

UNIT 3 - STUDY GUIDE

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Ancient India and China: Civilization spreads east

Overview: After the world's first major civilizations arose in river valleys of Mesopotamia and Egypt, trade and civilization spread east to the Indus river valley of India. Two major world religions, Hinduism and Buddhism began in India, and India was the source of our zero-based numbering system. Later, India would become the hub of a large southern ocean trading network that extended from the Roman Empire to China. China was home to the world's fourth great civilization; it started in the Yellow river valley of northern China and spread south to the Yangtze River valley. China became united under a ruthless emperor, and it grew to become the superpower of Asia.

Essential Question: What is human nature?

Is karma real?

What can Asoka and the First Emperor of China tell us about human nature?

What qualified the Aryans to rule India?

Are harsh punishments needed to keep people in line?

Essential Question: What makes a good society?

Would the caste system work today? Was it a reasonable social system for ancient India?

What makes a government legitimate; in other words, what gives it the right to rule?

Do all cultures follow a pattern of growth followed by decline? Will the United States decline? Has the decline already started?

Who had the better plan for ruling the people of China: Confucius or the First Emperor?

Historical Force: How does technology make history?

How did iron technology change the world?

Can we predict how new technologies will change the world?

1. Read for understanding pages 9-12 of the *Student's Friend*. Demonstrate your understanding by summarizing KEY POINTS for the eight main topics on pages 9, 10 and by MAKING NOTES AND TAKING QUIZZES over the eight main topics on pages 11 and 12.
2. Correctly spell the 16 main topics on pages 9-12.
3. On a map of the Eastern Hemisphere, locate India, China, Asia Minor (Turkey), East Asia, Indus River, Yellow River, the steppes, Silk Road, southern ocean trade routes, Himalayas, Japan.
4. Be familiar with the historical timeline from the Big Bang through the Han and Gupta dynasties.
5. What was the purpose of the Great Wall? Why was it built only on China's northern border?
6. Suppose Buddha lived today. Would he still wonder why there is so much suffering in the world? Explain.
7. Decide if the First Emperor of China was a good man or a bad man. Take a position, and defend it with historical evidence.
8. If you were sent on a mission to establish a new civilization on a distant planet similar to earth, where would you locate your civilization? Why?