### **Cohen Middle School 100 Robinwood Avenue** Elmira Heights, NY 14903

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### **Ancient India**

Section 2



#### **MAIN IDEAS**

- Indian society divided into distinct groups under the Aryans.
- 2. The Aryans practiced a religion known as Brahmanism.
- 3. Hinduism developed out of Brahmanism and influences from other cultures.
- **4.** A few groups reacted to Hinduism by breaking away to form their own religions.

### **Key Terms and People**

caste system a division of Indian society into groups based on a person's birth, wealth, or occupation

Hinduism the most widespread religion in India today

reincarnation the belief that the soul, once a person dies, is reborn in another person

karma the effects that good or bad actions have on a person's soul Jainism a nonviolent religion based on the teachings of Mahavira nonviolence the avoidance of violent actions

Sikhism monotheistic religion founded in India in the 1400s

# Section Summary INDIAN SOCIETY DIVIDES

Aryan society was divided into social classes. There were four main groups, called *varnas*. The Brahmins (BRAH-muhns) were priests and were the highest ranking varna. The Kshatriyas (KSHA-tree-uhs) were rulers or warriors. The Vaisyas (VYSH-yuhs) were commoners, including farmers, craftspeople, and traders. The Sudras (SOO-drahs) were laborers and servants.

This **caste system** became more complex, dividing Indian society into groups based on rank, wealth or occupation. A person was born into a caste, but it was sometimes possible to change caste during one's lifetime. Life for the lower castes was difficult. Some people called untouchables, did not belong to any caste.

Number the Aryan varnas in order of their social rank, with one (1) being highest and four (4) being the lowest:

Brahmins Sudras Kshatriyas Vaisyas

In ancient India, how was a person's caste determined?

Name	Class	Date	·
Section 2, continued			

### **BRAHMANISM**

The religion practiced by the Brahmins became known as Brahmanism. The religion was based on the four Vedas, writings that contained ancient sacred hymns and poems. Over time, Aryan Brahmins and scholars wrote their thoughts about the Vedas. These thoughts were compiled into Vedic texts. The texts described rituals, explained how to perform sacrifices, and offered reflections from religious scholars.

What do the Vedic texts describe?	-

### HINDUISM DEVELOPS

Hinduism is India's largest religion today. It developed from Brahmanism and other influences. Hindus believe that there are many gods, but all gods are part of a universal spirit called Brahman. Hindus believe everyone has a soul, or atman, and the soul longs to join with Brahman. This happens when the soul recognizes that the world we live in is an illusion. Hindus believe this understanding takes several lifetimes, so reincarnation, or rebirth, is necessary. How you are reborn depends upon your karma, or your actions in life. Those who have good karma are born to higher castes. Those with bad karma are born into lower castes.

What is the Hindu name for the soul?	

What	is karn	na?		
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### **GROUPS REACT TO HINDUISM**

The religions of **Jainism** and **Sikhism** developed in reaction to Hinduism. Jainism is based upon the principle of **nonviolence**, or ahimsa. Sikhism is a monotheistic religion that blends elements of Hinduism and other religions, such as Islam.

### CHALLENGE ACTIVITY

Critical Thinking: Drawing Inferences The idea of ahimsa has proved popular with reformers through the centuries. Write a one-page essay explaining why this might be so.

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nat will help you remember the wo	
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	meaning of a literary work
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Class Period\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_

Name\_

Read each clue and write the answer in the blanks. Use the first and last words to fill in the sentence under the ladder. HINT! Words with a ★ are more challenging!

# WILD WINDS



9. Vortex of strong wind.

> Add 3 letters to the end.

7. A yellow vegetable that grows on a cob.

Change I letter.

5. My baby brother was \_\_\_\_ this morning.

Change I letter.

3. The very center of an object.

Change I letter.

I. My grandpa needs a \_\_\_\_ to help him

Take away 5 letters.

**Start Here** 

8. A synonym for ripped.

Change I letter.

6. I needed new clothes because my old ones were out.

Change 1 letter.

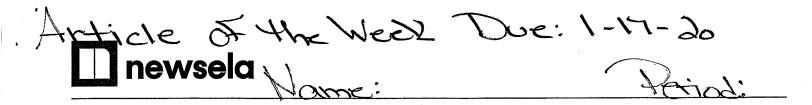
4. A person who is not interesting.

Change I letter.

2. To show concern.

Change I letter.

A forms over land, while a is much larger and forms over water.



## Australia's wildfire disaster worsens in recordshattering heat

By Washington Post, adapted by Newsela staff on 01.08.20 Word Count **855** 

Level 880L

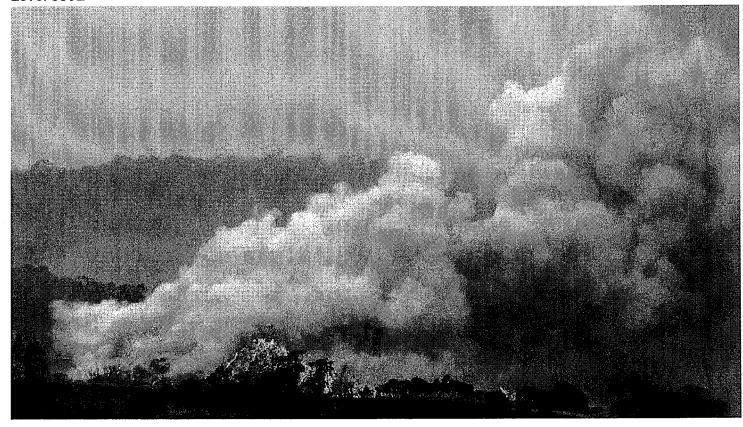


Image 1. A burning wood chip mill in Eden, New South Wales, Australia, January 6, 2020. No significant rain is expected in the hardest-hit areas of New South Wales and Victoria for months. Photo by: Saeed Khan/AFP

The wildfires in Australia became considerably worse on January 3 and 4. The Australian state of New South Wales was affected the most.

The disaster facing the country is far from over.

Strong, dry winds spread sparks and started new blazes. The fires knocked out power and water in some communities. The government had to call up the military to help with firefighting.

### **Emergency Warnings**

As of January 4, the Rural Fire Service of New South Wales was still giving the most severe level of emergency warnings. "The fire is spreading quickly," said one warning. It told people in some places that it was too late to leave and that they should seek shelter.

Temperatures soared to what appears to be a record high for Sydney. In Penrith, in the far west of the city area, temperatures hit 120 degrees Fahrenheit (48.9 degrees Celsius). Canberra, the nation's capital, reached a record high of 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.6 degrees Celsius). The previous record of 109 degrees Fahrenheit was set in 1939.

### **Smoke Creates Dangerous Clouds**

Many of the fires sent smoke high into the atmosphere. Some smoke turned into pyrocumulonimbus clouds. These are thunderstorms caused by the heat, smoke and water vapor from a major fire. On January 4, Australia's Bureau of Meteorology issued a thunderstorm warning for storms created by the smoke plumes.

These clouds usually show that a fire is extreme. They help a fire draw in more air and can shift surface winds. This can result in fire tornadoes. A young firefighter in Australia died when a fire tornado overturned his vehicle.

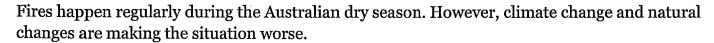
During the night before January 4, fires also erupted in other parts of Australia. A destructive blaze hit Kangaroo Island in South Australia. The island is home to a nature preserve with many unique animals. Fires have destroyed habitats for animals that are found only in Australia, including koalas and rare birds. It will take time to fully know how much harm the fires have had on wildlife.

The wildfires are expected to continue burning for months as Australia entered its dry season. However, the immediate fire weather forecast includes cooler weather. This could help firefighters keep the flames back.

### A Very Dry Season

December turned out to be one of the top two hottest months ever recorded in the country. This past year, 2019, was the hottest and driest year on record. December had the country's hottest day on record as

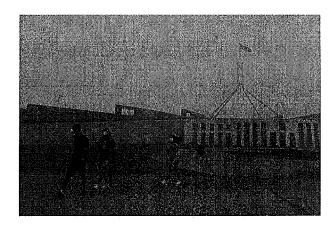
well. Little rain is expected for months in the hard-hit areas of New South Wales and Victoria.



As people burn fossil fuels like coal and gas for energy, greenhouse gases are released in the air. As the amount of gases in the air build over time, the average global temperature rises. This is called climate change.

Climate change, or global warming, is increasing the chances of extreme heat. It is also making wildfires more severe by drying the landscape. Climate studies show that global warming would make heat waves more frequent and severe. They also said warming would boost the number of days with extreme fire danger.

Both of these trends are happening in Australia.



The southern part of Australia has warmed by 2.7 degrees since 1950, said climate scientist Zeke Hausfather. He works at The Breakthrough Institute, which is a research center. The temperature increase in Australia reflects what is happening worldwide.

### **Weather Pattern Makes Things Worse**

The warm and dry year in Australia is also due in part to a weather pattern. It is called the Indian Ocean Dipole. It is a specific pattern of airflow over the Indian Ocean. When it is in its positive phase, there is less rainfall over Australia. It is a natural weather pattern but it has been happening more often because of climate change. The Indian Ocean Dipole has been in its positive phase for the last two years. It has caused drier conditions than usual in many parts of Australia.

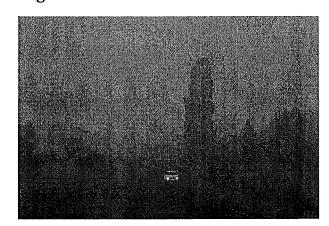
### **Australians Are Scared And Tired**

At least 12 million acres have burned so far in Victoria and New South Wales alone. That amount of land is equal to the burning of the entire state of West Virginia.

Smoke from the fires has made it to South America. There is so much smoke that it may stay in the air for months. This could have a small effect on the planet's climate.

Australians in affected areas feel helpless, scared and tired.

Rebecca Butterworth works in Albury, a city in New South Wales. She said there is a signal that warns people to leave. It's hanging everywhere, she said.



#### Quiz

1 Read the paragraph from the section "Smoke Creates Dangerous Clouds."

Many of the fires sent smoke high into the atmosphere. Some smoke turned into pyrocumulonimbus clouds. These are thunderstorms caused by the heat, smoke and water vapor from a major fire. On January 4, Australia's Bureau of Meteorology issued a thunderstorm warning for storms created by the smoke plumes.

Which of the following is an accurate explanation of what this paragraph means?

- (A) The fires are large and strong enough to create storms.
- (B) Smoke from the fires is more dangerous than the flames.
- (C) This is the first time a storm has made pyrocumulonimbus clouds.
- (D) Water vapor is being used to put out the fires in Australia.
- 2 Read the section "Australians Are Scared And Tired."

Which sentence from the section shows that the fires may continue to affect the planet even after they are put out?

- (A) That amount of land is equal to the burning of the entire state of West Virginia.
- (B) Smoke from the fires has made it to South America.
- (C) There is so much smoke that it may stay in the air for months.
- (D) She said there is a signal that warns people to leave.
- 3 What effect does the Indian Ocean Dipole have on Australia's fires?
  - (A) It creates tornadoes that can help the fires to spread more quickly.
  - (B) It causes cooler weather that will increase the smoke from the fires.
  - (C) It creates dry conditions for big fires by sending less rainfall to Australia.
  - (D) It causes Australian fires to be hotter by raising temperatures worldwide.
- 4 What is the relationship between the fires in Australia and climate change?
  - (A) The fires are raising temperatures in Australia, which is what is causing climate change to happen in other places.
  - (B) The fires are part of a record hot year in Australia, which is caused in part by climate change raising global temperatures.
  - (C) The fires happen every year in Australia, but climate change has been making the fire season there shorter over time.
  - (D) The fires happen most often near the islands of Australia, but climate change has caused them to move onto the mainland.