

## Transition from River Valleys to Empires: Persia, India, & China

### I. What is an Empire?

#### A. *Class Activity:*

1. What is an “empire”?
2. How are “empires” different from “river valley civilizations”?
3. What are the advantages of having an empire?

#### B. *From Civilization to Empire*

1. After thousands of years of civilization in river valleys, the first \_\_\_\_\_ appeared.
2. River valley civilizations were \_\_\_\_\_ societies with advanced technologies, cities, workers, writing, & institutions.
3. Empires were advanced societies with well-organized, \_\_\_\_\_ that \_\_\_\_\_ & ruled a variety of formerly \_\_\_\_\_ people

### II. Major Empires

#### A. *Empire in Mesopotamia: The Persians*

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ soil & lack of natural boundaries in Mesopotamia led to frequent \_\_\_\_\_ & conquests
2. One of the most important ancient empires were the Persians (in present-day \_\_\_\_\_)
3. Who were the Persians?
  - a. The Persians grew into a powerful empire under Kings \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. With a powerful \_\_\_\_\_, the Persians conquered Mesopotamia, \_\_\_\_\_, & India
  - c. Persian religion was \_\_\_\_\_, which viewed life as a struggle between good & evil
    - i. Persians believed in \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ as consequences for how they lived their lives
    - ii. Zoroastrianism influenced the views of the afterlife in Judaism, \_\_\_\_\_, & \_\_\_\_\_
4. *Brainstorming:* How did the Persians control such a massive empire?

5. Persians controlled their empire in a variety of ways:
  - a. Persian kings were \_\_\_\_\_ & allowed conquered people to keep their languages & religions; Rather than destroying or looting conquered cities, King Cyrus would show \_\_\_\_\_ for local customs
  - b. King Darius \_\_\_\_\_ the empire into 20 provinces each ruled by a \_\_\_\_\_ (local governor); Satraps were the “ \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ of the king,” collected taxes, & informed the king of uprisings
  - c. The Persians built a network of \_\_\_\_\_ in order to collect \_\_\_\_\_ & improve communication & trade throughout the empire
  - d. The Persians used \_\_\_\_\_ with standardized values to help promote \_\_\_\_\_

*B. Empire in India: The Mauryans & Guptas*

1. After the river valley era, India transitioned into the Mauryan Empire
  - a. Chandragupta Maurya became king of India in 321 BC, created a vast \_\_\_\_\_, & conquered new lands
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_’s empire controlled most of the Indian subcontinent
2. Chandragupta used tactics to control his empire
  - a. Like the Persians, Chandragupta \_\_\_\_\_ his empire into provinces each ruled by a \_\_\_\_\_ prince
3. In 269 B.C., King \_\_\_\_\_ took over & expanded the Mauryan Empire to its greatest extent
  - a. During his wars of expansion, Asoka converted to \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Asoka developed new policies of \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ for his empire
  - c. Buddhism \_\_\_\_\_ as a result of Asoka’s influence
2. After Asoka’s death, the Mauryan Empire declined & was replaced by the Gupta Empire
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ formed the Gupta Empire in 320 A.D. & expanded the empire
  - b. India experienced a “ \_\_\_\_\_ ” during the Gupta Empire & became a “classical empire”
    - i. Indian astronomers were the first to discover that the \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. Mathematicians invented modern \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, pi, & the decimal system

iii. Merchants sold exotic \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ to people in the Mediterranean world

C. *Empire in China: The Han Dynasty*

1. Government in China was based upon the \_\_\_\_\_:
  - a. One ruling family (a “dynasty”) gains the “\_\_\_\_\_” then rules until the dynasty grows \_\_\_\_\_ & is overthrown
  - b. As a result, eras in Chinese history are \_\_\_\_\_ after the ruling dynasties: Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han
2. During the Han Dynasty, China became a “\_\_\_\_\_ civilization” marked by its advanced gov’t, trade, & technology
  - a. Han kings built a powerful \_\_\_\_\_ & expanded into Asia to form China’s first empire
  - b. Chinese emperors added thousands of gov’t workers (called \_\_\_\_\_) to collect \_\_\_\_\_, enforce laws, & oversee building projects
    - i. In order to gain one of the 130,000 gov’t jobs, citizens had to pass a \_\_\_\_\_
    - ii. Exams were based on \_\_\_\_\_ teachings
  - c. Chinese technologies became advanced, especially \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ making. Paper made books cheaper & increased \_\_\_\_\_ in China
  - d. The desire for Chinese \_\_\_\_\_ goods led to the \_\_\_\_\_ which connected China with Indian, Persian, & Mediterranean societies

## Similarities and Differences among Empires

3 similarities among the empires	3 differences among empires
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="94 226 477 268">• All the empires have...</li><li data-bbox="94 415 477 457">• All the empires have...</li><li data-bbox="94 604 477 646">• All the empires have...</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="833 226 1425 268">• The Persians were unique because...</li><li data-bbox="833 415 1516 499">• The Mauyran/Gupta Empires were unique because...</li><li data-bbox="833 646 1471 688">• The Han Dynasty was unique because...</li></ul>