

VIDEO NOTES: South Asia's Human Geography

1. Approximately 1/5th (20%) of all the _____ in the world live in South Asia.
2. South Asians speak more than 1,000 different languages and practice several different _____.
3. About 4,500 years ago, people who lived in the valley of the _____ River began developing a civilization.
4. About 1,500 BC, war-like Aryan (white skinned) _____ crossed the mountain passes and conquered the Indus Valley region.
5. Sanskrit is an Indo-European language related to many of the languages spoken in _____.
6. During the Vedic Age between 1,500 BC and 500 AD, the Aryans continued their conquest eastward along the valley of the _____ River. As they went, they adopted many cultural ideas from the dark-skinned farmers of the region.
7. As the Aryans became more settled in India, their beliefs evolved into the _____ religion.
8. Buddhism began to emerge in South Asia. Buddhism was founded by a Hindu _____ named Siddhartha Gautama, and the founder is represented in many different ways.
9. When Prince Siddhartha was 29 years old, he became deeply disturbed by all the _____ in the World. He left his home and all his worldly possessions, and went on a 6 year quest for the meaning of _____. Finally, he felt that he understood the fundamental truths of life, and it is at that moment that he became The Buddha.
10. The word Buddha means "The _____ One."
11. The Buddha recommended an Eight-fold Path for living a _____ life that is free from selfish desires for wealth, power, and pleasure.
12. In the 4th Century BC a ruler named Chandragupta Maurya established the Mauryan Empire. Three lions were the emperor's symbol of authority, and is the official crest of modern _____.
13. Maurya's grandson, Ashoka, adopted the Buddhist religion and encouraged its spread by sending missionaries to Sri Lanka and other parts of _____.
14. Hindus began to think of the Buddha as only one of their many deities (gods) and _____ began to fade in most parts of India.
15. Muslim traders and missionaries who practiced the religion of Islam brought new ideas across the _____ Sea and the deserts of Southwest Asia.
16. In the late 12th Century, Hindu temples were converted into Muslim mosques as _____ rulers gained control of the region around India's present capital of New Delhi.
17. New Delhi was built by the _____ in the 19th Century.

18. At Agra is South Asia's most famous building; the beautiful Taj Mahal. This great 17th Century monument was built on the orders of the emperor to serve as a tomb for his _____.
19. As early as the 16th Century, Portugal had built forts and established _____ on the west coast of India. However, it was the _____ who eventually took over most of the region and ruled it as part of their widespread colonial empire.
20. India gained its independence from Great Britain in _____, mostly due to the work of Mohandas (Mahatma) Gandhi and other great nationalistic leaders.
21. During independence there was bloodshed as bad feelings between Hindus and Muslims led to the splitting of British India into separate Hindu and Muslim countries. India remained Hindu, and Islamic Pakistan was created with two parts: East Pakistan and _____.

HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

22. South Asia is one of the most densely populated regions on earth and the population continues to grow rapidly. As a result, there are many more _____ and young people than there are older people.
23. India is the 2nd most populous country on earth. Only _____ has more people.
24. Many people wear colorful garments in South Asia. Some of their costumes reflect _____ traditions.
25. Turbans are popular head-gear for men in western India and Pakistan. They give protection from the sun and may also indicate the wearer's _____ status.
26. As you can tell from the many styles of dress associated with different faiths, _____ is an important part of daily life throughout South Asia.
27. Today, Buddhism is the primary religion in the north, in the Himalayan Mountains, and in the island country of _____.
28. Hinduism is the most widely practiced religion in most of India and _____.
29. Among the most important gods to Hindus are Brahma (the creator), Vishnu (the preserver), and Shiva (the destroyer and reproducer). Many _____ goddesses are also honored, and so are animal deities.
30. Hindus believe individual souls are _____ on earth many times until the soul achieves perfection.
31. The "caste" is the social group to which he or she was born. At the top of the caste system are the *Brahmans* (priests and teachers). Next are the *Kshatriyas* (traditionally were warriors and rulers). *Vaisyas* are next in rank (farmers and merchants). They are followed by the *Sudras* (laborers and workers with handicrafts). Below this are people with no caste status; these are the " _____ " who must perform jobs no one else wants to do.

32. Although the Indian government has tried to do away with the caste system, deep-rooted _____ continue to affect people's lives.
33. Islam is the other major religion in South Asia today. In contrast with Hindus, Muslims do not believe in using paintings and carvings of people or animals as an aid to _____ so they decorate their mosques and tombs with elaborate writing.
34. The religion made of Sikhs combines elements of both _____ and Hinduism.
35. Jews have lived on India's southwest coast for at least two _____ years.
36. There are also many _____ in southwest India.
37. The diversity of religions affect how people live. For example, Hindus believe _____ are sacred and must not be killed or eaten.
38. Streets in South Asian towns are full of all kinds of _____. There are many shops offering a variety of goods and services.
39. South Asia also has several very large cities. The Indian cities of Delhi, Mumbai, and Calcutta all have populations of more than _____ million people.
40. Cities provide people with more opportunity for good jobs and _____ than the small villages. Many people have moved to the cities hoping to find a better life.

SUMMARY

41. Many of the most beautiful buildings in South Asia were created as _____ to the Buddhist, Hindu, Islamic, and Christian religions that have been practiced here for hundreds and in some cases even thousands of years.
42. The dress and food choices of many people still reflect their religious _____ and heritage.
43. When the region gained its independence from _____ rule in the mid-20th Century, new countries were created. The largest and most urbanized is India; but even here a majority of the people live in villages and work the land.
44. The prosperous middle class that is developing in the larger towns and cities demonstrates that times are _____.

QUESTIONS:

1. What are the three main religions in South Asia? In what ways are they different (*give examples*)?
2. What is the caste system? How many different levels are there? Does it exist today? How do you know?
3. In what important way are India and Pakistan different?
4. Which European power colonized South Asia and made it a part of its global empire?