c. 2600 BCE – 550 CE

Ancient India Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. What was remarkable about the cities of the Indus Valley Civilization?

- (A) They had marble palaces, coin mints, and libraries of Sanskrit texts on paper
- (B) They had iron weapons, horse-drawn war chariots, and large standing armies
- (C) They had grid-planned streets, advanced drainage, and standard weights for trade
- (D) They had huge stone pyramids, royal tombs, and temples covered in written histories

2. Why did the Indus Valley Civilization decline around 1900 BCE?

- (A) Alexander the Great destroyed the cities during his long march into India
- (B) Chandragupta Maurya conquered the cities and moved the people to his capital
- (C) The cause is debated; climate change, shifting rivers, and disease are possible
- (D) Armies from Mesopotamia invaded from the west and burned all of the major cities

3. What are the Vedas?

- (A) The earliest teachings of the Buddha, written down by his followers
- (B) The earliest trade records of the Indus Valley, pressed into clay seals
- (C) The oldest law code of the Maurya Empire, carved on stone pillars
- (D) The oldest sacred texts of Hinduism, composed in Sanskrit

4. Who was Siddhartha Gautama?

- (A) The young general who overthrew the Nanda Dynasty and founded the Maurya Empire
- (B) The teacher who founded Jainism and was known to his followers as Mahavira
- (C) The emperor who gave up conquest after a brutal war and carved edicts on pillars
- (D) The teacher who became known as the Buddha and taught non-violence and liberation

5. What did Chandragupta Maurya accomplish?

(A) He founded the first empire to unite most of the Indian subcontinent

(B) He founded Buddhism and sent the first missionaries across Asia

(C) He built the planned cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro on the Indus River

(D) He composed the Vedas and brought the Sanskrit language to India

6. What changed about Emperor Ashoka after his great war?

(A) He converted to Jainism, gave up his throne, and lived the rest of his life as a monk

(B) He converted to Buddhism, gave up conquest, and promoted non-violence and tolerance

(C) He divided the empire among his generals and moved his capital to the Indus Valley

(D) He rejected Buddhism, banned its monks, and began new wars against southern kingdoms

7. How did Buddhism spread beyond India?

(A) Ashoka sent missionaries across Asia, and later rulers and traders carried it farther

(B) Maurya armies conquered China and Japan, and soldiers forced the people there to convert

(C) Alexander the Great took Buddhist teachers to Greece, and Roman traders carried it farther

(D) The Buddha himself traveled to China and Japan, and his students built temples there

8. What connected the Indus Valley Civilization to later Indian civilizations?

(A) The cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro stayed occupied and grew until the Maurya Empire rose

(B) People who migrated east after its decline carried cultural practices to the Ganges plain

(C) Kings of its ruling family moved east and many centuries later founded the Maurya Empire

(D) Written histories from its cities were copied and handed down to later Maurya scholars

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Ancient India Quiz: Answer Key

1. **C** They had grid-planned streets, advanced drainage, and standard weights for trade

2. **C** The cause is debated; climate change, shifting rivers, and disease are possible

3. **D** The oldest sacred texts of Hinduism, composed in Sanskrit

4. **D** The teacher who became known as the Buddha and taught non-violence and liberation

5. **A** He founded the first empire to unite most of the Indian subcontinent

6. **B** He converted to Buddhism, gave up conquest, and promoted non-violence and tolerance

7. **A** Ashoka sent missionaries across Asia, and later rulers and traders carried it farther

8. **B** People who migrated east after its decline carried cultural practices to the Ganges plain