The Indo-Europeans

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last chapter, you read about peoples who built civilizations in the great river valleys.

In this section, you will learn about the movements of two groups of people who lived on the grasslands of Asia.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on where each group migrated and on the features of its culture.

Indo-Europeans Migrate (pages 61–62)

Who were the Indo-Europeans?

The Indo-Europeans were a group of peoples who came from the steppes—the dry grasslands of western Asia. The Indo-Europeans rode horses and tended cattle, sheep, and goats. They spoke many different languages, but all of them came from the same original language.

For some reason, starting about 1700 B.C., the Indo-Europeans began to leave their homeland. They moved into some of the settled areas and began to conquer them. These migrations, movements of people from one region to another, took place over a long period of time.

1. What happened to the Indo-Europeans?

The Hittite Empire (pages 62–63)

Who were the Hittites?

The Hittites were one of these Indo-European peoples. They rode two-wheeled chariots and used
iron weapons to conquer Anatolia. Anatolia is also called Asia Minor. It is a huge peninsula in modern-day Turkey. The Hittites moved farther and took the ancient lands of Mesopotamia. When they moved to the south, they ran into the Egyptians. Neither side was able to defeat the other. So, they decided to make peace.

The Hittites adopted many features of the culture that had grown in Mesopotamia before they arrived. They changed others to suit their own ideas. Their laws, for instance, were less harsh than the code of Hammurabi. The Hittites ruled their Southwest Asian empire from about 2000 to 1190 B.C. Then they fell to a new wave of invaders.

2. How did the Hittites react to the culture they found in Mesopotamia?

Aryans Transform India
(pages 63–65)

Who were the Aryans?

The Aryans were another group of Indo-European people. They moved into what is now India and transformed it. They first captured the land of the people of the Indus Valley. Archaeology tells almost nothing about the Aryans. But their sacred literature, the Vedas, tells a lot about them.

The Aryans were divided into three classes of people. There were priests (Brahmins), warriors, and peasants or traders. They viewed the non-Aryans living in the area as a fourth class. Over time, they made many rules for how people in these classes, or castes, could interact with one another. People were born into their caste for life. Some “impure” people lived in a group outside this class system. They were butchers, grave diggers, and trash collectors. Because they did work that was thought unclean, they were called “untouchables.”

Over many centuries, the Aryans took more and more of what is now India. Eventually many powerful people tried to create their own kingdoms. They fought each other until one kingdom, Magadha, won control over almost all of India. Around this time, an epic poem, the Mahabharata, was written. It tells of the blending of cultures at the time. It also sets down ideals that were to become important in Hindu life.

3. What is the caste system?


**CHARTER 3  Section 2 (pages 66–71)**

**Hinduism and Buddhism Develop**

**BEFORE YOU READ**

In the last section, you read about the Hittites and the Aryans.

In this section, you will learn about the roots of Hinduism and Buddhism.

**AS YOU READ**

Use the chart below to show features of Hinduism, Buddhism, and also Jainism.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>World Religions</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Hinduism**  
(collection of beliefs) |
| **Buddhism**  |
| **Jainism** |

**TERMS AND NAMES**

- **reincarnation** Belief that the soul is reborn
- **karma** Good or bad deeds
- **Jainism** Religion that teaches every living creature has a soul and no living creature can be harmed
- **Siddhartha Gautama** Founder of Buddhism
- **enlightenment** Wisdom
- **nirvana** Buddha’s word for release from selfishness and pain

**Hinduism Evolves Over Centuries (pages 66–68)**

**What is Hinduism?**

Hinduism is a collection of religious beliefs that forms no one system. Unlike many religions, it was not founded by only one person. It is a religion that allows great variety for its followers. Certain ideas became common to the beliefs of all Hindus.

Hindus believe that each person has a soul. However, there is also a larger soul, called *Brahman*, that brings together all the individual souls. A person’s goal is to become free of desire and not bothered by suffering. When that takes place, the person’s soul wins escape from life on Earth. Hindus believe in **reincarnation**. They believe the soul is born again into another body after death. In the next life, the soul has another chance to learn its lessons. According to Hindus, how a person behaves in one life has an effect on the person’s next life. This is the soul’s **karma**—good or bad deeds.

Another religion that arose in India was **Jainism**. It was started by Mahavira, a man who lived from about 599 to 527 B.C. He believed that every creature in the world—even an animal—has...
Four Noble Truths of Buddhism

First Noble Truth
Life is filled with suffering and sorrow.

Second Noble Truth
The cause of all suffering is people’s selfish desire for the temporary pleasures of this world.

Third Noble Truth
The way to end all suffering is to end all desires.

Fourth Noble Truth
The way to overcome such desires and attain enlightenment is to follow the Eightfold Path, which is called the Middle Way between desires and self-denial.

Skillbuilder

Use the chart to answer the questions.

1. What is the subject of the first three noble truths?

2. What is the Eightfold Path?
Seafaring Traders

BEFORE YOU READ
In the last section, you read about major religions that developed in India.
In this section, you will learn about traders whose influence spread throughout the Mediterranean.

AS YOU READ
Use the web below to take notes on how trade spread both products and culture.

Minoans Trade in the Mediterranean (pages 72–73)

Who were the Minoans?
In the Mediterranean area, a new culture arose on the island of Crete. The Minoans were peaceful people who lived in rich cities that were safe from invaders. They controlled trade in their area, Crete. Crete is a large island on the southern edge of the Aegean Sea. The Minoans sent their fine pottery, swords, and metal drinking cups to other lands. They also sent other countries their style of art and architecture. This style later had influence on the art of Greece.

Archaeologists have explored the ruins of Knossos, the capital city of the Minoans. It was the archaeologists that first called the culture Minoan, after its famous ruler, King Minos. They found beautiful wall paintings that offer views of Minoan culture. One interesting feature of Minoan life was the high position that women appear to have held. An earth goddess seems to have headed all the gods of Crete, and women ruled over some important religious places. Women did not play such
important roles among other peoples who lived nearby.

Minoan cities were damaged in 1470 B.C. by a series of disasters. First, a number of earthquakes rocked the island, destroying buildings. Then a volcano exploded on a nearby island. That was followed by huge waves and clouds of white ash from the volcano's fire. These shocks seem to have been too much for the Minoans. The Minoan civilization ended about 1200 B.C.

1. What were three important features of Minoan culture?

Phoenicians Spread Trade and Civilization (pages 73–76)

Who were the Phoenicians?

Another group of people arose in the Mediterranean. They lived in several city-states in what is today Lebanon. They traded far and wide. Some may have even sailed as far as Britain—and perhaps around Africa. They were the Phoenicians.

The Phoenicians put colonies all along the Mediterranean coast. Colonies were 30 miles apart. This was the distance that one of their ships could travel in a day. One of those colonies, Carthage, in North Africa, later became a major power in the Mediterranean world. Phoenicians traded such goods as wine, weapons, metals, ivory, slaves, and objects made of wood and glass. They also made a purple dye that was highly valued.

The important achievement of the Phoenicians was their alphabet. They used symbols to stand for the sounds of consonants. They brought their system of writing to other lands such as Greece, where Greeks changed the form of some letters. The alphabet that we use today, however, had its beginnings in Phoenician writing.

2. How did the Phoenicians spread their culture?

Ancient Trade Routes (page 76)

What were the major trading networks?

Trading networks also connected the Mediterranean Sea with other centers of world commerce in South and East Asia. Some routes went across Central Asia by land. Some sea routes went across the Arabian Sea. These networks helped people exchange products and information. Traders carried ideas, religious beliefs, art, and ways of living. They did not just trade goods. They also helped “trade” culture.

3. Why were trade networks so important?
Chapter 3 People and Ideas on the Move

The Origins of Judaism

Before You Read
In the last section, you read about the spread of culture through trade. In this section, you will learn about the origins of Judaism.

As You Read
Uses the chart below to take notes on the beginnings of Judaism.

The Search for a Promised Land
(pages 77–78)

Where did the Hebrews claim land?
The Hebrews made a claim to an important piece of land, the area now called Palestine. They believed the land had been promised to them by God. Their ancient home was the area of Palestine called Canaan. This region sat on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea and on the Red Sea, which led to the Indian Ocean. It opened to the trade of many lands. Most of what we know about the early history of the Hebrews comes from the Torah, the sacred book of the Hebrews.

The story of the Hebrews began in Mesopotamia. There, according to the Torah, God chose a man named Abraham to be the “father,” or the first of the Hebrews. God told Abraham to move his family to Palestine. Abraham promised that he and his people would always obey God. (The Hebrews were among the world’s earliest peoples to believe in one god, or monotheism.) God, in turn, promised to always protect them from their enemies. This was the first of many covenants—promises between God and the Hebrews.

1. What role did Abraham play in early Hebrew history?
**Moses and the Exodus** (pages 78–80)

**Who was Moses?**

When their crops failed, the Hebrews moved to Egypt around 1650 B.C. Over time, they were forced to become slaves. After many years, they fled. The Hebrews called this mass departure “the Exodus.”

According to the Torah, a man named Moses led them out of Egypt between 1300 and 1200 B.C. They wandered 40 years in a wilderness. During that time, the Torah says, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments. These were the laws that the Hebrews were to follow. For the second time, God promised to protect them in return for their obedience to his laws.

After Moses died, the Hebrews finally reached Palestine and settled. There they began to adopt new ways of life. They often fought with other peoples living in the area, as each group tried to control the best land and other resources.

The Hebrews were organized into twelve groups, called tribes. Each tribe was separate from the others. But in times of danger they would unite under leaders called judges. One of those judges was a woman named Deborah. It was unusual for women in Hebrew society to hold such a position. Women usually were expected to stay home and raise children.

The Hebrews had other leaders called prophets. They said that they were messengers sent by God to tell the people how he wanted them to act. These prophets told the people that they had two duties: to worship God and to deal in just and fair ways with one another. With this message, religion was changing. Instead of being a part of life run by priests, it was now a matter of each person living a moral life.

**The Kingdom of Israel** (pages 81–82)

**How was Israel formed?**

After the exile, the only large tribe left was the tribe of Judah. As a result, the Hebrews came to be known as the Jews. Their religion was called Judaism.

From about 1020 to 922 B.C., the Jews were united into one kingdom, Israel. Three kings helped unite them. The first, Saul, drove off their enemies. The second, David, made Jerusalem the capital. The third, Solomon, built a magnificent temple to be used to worship God.

After Solomon’s death, though, the kingdom split into two parts. Israel was in the north, and Judah was in the south. For the next two centuries, each of the kingdoms had times of prosperity, followed by low periods.

**3. How was Israel split?**

**The Babylonian Captivity** (page 82)

**Who conquered Israel and Judah?**

Disaster came when both kingdoms lost their independence. Israel and Judah began to pay tribute to Assyria. Tribute is money paid by a weaker power to a stronger power to make sure it does not attack.

Eventually, the northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians. Later, the southern kingdom fell to the Babylonians. Many Jews were forced into exile in Babylon. They lived there for many years during what was known as the Babylonian Captivity. Then the Babylonians themselves were conquered by the Persian king Cyrus the Great. The new ruler let 40,000 Jews return home.

**4. What was the Babylonian Captivity?**