

# Ancient Asian Civilizations Guided Notes

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## Vocabulary List

Harappa	Emperor Cheng
Hinduism	autocracy
monistic	Han
nirvana	Liu Ch'e
karma	Silk Road
Varna/caste system	Confucius
pariah/untouchable	Confucianism
Shang	Daoism
animism	Buddha
Zhou	Buddhism
Mandate of Heaven	Eightfold Path

## Guided Questions

### Harappa

1. How did the geography of India affect its ancient people?
2. What was the purpose of the Harappan walls?
3. What do we know about Harappan writing and religion?

### Hinduism

4. What are the fundamental beliefs of Hinduism?
5. According to Hindu theology, what happens when someone achieves Nirvana?
6. If the Hindus are monistic, where do all those gods come from?

7. Who is at the top of the Varna? Who is at the bottom? Why?
8. Why are many Indians willing to accept mistreatment due to their place in the caste system? How does someone move up in the caste system?

## **China**

9. Where do most Chinese people live? Why?
10. What contributions did the Shang make towards Chinese culture?
11. Why did the Chinese develop writing?
12. When the Zhou took over for the Shang, what excuse did they use to convince the people to follow them?
13. What kind of ruler was the Emperor Cheng? What did he accomplish? How did his leadership style lead to his downfall?
14. Liu Che`e expanded China greatly, but such a large empire is difficult to rule. What innovation allowed the Han to rule it?
15. What ended the Han dynasty?

## **Buddhism**

16. Who was Siddhartha Guatama and why was he interested in suffering?
17. According to the Buddha, what is the cause of suffering? How can we overcome suffering?
18. What are the steps on the Eightfold Path?

## **Chinese Philosophy**

19. What were the basic tenets (beliefs) of Confucian philosophy?
20. Why don't the Daoists believe people should interfere in large-scale events?