

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Ancient India and Hinduism Reading Guide

---

## Section 1

**p. 52**

1. What is the name of the pass that allows passage to India? Why is it difficult to get in by land?
2. List the rivers and bodies of water that flow through and surround India.
3. A monsoon is a seasonal wind. When do they blow from the southwest, and what problems come if it brings too much or too little rain?
4. Look at the map on pg. 53. Mohenjo Daro and Harappa were very similar. How might their locations have affected this relationship?
5. Use the information on page 54 and 55 to create a map of Harappa (this question is worth 10 points).

6. What do we know about Harappan writing? Why?
7. Describe what we know about Harappan religion.

## Section 2

p. 56

8. Why do they call the period from 1500 – 1000 BC the “Vedic Age?”
9. Describe how and where the ancient Indo-Aryans worshipped their gods.
10. What role did the Brahmins play in Indo-Aryan religion?
11. A raja was a priest. What roles did he play?
12. Who was at the top of the Indo-Aryan social structure? Why?
13. The Aryan invaders changed Indian society. Name at least two ways our society would change if foreign invaders (the Chinese, for example) took over our area.
14. Why were the people of southern India able to hold on to their distinct ways of life?

## Section 3

pg. 60

15. The Upanishads are the books about Vedanta, which means “the end of the Vedas.” Who was trying to end the Vedas, and why?
16. What story tells about Rama and Sita, the role models for Indian men and women?
17. What were the rules about the Untouchables (your book calls them “pariahs”)?
18. What is the difference between a varna and a jati?
19. What is Brahman? What is Atman? What is the difference between them?
20. How do you achieve “salvation” (it’s really called “nirvana”) in the Hindu faith?
21. What is the difference between dharma and karma?
22. Why do the Hindus seem polytheistic? What are they really?