

# Ancient India and Persia

## Vocabulary

1. **Aryans**—Indus River Valley civilization from about 1500 B.C.
2. **Ashoka the Great**—leader of the Mauryan Empire in 270 B.C.
3. **Brahman**—the life-force, creator and destroyer in Hinduism
4. **Buddha**—Siddhartha Gautama after his enlightenment
5. **Buddhism**—ancient religion of India
6. **caste**—rigid social group into which a person is born
7. **Cyrus II**—great leader and founder of the ancient Persian Empire
8. **Eightfold Path**—teachings of the Buddha to help achieve happiness
9. **enlightenment**—Buddhist state of little to no suffering
10. **Four Noble Truths**—basic understandings in Buddhism
11. **Gupta Empire**—Indian Empire in South Asia from 280 A.D. to 550 A.D.
12. **Harappa**—ancient city found in the Indus River Valley
13. **Hinduism**—ancient religion still practiced by millions
14. **Indus River Valley**—location of ancient civilization in present-day India and Pakistan
15. **karma**—the consequences of a person's behavior

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## Vocabulary (cont.)

16. **Mauryan Empire**—first Indian empire in South Asia
17. **meditation**—the practice of sitting quietly and clearing the mind of thought
18. **Mohenjo-Daro**—ancient city found in the Indus River Valley
19. **monotheism**—the belief in one god
20. **nomads**—people who have no permanent home
21. **reincarnation**—belief that after death one is reborn into a new life
22. **Sanskrit**—ancient language which emerged in the Indus River Valley
23. **Siddhartha Gautama**—given name of the Buddha
24. **untouchables**—in Hinduism, people so low they had no caste
25. **Vedas**—collected stories, poems, and songs of the Aryans
26. **Zoroastrianism**—monotheistic religion founded in ancient Persia