Section 4
Empires of Ancient India
Chapter 4
Ancient India
Objectives

- Learn about the rise of the Maurya Empire.
- Study Asoka’s leadership
- Investigate the Gupta Empire.
Maurya Empire

Indian empire founded by Chandragupta, beginning with his kingdom in northeastern India and spreading to most of northern and central India.
convert
to change one’s believe; in particular, to change from one religion to another.
tolerance
freedom from prejudice
Chandragupta Maurya

- Chandragupta was born poor and sold into slavery.
- Chandragupta became king.
- He is often seen in a golden chair with jeweled elephants.
The Rise of the Maurya Empire

- India’s many city-states were constantly at war with one another.
Absolute Rule

- Chandragupta received the book, *Arthasastra*
- It urged kings to maintain control of people by establishing an army of spies.
• Army

• Thousands of foot soldiers and 9,000 elephants

• During this empire, there was a lot of economic success!

• Wealth from farming

• And trading with Greece, Rome, and China.
• Afraid of poison
  • Made servants taste food
• Slept in a different room every night, fear of murder
• Some say he left throne and became a monk in southern India, starving himself to death.
Chandragupta’s Legacy

- Did not gain wealth for himself
- Used wealth to improve empire
- Irrigation systems improve farming
- More food produced
- Government promoted crafts and mining
- Roads easy for trade
- Order and Peace to India
What kind of ruler was Chandragupta?

Chandragupta was an absolute ruler who kept control over people using a large army.

Though his rule was harsh, he used his wealth to improve the empire. His leadership brought order and peace to the people.
Asoka’s Leadership

- Grandson of Chandragupta
- Took the throne in 273 B.C.
- Name means “without sorrow”
- Built the largest empire ever seen.
The Battle of Kalinga

- Area in southern India
- 261 B.C. – thousands of people died
- Turning point in Asoka’s life
  - He gave up war and violence
  - Asoka freed his prisoners
  - He converted to Buddhism
The Buddhist Ruler

- No sacrificing animals or hunting
- Concerned for people’s morals and spiritual life.
- Created writings of moral advice
- Sent missionaries throughout Asia.
Reading Check

How did Asoka spread Buddhism?

Asoka issued writings of moral advice and sent missionaries to spread the message of Buddhism.
The Gupta Empire

- After Asoka died, the Maurya Empire split into smaller states

- There were centuries of internal conflict and invasion
• The Gupta dynasty rose in 320 A.D.

• There was rich culture,
  • They invented techniques of printing on cloth
  • Education increased
  • Decimal point invented
Reading Check

• How did learning advance under the Guptas?

• Hindu scholars developed advanced forms of philosophy and Indian scholars invented the decimal system and the system of numbers that we still use today.
1.(a) Recall

How was India governed before the Maurya Empire?

India consisted of many small, warring states.
1.(b) Evaluate

What were some of the costs and benefits of Chandragupta’s rule for India?

Costs: Indians had to live with government spies and troops that would crush any political opposition.

Benefits: Economic success, improved roads, and irrigation.
2. (a) Describe what were some of Asoka’s accomplishments?

Asoka issued writings of moral advice and he established laws requiring humane behavior.

He spread Buddhism by sending out missionaries.
2.(b) Identify Cause and Effect
How did Buddhism influence Asoka’s rule of the empire?

Asoka ruled using the teachings of Buddhism.

He encouraged good behavior and discouraged violence.
3.(a) Identify
What part of India did the Guptas control?
Northern India
3.(b) Explain

Why have some historians called the Gupta period a golden age?

Historians called it a golden age because of India’s achievements in technology, philosophy, literature, and mathematics.
3.(c) Draw Conclusions
What Indian interventions under the Gupta have had a lasting impact?

Printed cloth remains very popular and widely used today.

So does the decimal point and the system of numerals developed under the Guptas.