of India's first civilization. **(page 239)**
- The Aryans introduced new ideas and technology to India. **(page 242)**
- The Aryans created a caste system that separated Indians into groups. **(page 243)**

Guide to Reading

Content Vocabulary

subcontinent	raja
monsoon	caste
Sanskrit	guru

Academic Vocabulary

similar
individual





Did You Know?



As dangerous as monsoon flooding can be, drought is much more devastating to the people of India. In 1770, the rains did not come, and a famine occurred because of the drought. About **10 million** people died in Bengal, an Indian state.

I. The Land of India (pages 239–241)

- A. India is a subcontinent because it is separated from the rest of Asia by the **Himalaya**, the highest mountains in the world.
- B. Today the Indian **subcontinent** holds six nations: India, Pakistan, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.
- C. India has two fertile river valleys created by the **Ganges River** and the **Indus River**.
- D. A **monsoon** is a strong wind that blows one direction in winter and the opposite direction in summer. Monsoons bring rain in summer.



I. The Land of India (pages 239–241)



Click the map to view a dynamic version.

I. The Land of India (pages 239–241)



- E. The first civilization in India arose near the Indus River after the river flooded and left fertile soil behind. This civilization started about 3000 B.C. and lasted until about 1500 B.C. It is referred to as the Indus or Harrappan Civilization.
- F. **Harappa** and **Mohenjo-Daro** were large, well-planned *cities* in ancient India.
- G. The cities had wells, drains for wastewater, garbage chutes, and organized governments. The houses were made from baked mud bricks.

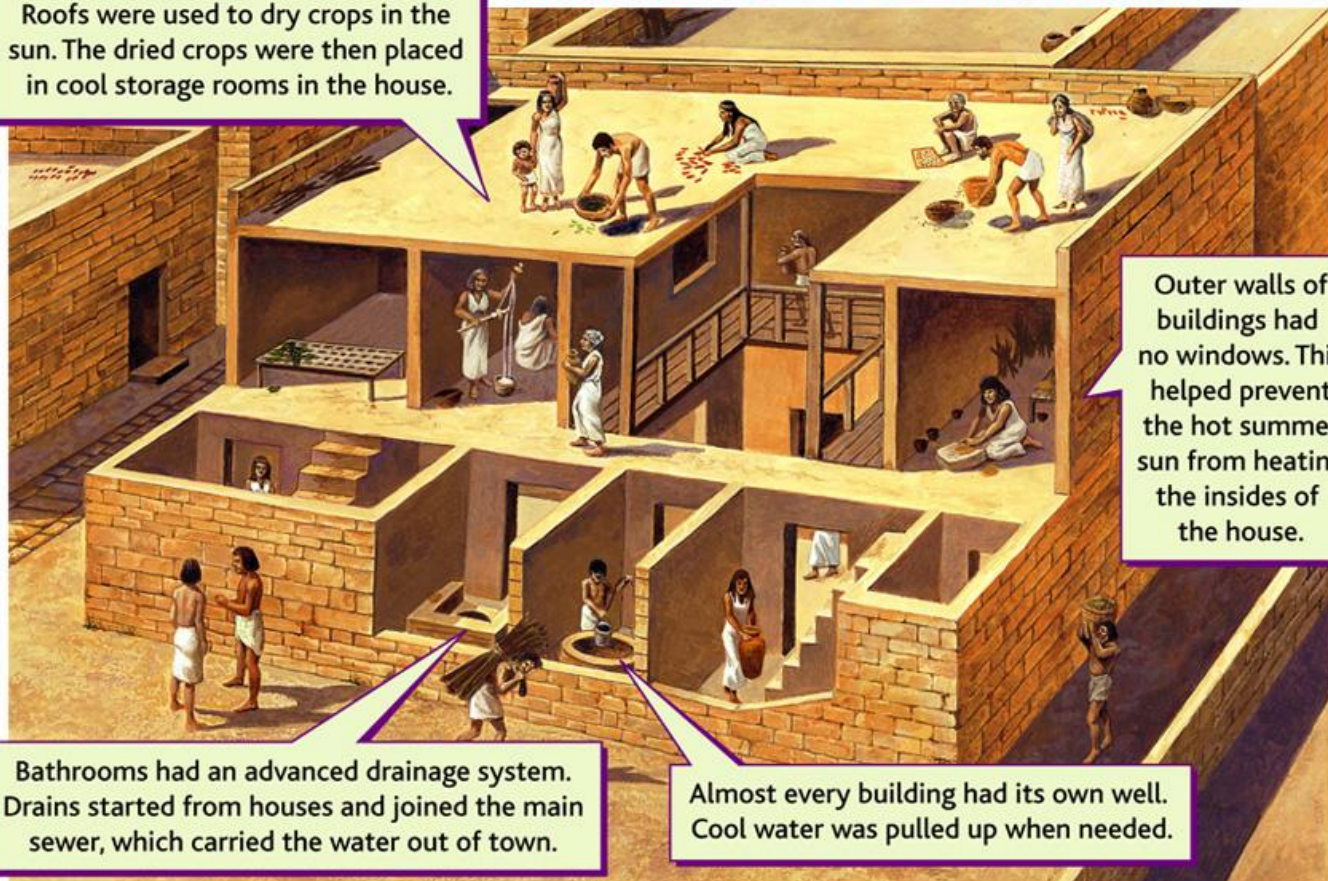
I. The Land of India (pages 239–241)



Early Indian Civilization

The ruins of Mohenjo-Daro show a carefully planned city. The picture below shows a typical house in the city. *From what material were most of the houses in Mohenjo-Daro made?*

Roofs were used to dry crops in the sun. The dried crops were then placed in cool storage rooms in the house.



Outer walls of buildings had no windows. This helped prevent the hot summer sun from heating the insides of the house.

Bathrooms had an advanced drainage system. Drains started from houses and joined the main sewer, which carried the water out of town.

Almost every building had its own well. Cool water was pulled up when needed.

HELP

EXIT



I. The Land of India (pages 239–241)

H. Most people were farmers. They grew wheat, barley, peas, and cotton. City dwellers were artisans who made jewelry, pottery, tools, and cloth. The Harappans traded their goods with people from other lands.



I. The Land of India (pages 239–241)

Discussion Question

Why do archaeologists think that Harappan religion and politics were closely connected?

The royal palace and the temple were enclosed in the fortress.



HELP

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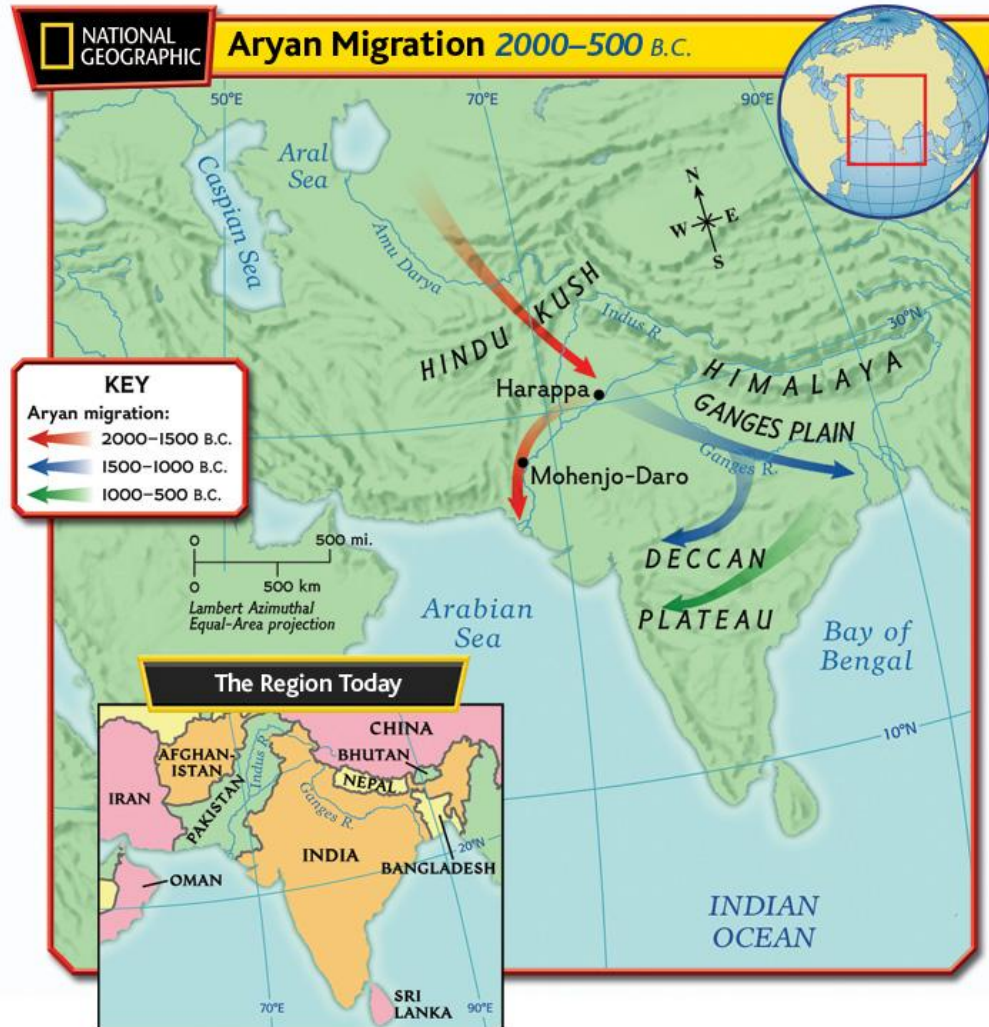


II. The Aryans (pages 242–243)



- A. The **Aryans** came from central Asia where they raised and herded cattle. They were part of a larger group referred to as Indo-Europeans.
- B. The Aryans were expert warriors and hunters. They had metal-tipped spears and wooden chariots.
- C. The Aryan civilization expanded into all of the Indian subcontinent except the southern tip of India.
- D. The Aryans became farmers but continued to raise cattle. The cattle were so important, the Aryans eventually declared them sacred.

II. The Aryans (pages 242–243)



Click the map to view a dynamic version.

II. The Aryans (pages 242–243)

- E. The Aryans invented an iron plow and built canals to improve farming.
- F. The Aryans' written language was called **Sanskrit**.
- G. Aryan tribes were led by a **raja**, or prince.



II. The Aryans (pages 242–243)

Discussion Question

Why were cattle such a prized possession?

They provided meat, milk, and butter and were used as money.



III. Society in Ancient India (pages 243–245)

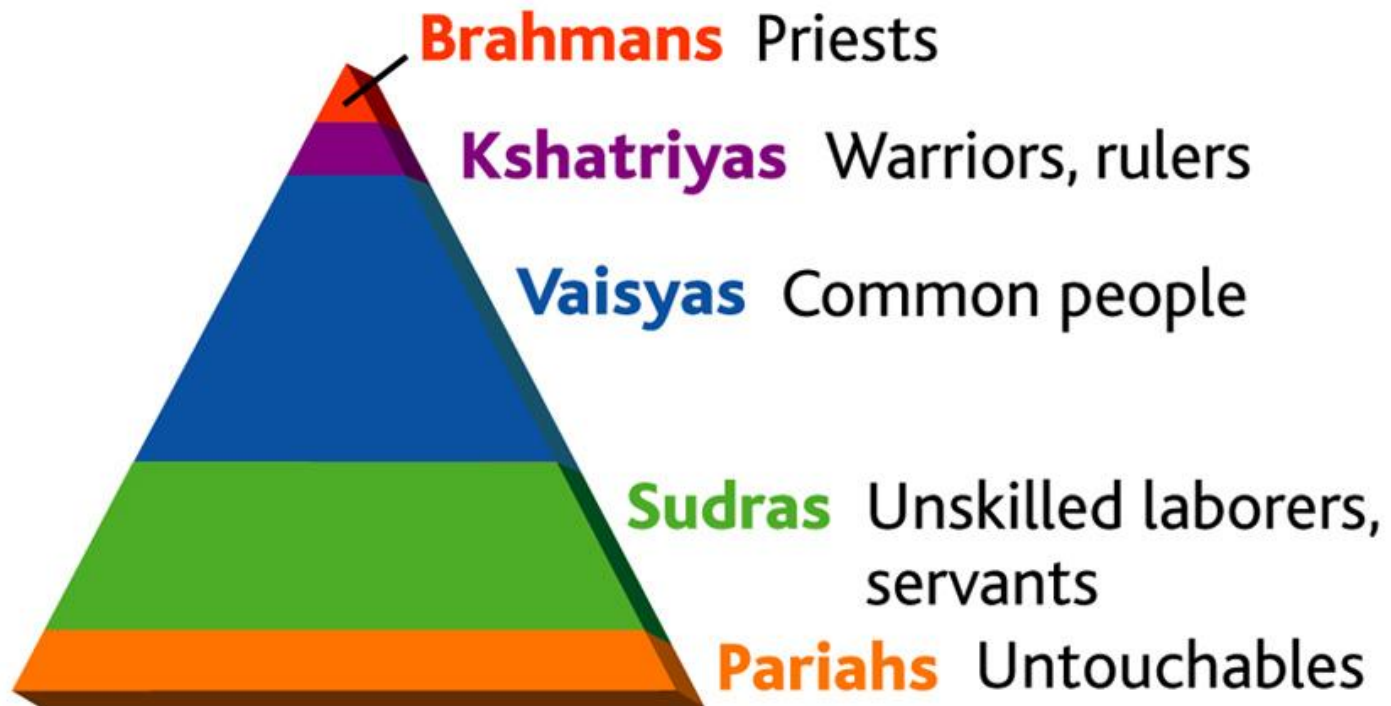


- A. A **caste** is a social group that someone is born into and cannot change.
- B. The Aryans believed in four classes, or *jati*. The top two *jati* were **Brahmans**, or priests, and Kshatriyas, or warriors who ran the government and army. The next class included common people, such as merchants and farmers. Below them were laborers and servants. The lowest level did not belong to any *jati*. These people, called the Untouchables, did work others did not want to do.

III. Society in Ancient India (pages 243–245)



Early India's Social System



HELP

EXIT



III. Society in Ancient India (pages 243–245)

- C. Men's lives were considered more important than women's lives.
- D. In most cases, only men could inherit property. Only men were allowed to go to school or become priests. A boy from the top of society was often taught by a **guru**.
- E. Parents arranged marriages, and divorce was not allowed.



III. Society in Ancient India (pages 243–245)

Discussion Question

Under the caste system in India, what aspects of life were affected by a person's caste?

A person's caste affected what job one had, who one married, and who one could socialize with.



Reading Summary

Review the **Main Ideas**

- India's first civilization, including the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, developed in the fertile Indus River valley.
- The Aryans, a group of nomadic herders, arrived in northern India about 1500 B.C. They brought the iron plow and the Sanskrit language to India.
- India's caste system divided people into rigid social and economic classes. Ancient Indian society favored men over women.



Section Review



1. Describe the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.

The cities had wide streets, walled neighborhoods; mud brick houses around courtyards; public wells, sewage, and garbage disposal.

2. Why are monsoons important to Indian farmers?

They cause soil-enriching floods.

Section Review

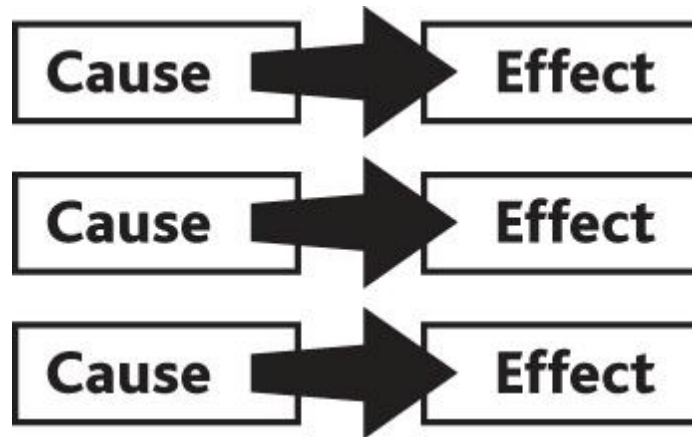


3. Cause and Effect Why did the Harappan civilization collapse?

Harrappan civilization may have collapsed because of earthquakes, floods, and the Indus River changing its course.

Section Review

4. **Cause and Effect** Draw a diagram to show how the Aryans changed the lifestyle of the Indians.



Charts should reflect information in the text.

Section Review



- 5. The Big Idea** In what ways did the caste system affect the people who lived in India?

The caste system forced them into a fixed way of life and it limited their rights.

- 6. Explain** How did the Aryans control people in India?

Possible answers include a strong military and the effects of the caste system.

MONSOON: "SEASON OF THE WINDS"

The two key ingredients needed to create a monsoon are a hot landmass and a cooler ocean.

1. Land absorbs more heat from the sun than the Indian Ocean does.

2. Warm air over hot landmass expands and rises.

3. Cool, moist, heavy air blowing in from the sea replaces rising hot air as the winds shift.

4. Monsoon rains begin; winds blow from the sea to the land.

