Ancient India and the Spread of Hinduism

Places, Regions, and Landscapes
1. Turn to pages 24-25 in the Atlas. Read the introduction and look at map A. “How Big is the Indian Subcontinent?” Write T next to each of the following statements if it is true or F if the statement is false.
   a. The earliest civilization in India was centered around the Indus River. ____________
   b. The Indus Valley civilization had no cities. ________________
   c. The Indian subcontinent includes only the present-day countries of India and Pakistan. ________________
   d. Nomads who migrated to India started a religion called Hinduism. ________________

Gathering the Facts
2. Use map B, “Indus Valley Civilization,” to answer the following questions.
   a. What year did farming begin in western India? __________________________ How many years ago did this take place? __________________________
   b. After farming began in western India, how many years passed before farmers moved into the Indus River Valley? __________________________
   c. Why did farmers move to the Indus Valley? __________________________
   d. When did the first planned cities develop? __________________________
   e. What are the names of the two major Indus Valley cities? __________________________ and __________________________
   f. There were other cities in the Indus Valley and beyond. How were these cities connected? __________________________
   g. Was trade important to the Indus Valley civilization? How do you know? __________________________

Links Near and Far
3. Use map C, “Mohenjo-Daro,” to answer the following questions.
   a. What barrier enclosed the city of Mohenjo-Daro? __________________________
   b. What major public buildings did Mohenjo-Daro have? __________________________
   c. Turn to page 8 and look at the illustration of Jericho. How is this city similar to Mohenjo-Daro? __________________________
   d. How was Mohenjo-Daro different from Jericho? __________________________
   e. How was Mohenjo-Daro like cities today? __________________________
   f. How was Mohenjo-Daro different from cities today? __________________________

History Through Maps
4. Look at map D, “Aryans and Hinduism.” Then, for each pair of events below, write C next to the cause and E next to the effect.
   a. _________ Aryans migrate from Central Asia into India. _________ Dravidians migrate south.
   b. _________ Hinduism spreads throughout India. _________ Aryans expand across Ganges Plain.

People and Cultures
5. Read the history question, “What do Hindus believe?” According to Hinduism, what are the consequences of good actions?
Ancient India and the Spread of Buddhism

Gathering the Facts

1. Turn to pages 26-27 in the Atlas. Read the introduction and the history question, “What’s nirvana?” Also look at picture A and read its caption. Use the information to complete the following paragraphs.

   Two major world religions developed in India: __________________________ and Buddhism. __________________________ developed after Hinduism had spread throughout India. It was based on the teachings of a wise man named __________________________. He became known as __________________________ which means “the Enlightened One.” His teachings focused on a new way of life to end __________________________. The goal for Buddhists is to achieve a state of peacefulness called __________________________.

   India was united by a family named the __________________________. They created the first Indian __________________________. After the Mauryan Empire fell, the __________________________ Empire emerged. Under the rule of the Gupta, __________________________ and __________________________ thrived.

Time and Change

2. Use map B, “Mauryan Empire and Buddhism,” and map C, “Gupta Empire and Buddhism” to sequence the events below in chronological order. Write 1 next to the event that occurred first and 6 next to the event that occurred last.

   a. Ashoka becomes a Buddhist. __________________________
   b. Buddhism spreads south to Anuradhapura. __________________________
   c. Siddhartha Gautama is born. __________________________
   d. Gupta Empire begins. __________________________
   e. Buddhism spread to Korea and Japan. __________________________
   f. Mauryan Empire begins. __________________________

History Through Maps

3. Use map C, “Gupta Empire and Buddhism,” to answer the following questions.

   a. What year did the Gupta dynasty begin? __________________________
   b. How did Buddhism spread to China and Japan? __________________________
   c. What major Buddhist site developed in Southeast Asia? __________________________
   d. What was one major Buddhist site that developed in China? __________________________
   e. What islands did Buddhism reach by A.D. 552? __________________________
   f. What group caused the collapse of the Gupta Empire? __________________________

Places, Regions, and Landscapes

4. Look at chart D, “Top Ten Cities, A.D. 100.” Order the cities below from largest to smallest, with 1 having the largest population and 7 having the smallest. Then look at map C, “Gupta Empire and Buddhism.” Circle the cities below that were major Buddhist sites.

   a. Anuradhapura __________________________
   b. Carthage __________________________
   c. Wu __________________________
   d. Peshawar __________________________
   e. Alexandria __________________________
   f. Rome __________________________
   g. Luoyang __________________________
People and Cultures

5. Look at map B, “Mauryan Empire and Buddhism,” and map C, “Gupta Empire and Buddhism.” Next to each statement below, write a **M** if it describes the Mauryan Empire or a **G** if it describes the Gupta Empire. Some statements describe both empires.

   a. The empire began in northern India.  
      __________________________

   b. Buddhism reaches Japan during their rule.  
      __________________________

   c. They had a Buddhist emperor.  
      __________________________

   d. Their capital was located at Pataliputra.  
      __________________________