**Ancient India Review**

**Vocabulary:**

* Subcontinent- a large landmass, smaller than a continent
* Monsoons- seasonal wind patterns
* Indus River- major river flowing out of the Himalayas
* Sanskrit- most important language of Ancient India
* Caste system- the division of Indian society into groups.
* Hinduism- largest religion in India
* Buddhism- a religion based on the teachings of Buddha
* Reincarnation- the process of a soul being reborn in a new body
* Karma- The force created by a person’s actions
* Meditation- the focusing of the mind on spiritual ideas
* Fasting- going without food
* Missionaries- people who spread their religious beliefs
* Nirvana- A state of perfect peace

**Geography:**

* India is a subcontinent
* The Hindu Kush and Himalaya mountains separate India from the rest of Asia.
* The Indus river valley was home to the first Indian civilization.
* Monsoons are seasonal rains that create a rainy summer season, good for crops but can cause floods.

**Cities in the Indus Valley:**

* Harappa and Mohenjo Daro were two well-planned out cities.
* Each had a citadel or fortress, which over looked streets laid out in a grid.
* Cities had sewers and most homes had indoor plumbing.

**Aryans:**

* Nomadic herders who migrated into India
* Settled into villages and began to farm
* Aryan society became more complex, so they divided it into groups or social divisions known as Varnas
* Brahmins- India’s priests
  + Kshatriyas- rulers and warriors
  + Vaisyas- farmers and craftspeople
  + Sudras- workers and servants
* This was known as the Caste system- society was divided up into groups based on wealth, birth or occupation.
* The Aryans developed sutras or guides, which listed strict rules to the caste system.
* A segment of society that did not belong to a group was known as untouchables.
* Brahmanism was the Aryan religion.
* The religious texts were the Vedas

**Hinduism:**

* Developed as a blending of religious ideas.
* Hindus believe in many gods.
  + Brahma the creator, Siva the destroyer, and Vishnu the preserver
  + Hindus believe that each of these is part of a universal spirit called the Brahman
* Hindu teaches that every person has a soul or atman
* Hindus believe in reincarnation or the process of rebirth
* Hindus believe that how you are reborn depends on your Karma or good or bad actions in your life.

**Jainism:**

* Believed Hinduism put too much emphasis on rituals
* Four basic principles: injure no life, tell the truth, do not steal, own no property
* Practiced non-violence or Ahimsa

**Sikhism**

* Monotheistic
* Believe in one god with no physical form but can be sensed
* Ultimate goal is to be reunites with god after death.

**Buddhism**

* Founded by Gautama
* Gautama wanted to know why people suffered and wanted to find answers to his questions about human life.
* He began to fast, or go without food, and found enlightenment through meditation
* His followers called him the Buddha or enlightened one.
* The guiding principles of Buddhism were known as the four noble truths.
* People need to overcome their desires to reach Nirvana or a state of perfect peace.
* Buddhism gained many followers cause it was against the Caste system
* Buddhism spread through missionaries or people who work to spread their religious beliefs.
* Eventually split
  + Theravada Buddhism follow Buddhist teachings exactly, Mahayana Buddhists believed in interpreting the teachings to reach nirvana.