Geography Impacts Early India

- India is a subcontinent
- Hindu-Kush and Himalaya Mountains to the north
- Indus and Ganges Rivers in northern plains
- Monsoon winds affect farming
Harappa and Mohenjo Daro

- Cities exist some time between 3000 and 1500 BCE
- About 35,000 people in each city-state
- Carefully planned cities with intersecting streets
- Buildings made of mud bricks
- In-door plumbing

Rulers Have Political and Religious Power

- Royal palace and temple both found inside fortress
- Pray to fertility goddess for harvest
- Annual flooding of Indus River makes farming the key occupation

http://i85.servimg.com/u/f85/13/45/78/37/gatewa10.jpg
What Happens to These Cities?

- We are not sure
- Combined effects of:
  - Flooding
  - Earthquakes
  - Climate and environmental changes
  - Change in course of Indus River
  - Influx of new people around 1500 BCE
Arrival of the Aryans

- Indo-European peoples from the northwest come through the Khyber Pass in the Hindu-Kush Mountains around 2000 BCE
- Live in tribal groups, lead warrior life
- Extend control into Deccan Plateau by 1000 BCE
- Interaction with native Dravidian peoples creates new Indian people

http://www.zum.de/whkmla/histatlas/india/indiageo.gif
Indo-Aryans Settle Into Farming

- Iron plow and irrigation improve farming capability
- Wheat, barley, millet grow in north
- Cotton, pepper, ginger, and cinnamon grow in south

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/41/India_Farming.jpg
Sanskrit Language Develops

• New written language allows for record-keeping
• Legends and religious ideas can be written down
• Vedas tell story of the Indo-Aryans between about 1500 and 400 BCE
• Warring rajas develop small kingdoms throughout India
Daily Life in Ancient India

- People live in extended families
- Patriarchal society in which only men inherit property
- Marriages arranged by parents
- Dowries accompany girls into their marriages
- Some women commit suttee when their husbands die
Caste System Develops

• Society divides into four varnas (social groups)
  – Brahmins—priests
  – Kshatriyas—warriors and nobles
  – Vaisyas—farmers and merchants
  – Sudras—servants

• Indians call this jati, not caste

• Fifth group of Untouchables make up 5% of the people
  – Collect trash, handle dead bodies

http://globaltwilight.edublogs.org/files/2011/03/caste_system-oo4t9n.jpg
Major Religions of India

- Hinduism and Buddhism develop
- See notes from World Religions unit

http://www.artoflegendindia.com/images/images_big/pbaal009_the_hindu_gods.jpg

http://2.bp.blogspot.com/_vkE6clryLFo/TT95cLMitXI/AAAAAAA
AAO0/mot3vsEldR0/s1600/buddha.jpg
Three Empires in Early India

- Mauryan Empire (324 BCE-232 BCE)
  - Founded by Candragupta Maurya
  - Asoka is greatest emperor
- Kushan Empire (first century CE to third century CE)
  - Afghans who control northern India
  - Trade through Silk Road and Indian Ocean routes produce ties to other lands
- Gupta Empire (320 CE-535 CE)
  - Founded by Candra Gupta
  - Greatest ruler Candra Gupta II extends trade and power of empire in northern India
  - Attack of the Huns destroys power in 500s
Indian Accomplishments

- **Literature**
  - Vedas are religious works
  - *Mahabharata* is epic poem that includes *Bhagavad Gita*
  - *Ramayana* tells epic story of Rama and his wife Sita

- **Architecture**
  - Pillars, stupas, and rock chambers glorify Buddha

- **Science and Mathematics**
  - Know that earth is round and circle sun
  - Develop algebra, zero, and numeral system in use worldwide today

http://image.dhgate.com/upload/20108/93/ff8080812a18b668012a1de448a63583/productimg1282616609055.jpg
Early Chinese Civilizations

• Geography impacts China
  • Two main rivers support civilizations
    – Huang He (Yellow) in north
    – Chang Jiang (Yangtze) in south
    – Eastern coast is best farming area
  • Mountains and deserts limit contact with western lands
    – Mongolian tribes always looking to steal into China
    – China develops in relative isolation
  • Climate varies north to south in China
    – Monsoons affect southern China
    – Northern China has four seasons

Shang Dynasty Takes Control

- First major rulers of China (1750-1045 BCE)
- Farming society ruled by warlords
- Capital city is Anyang
- Consult oracle bones to prophesy future
- Ancestor worship develops
- Best known for objects made of bronze

http://i3.squidoocdn.com/resize/squidoo_images/590/draft_lens5866762module80981821photo_1264328511china-shang-large.gif
Zhou Dynasty Comes to Power

• Rules from 1045-256 BCE
• Declares Mandate of Heaven
  – Emperors rule with divine power
  – People should therefore obey
  – But if king rules poorly, he can be overthrown and new dynasty can rule
Dynastic Cycle Develops

- New dynasties rule very powerfully for a long time
- Then they begin to decline
- This leads to rebellion and overthrow
- New dynasties arise and grow powerful
Period of the Warring States

- Zhou dynasty faces trouble in 403 BCE
- Civil war breaks out, lasts about 180 years
- Improvements in warfare extend the conflict
  - Iron weapons
  - Cavalry men
  - Crossbow

http://www.digitaljournal.com/img/6/8/7/0/1/4/i/8/1/1/o/WarringStatesAll260BCE.jpg
Farming Life Promotes Strength of Family Ties in China

- Rice growing in the south is particularly labor intensive
- Children become important as hands to work
- Filial piety requires family members to subdue their individuality for the good of the family
- Male supremacy makes the father the head of the extended family
Zhou Accomplishments

- Major projects to control flooding and irrigate fields
- Iron plow increases crop yield, leads to population explosion
- Silk farms develop a product that China can trade to the world
- Chinese written language develops in pictographic form
Qin Dynasty Rises and Falls Quickly

• Qin Shihuangdi rises to power in 221 BCE out of era of Warring States

• Unifies China
  – Single monetary system
  – System of roads
  – Extends control to Red River, bordering Vietnam
  – Builds Grand Canal to connect Guangzhou in the far south to central China

Great Wall in the North

- Qin Shihuangdi protects China’s northern border from outside attack
- Nomadic Mongolians called the Xiongnu live to the north
- They try to herd their cattle in northern Chinese farmlands
- Shihuangdi starts to link together walls others built before him
- Others continue to formalize the wall after his death
- Northern border continues to trouble China in the future despite the wall

http://www.rlrouse.com/pic-of-the-day/great-wall.jpg
Shihuangdi Adopts Legalism

• Burns books that disagree with his policies
• Three-part bureaucracy runs the empire, the army, and censors ideas
• Executes rival warlords who challenge his power
• Institutes harsh taxes
• Dies in 210 BCE and his dynasty falls four years later
• Terra cotta warriors remind of his efforts to dominate China

http://cascolytravel.com/china/011029-713.jpg
Han Dynasty Brings Relief and Order

- Dynasty rules from 202 BCE to 220 CE
- Eliminates Legalism
- Keeps the order established by Shihuangdi, but rules less harshly under Confucian principles of respect
- Han Wudi extends empire into Central Asia and Vietnam
- 150 years of peace after his death

http://www.chinapage.com/emperor/wudi007.jpg
Han Accomplishments

• Textile manufacturing develops
• Windmills provide power
• Steel invented
• Rudder and rigging make sailing oceans easier
• China prospers and population triples

Troubles Arise

- Taxes and forced military service upset peasants
- Tenant farming increases as gap grows between rich and poor
- Rulers become corrupt, warlords re-emerge
- Rebels sack capital city Luoyang in 170 AD
- Civil war breaks out in 220, prevents new dynasty for about 400 years