History of Ancient India

COMPREHENSION AND CRITICAL THINKING

1. the Aryans
2. possible answer—Unification usually leads to prosperity and stability because a unified country or kingdom can devote its resources to internal improvement instead of repelling military challenges.
3. possible answer—One's place in society was often viewed as divinely ordained. In Hindu belief, those with good karma are born into upper castes, including royalty. Therefore, someone who was king was in good favor of the gods.
4. Answers will vary, but students may cite stability or prosperity.

SECTION 1

Call-Out Boxes

1. Scholars have not been able to read their writing system.
2. possible answer—to make sure invaders were not entering the city
3. by passing them from generation to generation by word of mouth

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Accept suppositions that students can support.

SECTION 2

Call-Out Boxes

1. 1) Brahmins, 2) Kshatriyas, 3) Vaisyas, 4) Sudras
2. A person would likely be in that caste for life.
3. atman
4. Answers will vary.

Challenge Activity

Students' essays should reflect an understanding of *ahimsa,* reincarnation, or karma, and should be discussed in relation to some aspect of modern-day society.

SECTION 3

Call-Out Boxes

1. He was concerned about people's pain and suffering.
2. Accept all reasonable answers.
3. the Four Noble Truths
4. The Buddha cared about the well-being of both people and animals.

Challenge Activity

Students' letters should reflect an understanding of Buddha's life and philosophical point of view, and demonstrate knowledge of letter format.

SECTION 4

Call-Out Boxes

1. Alexander the Great
2. The government protected people in return for taxes paid.
3. Answers will vary. Accept all reasonable answers.
4. the Gupta Dynasty
5. possible answers—caste system, few rights for women

Challenge Activity

Answers will vary. Students' essays should focus either on Asoka or Candra Gupta II, state which man was the better leader, and support this point of view based on such aspects of society as unity, prosperity, military strength, revival or strengthening of culture and social structure.

SECTION 5

Call-Out Boxes

1. Hindu and Buddhist teachings
2. by word of mouth through generations
3. possible answers—auto industry, construction industry
4. zero
5. possible answer—They knew that the sun was a star that had planets moving around it.

Challenge Activity

Students' short plays, stories, or essays should reflect understanding of the genre, include information about scientific and/or mathematical achievements of early Indian empires, and include speculation as to how the world would be different if these developments had not occurred.

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