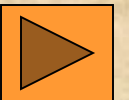


Ancient India



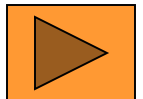
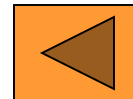
Vocabulary

- **Subcontinent** - a large, distinguishable part of a continent
- **Aryans** – a group of nomadic warriors that brought Hinduism to India
- **Hinduism** – a polytheistic religion that is based on the teaching of the Vedas, or religious texts.
- **Sanskrit** – An ancient language and writing system brought to India by the Aryans.
- **Reincarnation** – the rebirth of a soul in a new body. Depending on your karma, you can be reborn higher or lower in the caste system.
- **Caste system** - This system put every person in society into a certain class from which they could never advance.
- **Buddhism** - a religion based off the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama in which a follows a moral pathway of minimal pain and pleasure.

Geography of India

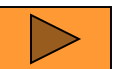
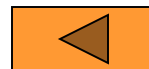


- India is considered a “subcontinent” because of its size. It is actually a part of Asia. In the north are high mountains, the Himalayas and Hindu Kush. In the center is the Deccan Plateau.



Indus Valley

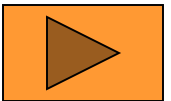
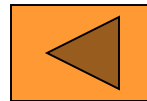
- The Indus River is located in Pakistan. Find it on the map. It was along this river that a civilization developed around 2,500 BCE. It is called the Indus Valley Civilization. Two major cities of this civilization were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.



The Indus Valley Culture

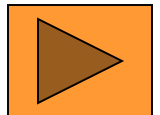
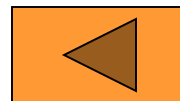


- The people of the Indus Valley were mostly peaceful farmers.
- They built large cities with ordered streets and bricks made all the same size.
- This indicates they had a strong central government. This statue is probably a priest or king.



The Indus Valley people had an advanced civilization with large cities, running water and sewer systems. They built walls around their cities which indicated that they might have had to defend themselves against other people. We do not know a lot about them because we cannot yet read their writing.

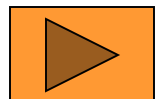
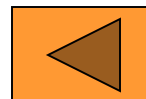
The picture at the right shows an example of Indus Valley writing. Linguists are still trying to decipher the language. We know they traded with the people of Mesopotamia and Egypt so perhaps those people knew how to read and speak this language!

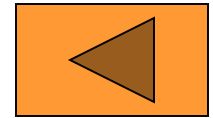
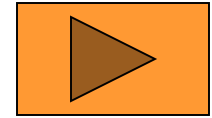


Indus Valley Script



- Here are several examples of Indus Valley writing.
- It is believed that the Indus Valley people may have also written on palm leaves or cloth but no evidence of this has survived.



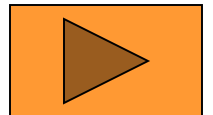
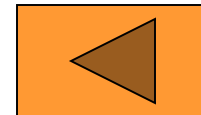


This is a photograph of “The Great Bath” at Mohenjo Daro. This is one of the earliest examples of a public bath or water storage system found in the world.

The Indus Valley people were great architects and city planners.



Here is a reconstruction of what the entrance to Mohenjo Daro might have looked like.



Aryan Invasion

- Around 1500 BCE, a group of nomadic warrior-herders crossed the narrow Khyber Pass in the Hindu Kush Mountains and invaded the Indus Valley culture.
- These people, the Aryans, came from Eastern Europe between the Black Sea and Caspian Sea, probably looking for pastures for their animals.
- Flooding and earthquakes had weakened the Indus Valley culture and they were unable to withstand the newcomers.

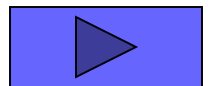
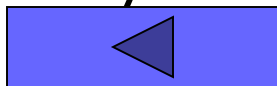


Aryan Invasion



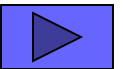
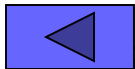
Introduction

- The Aryans brought with them their own language, called Sanskrit and religious and cultural beliefs.
- The Indus Valley people eventually became intermixed with the Aryan people and the two cultures together make up what is now much of the culture of modern India.
- Hinduism, the major religion of India, was a mixture of Aryan and Indus Valley beliefs.
- The caste system, which keeps people in strict social classes, was brought to India by the Aryans.



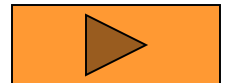
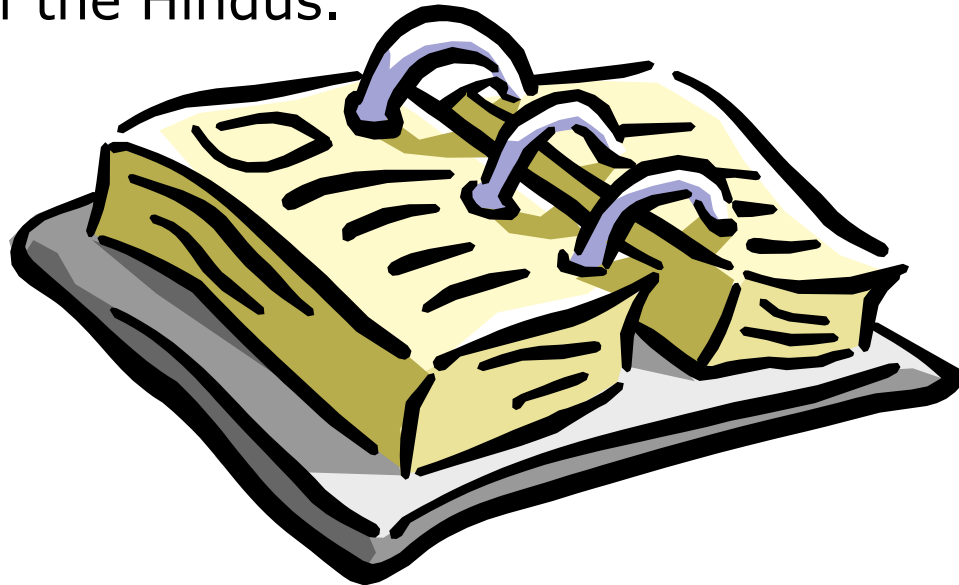
Hindu Religion

- The Aryans and the Indus Valley culture eventually produced what is known today as Hinduism.
- This religion is polytheistic, which means believing in many gods.
- We know about this ancient religion because of Aryan books called “Vedas” that record the beliefs of the Aryans.
- Pictured here is one of the many gods of Hinduism,

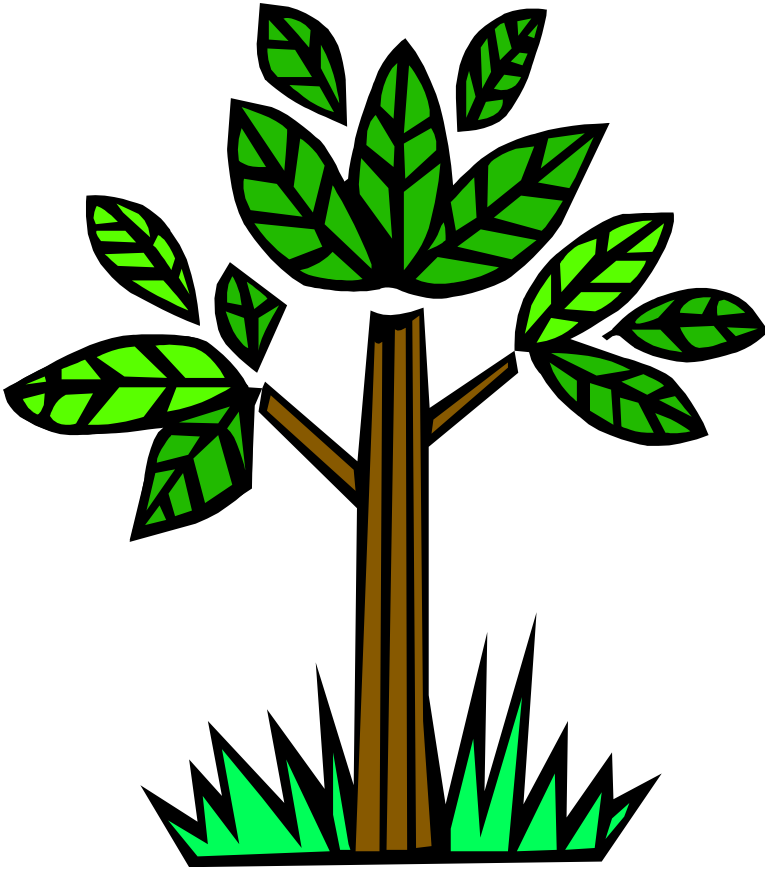


Hinduism

- Hinduism differs from other religions like Christianity, Judaism and Islam in that there is no one single founder or one set of beliefs that must be followed.
- There are thousands of Hindu gods and goddesses in Hinduism.
- Most of the beliefs of Hinduism came from the oral traditions of the Aryans which became the **Vedas**—or holy writings—of the Hindus.



Reincarnation



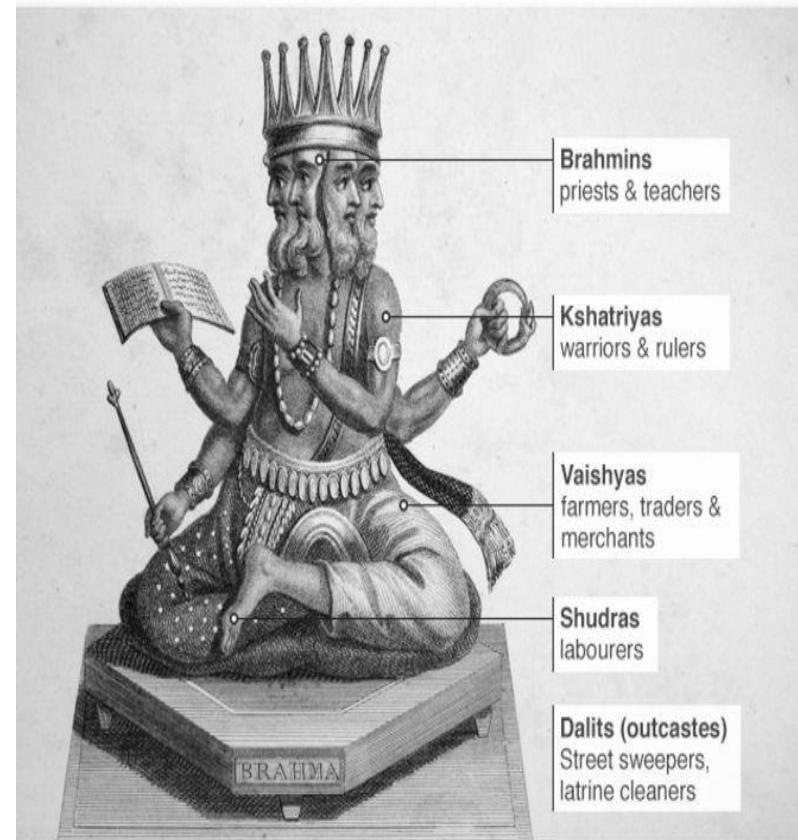
- Central to Hinduism is the belief in **reincarnation**.
- Hindus believe that after a person dies, they will be re-born as some other creature or thing.
- What you are re-born as depends on your "**Karma**" or the deeds you did in your previous life.
- If you did good deeds, you will reborn into a higher, better life. If you had bad Karma, you may be re-born as an insect or even a tree.



Caste System

- One social custom brought to India by the Aryans was the **caste system**.
- This system put every person in society into a certain class from which they could never advance.
- The caste system was very effective in keeping social order but it was rigid and strict.
- Those in the lowest caste were looked down on by upper caste members and could never change castes.

Brahma and the origins of caste



Source: Alamy

BBC

Caste System



- India's caste system is divided into many different classes, each with its own job.
- The highest class is the **Brahmans**, or priests. They have great authority and respect.



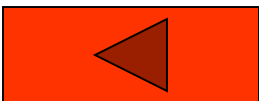
Caste System

- The next level are the warriors, or land-owners.
- They are often in the wealthy, ruling class.
- In early times, they were the armies for the many princes of India.
- They are called **Kshatriya**



Caste System

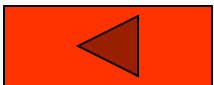
- The **Vaishya** are the merchants and artisans.
- They are the people who sell products. They, like all members of each caste, cannot ever change their caste.



Caste System



- The lowest level are the artisans and farmers. They are called **Shudra**.
- They are very important because they provide food and goods for society.
- Like members of every caste, they must marry within their own caste.

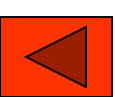


Caste System



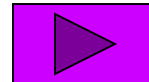
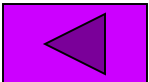
The lowest group in India are the **Harijan**. They are also called the “untouchables” or “outcasts” because they are not even considered part of the caste system. Their job is to do all the worst jobs in the community such as cleaning latrines and sewers

and sweeping the streets. Members of the caste system were not even supposed to have the shadow of an untouchable touch them. These people believed that the only way to get out of their lot in life was to perform their jobs without complaint so they could be born into a higher caste in the next life.



Siddharta Gautama

- Around 566 BC, Siddharta Guatama was born into the warrior or Kshatriya caste. He was a prince who was kept isolated inside a beautiful palace and not allowed to see the real world.
- One day he left the walls of his palace and saw the pain and misery of life. He decided from then on that he needed to find a way of living that would allow people to find peace in life.
- He spent many years trying different ways of life, following different philosophies. Finally he came up with his own way, which is now called **Buddhism**.
- Gautama became known as **Buddha**, which means “enlightened one.”
- He developed the **Four Noble Truths** and **The Eightfold Path**. These are rules to live by that help people live morally and find the “middle path,” without too much pain, or too much pleasure.



Asoka

- Asoka was a famous ruler of India. He became emperor in 268 BC. After fighting a bloody battle, he sickened of war and turned his life in a different direction.
- He became a buddhist, or someone who followed the teachings of Buddha. He lived peacefully and built roads for travelers, planted trees to give shade, constructed rest houses and dug wells.
- He considered all his subjects his children and tried to care for them with love and kindness. Many people became buddhist after Asoka's example.



Contributions

- Many advances in science, medicine, astronomy, and mathematics came out of India. This is a depiction of an ancient Indian book that predicts eclipses of the sun and moon.



Contributions



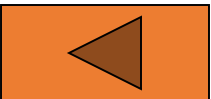
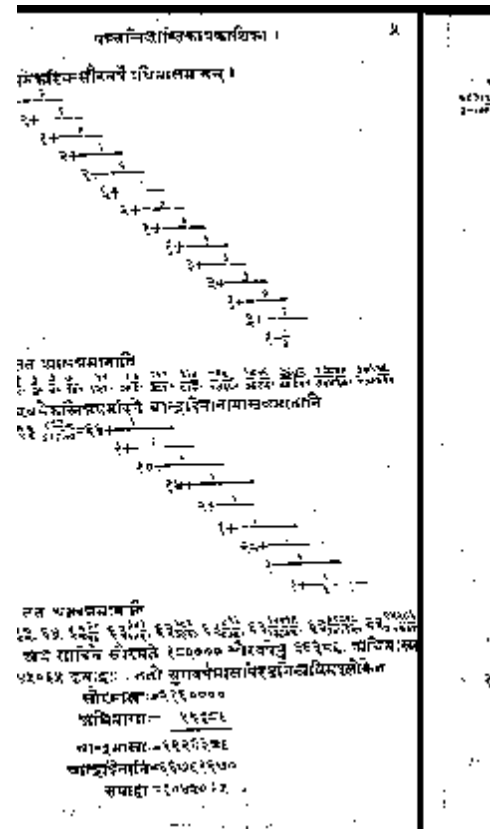
India had many advances in medicine. One doctor from Ancient India wrote a book on how he rebuilt noses through plastic surgery.

He no doubt needed to do this often since having one's nose cut off was one of the punishments for committing crime.

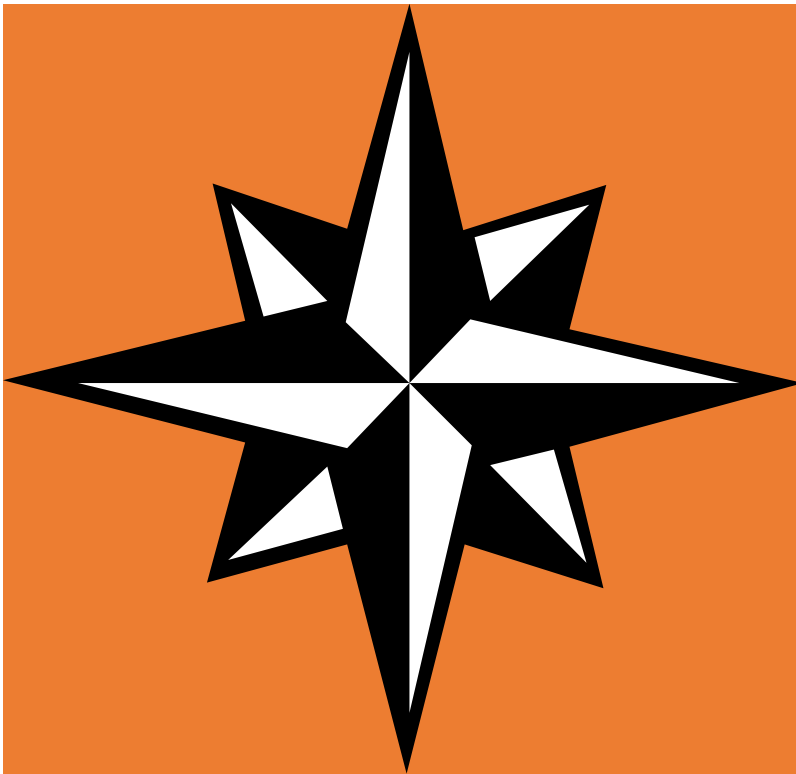


Contributions

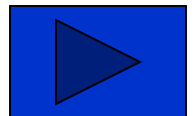
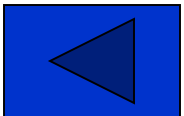
- This is a sample of elaborate mathematical calculations taken from an Indian text around 600 BC. An Indian named Brahmagupta is credited with inventing the idea of “0”(zero). This changed greatly how mathematics could be used.



Contributions



- Ancient India is also credited with inventing the magnetic compass.
- Indians sailed the Indian Ocean in boats they were guided by a metal “fish” floating in oil.
- The fish pointed north, acting as a compass for the boats.



Maurya & Gupta India

SSWH2 - SSWH2 Identify the major achievements of Chinese and Indian societies to 500 CE/AD. Describe the development of Indian civilization, include: the rise and fall of the Maurya and Gupta Empires.

- In this lesson, students will be able to identify characteristics of the Maurya and Gupta Empires.
- Students will be able to identify and/or define the following terms:
 - King Asoka
 - Gupta Empire
 - Golden Age

The Maurya Empire



Chandragupta: 321 BCE- 298 BCE

- Unified northern India.
- Defeated the Persian general **Seleucus**.
- Divided his empire into provinces, then districts for tax assessments and law enforcement.
- He feared assassination [like Saddam Hussein] → food tasters, slept in different rooms, etc.
- 301 BCE → gave up his throne & became a Jain.



Asoka (304 – 232 BCE)

- Religious conversion after the gruesome battle of **Kalinga** in 262 BCE.
- Dedicated his life to Buddhism.
- Built extensive roads.
- Conflict → how to balance Kautilya's methods of keeping power and Buddha's demands to become a selfless person?



Asoka's law code

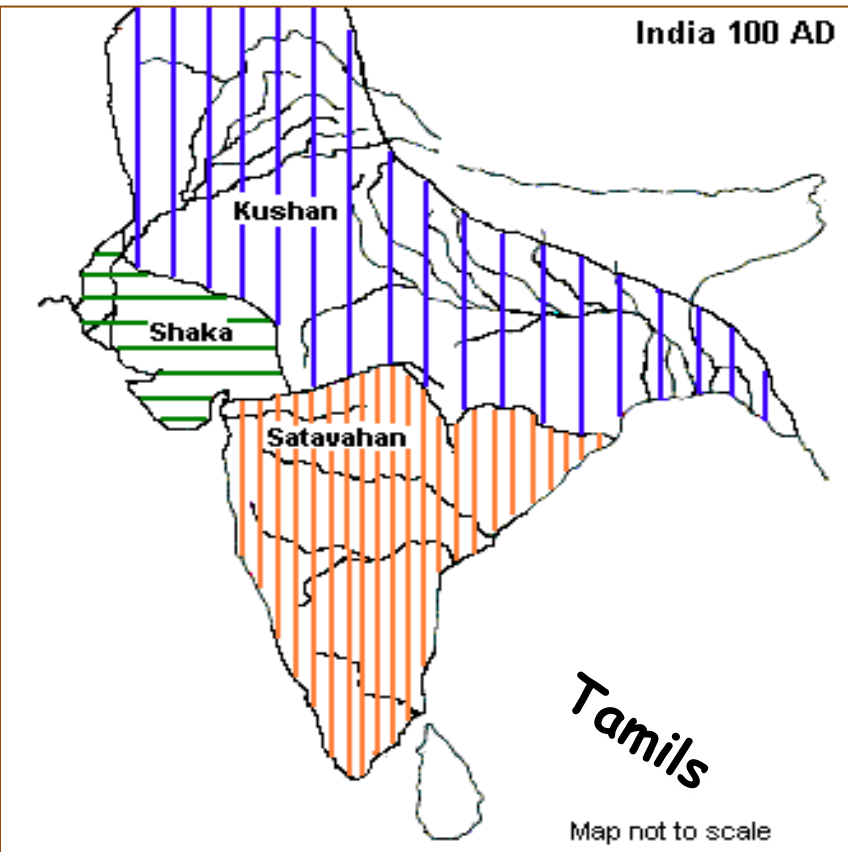
- Edicts scattered in more than 30 places in India, Nepal, Pakistan, & Afghanistan.
- Written mostly in Sanskrit, but one was in Greek and Aramaic.
- 10 rock edicts.
- Each pillar [*stupa*] is 40'-50' high.
- Buddhist principles dominate his laws.





Asoka's Empire

Turmoil & a power Vacuum: 220 BCE – 320 CE



After the death of Asoka, The Maurya Empire is divided into many kingdoms.

Gupta Empire: 320 CE – 647



Gupta Rulers

- **Chandra Gupta I**

- ❖ r. 320 - 335 CE
- ❖ "Great King of Kings"

- **Chandra Gupta II**

- ❖ r. 375 - 415 CE
- ❖ Profitable trade with the Mediterranean world!

- Hindu revival.
- Huns invade - 450 CE

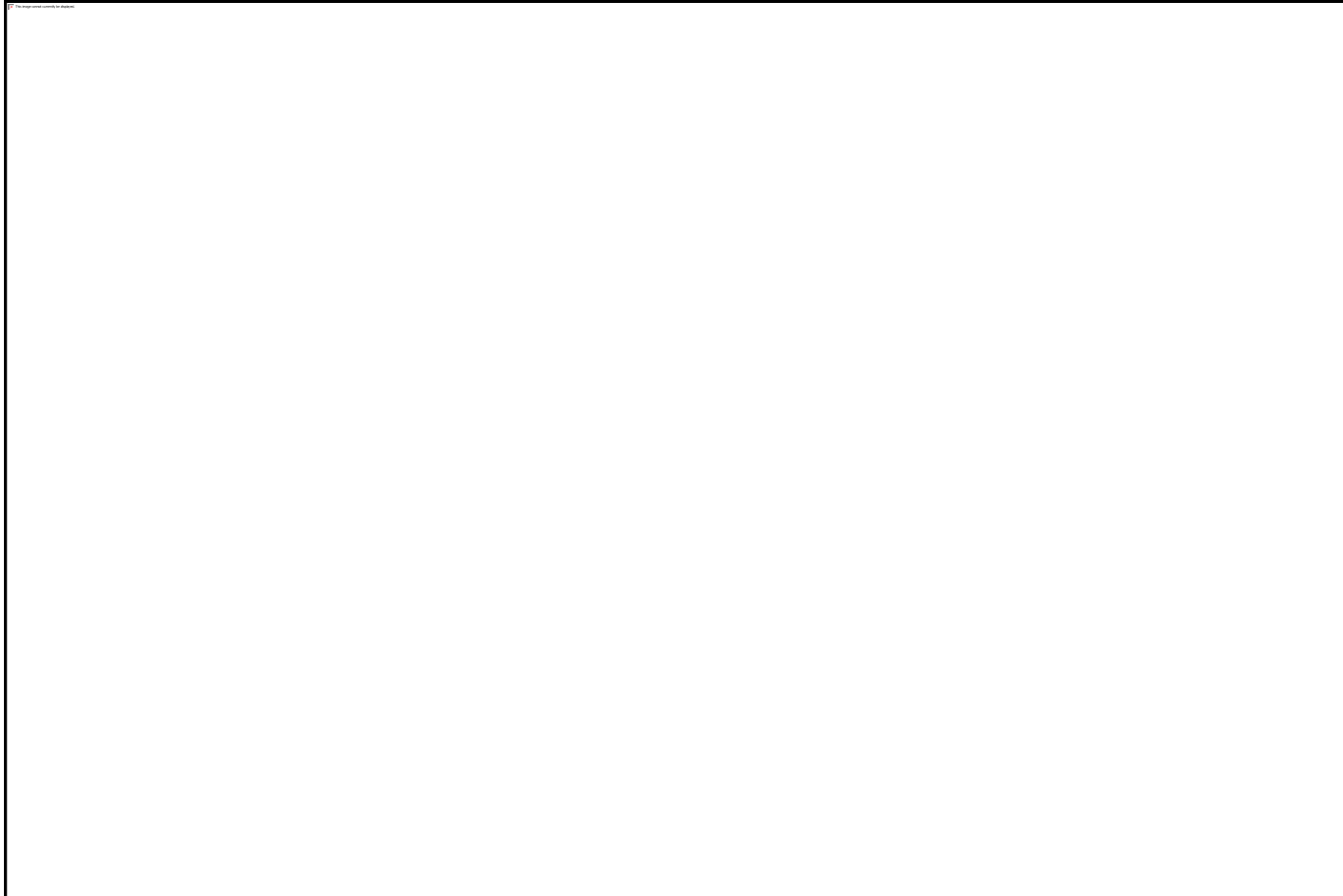


Fa-Hsien: Life in Gupta India

- Chinese Buddhist monk traveled along the Silk Road and visited India in the 5c.
- He was following the path of the Buddha.
- He reported the people to be happy, relatively free of government oppression, and inclined towards courtesy and charity. Other references in the journal, however, indicate that the caste system was rapidly assuming its basic features, including "untouchability," the social isolation of a lowest class that is doomed to menial labor.



International Trade Routes Under the Gupta Empire

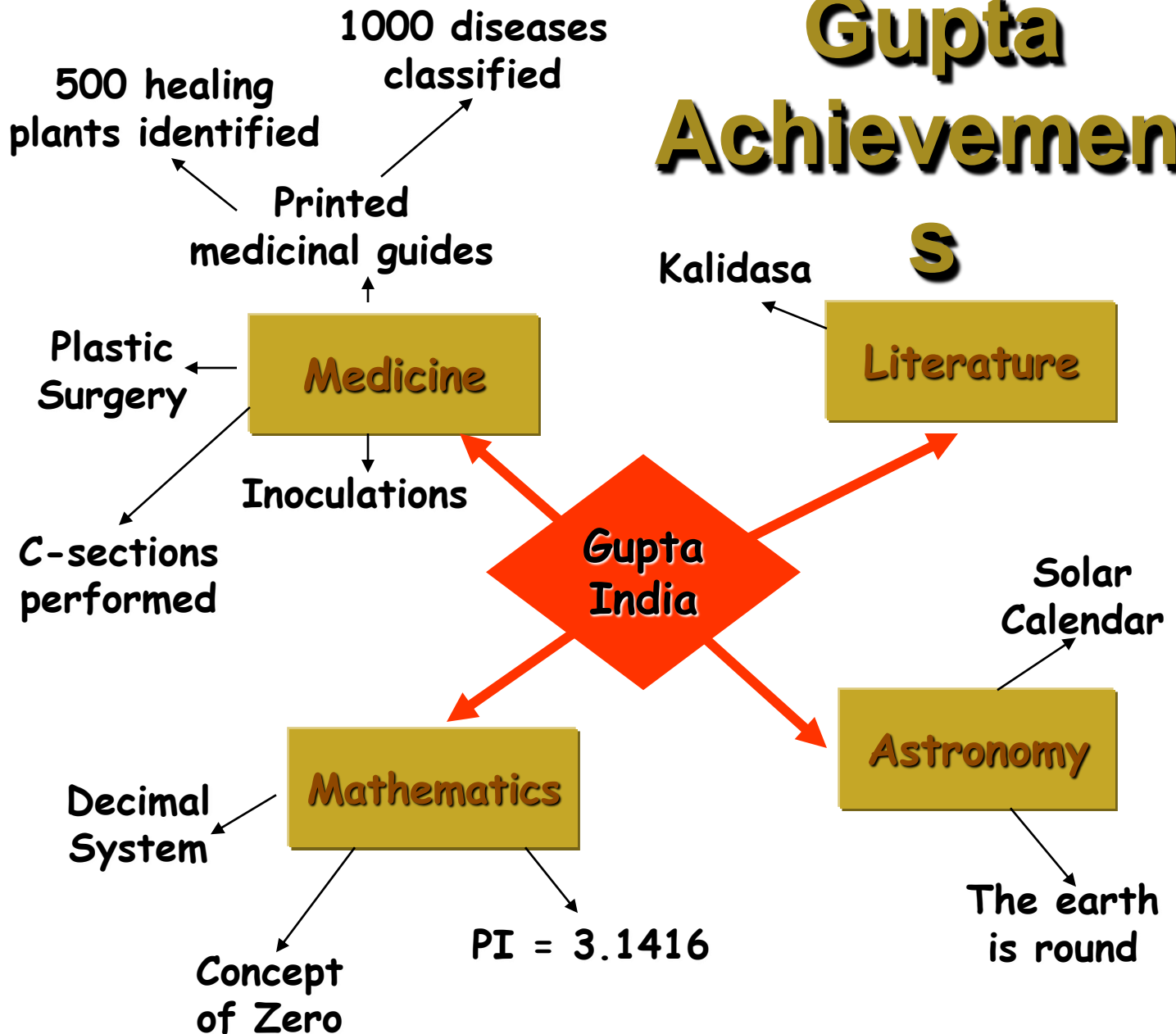


Extensive Trade:

4c



Gupta Achievements



The Decline of the Guptas

- Invasion of the White Huns in the 4c signaled the end of the Gupta Golden Age, even though at first, the Guptas defeated them.
- After the decline of the Gupta empire, north India broke into a number of separate Hindu kingdoms and was not really unified again until the coming of the Muslims in the 7c.