

Name\_\_\_\_\_

Test Date\_\_\_\_\_

## India

### *Facts to Know*

The country of India is located on the continent of Asia. Asia is the largest continent in the world. It has six of the most populated countries. Over one billion people live in India.

India has two important rivers.

Indus River: The Indus River overflows its banks each year, which creates very fertile soil. Many ancient cities were built along the Indus River Valley.

Ganges River: The Ganges River is considered sacred to the Hindus. They believe that it is the reincarnation of a female god. Several holy cities are built near its banks, and bathing in the Ganges is part of Hindu rituals.

Hinduism is a religion that is practiced by many people in India. Hindus worship many different gods. Three of them are:

**Brahma**: the creator

**Vishnu**: the preserver and protector

**Shiva**: the destroyer

The Rig Veda is a book that holds over 1,000 hymns and rituals for the Hindus.

A wealthy prince named Siddhartha gave up his wealth to teach others how to live good lives and treat others fairly. He became known as Buddha, which means, "the Enlightened One."

King Asoka, a powerful king that had conquered much of India, became a Buddhist. He felt bad for all the pain and suffering he had caused. He helped India by building hospitals, libraries, roads, and irrigation canals. Most importantly, he helped spread Buddhism across much of Asia.

Vocabulary  
Facts to Know  
India

Vedas: the earliest holy writings of Hinduism

Indus River: the river upon which the first civilization in India was built

Ganges River: a very sacred river to the Hindus

Hinduism: a religion practiced by many people in India and other parts of Asia

Brahma: important god to the Hindus, called "The Creator"

Vishnu: important god to the Hindus, called "The Protector"

Shiva: important god to the Hindus, called "The Destroyer"

Buddhism: a religion based on the teachings of Buddha

Buddha: founder of Buddhism; Buddha means "Enlightened One"

King Asoka: powerful and wealthy emperor of India who helped spread  
Buddhism throughout Asia