Ancient India

Early Civilizations

India is a subcontir	ent whose geography includes the	on the
north; the Indus, G	anges and Brahmaputra River valleys and	d fertile coastlands to the
east and west; and	the Deccan Plateau in the subcontinent's	s southern two-thirds.
The main climate f	eature of India is the monsoon. Monsoon	rains bring water for crops,
but can also cause		
The first civilization	of the Indus Valley was marked by the la	arge, well-organized cities of
Harappa and Mohe patterns.	enjo-Daro. The cities were made of baked	I brick and laid out in grid
	ndus Valley farmed and made metal tool they traded with Mesopotamia.	s, cloth, and jewelry. They
As the people of H	arappa and Mohenjo-Daro disappeared, t	the Aryans migrated as far as
:he	River. They established a socie	ety based on farming and
rade.		
The Aryan civilizati	on developed writing (), literature (the
), ar	d the varna social class system in India.	
The sacred texts of and cer	Hinduism are the Vedas and the Upanish emonies.	nads, writings of Sanskrit
The basic beliefs of	Hinduism include: a single spirit called B	rahman encompasses all
living things; the ul	timate goal is union with Brahman; this ເ	union is accomplished by
reating good karn	na (actions) in each reincarnation of the $_$	
	was founded by Siddhartha Gautama	, a wealthy prince who left
nis possessions to t	find enlightenment and the end of sufferi	ing.
Siddhartha's teach	ings, stated in the Four Noble Truths and	the Eightfold Path, include:
eliminating desire	will eliminate suffering, and meditation a	nd giving up material things
help bring about _		
There are two divis	sions of Buddhism. Theravada Buddhists f	follow Buddha's teachings,
but do not believe	that he was a god. Mahayana Buddhists l	believe that worshipping the
Buddha helps then	n follow the Path	h.
ainism was founde	ed by Mahavira, who was called the Jina.	The main belief of the Jains,
ahimsa, is that all l	ife is sacred and that followers must neve	er take even an insect's life.
Like the Buddhists	they believe in the elimination of	

The teaching of ahimsa influenced twentieth-century Indian patriot Mahatma _____
to seek freedom from British rule through peaceful protest.

The Mauryan Empire

•	Chandra Gupta Maurya northern India through military might and		
	established the Mauryan Empire. As a ruler, he was well organized. He was also harsh,		
	fearing rebellion and harm to himself.		
•	Ashoka is considered the greatest Mauryan leader. Although he began his reign with		
	conquests, he turned to peaceful rule when he converted to Buddhism. He worked to		
	improve the lives of his people. He set up carved around the empire		
	with advice and sayings meant to inspire peaceful and respectful living. He also built		
	stupas (shrines) to encourage Buddhist practice.		
•	Five hundred years after the fall of the Mauryan Empire, the Indian people were again		
	united under the Gupta Samudra Gupta, son of the first emperor of		
	the Gupta dynasty, Chandra Gupta, led the people into a golden age under the Hind religion. Religious temples, art, and literature developed during this time, as did trace		
	Pilgrims often traveled to temples and sacred sites.		
•	society was quite advanced. Literature in Sanskrit, including religious		
	texts and epic poems, was written. Architecture consisted of religious structures,		
	temples, palaces, shrines, and monuments. Indian mathematicians invented a symbol		
	for zero, and they developed the written number system we still use today. Their system		
	of astronomy was based on the idea of a round Earth revolving around the sun. Medical		
	doctors performed surgery and tried to find the causes of		