

CHAPTER 3 Section 1 (pages 61–65)

The Indo-Europeans

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last chapter, you read about peoples who built civilizations in the great river valleys.

In this section, you will learn about the movements of two groups of people who lived on the grasslands of Asia.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on where each group migrated and on the features of its culture.

TERMS AND NAMES

Indo-Europeans Group of Asian peoples who migrated to many different places

steppes Dry grasslands

migration Movement of people from one place to another

Hittites Group of Indo-European peoples who occupied Anatolia

Anatolia Large peninsula in modern-day Turkey

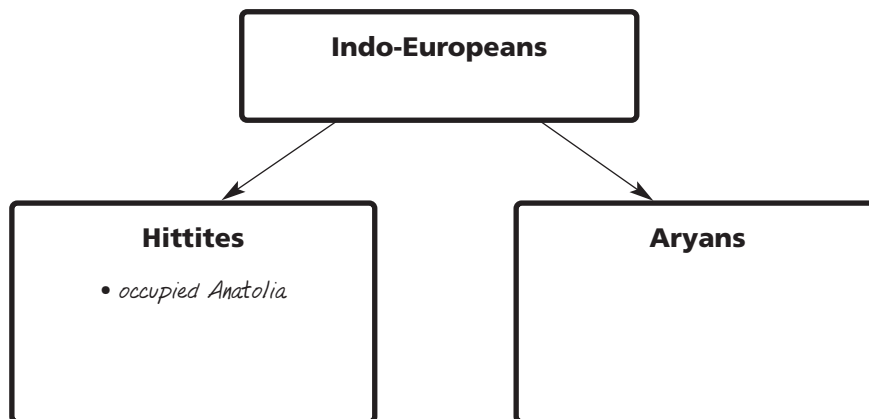
Aryans Group of Indo-Europeans

Vedas Sacred literature of the Aryans

Brahmin Priest

caste Class

Mahabharata Poem that tells the story of a great war



Indo-Europeans Migrate (pages 61–62)

Who were the Indo-Europeans?

The Indo-Europeans were a group of peoples who came from the **steppes**—the dry grasslands of western Asia. The Indo-Europeans rode horses and tended cattle, sheep, and goats. They spoke many different languages, but all of them came from the same original language.

For some reason, starting about 1700 B.C., the Indo-Europeans began to leave their homeland. They moved into some of the settled areas and began to conquer them. These **migrations**, move-

ments of people from one region to another, took place over a long period of time.

1. What happened to the Indo-Europeans?

The Hittite Empire (pages 62–63)

Who were the Hittites?

The **Hittites** were one of these Indo-European peoples. They rode two-wheeled chariots and used

iron weapons to conquer **Anatolia**. Anatolia is also called Asia Minor. It is a huge *peninsula* in modern-day Turkey. The Hittites moved farther and took the ancient lands of Mesopotamia. When they moved to the south, they ran into the Egyptians. Neither side was able to defeat the other. So, they decided to make peace.

The Hittites adopted many features of the culture that had grown in Mesopotamia before they arrived. They changed others to suit their own ideas. Their laws, for instance, were less harsh than the code of Hammurabi. The Hittites ruled their Southwest Asian empire from about 2000 to 1190 B.C. Then they fell to a new wave of invaders.

2. How did the Hittites react to the culture they found in Mesopotamia?

Aryans Transform India

(pages 63–65)

Who were the Aryans?

The **Aryans** were another group of Indo-European people. They moved into what is now India and *transformed* it. They first captured the land of the people of the Indus Valley. *Archaeology* tells almost nothing about the Aryans. But their sacred

literature, the **Vedas**, tells a lot about them.

The Aryans were divided into three classes of people. There were priests (**Brahmins**), warriors, and peasants or traders. They viewed the non-Aryans living in the area as a fourth class. Over time, they made many rules for how people in these classes, or **castes**, could interact with one another. People were born into their caste for life. Some “impure” people lived in a group outside this class system. They were butchers, grave diggers, and trash collectors. Because they did work that was thought unclean, they were called “*untouchables*.”

Over many centuries, the Aryans took more and more of what is now India. Eventually many powerful people tried to create their own kingdoms. They fought each other until one kingdom, Magadha, won control over almost all of India. Around this time, an *epic* poem, the **Mahabharata**, was written. It tells of the blending of cultures at the time. It also sets down ideals that were to become important in Hindu life.

3. What is the caste system?

CHAPTER 3 Section 2 (pages 66–71)

Hinduism and Buddhism Develop

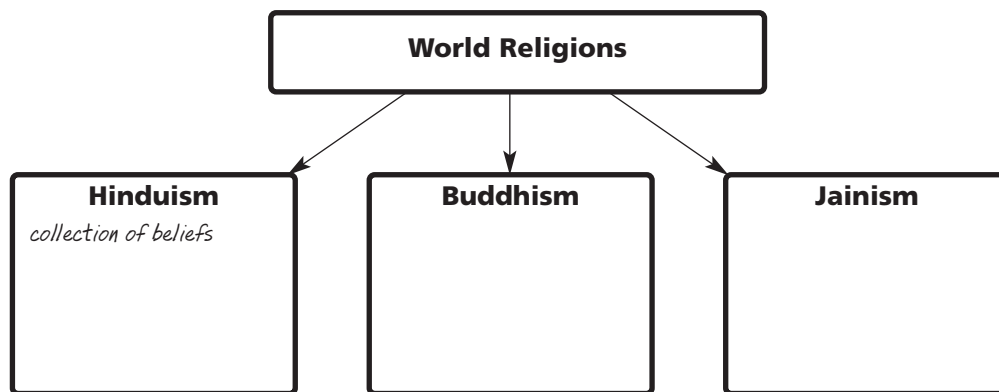
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the Hittites and the Aryans.

In this section, you will learn about the roots of Hinduism and Buddhism.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to show features of Hinduism, Buddhism, and also Jainism.



TERMS AND NAMES

reincarnation Belief that the soul is reborn

karma Good or bad deeds

Jainism Religion that teaches every living creature has a soul and no living creature can be harmed

Siddhartha Gautama Founder of Buddhism

enlightenment Wisdom

nirvana Buddha's word for release from selfishness and pain

Hinduism Evolves Over Centuries

(pages 66–68)

What is Hinduism?

Hinduism is a collection of religious beliefs that forms no one system. Unlike many religions, it was not founded by only one person. It is a religion that allows great variety for its followers. Certain ideas became common to the beliefs of all Hindus.

Hindus believe that each person has a soul. However, there is also a larger soul, called *Brahman*, that brings together all the individual souls. A person's goal is to become free of desire

and not bothered by suffering. When that takes place, the person's soul wins escape from life on Earth. Hindus believe in **reincarnation**. They believe the soul is born again into another body after death. In the next life, the soul has another chance to learn its lessons. According to Hindus, how a person behaves in one life has an effect on the person's next life. This is the soul's **karma**—good or bad deeds.

Another religion that arose in India was **Jainism**. It was started by Mahavira, a man who lived from about 599 to 527 B.C. He believed that every creature in the world—even an animal—has

a soul. Because of that, people must be sure not to harm any creature. Today, Jains take jobs that are certain not to hurt living things.

1. Name three Hindu beliefs.

The Buddha Seeks Enlightenment (pages 68–71)

What is Buddhism?

Another new religion, Buddhism, arose about the same time as Hinduism and Jainism. Buddhism has millions of followers all around the world. It was started around 528 B.C. by **Siddhartha Gautama**.

Siddhartha searched for a way that would allow him to escape the suffering of human life. He spent many years searching for this answer. He was looking for **enlightenment**, or wisdom. Finally, he sat down and *meditated* under a tree. After 49 days, he had his answer. He was now called the Buddha, which means the “enlightened one.”

The Buddha began to teach others how to attain enlightenment. They were to follow a plan of behavior called the Eightfold Path—right views, right resolve, right speech, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness, and right

concentration. This would lead to **nirvana**, or a release from selfishness and pain.

As with Hinduism, the Buddha taught that the soul would be reborn into a new life. This chain of new lives would continue until the soul, like Buddha, reached understanding.

These ideas attracted many followers. Many people who lived in the lower classes of Indian society saw these ideas as a chance to escape from the limits placed on them. This teaching also spread in southern India. There the Aryans did not have much influence. Some followers took the ideas to other lands.

In the centuries after Buddha’s death in 483 B.C., Buddhism appeared in Southeast Asia. Later it was carried to China and then to Korea and Japan. Merchants and traders played an important role in spreading the religion. Strangely, in India where Buddhism was founded, the religion faded. Many places that are important to Buddhism remain in India, however. Buddhists from around the world come there to visit locations connected to the life of Buddha.

2. Name four basic beliefs of Buddhism.

Four Noble Truths of Buddhism

First Noble Truth	Life is filled with suffering and sorrow.
Second Noble Truth	The cause of all suffering is people’s selfish desire for the temporary pleasures of this world.
Third Noble Truth	The way to end all suffering is to end all desires.
Fourth Noble Truth	The way to overcome such desires and attain enlightenment is to follow the Eightfold Path, which is called the Middle Way between desires and self-denial.

Skillbuilder

Use the chart to answer the questions,

1. What is the subject of the first three noble truths?

2. What is the Eightfold Path?

CHAPTER 3 Section 3 (pages 72–76)

Seafaring Traders

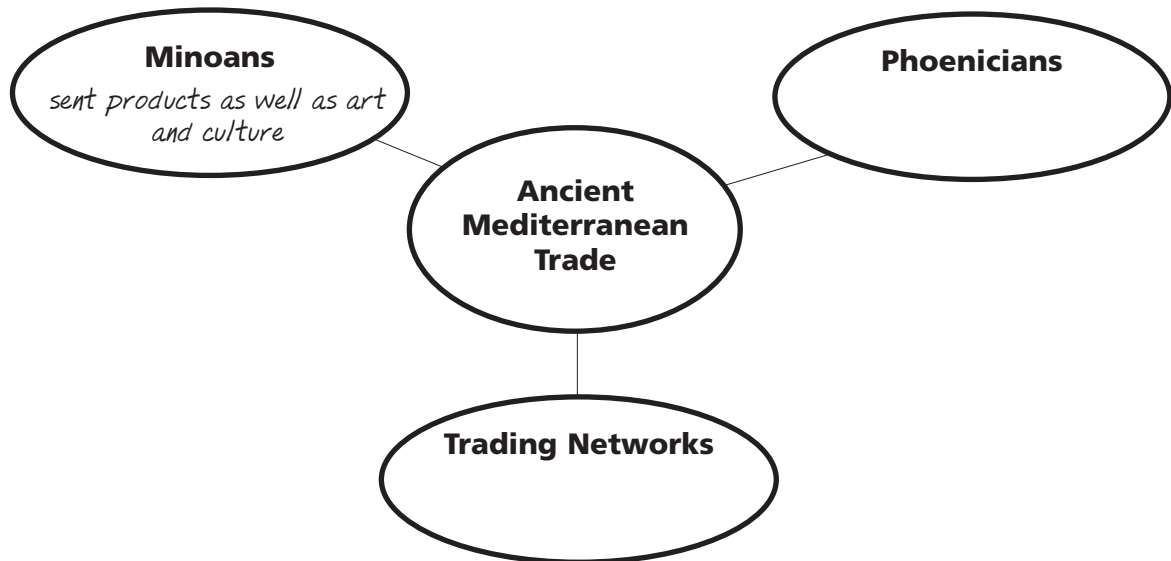
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about major religions that developed in India.

In this section, you will learn about traders whose influence spread throughout the Mediterranean.

AS YOU READ

Use the web below to take notes on how trade spread both products and culture.



TERMS AND NAMES

Minoans Group of powerful seafaring people

Aegean Sea Sea between modernday Greece and Turkey

Knossos Minoan capital city

King Minos King of Knossos

Phoenicians Most powerful traders along the Mediterranean

Minoans Trade in the Mediterranean

 (pages 72–73)

Who were the Minoans?

In the Mediterranean area, a new culture arose on the island of Crete. The **Minoans** were peaceful people who lived in rich cities that were safe from invaders. They controlled trade in their area, Crete. Crete is a large island on the southern edge of the **Aegean Sea**. The Minoans sent their fine pottery, swords, and metal drinking cups to other lands. They also sent other countries their style of

art and architecture. This style later had influence on the art of Greece.

Archaeologists have explored the ruins of **Knossos**, the capital city of the Minoans. It was the archaeologists that first called the culture Minoan, after its famous ruler, **King Minos**. They found beautiful wall paintings that offer views of Minoan culture. One interesting feature of Minoan life was the high position that women appear to have held. An earth goddess seems to have headed all the gods of Crete, and women ruled over some important religious places. Women did not play such

important roles among other peoples who lived nearby.

Minoan cities were damaged in 1470 B.C. by a series of disasters. First, a number of earthquakes rocked the island, destroying buildings. Then a volcano exploded on a nearby island. That was followed by huge waves and clouds of white ash from the volcano's fire. These shocks seem to have been too much for the Minoans. The Minoan civilization ended about 1200 B.C.

1. What were three important features of Minoan culture?

Phoenicians Spread Trade and Civilization (pages 73–76)

Who were the Phoenicians?

Another group of people arose in the Mediterranean. They lived in several city-states in what is today Lebanon. They traded far and wide. Some may have even sailed as far as Britain—and perhaps around Africa. They were the **Phoenicians**.

The Phoenicians put *colonies* all along the Mediterranean coast. Colonies were 30 miles apart. This was the distance that one of their ships could travel in a day. One of those colonies, Carthage, in North Africa, later became a major power in the Mediterranean world. Phoenicians traded such goods as wine, weapons, metals, ivory, slaves, and objects made of wood and glass. They also made a purple dye that was highly valued.

The important achievement of the Phoenicians was their alphabet. They used symbols to stand for the sounds of consonants. They brought their system of writing to other lands such as Greece, where Greeks changed the form of some letters. The alphabet that we use today, however, had its beginnings in Phoenician writing.

2. How did the Phoenicians spread their culture?

Ancient Trade Routes (page 76)

What were the major trading networks?

Trading networks also connected the Mediterranean Sea with other centers of world commerce in South and East Asia. Some routes went across Central Asia by land. Some sea routes went across the Arabian Sea. These networks helped people exchange products and information. Traders carried ideas, religious beliefs, art, and ways of living. They did not just trade goods. They also helped “trade” culture.

3. Why were trade networks so important?

CHAPTER 3 Section 4 (pages 77–83)

The Origins of Judaism

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the spread of culture through trade.

In this section, you will learn about the *origins* of Judaism.

AS YOU READ

Uses the chart below to take notes on the beginnings of Judaism.

TERMS AND NAMES

Palestine Region on the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea

Canaan Ancient home of the Hebrews

Torah First five books of the Hebrew Bible

Abraham “Father” or the first of the Hebrew people

monotheism Belief in a single god

covenant Mutual promise between god and the Hebrews

Moses According to the Torah, the man that led the Jews out of slavery

Israel Region on the eastern end of the Mediterranean Sea

Judah Hebrew kingdom in Palestine

tribute Payment made by a weaker power to a stronger power

Promised Land	Kingdom of Israel	Babylonian Captivity
• <i>Canaan in Palestine</i>		

The Search for a Promised Land

(pages 77–78)

Where did the Hebrews claim land?

The Hebrews made a claim to an important piece of land, the area now called **Palestine**. They believed the land had been promised to them by God. Their ancient home was the area of Palestine called **Canaan**. This region sat on the eastern edge of the Mediterranean Sea and on the Red Sea, which led to the Indian Ocean. It opened to the trade of many lands. Most of what we know about the early history of the Hebrews comes from the **Torah**, the sacred book of the Hebrews.

The story of the Hebrews began in Mesopotamia. There, according to the Torah, God chose a man named **Abraham** to be the “father,” or the first of the Hebrews. God told Abraham to move his family to Palestine. Abraham promised that he and his people would always obey God. (The Hebrews were among the world’s earliest peoples to believe in one god, or **monotheism**.) God, in turn, promised to always protect them from their enemies. This was the first of many **covenants**—promises between God and the Hebrews.

1. What role did Abraham play in early Hebrew history?

Moses and the Exodus (pages 78–80)

Who was Moses?

When their crops failed, the Hebrews moved to Egypt around 1650 B.C. Over time, they were forced to become slaves. After many years, they fled. The Hebrews called this mass departure “*the Exodus*.”

According to the Torah, a man named Moses led them out of Egypt between 1300 and 1200 B.C. They wandered 40 years in a wilderness. During that time, the Torah says, God gave **Moses** the Ten Commandments. These were the laws that the Hebrews were to follow. For the second time, God promised to protect them in return for their obedience to his laws.

After Moses died, the Hebrews finally reached Palestine and settled. There they began to adopt new ways of life. They often fought with other peoples living in the area, as each group tried to control the best land and other resources.

The Hebrews were organized into twelve groups, called *tribes*. Each tribe was separate from the others. But in times of danger they would unite under leaders called *judges*. One of those judges was a woman named Deborah. It was unusual for women in Hebrew society to hold such a position. Women usually were expected to stay home and raise children.

The Hebrews had other leaders called *prophets*. They said that they were messengers sent by God to tell the people how he wanted them to act. These prophets told the people that they had two duties: to worship God and to deal in just and fair ways with one another. With this message, religion was changing. Instead of being a part of life run by priests, it was now a matter of each person living a *moral* life.

2. What were the Ten Commandments?

The Kingdom of Israel (pages 81–82)

How was Israel formed?

After the exile, the only large tribe left was the tribe of Judah. As a result, the Hebrews came to be known as the Jews. Their religion was called Judaism.

From about 1020 to 922 B.C., the Jews were united into one kingdom, **Israel**. Three kings helped unite them. The first, Saul, drove off their enemies. The second, David, made Jerusalem the capital. The third, Solomon, built a magnificent temple to be used to worship God.

After Solomon’s death, though, the kingdom split into two parts. Israel was in the north, and **Judah** was in the south. For the next two centuries, each of the kingdoms had times of prosperity, followed by low periods.

3. How was Israel split?

The Babylonian Captivity (page 82)

Who conquered Israel and Judah?

Disaster came when both kingdoms lost their independence. Israel and Judah began to pay tribute to Assyria. **Tribute** is money paid by a weaker power to a stronger power to make sure it does not attack.

Eventually, the northern kingdom fell to the Assyrians. Later, the southern kingdom fell to the Babylonians. Many Jews were forced into exile in Babylon. They lived there for many years during what was known as the *Babylonian Captivity*. Then the Babylonians themselves were conquered by the Persian king Cyrus the Great. The new ruler let 40,000 Jews return home.

4. What was the Babylonian Captivity?
