EARLY CIVILIZATIONS of ANCIENT INDIA

The earliest civilization to develop in India started around 2,600 BCE in the large area of the Indus River valley. Just as with the rivers of Egypt and Mesopotamia, the Indus River provided plentiful water for farming and fishing. People herded animals in grassy lands and hills. This civilization was not discovered by archeologists until the early 20th century. Discoveries are still being made today in Pakistan and northwest India.

A later civilization developed in India when Asian nomads, called Aryans, entered India and settled around 1000 BCE. This is called the Vedic culture, and it developed over many centuries. Out of it emerged the Hindu religion and the basis for Indian languages, including Sanskrit. The caste system began, dividing people into separate classes, a system that still operates in India in modern times.

Around and after 300 BCE, a line of kings called the Mauryans built an empire in India. A later king named Ashoka encouraged his people to follow the non-violent teachings of the Buddha.
Ancient India

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Activities for ANCIENT INDIA Map

Label these rivers drawn in on the map:
Indus River  Ganges River  Narmada River
Yamuna River  Godavari River  Krishna River

Label the following bodies of water drawn in on the map:
Arabian Sea  Bay of Bengal

Using blue pencil, shade rivers and other bodies of water.

Label and shade these mountain ranges:
Himalayas  Eastern Ghats
Western Ghats  Vindhya Range

Label these ancient cities marked on the map. Add others too, if you like.

Indus River Civilization:
   Harappa  Mohenjo-Daro

Vedic Civilization:
   Potana  Viratanagara

Mauryan Empire:
   Sanchi  Pataliputra

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Close-up of the Indus River area
With a blue pencil, shade the rivers and coastline.
Label these bodies of water

With brown/green pencil, shade the mountains
Label the mountains.

Label these ancient cities of Indus River Civilization:
    Harappa       Mohenjo-Daro
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