

Chapter 3 India, China, and the Americas c. 3500--700 B.C.E. STUDY SHEET

VOCABULARY BUILDING: *organic (not as in produce), holistic, artifact, mandate, hierarchy, divination, paradox.*

1. The _____ Valley Civilization (c. 2700--1500 B.C.E.), located roughly between present day India and Pakistan, was a Bronze Age culture. Some of their urban planning featured _____

2. Has the script of the Indus Valley Civilization been deciphered? _____
(We've seen slides of this script in class.)

3. Peoples from outside India, referred to as Aryans, or Indo-Aryans, migrated into northern India. The urban centers of the Indus Valley Civilization were abandoned or destroyed, and the original inhabitants disappear from the archaeological record. What type of social organization did these Aryans introduce?

_____ What are the different social divisions? _____

4. What was the classical language of India? _____

5. Like Greece, India has two great epic poems. One of them, the _____, tells the story of a decade-long struggle between related families for the control of territory in the Ganges River plain. The main heroes of this epic are a group of five brothers known as the Pandavas (a family name).

6. India's oldest sacred texts are the _____, prayers, hymns, and formulae used in ritual. See example on p. 14, Reading 0.1 "Song of Creation." [There are four Vedas, and the oldest is the Rig Veda, which consists of over 1,000 hymns.]

7. What is the textbook's definition of pantheism? _____

8. Hinduism is often classified as a pantheistic religion because it incorporates the idea that there is an all-pervading cosmic spirit (or reality) called _____.

9. On the human level, this all-pervading cosmic spirit manifests in the individual as the _____ (or Self), "soundless, formless, intangible, undying, tasteless, odorless, without beginning, without end, eternal, immutable, beyond nature."

10. The god Krishna instructs the warrior-hero Arjuna (of the *Mahabharata*) in the duties (*dharma*) he must follow and explains to him the different paths to illumination. These instructions and the dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna occur in the poem _____, which is known all over India.

11. What states of mind or attitude are described in reading passage 3.1 as a precondition for obtaining peace and illumination? _____

12. In the valleys of what two rivers did ancient Chinese civilization develop? _____ & _____

13. Possibly the first Chinese dynasty was the Xia (c. 2200 B.C.E.). The two Chinese dynasties that are the focus of this chapter are the _____ and the _____.

14. What brush and ink writing technique was developed by 1750 B.C.E. _____.

Early Chinese writing had an inventory of _____ characters.

15. Shang rulers, like the Egyptian rulers, derived their authority from _____. In reality, they backed up their claim to authority by relying on an effective bureaucracy and large armies.

16. We know something about the Shang from their royal tombs. What do these tombs tell us about the Chinese social order? _____

17. What stone was believed to have protective powers and regarded as a preventative for fatigue and a retardant for the decomposition of the body. *Note: In one period, entire suits of this stone were made for the deceased royalty.* _____

18. By the time of the Western Zhou (1027-771 B.C.E.) the sacred right to rule, known as the _____, was established. The Zhou found justification for their overthrow of the Shang in the claim that the Shang had not ruled virtuously and therefore lost the support of Heaven (*Tian*). *Note that the right to rule was seen as dependent on following moral laws that were in themselves derived from the natural order. In terms of the PACE theme of Twenty-first Century Ethics, can you think of any present day ethical concerns that look to the "natural order"?*

19. What natural gifts qualified a human to rule according to ancient Chinese thought? _____ and _____.

20. How were individuals selected for government service? _____

21. While the Chinese conceived of a cosmic principle (Lord on High or Heaven [*Tian*]) that oversaw the order of the universe and had myths that told of the marriage of Heaven and Earth, the beings thought to be directly active in the lives of humans and watching over human affairs were the _____.

22. Special priests, _____, foretold the future by examining the cracks on heated animal bones and tortoise shells. These _____ bones provide information today about Shang culture and history.

23. A small book of only 5,000 words, the *Dao de Jing*, is associated with the name _____. Traditionally this person is regarded as the author, but he may never have existed. The teachings of the *Dao de Jing* attempt to illustrate the _____, or "Way," a universal, natural principle of unity and harmony.

24. Formerly it was thought that no civilization existed in the Americas before the middle of the second millennium B.C.E. (*think around 1500 B.C.E.*). Very recently, archaeologists have been able to date the Peruvian sites of _____ and _____ to the years 3500 - 2600 B.C.E. Look at figure 3.9. What kind of structure was built at this ancient site? _____

25. From the Olmecs' production of massive sculptures (like the giant heads) and their building of large areas for civic use, we can assume that Olmecs (c. 1300 - 400 B.C.E.) must have been able to draw on

_____ and _____.

26. The peoples of Caral, Meso-America, and ancient Mesopotamia produced a type of structure that was remarkably similar. What was it? _____?