Chapter 3: Early Civilizations in India & China

Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley
Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges
Section 3: Early Civilization in China
Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

Summary:

Archaeologists uncovered remains of India’s first civilization in the Indus River valley.
Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- The Indus River valley is located on the subcontinent of India in South Asia.
- High mountain ranges separate India from other lands.
Three major regions in India include:

- A well-watered northern plain
- A dry central plateau (Deccan Plateau)
- Coastal plains

Its huge size and varied geography have made India hard to unite.
Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- Winds called **monsoons** bring rain every summer
- When there is not enough rain, people cannot grow crops
- When there is too much rain, rivers such as the **Ganges** rise in deadly floods
Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- The first Indian civilization arose in the **Indus Valley** about 2500 B.C., but archeologists did not uncover it until 1922
- Many of its cities remain undiscovered
Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- Scientists have found writing samples, but they do not yet understand them.
  - As a result, we do not know much about this civilization.
  - We do know that the Indus Valley civilization was larger than any other at the time.
Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

- The cities of the Indus Valley civilization were well-planned
  - Most people of the civilization were farmers
    - They were the first to grow cotton and weave it into cloth
  - The merchants of the Indus Valley civilization traveled to Sumer to trade their goods
Around 1750 B.C., Indus Valley civilization began to decline, or become weaker. We do not know exactly why this happened. In the end, nomadic warriors called Aryans conquered the Indus Valley.
## Section 1: Cities of the Indus Valley

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<th>The Northern Plain</th>
<th>The Deccan Plateau</th>
<th>The Coastal Plains</th>
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<tr>
<td>Himalaya Mtns. In the NE</td>
<td>Triangular shape</td>
<td>Eastern &amp; Western Ghats (Mtns.)</td>
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<td>Hindu Kush Mtns. In NW</td>
<td>No major rivers</td>
<td>Flat land along coasts</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 sacred rivers: Indus R. and Ganges R.</td>
<td>Land too dry for farming</td>
<td>Fishing &amp; trading</td>
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<td>Fertile land</td>
<td>Small population</td>
<td>Rain &amp; rivers provide water for farming</td>
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Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- **Summary:**
  - *Aryans* warriors invaded India and developed a new civilization
Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- The **Aryans** were a warrior group that moved across Asia.
  - Early Aryans did not build cities and left few artifacts.
    - Around 1500 B.C., they conquered the **Indus Valley civilization**.
Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- The **Aryans** gradually mixed with the people they conquered and learned new ways
  - They settled in villages to farm and raise cattle
  - About 800 B.C., the **Aryans** learned how to make tools and weapons out of iron
Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- With iron weapons the **Aryans** carved out more territory in the **Ganges** River basin.
  - Soon cities ruled by chiefs called **Rajahs** arose.
  - By 500 B.C., the **Aryans** had built a new Indian civilization.
Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- Most of what we know about the Aryans comes from a collection of writings called the **Vedas**.
  - The period from 1500 B.C. to 500 B.C., the Vedic Age, is named for those writings.
Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- According to the *Vedas*, the *Aryans* were warriors who loved food, music, and chariot racing.
  - They organized people into social classes by *occupation* or job type.
Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- This was the beginning of the **caste system**
- Under this system, people stayed in the social class into which they were born
Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- Like the Vedas, stories called epics have been told and retold over thousands of years.
  - The epics also give us information about the lives and beliefs of the early Aryans.
    - They tell stories of families, wars, and love.
      - The Aryans used epics to teach values and lessons about how people should behave.
Section 2: Kingdoms of the Ganges

- Brahmins (priests)
- Kshatriyas (warriors)
- Vaisyas (herders, farmers, merchants, craftsmen)
- Sudras (farm workers, servants, laborers)
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

Summary:
- Early Chinese people developed a complex civilization
- They made many advances in learning and in the arts
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- China covers a huge area, but until recent times most people lived only along the east coast or in the river valleys.

- China is surrounded by mountains, jungles, deserts, and an ocean.

- Therefore, China was more isolated, or cut off, from the rest of the world than other early civilization.
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- Chinese civilization arose around the Huang He and Yangzi river valleys
- About 1650 B.C., a Chinese people called the Shang gained control of part of northern China
- During the Shang dynasty, kings controlled only a small amount of land
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- Groups of families called **clans** controlled most of the land
  - Merchants and craftspeople earned a living in the cities
  - However, most people were peasants who lived in farming villages
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- In 1027 B.C., the Zhou people overthrew the Shang and set up their own dynasty.
  - The Zhou told the people that the gods had become angry with the Shang and now had chosen the Zhou to rule.
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- The right to rule was called the **Mandate of Heaven**, or the divine right to rule.
- From that time on, each new dynasty would claim the **Mandate of Heaven**.
The New Dynasty: 
- Restore peace
- Redistributes land to the peasants
- Appoints loyal officers
- Repairs defensive walls
- Build roads, canals, and irrigation projects

- new dynasty claims the Mandate of Heaven

The Dynastic Cycle in China

- Problems symbolic of lost Mandate: peasant rebellions; floods, famine, earthquake; armed bandits in provinces; invasions

- the aging dynasty is characterized by: corrupt officials; loosing control of provinces; imposing heavy tax burden; allowing defensive walls to decay

- after several generations the new dynasty becomes an aging dynasty

- aging dynasty loses the Mandate of Heaven
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- The Chinese made progress in many areas during the Shang and Zhou periods
  - They developed a complex religion
  - The Chinese created a system of writing and made the first books
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

- They learned to produce bronze and made detailed figures
- They learned to produce silk thread from the cocoons of silkworms
- The Chinese also studies astronomy, recoding eclipses of the sun and inventing an accurate calendar
Section 3: Early Civilization in China

The Dynastic Cycle

New Dynasty
- brings peace
- protects people
- Rebuilds infrastructure

Old Dynasty
- Unfair treatment
- Taxes
- No protection
- Infrastructure fails

New Dynasty claims Mandate of Heaven

Generation goes by, New Dynasty becomes...

Old Dynasty loses Mandate of Heaven

- Revolution
- Invasion