

DO NOW!

“In the happiness of his subjects lies [a king’s] happiness, in their welfare, his welfare. He shall not consider as good that which pleases him but treats as beneficial to him whatever pleases his subjects.”

- *Arthashastra*, a Maurya handbook on governance

According to the quote, what should a king want for his subjects?

What do you think are a ruler’s duties to his people?

enforce laws

maintain peace & order

encourage economic growth

Terms, People, and Places

Chandragupta Maurya:

Dissent:

Asoka:

Missionary:

Golden Age:

Decimal System:

Joint Family:

Dowry:

Lesson Objectives

- Analyze how Maurya rulers created a strong central government for their empire
- Explain why the period of Gupta rule in India is considered a golden age
- Understand how the family and village life shaped Indian society

Summary

“Powerful Empires of **Classical** India”

Under the Maurya and Gupta dynasties, India developed into a center of trade and had contacts with civilizations in Africa, the Middle East, and Central and Southeast Asia.

CHAPTER

3

SECTION 3

Section Summary

POWERFUL EMPIRES OF INDIA

READING CHECK

Who founded the first Indian empire?

VOCABULARY STRATEGY

What does the word *status* mean in the underlined sentence?

What context clues to its meaning can you find in surrounding sentences? For example, the last sentence says there were more restrictions on women. Use this and other context clues to help you figure out the meaning of *status*.

READING SKILL

Recognize Sequence Did nomadic people from Central Asia overrun Gupta India before or after the decline of the Maurya empire?

Chandragupta Maurya founded the first Indian empire in 321 B.C. The Maurya empire's capital had schools, libraries, and palaces. The government built roads and harbors, collected taxes, and managed businesses. A secret police force reported on crime and **dissent**, or ideas opposed to those of the government.

Chandragupta's grandson, **Asoka**, continued to expand the empire. Asoka began ruling in 268 B.C. He became a Buddhist and ruled by moral example. He sent **missionaries** to spread Buddhism throughout Asia. To help his people, Asoka built hospitals and roads. However, the empire declined after his death and ended around 185 B.C.

Rival princes then held power for about 500 years. Each kingdom had its own government and capital. Dravidians in the Deccan spoke different languages and had different traditions from peoples of northern India.

The Gupta dynasty united India from A.D. 320 to about 540. During this time, India enjoyed a period of great cultural achievement called a **golden age**. Prosperity contributed to a flowering of the arts and learning. Universities attracted students from many parts of Asia. Advances in mathematics included the system of numerals that we use today, the concept of zero, and the **decimal system**. Villages had more power than they had under the Mauryas. Eventually, nomadic people from Central Asia overran Gupta India.

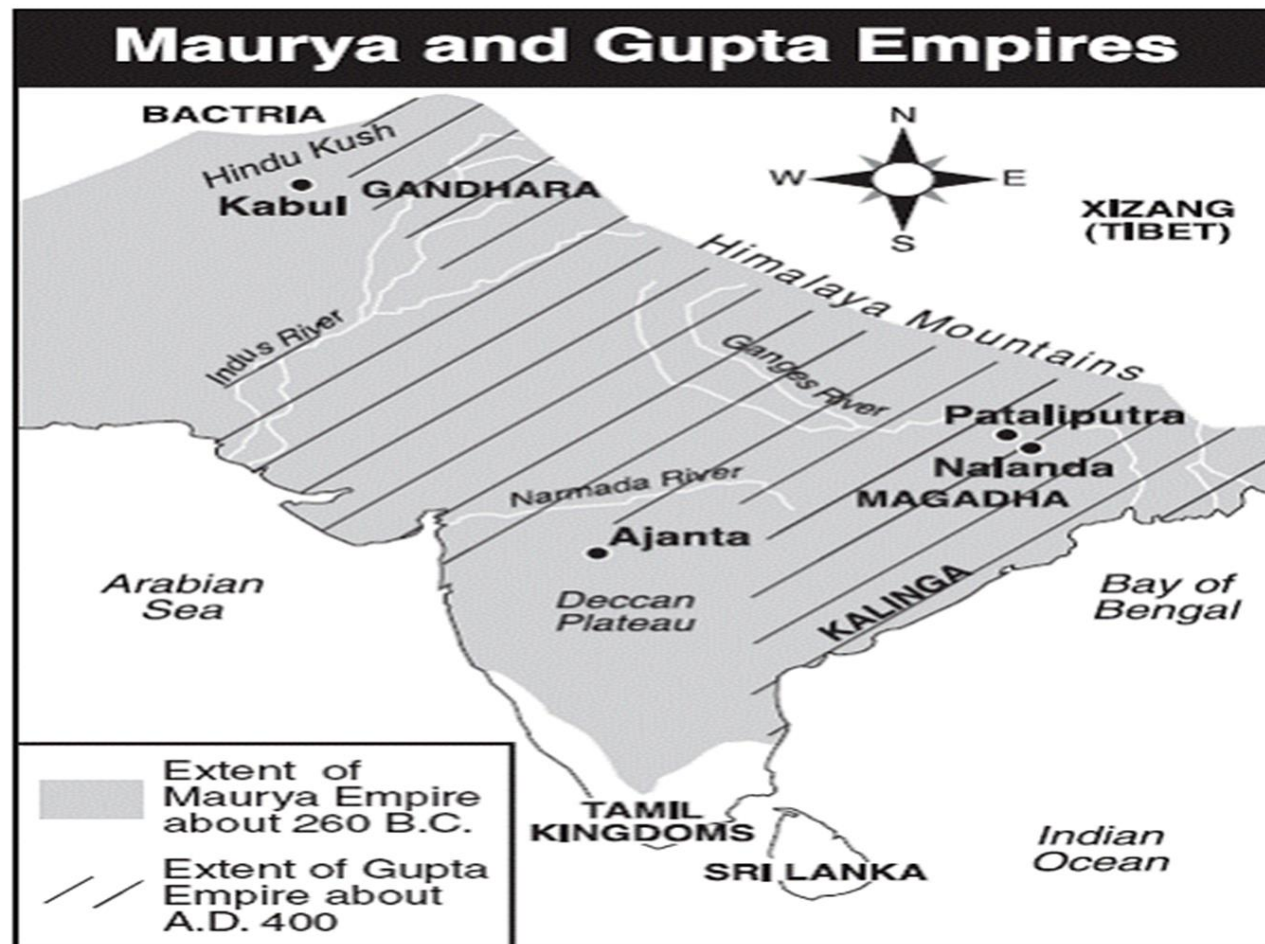
For most Indians, everyday life revolved around the rules and duties associated with caste, family, and village. Villages produced most of the food and goods they needed. People regularly interacted with others from nearby villages while attending weddings, visiting relatives, or going to markets. Parents, children, and their offspring shared a common dwelling as a **joint family**. The father or oldest male served as head of the household. Children were trained to do the duties of their caste. Arranging good marriages was important and some families provided a **dowry**, or payment to the bridegroom. Women had had a higher status in early Aryan society than they did now. Over time, Hindu law placed greater restrictions on them.

Review Questions

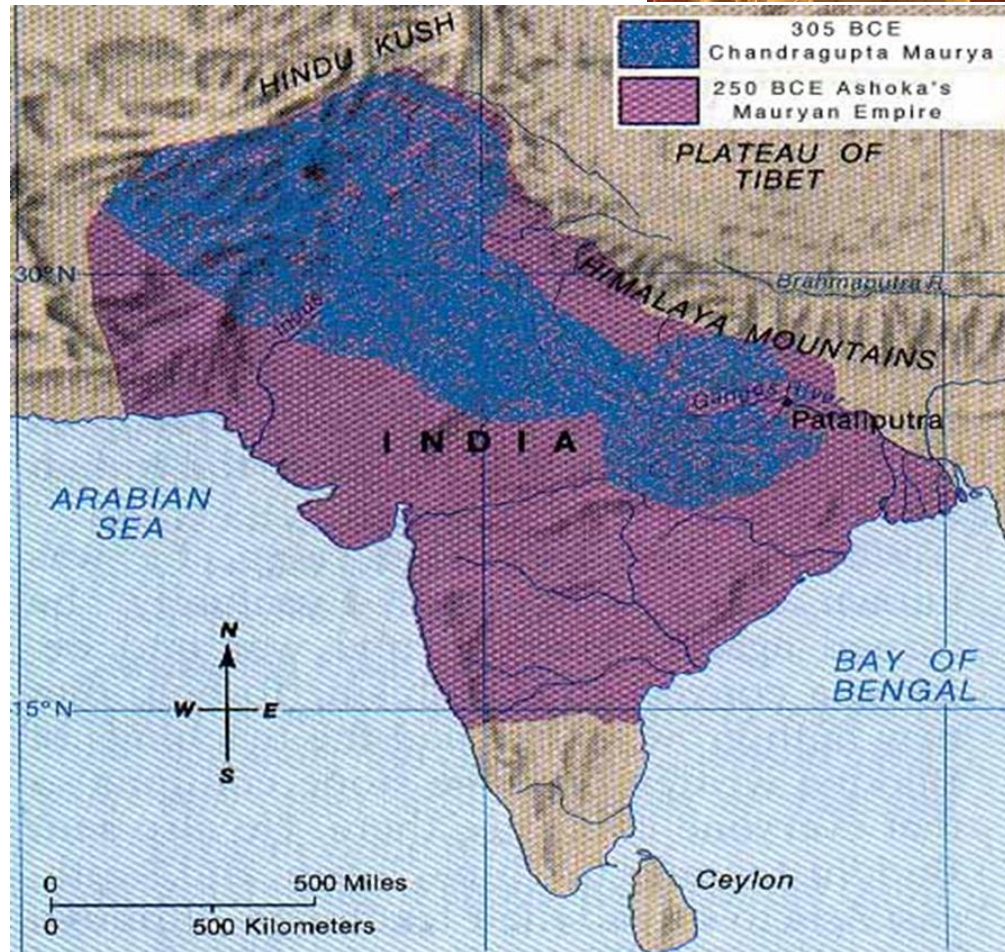
1. How did Buddhism influence Asoka's rule?

2. What were some of the advances of the Gupta dynasty?

Aim #11: How did Maurya and Gupta rulers achieve peace & order in *Classical* India?



Maurya Empire (321-185 BCE)



Asoka (r. 268-232BCE)

I believe in the forgiveness of sin & the redemption of ignorance



To do good is difficult. One who does good first does something hard to do. I have done many good deeds, and, if my sons, grandsons and their descendants up to the end of the world act in like manner, they too will do much good. But whoever amongst them neglects this, they will do evil. Truly, it is easy to do evil.



Checkpoint

How did Maurya rulers create a strong central government for their empire?

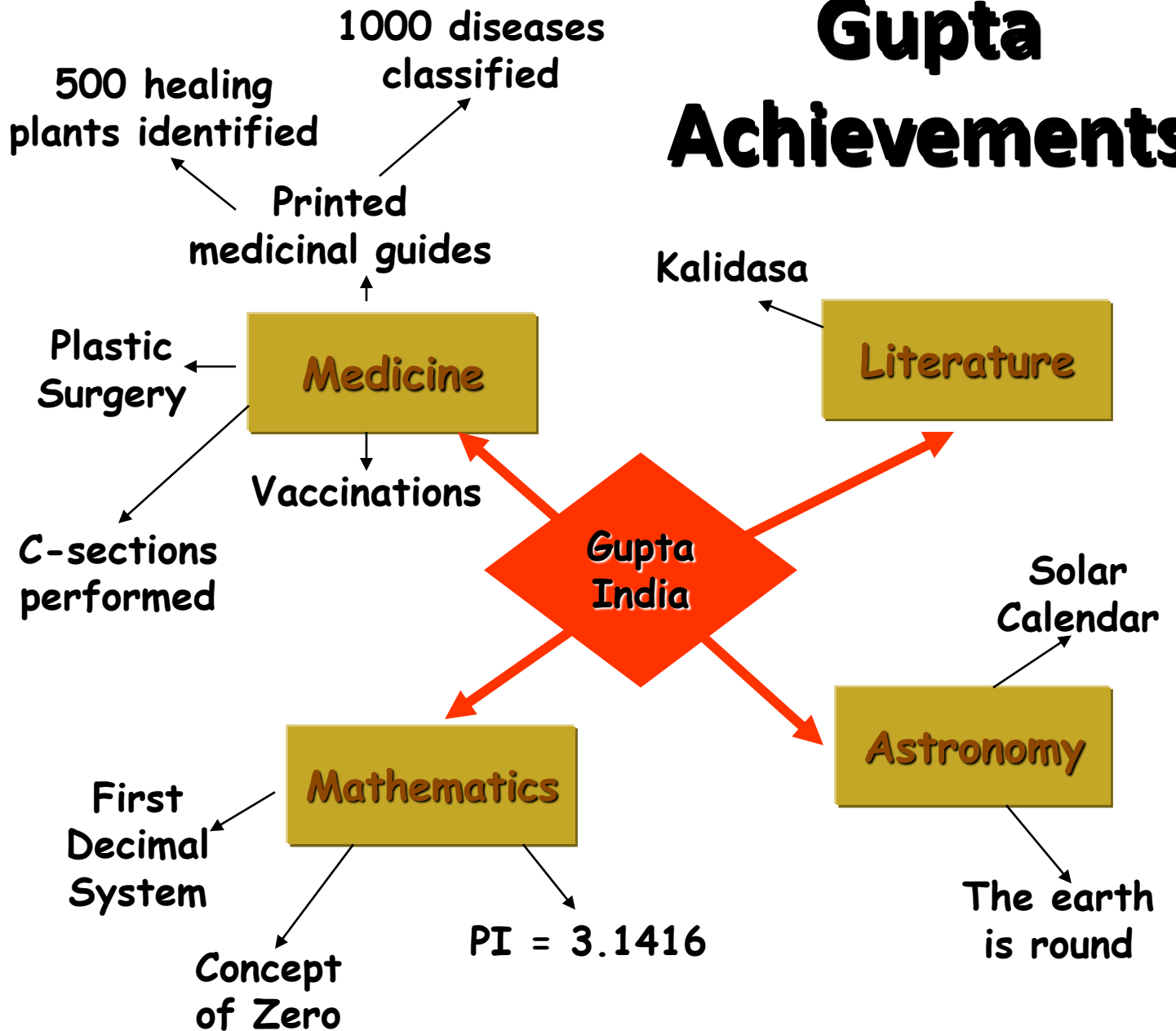
Guptas (320-550) Bring About a “Golden Age”



Extensive Trade 400



Gupta Achievements





Checkpoint

Why is the period of Gupta rule in India considered a golden age?

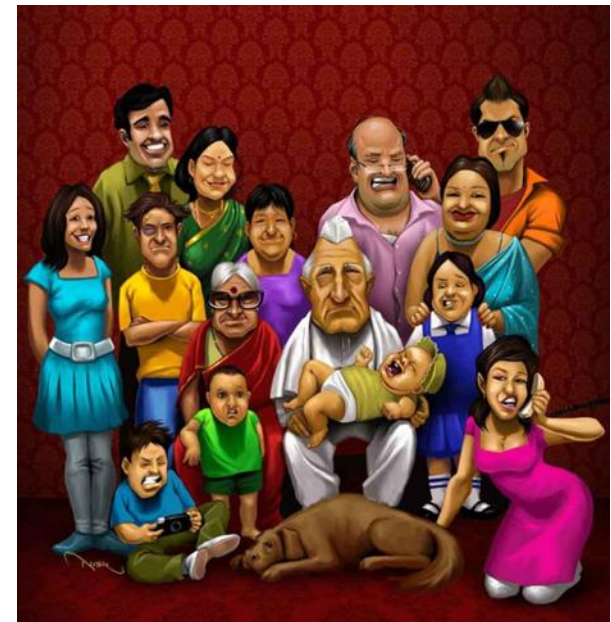
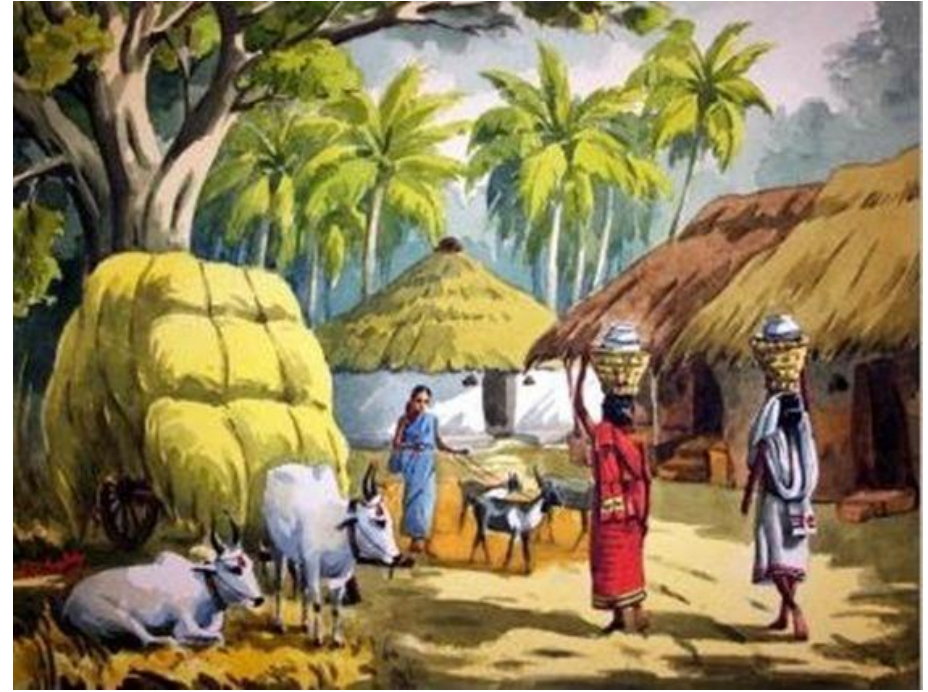
Village, Family, & Caste Shape Society

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Women





Checkpoint

How does family and village life shape Indian society?

Graphic Summary: *Empires of Ancient India*

*The diverse peoples of India rarely united. Yet the Mauryas and the Guptas were able to unite much of the subcontinent.

Empire	Maurya	Gupta
Dates	321 B.C. – 185 B.C.E.	C.E. 320-550
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Harsh rule- Organized government- Officials collected taxes- Government owned factories	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Mild rule- Organized government- Villages and cities had power
Location	Northern and Southern India	Northern India
Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Schools and libraries in capitals- Missionaries spread Buddhism	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Golden age of learning- Number system we use today; decimal system- Plastic surgery; vaccines for smallpox- Carvings of gods and animals



I don't get it...



I get it!

EXIT CARD
Please jot down what you
have gotten from today's
lesson and what you still
have questions on.