Questions

1. A person may not gain enlightenment in one lifetime. Buddhists believe that when the body dies, the soul lives on and is reborn into another living form, bringing with it its karma—the deeds an individual performed during his or her lifetime. Through each rebirth, the soul strives and suffers to overcome bad karma and perform good karma until enlightenment is gained, thus ending the cycle of rebirth and freeing the soul from all its earthly suffering.

2. During the war, Asoka witnessed cruel and bloody acts that might have caused him to question the rightness of provoking and participating in such a war and might have led him to the Buddhist teaching of peace and enlightenment.

Skill Lesson

Understanding Symbols: Recognizing the Buddha
Which of the figures represents the Buddha? Figure A

What features identify him as the Buddha? Round mark that looks like a mole in the middle of his forehead, long earlobes, wisdom bump on the top of his head.

Figure, Features: Students should choose three historical figures who are easily recognized by several distinct features. An example of such a figure is Abraham Lincoln, who may be recognized by the following features: tall and thin, bearded face, bushy eyebrows.

Lesson 4

Vedic Religion. One god many gods: many nature gods; Castes: must live, marry, and work within the caste of birth; Animals: believe in animal sacrifice; Reincarnation: blank

Buddhism, One god many gods: worship no gods, but honor Buddha and follow his teachings; Castes: do not accept a caste system, believe all people are equal; Animals: believe it is wrong to take an animal's life; Reincarnation: believe that when a body dies, the soul lives on and is reborn into another living form again and again until the soul reaches enlightenment.

Hinduism, One god many gods: choose a god, often one worshiped by ancestors; Shiva and Vishnu popular today; Castes: believe in a caste system, caste determines occupation; Animals: blank; Reincarnation: believe that a person's karma determines if the soul will move to a higher or lower caste in the next life and that a soul advances only if a person is a good citizen and family member and performs his or her caste duties to the fullest.

Astronomy: Aryabhata determined that the world was a sphere, rotating around the sun, and that the solar year had 365.358 days.
Mathematics: Ancient Indian mathematicians created the number system we use today (nine digits, the zero, and the decimal).
Public Welfare: Trade guilds looked after the needs of their members, who lived and worked together. Hospitals gave free care to the poor and helpless.

Question

In Hinduism, reincarnation leads to the soul’s rebirth in a higher or lower caste, determined by karma. In Buddhism, the ultimate goal of reincarnation is not to improve the body’s situation in life, but to give the soul the opportunity to strive towards enlightenment. Once this goal is reached, the soul becomes free from earthly trappings.

Skill Lesson

Understanding Scale and Distance: Computing Travel Time
The scale of the map is: 5/8"

Caspian Sea to Indus Valley: 1,500
Traveling on foot: 60
Traveling on horseback: 20
Cana to Maziris: 1,980
Before 37 A.D.: 3,780
Sailing: 180
After Hippalus’ discoveries: 2,100
Sailing: 100

Chapter 9

Lesson 1

Shang Di, Dynasty: Shang; Why Important? Shang Di was the supreme god that the early Chinese worshiped. They believed Shang Di took a personal interest in the world and its people and that their priests could communicate directly with this god.

Oracle Bones, Dynasty: Shang; Why Important? Priests used oracle bones to predict the future and answer questions for the kings, who believed the bones were a means of consulting their ancestors.

Ancestors, Dynasty: Shang; Why Important? People believed that the wise spirits of their ancestors controlled every part of their lives. The fathers in families and even kings made offerings to their ancestors.

Tian, Dynasty: Zhou; Why Important? People worshiped this impersonal power ("heaven") and believed that it demanded right behavior and good government.

The Son of Heaven, Dynasty: Zhou; Why Important? The king, called "the son of heaven," was especially required by tian to demonstrate right behavior and good government.

The Mandate of Heaven, Dynasty: Zhou; Why Important? People believed that if a king ruled well, he earned heaven's support, but if he ruled poorly or was evil, he lost the mandate of heaven and was overthrown.

Blanks: serfs, nobles, king, scholars

Questions

1. (a) China's natural barriers—mountains on the southwest, north, and west; deserts on the north and west; and an ocean to the east—kept China isolated from the rest of the world. (b) Mountains and deserts created numerous regions within China. These regions developed different customs, cultures, and languages. On the other hand, China's rivers helped link the Chinese people.
Ironmaking: Located in an area rich in iron ore and wood, Meroë became an important center of iron making. Iron was in great demand for making strong tools and weapons.

Trade: Meroë became a meeting place for traders from the Middle East, the Far East, and many parts of Africa.

Arts and Crafts: Arts and crafts flourished at Meroë. Workers made delicate vases and bowls, decorated with sketches, and jewelry of silver and gold.

Skill Lesson
Understanding Diagrams: Reading a Cross-Section

How tall? 147 meters

Made of one material or more? probably more than one material

How do you know? The glossy book defines a casing as “an outer covering of fine limestone.” Since the casing is labeled separately, the rest of the pyramid is probably made of another (stronger) material.

Where is the entrance? a short distance up one side

Highest point? the King’s chamber

Which chamber underground? the Subterranean chamber

Chapter 8
Lesson 1

mountains: rivers, silt, transportation

monsoons: plenty of rain

City Planning: The fact that most of the sites found in the Indus Valley were neatly laid out according to similar plans suggests that the area had a strong central government and that a central group planned the building and oversaw the work.

Construction: Sites of Indus Valley cities show houses and other buildings made of uniform bricks, straight streets, and well-designed sewer systems, proving that the culture had skillful engineers and workers.

Trade: Mesopotamian writings refer to trade between the Indus Valley and Sumer. Objects from the Indus Valley have been discovered in Mesopotamia and near the Persian Gulf. Finely crafted, accurate stone weights used by merchants to weigh merchandise have been found throughout the Indus Valley. Personalized stone seals that served as trademarks for merchants have also been found.

Three influences of the Indus Valley civilization: wearing jewelry, raising chickens for food, spinning and weaving cotton cloth

Lesson 2

Migration: the permanent movement of people from their homes to a new region

Causes of migration: depletion of resources, overcrowding, disease, invasion, such natural disasters as floods or earthquakes, the attraction of more food or better jobs

Permanent result of Aryan migration: The Aryan language, Sanskrit, is the root of Hindi, one of the most common languages in India today.

Upon arrival in India: made up of three classes—the raja and his warriors, the priests, and the commoners

After intermarriage began: a four-class system in which priests were the most powerful class, followed by the rajas and warriors, the merchants and peasants, and finally the servants

After the development of new skills: further divided into subgroups called castes, which were ranked one above the other

The Vedas: The Vedas are a collection of sacred hymns and poems, which early Aryans passed down orally from one generation to the next.

Varnas: Aryan society was composed of four classes, or varnas. Each varna gave something to the other varnas and received something in return.

Cows: The Aryans raised cows as a way of life. Cows were so highly prized that they were used as a kind of money.

Indra: Indra, the god of war and thrower of thunderbolts, was one of the Aryans’ most powerful gods. Aryans believed he defeated a dragon of darkness each morning, allowing the sun to rise and the dawn goddess to arrive.

Animal sacrifices: Aryans sacrificed animals to the gods in order to keep the earth’s natural forces in balance.

Questions

1. In a society with a nature-based religion, people believe they need the favor of the gods to gain a balance of nature’s forces, such as the right amounts of sun and rain for crops. Priests are believed to be the ones who know how to keep nature in balance by performing special rituals. Thus, priests are powerful in such a society.

2. The caste system hinders individual freedom. An individual born into a certain caste is forced to stay there—to work and marry within that caste—for life.

Lesson 3

Issue 1: priests’ rituals; Answer: Buddha taught that everyone could find peace, without the aid of the priests’ rituals.

Issue 2: classification of people into permanent social groups; Answer: Buddha taught that all people are equal and that everyone should have the right to try to live a better life.

Issue 3: animal sacrifice; Answer: Buddha taught that it was wrong to take a life.

The answer to why people suffer and how suffering can be avoided: the Four Noble Truths

A person’s deeds during life: karma

The Eightfold Path: eight steps for living a correct life

The path of moderation: the Middle Way

Enlightenment: the point at which a person following the Eightfold Path reaches the peak of understanding, freeing his or her soul from further rebirth and all its earthly suffering.