EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- Indus Valley Civilization
  - Oldest known Civilization
  - 3500 BC
  - Indus River
  - Written Records (not fully deciphered, but showed that they were advanced)
  - City streets laid out in a grid-like pattern
  - Houses made of brick, had bathrooms
  - Craftsmanship flourished – toys and other artifacts
  - Traded over long distances.
EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- Indus Valley Civilization
- Aryans Civilization

- Lasted for about 1000 years.
- Also lasted about 1000 years.

- 2 important legacies
  - Caste System –Priests, Warriors, Merchants, Laborers/Peasants
    - Caused much inequality
    - Born into caste, people could not move up in society, regardless of their talents
    - Outlawed in 1947
  - Literary
    - Composed the Vedas
    - Language of Hindi
EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- Vedas
  - Religious hymns handed down orally for many centuries before they were written down.
  - Laid the foundation for Hinduism

- Birth Place of Religions
  - Hinduism
    - Is described as a way of life
    - No founder, no holy book, no core beliefs
    - Reincarnation – rebirth of a soul in another body
      - Karma – belief that actions in this life can affect your next life
    - Enlightenment – the release from the reincarnation cycle and the soul enters nirvana, a state of eternal bliss.
EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- Birth Place of Religions
- Jainism
  - Religion based on the Hindu principle of ahimsa, or noninjury
- Buddhism
  - Siddhartha Gautama – Founder
    - Gave up wealthy lifestyle and traveled in poverty searching for spiritual truth.
    - He became Buddha or the enlightened one
    - Passed on the Four Noble
      - Life is full of suffering
      - The cause of suffering is selfish desire
      - Suffering can be stopped by conquering desire
      - Desire can be conquered by following the Eightfold Path: right view, right intention, right speech, right action, right way of living, right effort, right mindfulness, and right concentration.

- Buddhists and Jains largely rejected the caste system
EARLY SOUTH ASIA

- 3 Indian Empires
- Mauryas
  - Converted to Buddhism around 260 BC and adopted a life of nonviolence
  - Trade and culture thrived
- Guptas
  - Science, medicine, and mathematics flourished
  - Developed the decimal system in mathematics
- Mughals
  - Were Muslim rather than Hindu
  - Had freedom of religion
  - Taj Mahal was constructed by Shah Jahan in memory of his beloved wife.
MODERN SOUTH ASIA

- British in South Asia
- 1600’s British traders established settlements in India
  - British were interested in textiles, timber, and tea.
  - British took control over South Asia in 1857
  - Independence movement was called the Indian National Congress
    - They supported a boycott
      - Refusing to buy or use certain goods (British goods)
MODERN SOUTH ASIA

- Mohandas K Gandhi
  - Called Mahatma or great soul
  - He studied law
  - Practiced law in South Africa were racist policies shocked and angered him. This made him determined to fight for independence
  - Deeply opposed to violence
  - Civil disobedience
    - Nonviolent resistance
  - India became independent in August 1947
MODERN SOUTH ASIA

- India and Pakistan
- Conflicts between Hindus and Muslims
- With independence from British they divided the subcontinent into 2 main countries.
  - India (mainly Hindu) and Pakistan (Mainly Muslim)
  - Bangladesh was part of Pakistan but broke away in 1970’s to form Bangladesh.
- India & Pakistan have fought several wars of Kashmir
- Both countries are nuclear powers
QUESTIONS

• How has the caste system influenced life in South Asia?

• How are the religions of Jainism and Buddhism alike and different?

• It dictated the occupations and tasks an individual could undertake according to his or her birth and position in society.

• Both arose in response to Hinduism and its emphasis on the caste system. Jainism—non-injury Buddhism—4 noble Truths and the teachings of its founder Budda.