



Strategy 2 Locate Key Words in the Text

Directions: You can also understand a question by thinking about where you need to look for the answer. Follow these steps to understand the question.

- Read the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the text that match key words in the question.
- Decide where to look for the answer.
 - To find the answer, you may have to **look in one place in the text**. The answer is *right there* in the text.
 - To find the answer, you may have to **look in several places in the text**. You have to *think and search* for information.
 - To find the answer, you may have to **combine what you know with what the author tells you**. The answer comes from *the author and you*.

Learn

Read the question. Circle the key words and complete the sentence.

1. Based on paragraph 1, why might the flooding of the Nile have been important for the survival of Egyptians? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I found the answer in paragraph 1, sentences 1 and 2,
and what I already know.

- Look for and circle key words in the question.
- Look for and circle key words in the text that match key words in the question.

- The question asks you for the reason why the flooding was important for survival.
- You will have to **combine what you know with what the author tells you** for information.

Try It

Read each question. Circle the key words and complete each sentence.

2. Based on paragraph 3, how long did the flooding last?
- A about four months
 - B about six weeks
 - C about six months
 - D about three parts

I found the answer in _____

3. Based on paragraphs 2 and 3, how might the nilometer and calendar have helped Egyptian farmers? Use details from the text to support your answer.

I found the answer in _____

Lesson 1: Geography of South Asia

Vocabulary

subcontinent a large region separated by water from other land areas

monsoon season the rainy season

subsistence farming a type of farming in which people grow food just for their family's use

A Diamond Breaks Away

South Asia is a diamond-shaped land that extends far into the Indian Ocean. The world's tallest mountains, the Himalayas, are in South Asia. South Asia is called a **subcontinent** because it is very large and separated by water from other land areas. Scientists believe that Earth's surface is made of several slowly moving plates. The subcontinent may have once been part of a huge landmass. But its plate broke away and pushed into a larger plate. The smaller plate pushing up under the larger plate formed the Himalayas. The highest peak of the Himalayas is Mount Everest.

Snow to Monsoon

Eight countries are part of South Asia—Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives Islands or Maldives. Pakistan is in the northwestern part of South Asia. It has the world's second tallest mountain, called the K2. A desert stretches across part of Pakistan and northwestern India. Nepal and Bhutan are mountainous countries in the east and north. To the south, a river delta surrounds Bangladesh. India is farther south. It has the Himalayas, a plain, and a plateau. Sri Lanka and the Maldives are islands in the Indian Ocean. Temperatures in South Asia are cool from October through February. It is very hot from March through May. The **monsoon season**, or rainy season, lasts from June through September. Nearly all of the yearly precipitation, or rain and snow, falls during the monsoon season.


Great Rivers, Great Plain

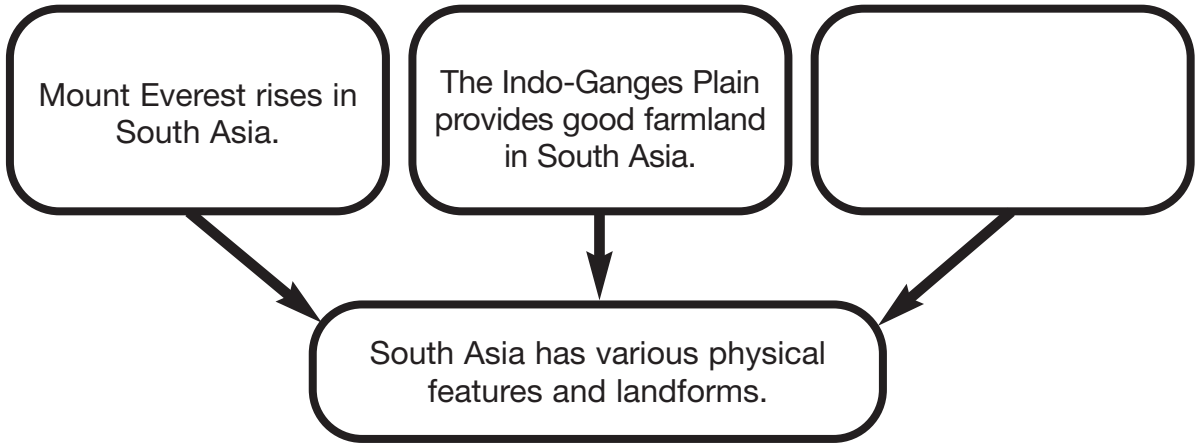
The Indus, the Ganges, and the Brahmaputra Rivers flow through South Asia. The rivers begin in the Himalayas and flow over the Indo-Gangetic Plain, or the Indo-Ganges Plain. The rivers carry water and silt to farmlands to irrigate crops and make the soil rich. The monsoon season rains cause flooding, which spreads the silt more. Families either grow food for themselves or trade with small groups of people in their villages. This type of farming is known as **subsistence farming**.

Plateau, Coast, and Islands

The Deccan Plateau is south of the Indo-Ganges Plain. The climate is dry. The soil is rich. Cotton and peanuts are grown there. The Western Ghats and the Eastern Ghats are mountains that border the Deccan plateau. Most people in India work as farmers. People also fish. Sri Lanka and the Maldives Islands export tea, coconuts, fish, and rubber. Manufacturing, clothing, and textiles are also important industries.

Lesson 1: Review

1.  **Summarize** Fill in the missing detail below.



2. Why is South Asia called a subcontinent?

3. How do many people farm on the Indo-Ganges Plain?

4. What does the geography of South Asia reveal about the many differences within the subcontinent?

5. **Critical Thinking: Make Generalizations** What generalizations can you make about the ways of life of South Asian peoples by looking at pictures showing their environments, homes, and work? Look at the pictures included in Lesson 1 of your textbook.

Lesson 2: India and Persia

Vocabulary

brahmin a priest or a teacher; the highest position in Aryan society

sudra a serf; the lowest position in Aryan society

Indus River Valley Civilization

Civilization in the Indus River Valley began about 2500 B.C. Two ancient cities were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. The people had a system of writing. People farmed and stored grain, worked with metal and pottery, wove cotton, and traded and sold goods. By 2500 B.C., the Harappan civilization was strong. In Mohenjo-Daro, the people constructed buildings and roads. About 1700 B.C., the Harappan civilization vanished suddenly. Many archaeologists think that this was because of a monsoon, a flood, or an earthquake.

The Aryans Arrive

About 1500 B.C., the Aryans invaded the Indus River Valley. They came over the Hindu Kush mountains in the north. This is called the Aryan migration. The Aryans spoke a language called Sanskrit. They were nomads who herded cattle, sheep, and goats. The Aryans built villages and towns where they farmed and traded. The Vedas, or “Books of Knowledge,” contain their stories, songs, and history. The Vedas describe wars between groups of Aryans as well as contests between gods and humans. The Aryans also wrote hymns.

Aryan Culture Spreads

Aryan groups were led by a rajah, or priest leader. The groups traded with each other. They fought one another. The highest positions in Aryan society were held by priests and teachers, or **brahmins**. Warriors and kings were the second highest group. Artisans, traders, and merchants were in the third group. The **sudras**, or the serfs who farmed and served others, were at the lowest level. The Persians heard about Aryan riches. Persian armies moved into the Indus River Valley.

The Persian Empire

From about 550 to 320 B.C., the Persian Empire reached from the Mediterranean Sea to the Indus River Valley. King Darius I made India part of the Persian Empire. The Persians built roads to India and developed trade. This connected India to lands in Central Asia. Zoroastrianism is a religion founded by the Persian prophet Zoroaster. Zoroastrianism recognized one god. Today’s followers of Zoroastrianism are known as Parsis. Many live in South Asia today. Their ancestors came from Persia.

The First Indian Empire

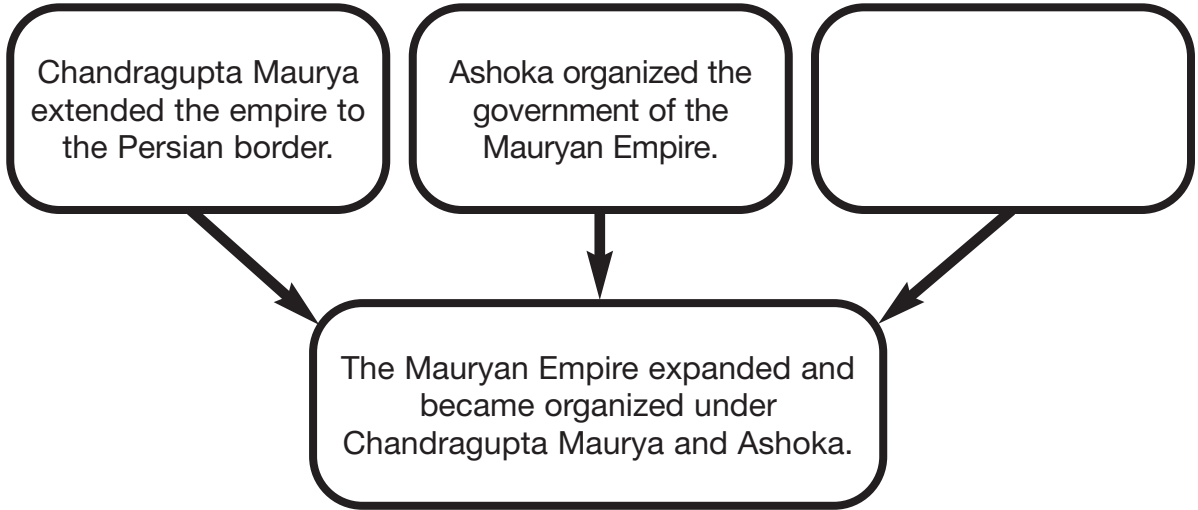
Chandragupta Maurya took over India in about 320 B.C. He began the first Indian Empire, the Mauryan Empire. He extended the empire to the Persian border. Ashoka, Chandragupta’s grandson, became the ruler of India in about 270 B.C. By that time, the Mauryan Empire included the Deccan Plateau. Ashoka organized the empire’s government. It controlled many parts of life, such as how artisans worked and how doctors treated their patients. India had a strong group of civil service workers, a powerful army, and even had spies to watch over the empire. The Mauryan Empire ended about 185 B.C. India broke up into regions until A.D. 320, when the Guptas took over.

Arts and Sciences

The Gupta Empire lasted about 200 years. Achievements were made in astronomy, mathematics, literature, poetry, art, and architecture. Economy and trade improved. The Huns, people from the north, arrived in the fifth century. They took control of much of India by the mid-sixth century.

Lesson 2: Review

1.  **Summarize** Fill in the missing detail that completes the summary.



2. What was the Aryan migration?

3. How did the Persian Empire influence Indian civilization and culture?

4. What are the most important stages in the development of Indian culture from 2500 B.C. to A.D. 300?

5. **Critical Thinking: Evaluate Information** How do the Vedas, poems, and epics of the Aryan people reflect their culture?

Lesson 3: Hinduism

Vocabulary

reincarnation the process in which a person goes from one life to the next life

caste a lifelong social group into which a person is born

Seeds of Belief

The main religion in India is Hinduism. It is one of the world's oldest religions. Hinduism does not have a founder. Hinduism probably started with the religious beliefs of the Aryans and the first people of the Indus River Valley. There are four Vedas in Hinduism. The oldest is the Rig Veda. It contains more than 1,000 hymns that are dedicated to Aryan gods. Hindus recite verses from the Vedas. Today Hindus still sing hymns from the Rig Veda at ceremonies such as weddings and funerals. However, some of the beliefs and practices of Hindus have changed over time.

Gods and Goddesses

Hindus believe in many gods and goddesses. They also have many different beliefs. Some Hindus believe in only one universal being, Brahman. Three of the main forms of Brahman are the gods Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver), and Shiva (the destroyer). Hindus believe that Vishnu controls dharma, which is the order of the universe. Other Hindu gods and goddesses are forms of Brahman.

Seven Truths and Reincarnation

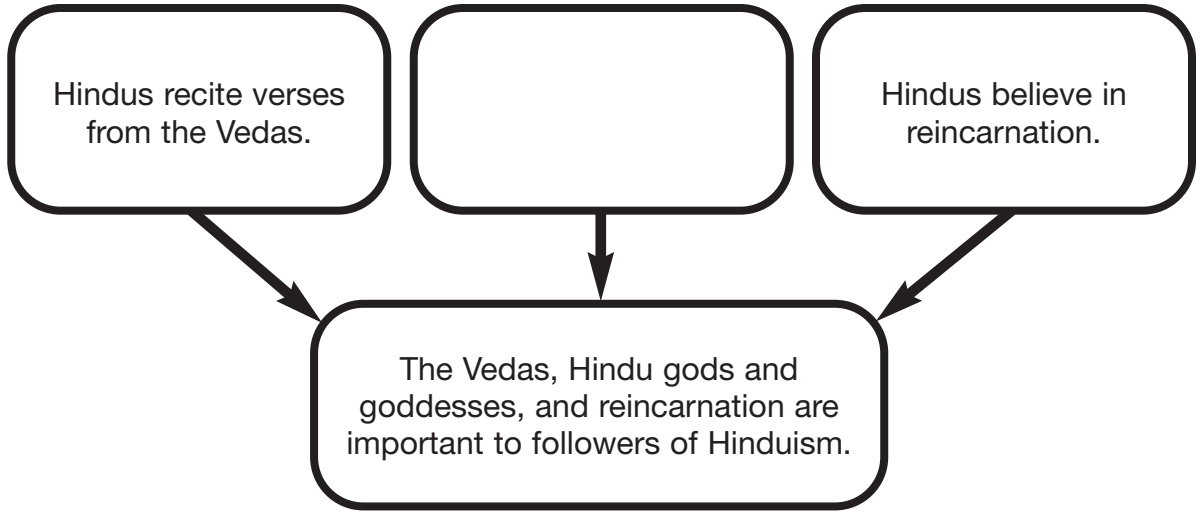
Seven doctrines, or truths, are important Hindu beliefs. These doctrines include peaceful living, freedom of thought, respect for nature and animals, becoming one with Brahman, and that good and bad actions will one day affect us. Hindus believe that after a person dies, he or she is reborn into a new life. The process of going from one life into the next is called **reincarnation**. If Hindus live good lives, then their karma is good. Karma means the lifetime actions of a person. With good karma, a Hindu's rebirth is good. The goal of a Hindu is to end rebirth and become one with Brahman.

Way of Life

Hindus in India traditionally belong to a **caste**. A caste is a lifelong social group into which a person is born. This tradition dates back to the time of the Vedas. During this time, jobs and marriage depended upon a person's caste. Priests and teachers were in the highest caste. Rulers and warriors were in the next caste. The lowest castes were servants of all others. The lowest caste members were given the jobs that no one else was willing to do. These people were called "untouchables." The caste system is still part of life in India. There are laws against mistreating members of other castes.

Lesson 3: Review

1.  **Summarize** Fill in the missing detail about Hindu beliefs below.



2. What are Hinduism’s roots?

3. What are the three main forms of Brahman, the universal truth?

4. What are the main points of Hindu beliefs?

5. **Critical Thinking: *Fact or Opinion*** Is the following statement a fact or an opinion? The caste system is still part of daily life in India.

Lesson 4: Buddhism

Vocabulary

meditation a way of clearing the mind

enlightenment a state of pure goodness

Who Was the Buddha?

The sixth century B.C. was a time when Asian people were fighting and questioning religion. Buddhist tradition says that Siddhartha Gautama was the man who became known as the Buddha. The Buddha founded the religion of Buddhism. Siddhartha was born just south of the Himalayas in about 563 B.C. His father was a wealthy ruler. His father was told that Siddhartha would be a great king if he stayed at home. He would become a great teacher if he left home. When Siddhartha was a child, his father kept him within the palace walls. As an adult, Siddhartha left the palace and began his travels.

The Buddha's Travels

Siddhartha joined a group of monks. They fasted, or lived on very little food, for six years. The monks believed that by giving up what the body needs, they might better understand what the spirit needs. They practiced **meditation**, a way of clearing the mind. Siddhartha left the group. According to Buddhist tradition, Siddhartha sat silently under a tree near Bodh Gaya and meditated. When he saw a beautiful morning star, he realized that all people had the power to free themselves from suffering. He believed that he reached **enlightenment**, or a state of pure goodness. He became known as the Buddha. For nearly 50 years, he traveled and taught. His followers believe that he spoke to all people using a language that everyone could understand. The Buddha taught that people, not just priests, could achieve enlightenment. His words showed a peaceful and tolerant way of looking at the world.

Four and Eight

Buddhism is based on the Four Noble Truths. The Four Noble Truths explain human suffering. The Buddha used these truths to understand his enlightenment.

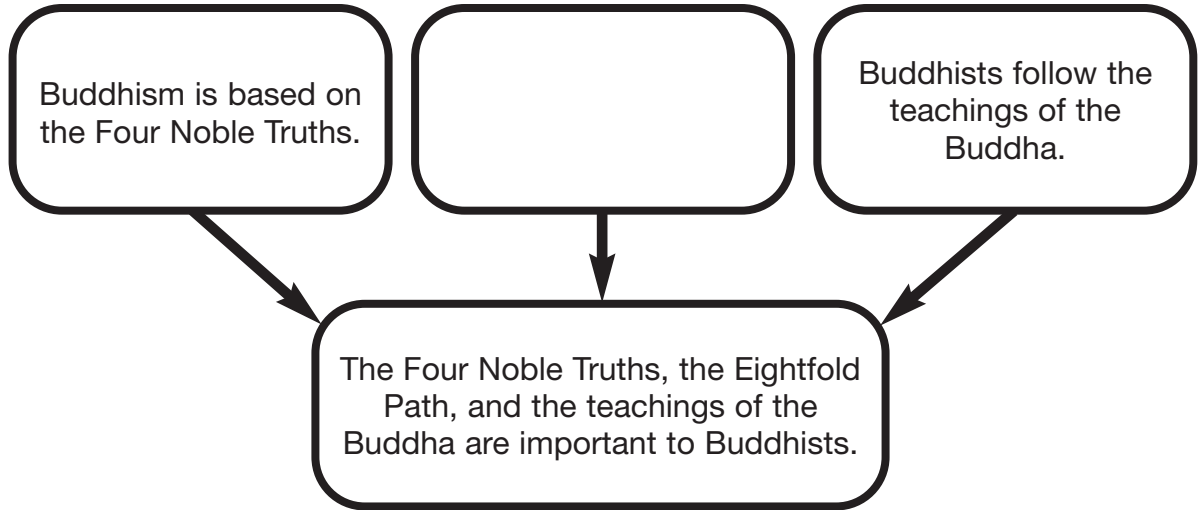
The Four Noble Truths are listed below:

1. Suffering is part of life for all people.
2. People suffer because they want so many things in life.
3. If people can free themselves from wanting so many things, they will not suffer.
4. People can free themselves from wants and from suffering by following the Eightfold Path.

The Eightfold Path is a way of living that can help people find relief from their suffering. According to the Eightfold Path, people should develop three qualities: wisdom, morality, and meditation. The Eightfold Path suggests actions, efforts, or ways of thinking that will help Buddhists develop these qualities.

Lesson 4: Review

1.  **Summarize** Fill in the blank with a main belief of Buddhism.



2. According to Buddhist tradition, who was the Buddha?

3. How are the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path connected in Buddhism?

4. Why could Buddhism be considered a peaceful philosophy and why might it appeal to people?

5. **Critical Thinking: Make Generalizations** How do the ideas of Buddhism attempt to solve some of life's difficult problems? Use the words **meditation** and **enlightenment** in your answer.
