

WORLD HISTORY
ANCIENT RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS
ANCIENT INDIA

LOCATION: along the Indus and the Ganges Rivers – called a subcontinent of Asia because it is separated from the rest of Asia by the Himalayan Mountains.

GEOGRAPHIC ADVANTAGES:

1. Water from the rivers
2. Fertile soil
3. Natural protection from mountains and the Indian Ocean

GEOGRAPHIC DISADVANTAGES:

1. Monsoons brought destructive flooding sometimes and horrible droughts other times

CITIES: well-planned and organized (grid system for paved roads, multi-story homes with running water, garbage collection systems, etc). Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa are the two most famous. Both declined and disappeared and no one is truly sure why.

HINDUISM:

- The one true reality is Brahman, the mighty spirit that creates and destroys
- All wise Hindus try to reach moksha or a state of perfect understanding.
- You reach moksha by going through reincarnation, or a rebirth of the spirit into new lives.
- This led to the formation of castes or social classes: Brahmin (priests), Kshatriyas (rulers and warriors), Vaishyas (landowners, merchants and artisans), Shudras (slaves). Castes could not intermingle with one another – they stay strictly separated from one another.
- Taught karma which is the idea that your actions in this life determine what caste you will be born into in your next life.
- Also taught dharma which is the duties that each caste must fulfill in their lifetime.

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BUDDHISM: some people rejected Hinduism because of the caste system and began to follow Siddhartha Gautama or Buddha

- Four Noble Truths: all of life is suffering and sorrow, the cause of this suffering and sorrow is people's selfish desires, the way to end suffering and sorrow is to end all selfish desires, you can selfish desires by following the Eightfold Path.
- The Eightfold Path led to nirvana which is release from pain and sorrow.