***GRAPES Notes- Ancient India***

**G-GEOGRAPHY**

* INDUS RIVER-
* HAPPARAN CIVILIZATION DEVELOPED AROUND THIS RIVER (3300 B.C.E.-1700 B.C.E.)
* ROLE OF THE RIVER:
  + PROVIDED FOOD
  + WATER- drinking, irrigation, etc.
  + TRADE
  + TRANSPORTATION
* ADDITIONAL RIVER IN INDIA IS THE GANGES
* OTHER LANDFORMS IN INDIA (positives and negatives)
* HIMALYAN MOUNTAINS IN THE NORTHEAST
* HINDU-KUSH MOUNTAINS (in current Pakistan- west of India)
  + PROTECTION
  + ISOLATION
  + HELPS CREATE SUBCONTINENT
* INDUS RIVER VALLEY (northwest)
* GANGES PLAIN (central part of country)
* CLIMATE IN INDIA
  + HAS ONLY THREE (3) SEASONS
  + MONSOON SEASON- INDIA RECEIVES 90% OF ITS YEARLY RAIN IN THREE (3) MONTHS
  + WINTER- MILD AND COOL
  + SPRING- VERY HOT

**R-RELIGION**

* BUDDHISM-
  + ***ORIGIN***-
    - BEGAN IN INDIA
    - INCORPORATED PARTS OF HINDUISM
  + ***FOUNDER***-
    - SIDDHARTHA GAUTAMA
    - BECAME KNOWN AS BUDDHA “THE ENLIGHTENED ONE”
  + ***PRINCIPLES***-
    - FOUR NOBLE TRUTHS-
      * TRUTH OF SUFFERING
      * CAUSE OF SUFFERING
      * END OF SUFFERING
      * PATH THAT FREES US FROM SUFFERING
    - EIGHTFOLD PATH- EIGHT “STEPS” THAT ARE INTERGRATED IN EVERY DAY LIFE.
      * QUALITLES THAT ARE TAUGHT/LEARNED THROUGH THE EIGHTFOLD PATH-MORTALITY; CONTROL OF ONE’S MIND (MEDIATION); AND WISDOM
  + ***RELIGIOUS TEXT***- NONE
  + ***SPREAD***- SPREAD TO SOUTHEAST AND EAST ASIA THROUGH MISSIONARIES
* HINDUISM--
  + ***ORIGIN***- DEVELOPED OVER TIME IN INDIA
  + ***FOUNDER***- NO REAL FOUNDER BUT BEGAN DURING THE END OF THE AYRANS CIVILIZATION (1500 B.C.E. to 700 B.C.E.)
  + ***PRINCIPLES-***
    - WORLD’S LARGEST POLYTHEISTIC RELIGION
    - BELIEF IN REINCARNATION
    - THREE MAIN GODS (TRIUMVIRATE)
      * BRAHMA-CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE; THE UNIVERSAL GOD; FINAL DESTINATION OF EVERYTHING
      * VISHNU- PRESERVER AND PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE; BALANCE OF GOOD AND EVIL
      * SHIVA- DESTROYER OF THE UNIVERSE IN ORDER TO RE-CREATE IT
    - KARMA- CAUSE/EFFECT; NATURE OF LIFE
    - GOOD AND BAD ACTIONS AFFECT PERSON’S AFTERLIFE
    - DHRAMA- PERSON’S DUTY (HONOR, LOYALTY, RESPECT); PEOPLE SHOULD RESPECT NATURE AND ANIMALS
    - CREATED CASTE SYSTEM- THROUGH ARYAN CIVILIZATION
  + ***RELIGIOUS TEXT***- VEDAS (four books)
  + ***SPREAD***- THROUGHOUT INDIA TO SOUTHEAST ASIA THROUGH MISSIONARIES

**A-ACHIEVEMENTS**

* INDUS RIVER VALLEY (Happaran)
  + FIRST URBAN SANITATION SYSTEMS
  + ASTRONOMY
  + CREATED SANSKRIT- WRITTEN LANGUAGE (follow the money!)
  + BRICK HOMES BUILT IN A GRID SYSTEM- URBAN PLANNING
  + WEIGHTS AND MEASURES
    - Scholars are unsure of what happened to this civilization in Ancient India.
* GUTPA EMPIRE- [320 C.E -550 C.E. (during the beginning of the Middles Ages in the West)—overrun by the Huns]
  + CONSIDERED THE GOLDEN AGE OF INDIA
  + UNIVERSITIES- FOR UPPER CLASS BUDDHISTS AND HINDUS
  + LITERATURE- POETRY, FABLES, FOLKTALES, PLAYS, DRAMAS
    - PLAYS- BHAGAVAD GITA- SONG OF THE LORD, TALES OF ALADDIN
    - DRAMAS- MAHABHARTARA, RAMAYANA (epic stories about the reincarnations of gods)
  + PAINTING- RELIGIOUS TOPICS PAINTED ON LONG SCROLLS
  + SCULPTING- STONE, WOOD, BRONZE, TERRA-COTTA, CLAY OF BUDDHIST AND HINDU GODS
  + METAL WORK- COINS MADE OF GOLD AND COPPER; OWNED MINES OF GOLD, COPPER, AND IRON
  + MATHEMATICS- HINDU-ARABIC NUMERALS, ADDED A ZERO, DECIMAL SYSTEM, EARTH SPINS ON AN AXIS
  + ROADS- WELL BUILT TO HELP TRADE; SIGNS; CONNECTED INDIA TO CHINA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA (MESOPOTAMIA)
  + CULTIVATED COTTON- CHURKA- CREATED A TYPE OF COTTON GIN
  + STEPWELLS- used for drinking and bathing (most were built during the Middle Ages!)

**P-POLITICAL SYSTEMS**

* SINCE THERE WERE SEVERAL DIFFERENT EMPIRES AND KINGDOMS, THE POLITICAL SYSTEMS VARIED.
* HOWEVER, MOST FOLLOWED A SIMILAR SET UP:
  + RAJAH OR KING- leader or possible priest
  + SOME HAD LEGISLATIVE, JUDICAL, AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES (like a democracy)
  + OTHERS HAD COUNCILS THAT ADVISED THE RAJAH
  + MOST ALSO HAD OFFICIALS AND AGENTS WHO OVERSAW LOCAL CITIES/TOWNS/VILLAGES AND COLLECTED TAXES
* EVENTUALLY A STRICT CASTE SYSTEM (from Hinduism) BECAME THE POLITICAL SYSTEM FOR A NUMBER OF YEARS.
  + MODERN GOVERNMENT OF INDIA TODAY DOES NOT SUPPORT ANY CASTE SYSTEM

**E-ECONOMICS**

* NATURAL RESOURCES- COTTON, SPICES, METALS FROM MINING, GRAINS
* SUBSISTENCE FARMING- ONLY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE
* SPICES- USED IN TRADING
* BAZAARS- LARGE MARKETPLACES
* ELEPHANT CARAVANS
* SILVER BAR COINS

S-SOCIAL STRUCTURE

* SUBSISTENCE FARMING- ONLY ENOUGH TO SURVIVE; NO SURPLUS FOR TRADING/BARTERING
* MOST OF POPULATION FARMED THE LAND
* RIGID CASTE SYSTEM-
  + BRAHMAN- PRIESTS, SCHOLARS
  + KSHATRIYA- WARRIORS AND KINGS
  + VAISYAS- ARTISANS AND TRADERS
  + SUDRAS- FARMERS (largest class)
  + PARIAH- OUTCASTES AND UNTOUCHABLES (work with tasks that dealt with disease and pollution, cleaning up after funerals, dealing with the sanitation systems, etc.)