**India Notes**

**Location**

* **Indus River Valley** – Located in northwest India subcontinent (current day Pakistan).
* **Monsoons** – Strong seasonal winds. In summer winds blow off the ocean bringing rain. In the winter, dry winds from Asia dominate thus it is relatively dry.

**Government**

* **Chandragupta** – He was the founder of the Maurya Empire. He was born into a poor family, sold as a slave, but later became the ruler.
* He conquered all the individual kingdoms in northern India
* He ruled with absolute power – built a huge army that intimidated people.
* Brought order and peace to his people.
* **Asoka –** The grandson of Chandragupta.
* Early in his rule, he was just like his grandfather – many wars and conquering of new land.
* **Battle of Kalinga** – This changed everything for him. All the death and sorrow saddened him so he converted to Buddhism and became very nice.
* He released prisoners, dug wells for travelers, built hospitals.

**Religion**

* **Hinduism –** Polytheistic religion, but they do believe in one single spiritual power called Brahman which lives in everything.
* **Reincarnation –** Rebirth of the soul. When a person dies, the soul is reborn into another living thing. Live a good life, you will be reborn onto a higher caste. Live a bad life, you will be reborn into a lower caste.
* **Karma –** A force that decides the form that people will be reborn into in their next lives.
* **Dharma –** One’s personal duty, based on the individual’s place in society.

**Caste System**

* A ranking of social groups in India.
* 1. Priests and Brahmans, 2. Nobles and warriors, 3. Merchants, farmers, and artisans, 4. Laborers, servants, 5. Untouchables
* Only two ways to jump to other social classes: death/reincarnation and marriage (females only).

**Agriculture**

* Same as other civilizations: river valleys flood in the spring leaving silt then they irrigate their crops using levees and canals.

**Cultural Contributions**

* **Printing Cloth** – similar to papyrus, but better.
* **Higher education –** Philosophy
* Poetry and plays were developed.
* **Sanskrit** – The written language of the Aryans.

**Scientific Contributions**

* **Mathematics –** Invented the concepts of zero and infinity.
* Proposed a theory that the earth was round and revolved around the sun.
* Advancements in metals, specifically iron.
* **Medicine –** Dental work (drilling teeth), made scalpels and needles, surgeries, and herbal medicine.