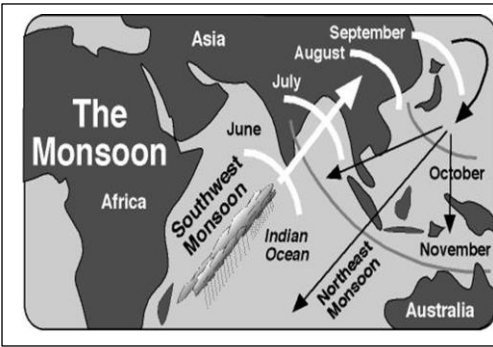
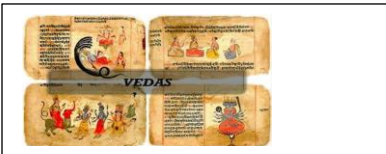
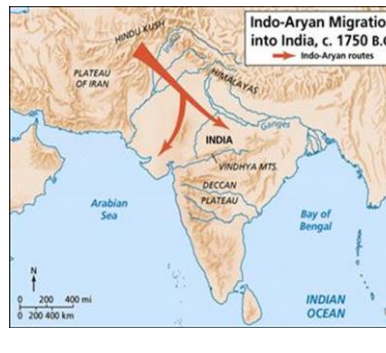
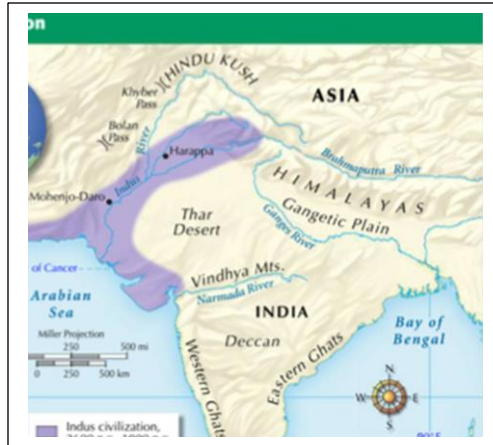


Aim #9: How have scholars learned about India's first two civilizations?

NYS SS Framework: 9.3a, 4a, 4c

Early Civilizations of India & Pakistan

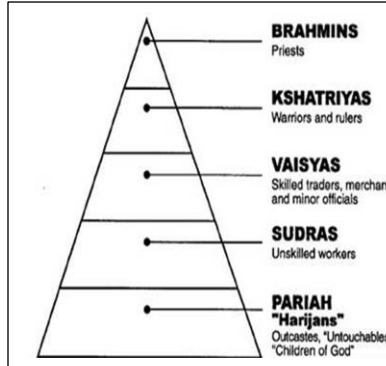
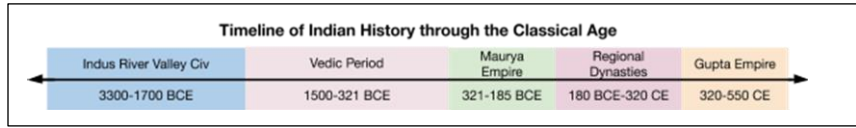


- ### Mini Lecture
- The Indian **subcontinent** is a large landmass that juts out from Asia. It is cut off from the rest of Asia by the **Hindu Kush & Himalayas**. It is divided into 3 zones: the **Gangetic Plain**, with rivers that support farming; the **Deccan plateau**, a raised area of level land too dry for farming; & the **coastal plains**, which receive plenty of rain.
 - Monsoons**, or seasonal winds, bring dry air from the northeast in winter & rains from the southwest in summer.
 - Civilization began on the subcontinent around 2600 B.C. in the **Indus River valley**.
 - Archaeologists believe organized governments helped plan cities such as **Harappa & Mohenjo-Daro**. They were built with wide streets, strong building materials, & complex plumbing systems.
 - People worshiped many gods & regarded certain animals as sacred, perhaps influencing later Indian beliefs such as the veneration of cattle.
 - The civilization declined by about 1900 B.C.
 - By 1500 B.C., nomadic herders had migrated into India from the north. They married local people, & **acculturation**, or the blending of cultures, took place. Their descendants, known as **Aryans**, learned to farm and built a civilization after 1000 B.C.
 - Aryan society was divided into five groups. At the top were priests, followed by warriors, farmers & merchants, & workers & servants. At the bottom were **dalits**, who had to do work that others would not.
 - People worshiped gods & goddesses who embodied natural forces, such as the sky & sun. Indra, the god of war, was the chief deity. Priests wrote sacred teachings in the **Vedas**, a collection of hymns & religious instructions.
 - Epic poems were part of the culture. They described Aryan warfare, important religious beliefs, & valued behavior.
 - Over time, Aryan beliefs changed. There was a move toward the concept of **brahman**, a single spiritual power beyond the gods of the Vedas & existing in all things.

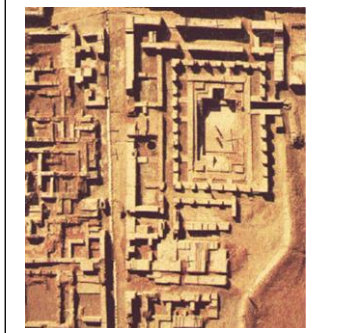
The Regions of the Indian Subcontinent

The Northern Plain	The Deccan Plateau	The Coastal Plains
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Himalaya mountains in NE Hindu Kush mountains in NW Two sacred rivers: Indus River & Ganges River Fertile land 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Triangular shape No major rivers Land too dry for farming Small population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastern Ghats & Western Ghats Flat land along coasts Fishing and trading Rain & rivers provide water for farming

*The subcontinent of India has three major geographic regions.



- ### Review Questions:
- How does geography impact the Indian subcontinent?
 - Why do archaeologists think organized governments planned Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro?
 - What are the Vedas?



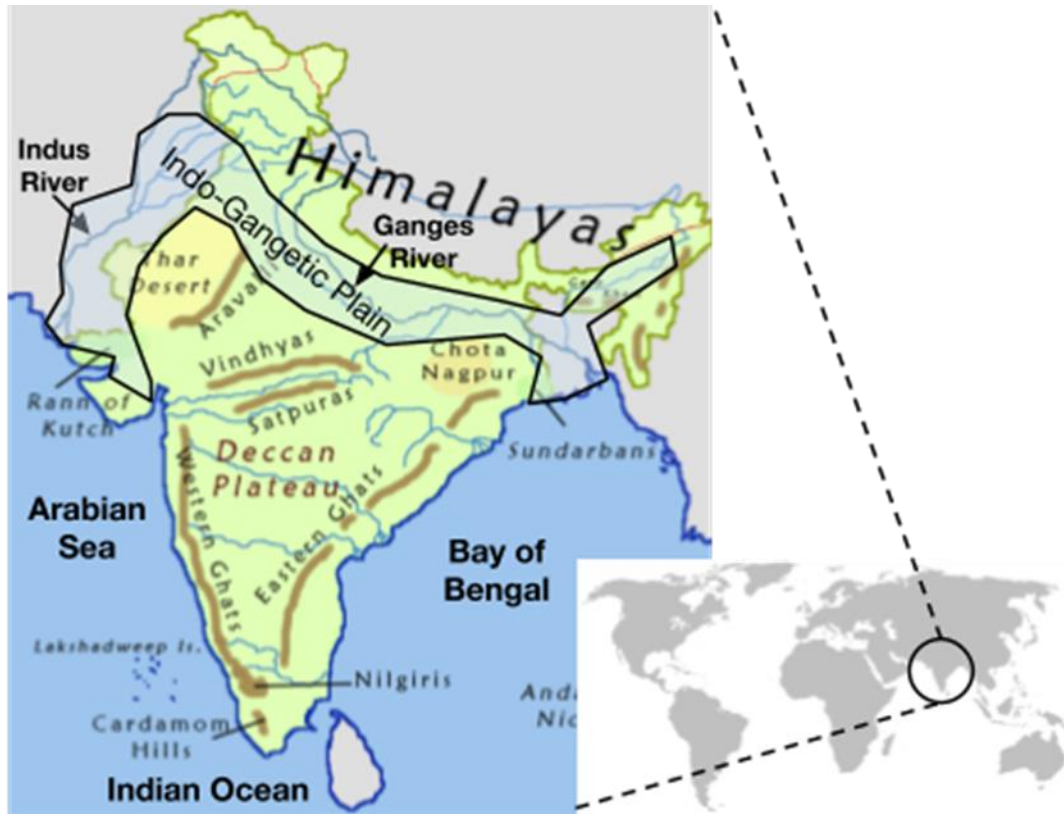
- ### Resources/Documents:
- Map of India's geographic features
 - Map of Monsoons
 - Map of Indian Ocean complex

Further Reading: Chapter 3, Section 1

How did geography affect the development of classical civilizations in India?

India's Location and Geography

Directions: Examine the map below and read the brief description of India's geography, then answer the questions that follow.



India is a modern-day country located in the region of Asia known as **South Asia**. Historically, the area referred to as “India” was larger than the country today and included the land northwest of the Indus River Valley which is now part of Pakistan. The landmass that India is on is a **peninsula**. A peninsula is a piece of land *almost* surrounded by water. India is sometimes referred to as a “**subcontinent**” because it is large and juts out from Asia into the Indian Ocean.

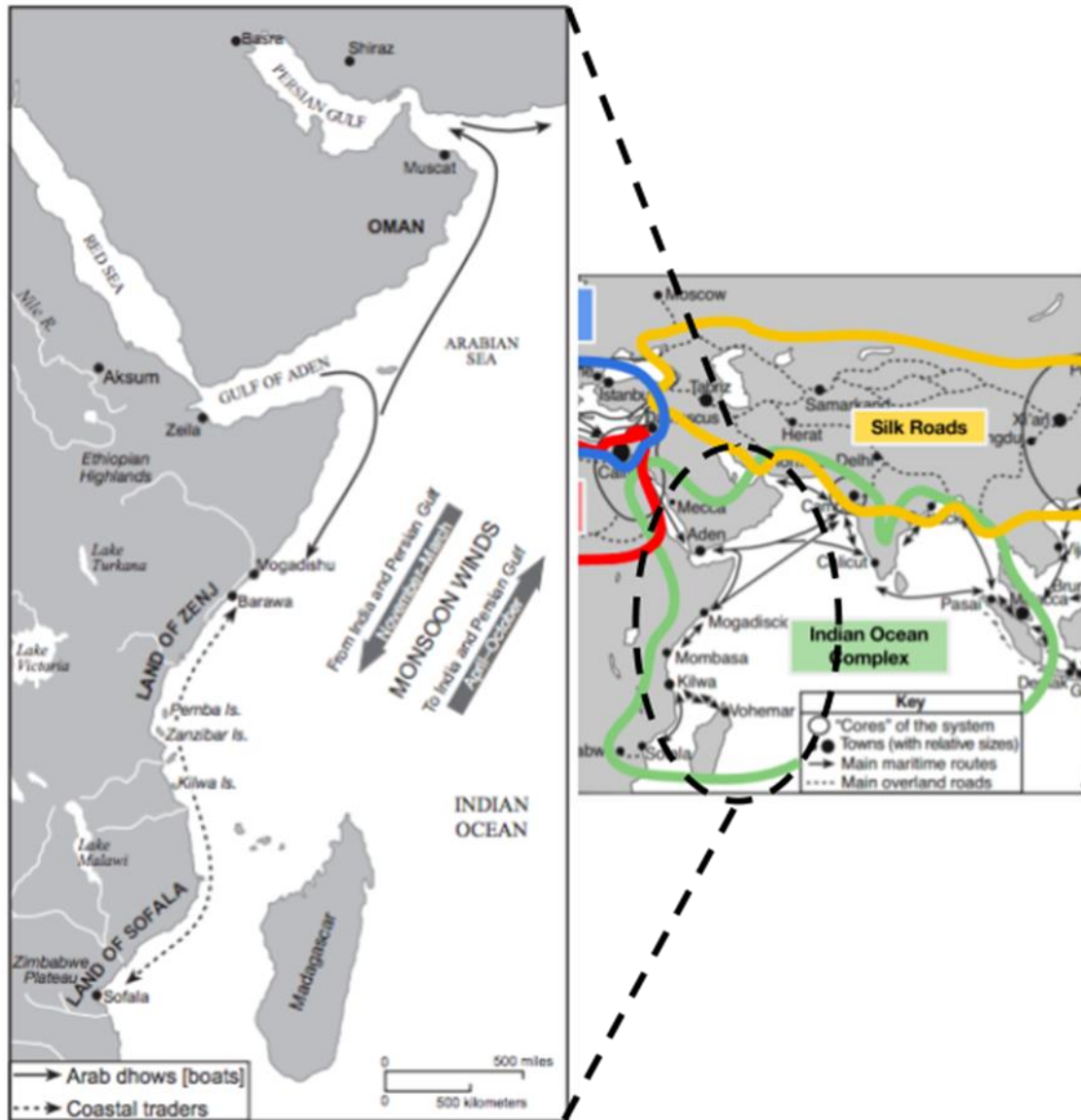
India's many regions have very different climates. The **Himalaya Mountains**, the world's tallest mountain range, is in the north. The Deccan Plateau is an area of high altitude with hardy plant life. Finally, the **Indo-Gangetic Plain** is home to India's most important rivers. It is a vast area of fertile soil where many of India's civilizations began.

1. Which continent is India located on?
2. What is the name of the large mountain range to the northeast of India? How do you think the presence of that mountain range may have affected interaction between Indians and people from North or East of the mountain range?
3. Identify two rivers that are located in the Indo-Gangetic Plain.
4. Why do you think many of India's civilizations began in the Indo-Gangetic Plain?
5. Which bodies of water border India?

How did monsoons impact trade routes in the Indian Ocean complex?

What are monsoons?

Watch an excerpt from this [Crash Course video](#) and answer the questions below. [Follow along on the video transcript linked here.](#) (start at 2:18 for information on monsoons; start at 0:50 for an overview of the Indian Ocean complex)

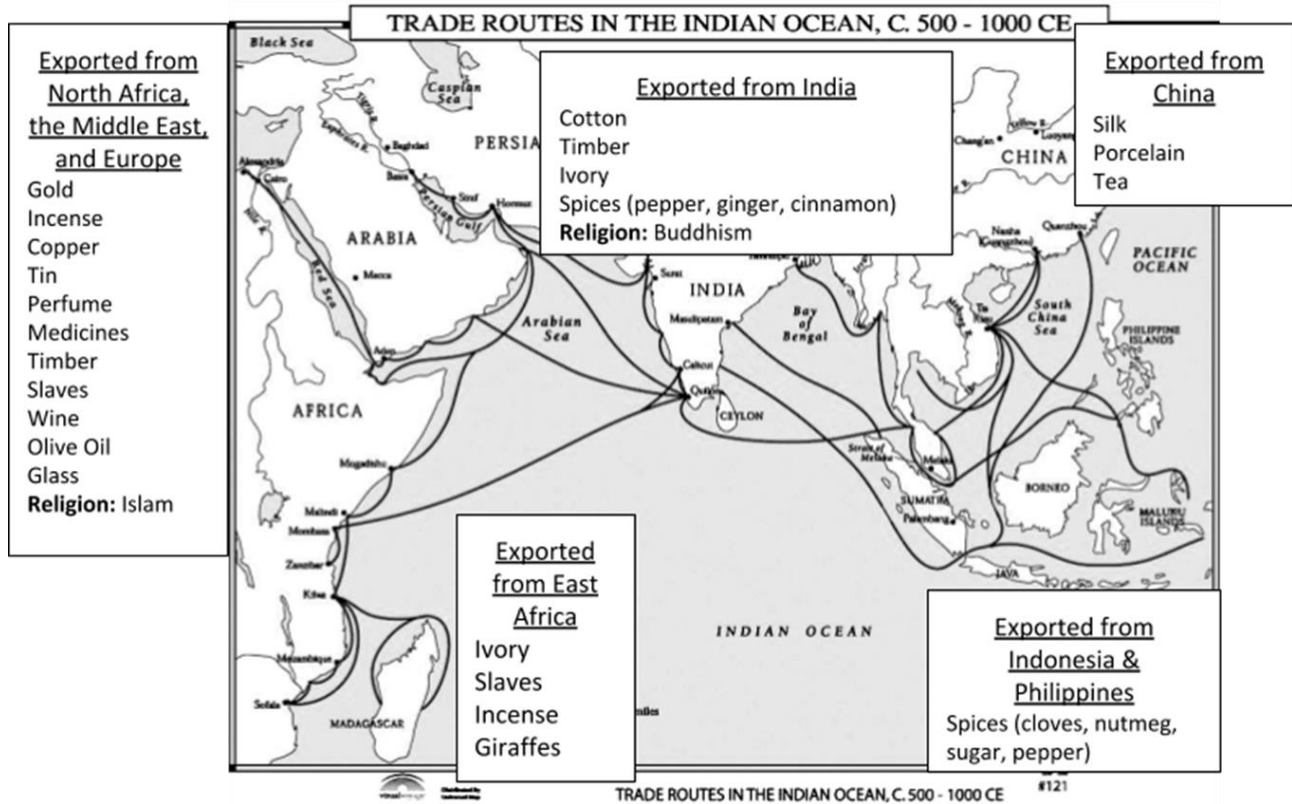


1. What are monsoons?
2. How did monsoons help sailors trade in the Indian Ocean complex?
3. Why were “predictable winds” important to trade in the Indian Ocean complex?

How did the Indian Ocean Complex affect the civilizations connected by it?

What was traded in the Indian Ocean Complex?

Directions: Based on the map, choose THREE goods and/or religions that were traded in the Indian Ocean Complex during the classical era, identify where they were exported from (originated), three locations they could have been traded to, and predict what affects that good and/or religion could have had on the civilizations it was traded to.



Good/Religion	Identify where the good/religion was exported from (where it originated)	Identify three locations it could have been traded to	Describe the effects the good/religion could have had on the civilizations it was traded to using the transitions below Because, So, Led to, Resulted in, Due to