

## CHAPTER

## 3

## SECTION 1

**Note Taking Study Guide****EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN**

**Focus Question:** How have scholars learned about India's first two civilizations, the Indus and the Aryan?

*As you read this section in your textbook, complete the following chart to sequence important events in early civilizations of India and Pakistan.*

Event						
Date						

CHAPTER  
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## Section Summary

### EARLY CIVILIZATIONS OF INDIA AND PAKISTAN

#### READING CHECK

What group was at the top of Aryan society?

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#### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *embodied* mean in the underlined sentence? The prefix *em-* means "to put or to cover with." What is the root word of *embodied*? Use these clues to help you figure out the meaning of *embodied*.

#### READING SKILL

**Recognize Sequence** Number the following in the correct sequence:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Aryans migrate to India.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Organized government plans Mohenjo-Daro.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Aryan beliefs move toward the concept of brahman and mysticism.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Flood, earthquake, or other disaster hits Indus civilization.

The Indian **subcontinent** is a large landmass that juts out from Asia. It is divided into three zones: the Gangetic Plain, with rivers that support farming; the Deccan **plateau**, a raised area of level land too dry for farming; and the coastal plains, which receive plenty of rain. Life there is greatly affected by **monsoons**, or winds that bring hot, dry air from the northeast in October and rains from the southwest in mid-June.

Civilization began on the subcontinent around 2600 B.C. in the Indus River valley. Archaeologists believe organized governments helped plan cities such as **Harappa** and **Mohenjo-Daro**. They were built with wide streets, strong building materials, and complex plumbing systems. Most people farmed, although some traded goods by ship with Sumer. People worshiped many gods and regarded certain animals as sacred, perhaps influencing latter Indian beliefs such as the **veneration** of cattle. The civilization declined by about 1900 B.C., possibly as a result of environmental damage, a major flood, or an earthquake.

The Aryans migrated to the subcontinent and established a strong civilization about 1500 B.C. They began as nomadic herders but later settled into farming. Aryan warriors elected leaders called **rajahs**. Some rajahs competed for control of trade and land. The society was divided into four groups. At the top were priests, followed by warriors, farmers and merchants, and workers and servants.

People worshiped gods and goddesses who embodied natural forces, such as the sky and sun. **Indra**, the god of war, was the chief deity and used thunderbolts as weapons. Priests wrote sacred teachings in the **Vedas**, a collection of hymns and religious instructions.

Over time, Aryan beliefs changed. There was a move toward the concept of **brahman**, a single spiritual power beyond the gods of the Vedas and existing in all things. **Mystics** also sought direct communion with divine forces.

By 500 B.C. there were many kingdoms, yet **acculturation** created a common culture by blending traditions. Epic poems were part of the culture. They described early Aryan warfare, important religious beliefs, and valued behavior.

#### Review Questions

1. Why do archaeologists think organized governments planned Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro?

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2. What are the Vedas?

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