Contents

Included in this resource

1. A Note for the Teacher
2. How to use this resource
3. Photos of pages in use. You are welcome to use them as inspiration for how the materials can be used!
4. A cover page for the Ancient India section of students’ notebooks
5. 13 interactive printable activities for student notebooks
   1. When possible, some printables are repeated on a page to save paper when you’re making copies!
6. Titles for each activity page
7. An answer key

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A Note for the Teacher

Thank you for choosing the Ancient India Interactive Notebook resource from The Teacher’s Prep!

Interactive notebooks are an effective tool in the classroom. Not only can they assist students in keeping their work organized, but they are also an easy-to-access resource for reference throughout the year.

The Ancient India Interactive Notebook is intended as a resource for late-elementary into middle school ages.

It includes 13 different interactive activities that correspond to the study of ancient India along with answer keys! It does not include any types of informational text for students.

If you have any questions or concerns, the best way to reach me is through email at theteachersprep@gmail.com
How to Use this Resource

Using these interactive notebook activities is super easy!

Students need –
1. A notebook
2. Scissors
3. Glue
4. A pen or pencil
5. Colored pencils

** Colored pencils are not essential, however I like to give students the option to personalize their notebooks or add pictures of words or concepts when appropriate **

Cut out the printables, then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs in certain activities.

Lift tabs to write information beneath them.

The resources are sized to provide extra room on certain pages to record additional information as the teacher sees fit.

©The Teacher’s Prep
Students can add their own pictures on the cover to illustrate what they’ve learned as they study ancient India!
Students lift the tabs to write the definition of the words. They can use the margins to make extra notes or write examples.
Students can use this activity to take notes on the land and water features of ancient India.
Students can use this activity to take notes on the geography, people, cities, and key locations in the Indus River Valley.
When the Aryans migrated into areas in Ancient India, they brought new cultural practices with them. Students can glue the map beneath the foldable to trace the migrations or use the organizer without the map and write beneath the flaps.

©The Teacher’s Prep
With this graphic organizer, students can compare the different roles of men, women, and children in Ancient India.
The Caste System

This graphic organizer – available without the words, too – is designed to allow students to examine the ancient Indian social classes.
Hinduism

Record information about key aspects of Hinduism!
Lift the tabs to record information about key aspects of Buddhism.

©The Teacher's Prep
Types of Buddhism

Students can examine the branches of Buddhism. There’s even space below the organizer to record information about the sub branches of Mahayana Buddhism, too.
Comparing Hinduism and Buddhism

Although Hinduism and Buddhism are two different religions, they do share some similarities. Students can compare the two religions in this graphic organizer.

©The Teacher’s Prep
The Gupta and Mauryan Empires began a new era in Ancient Indian history. Students can use this graphic organizer to examine the achievements of these two great empires.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Empires of India</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Gupta Empire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Mauryan Empire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Ashoka
  - Promoted Buddhism
  - Created hospitals
  - Built roads and houses
  - Had statues built

- Chandragupta
  - Created a penal system
  - Strong ruler
  - Very cautious/personal

©The Teacher’s Prep
Ancient India was the home of many achievements. Students can write information on notecards or keep activities related to the accomplishments in these tab folders.

©The Teacher’s Prep
This map has a few locations written in already. Students can label important cities, geographic features...the possibilities are endless!

This map is completely blank! Use as you wish!
These Teacher Notes offer a guide for how to use these graphic organizers.

**Vocabulary**

1. **subcontinent** – a landmass that is very large yet smaller than continent
2. **monsoon** – seasonal winds that blow across the Indian subcontinent. They change direction based on the time of year.
3. **Sanskrit** – the written language of ancient India
4. **Vedas** – religious texts of Hinduism
5. **caste** – a social class in ancient India. Castes were very strict.
6. **reincarnation** – the belief that a person’s soul can be reborn after death
7. **karma** – a power or energy that a person accumulates during their life based on their actions. According to Hindu beliefs, the type of karma a person collects during their life affects their social status after rebirth.
8. **dharma** – personal duty
9. **nirvana** – a state of complete peace or total happiness.

**Geography of India**

**Land Features** – India is a subcontinent, meaning it is a large area of land, yet smaller than a continent. It features a several mountain ranges, including the Himalayas to the north, and the Western Ghats and Eastern Ghats along the west and east coasts. Fertile lands surround India’s main rivers and a large and a dry plateau (Deccan Plateau) lies between the Eastern Ghats and the Western Ghats.

**Water Features** – The Indian subcontinent is surrounded by water on three sides: the Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, and the Bay of Bengal. India also boasts three major rivers that provide rich nutrients to the surrounding lands: the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra rivers.
The Indus Valley Civilization

The People – The people of the Indus Valley settled the region around 5,000 years ago. Many were farmers who lived outside of the city and grew crops such as wheat, barley, and rice. Others were merchants who sold goods within the city walls. Culture was rich in the Indus Valley. The people didn’t just survive – they thrived! Artisans made jewelry and beautiful pottery while children played games for fun.

The Region – I typically ask students to mark the site of Mohenjo-Daro, trace the route of the Indus River in blue, and mark areas of fertile land. We then discuss why the early people decided to settle in that particular area. (Water and land resources!)

The Geography – The geography of the region made it a perfect place to establish a settlement. The soil along the Indus River was fertile, making it relatively easy to establish farming communities. The river itself provided water for irrigation and ways to travel and trade with others.

The Cities – Two major cities that were established in the region were Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. Both cities were well-planned. City streets were laid out into blocks and areas of trade and living were established. The cities boasted sewer systems, baths, shops and a citadel.

The Aryans

Who – The Aryans were speakers of Indo-European languages who moved into the Indus Valley around 1900 B.C.E. They were skilled horsemen and warriors.

Where – The Aryans migrated into the Indus Valley from central Asia, possibly pushing out those that had lived in Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa,
The Aryans (continued)

Why – The Aryans moved into the Indus Valley in search of pastures for their cattle to graze. The fertile lands attracted the Aryans.

When – It is commonly believed that the Aryans migrated into the Indian subcontinent around 1900 B.C.E.

The Caste System

Brahmins – The Brahmins were the highest social class. They were priests who performed religious ceremonies for the people.

Kshatriyas – The Kshatriyas were the warrior caste. These men protected lands and cities and became wealthy, powerful rulers and government officials.

Vaisyas – The Vaisyas were the common people who were skilled workers. They took on roles as farmers, merchants, artisans, and shopkeepers.

Sudras – The Sudra class consisted of unskilled workers who did manual labor or became servants to those in higher classes. This was the largest social class.

The Untouchables – Technically, this social class is not part of the caste system, but below it. The Untouchables did the types of work that no one else wanted to do, like carrying dead bodies, picking up trash, and skinning animals.
Men – Men were considered heads of the households. They took jobs to support their families and had more rights than women. They could attend school outside the home and own property.

Women – Women took on the role of caregivers in the family. They were schooled at home and were not allowed to own property. Divorce was not possible for men or women and marriages were arranged.

Children – The rights of children were similar to those of their adult counterparts. Boys were educated outside the home and trained to become skilled in areas applicable to their caste. Girls were educated at home and taught the necessary skills to become caregivers, mothers, and wives.

**Hinduism**

Brahman – In Hinduism, Brahman is considered the god of Hinduism – the universal spirit that can be found everywhere.

The Vedas and Upanishads – The Vedas and the Upanishads are the sacred texts of Hinduism. The Vedas consist of prayers and hymns and are around 3,000 years old. The Upanishads are lessons, or teachings, told by gurus.

Brahma – Brahma is a deity of Hinduism. He is called the Creator and is the most powerful of the three main deities.

Vishnu – Vishnu is another deity and is referred to as the Preserver. Vishnu is believed to keep balance between good and evil in the world.
Hinduism (Continued)

Shiva – Shiva is another deity and is commonly referred to as the Destroyer. Shiva’s destruction is believed to be with purpose – to bring about new and better things.

Reincarnation – Reincarnation is the belief that souls will be reborn into new bodies or lifeforms after death. Hindus believe that the soul will continue to be reborn until it can achieve ultimate peace and harmony.

Karma – Karma is associated with reincarnation. Karma is the power that determines the caste or lifeform a person’s soul will take when it is reborn. Good actions will earn the person “good karma”, while bad actions will earn “bad karma”.

Dharma – Dharma means personal duty. In ancient India, the caste system was incredibly strict. Each person was expected to follow dharma depending on the duties and responsibility of their particular caste. Doing so would affect a person’s placement during the reincarnation process.

Buddhism

Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) – Siddhartha Gautama grew up as a prince in India. As a prince, he was given everything he could ever want. Although his life seemed perfect, Siddhartha wanted to explore the lands outside the walls of the palace. In his ventures to the outside world, he had three new experiences that shaped the rest of his life: he saw an old man and realized people grow old, he saw a sick man and realized there was disease in the world, and finally he saw a dead man and realized death comes for everyone. Compelled to answer the question, “What is the cause of suffering?”, he meditated under a Bodhi tree and achieved Enlightenment.
Nirvana – Buddhists believe that Nirvana is a state of perfect peace and happiness that can be attained when a person gives up all worldly desires and concerns. It is the end of all suffering.

The Four Noble Truths
1. Human life is full of suffering
2. Greed is the cause of all suffering in the world
3. It is possible to find an end to human suffering
4. To end suffering, a person must follow the Eightfold Path (also called the Middle Path)

The Eightfold Path
1. Understand the Four Noble Truths
2. Practice compassion for others and rid yourself of selfishness
3. Practice “right speech” – do not tell lies, gossip, or verbally abuse others
4. Help others and do not harm any living being
5. Do meaningful work that is useful to the community and helps those around you
6. Think kind thoughts and encourage those same thoughts in people around you
7. Be mindful of your actions and thoughts before you do or say them
8. Practice meditation which can lead to Nirvana
Types of Buddhism

Theravada Buddhism – Believers in Theravada Buddhism believe the Buddha to be a great teacher. They believe that a person can achieve enlightenment through their own actions by following the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path. Meditation is essential on the path to enlightenment. Theravada Buddhism is practiced predominantly in Cambodia, Laos, Burma, Thailand, and Sri Lanka.

Mahayana Buddhism – Believers in Mahayana Buddhism believe that Buddha is a god. Practiced predominantly in China, Tibet, Japan, and Korea, Mahayana Buddhism stresses that people must worship Buddha to achieve enlightenment. Believers respect bodhisattvas – people who wander the world helping others achieve enlightenment.

Comparing Hinduism and Buddhism

Please see the descriptions in the Hinduism and Buddhism foldables for information about the two religions.

Empires of India

The Mauryan Empire – The Mauryan Empire began around 321 B.C.E. and lasted until approximately 320 C.E. The first ruler of the Mauryan Empire was Chandra Gupta Maurya. He established the capital city of Pataliputra and created a postal system that revolutionized communication channels throughout the empire. Although he was a powerful military leader, he was also quite paranoid! He never slept two nights alone in the same bed and asked his servants to test his food! Chandra Gupta Maurya’s grandson, Ashoka, led the empire to the height of its power. In his early days, Ashoka was a ruthless warrior whose actions led to the deaths of many people.
Empires of India (continued)

The Mauryan Empire – One day, while looking around at a field of death and destruction, he realized that he was wrong and decided to follow Buddhist teachings. As the first ruler to promote the religion of Buddhism in his kingdom, Ashoka did many positive things. He had hospitals for people and animals built along with stupas and areas to rest along roads. He also encouraged his people to follow the ways of Buddha in order to achieve enlightenment.

The Gupta Empire – The Gupta Empire lasted from around 320 C.E. until 550 C.E. During this time, Chandra Gupta I, and later his son Samudra Gupta, expanded the empire. Under the leadership of Samudra Gupta, India entered a golden age where literature, arts, science and math flourished. While during the Mauryan Empire, people practiced Buddhism, in the time of the Gupta Empire, Hinduism was prevalent.

Culture in India

Arts and Architecture – During India’s golden age, the arts flourished. Popular literature, like the *Mahabharata* and the *Bhagavad Gita* spread throughout the land. The *Mahabharata* is full of exciting stories (written in poetic form) about heroes and battles in India. The *Bhagavad Gita* tells the story of Krishna and his personal battle between staying loyal to his family or to his caste. In the end, he makes the decision to side with his caste, proving that following one’s duty is more important than anything else. In addition to literature, beautiful stone sculptures depicting religious figures were created, along with ornate temples and palaces.
Mathematics – Advancements in mathematics included the first known use of algebra by a mathematician named Aryabhata, the use of the concept of infinity, and the invention of the number zero!

Science – Indian scientists mapped the stars and planets, tracing their movements across the night sky. This led some scientists to propose that the Earth was not flat, as commonly believed, but round and that it revolved around the sun.

Medicine – In ancient India, doctors began using tools and techniques that we still use today! Dentists used drills, doctors, used scalpels and needles when they performed surgery, and some people in ancient India even received the first type of plastic surgery when they asked for their damaged noses to be repaired.

**Ancient India Map**

There are many ways you can use these maps. Here are some suggestions:

1. Mark the locations of the Mauryan and Gupta Empires
2. Mark major land and water features
3. Mark the location of capital cities in the Mauryan and Gupta Empires
Ancient India

Name

Cut along the dotted lines.
Vocabulary

Geography of India

The Indus Valley Civilization

The Aryans

©The Teacher’s Prep
The Caste System

The Family

Hinduism

Buddhism

Types of Buddhism
Hinduism vs. Buddhism

Empires of India

Culture in India

Map of India
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>subcontinent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>monsoon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanskrit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vedas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>caste</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reincarnation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cut out the entire activity. Then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs.

Glue this strip into your notebook.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>karma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>dharma</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>nirvana</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Cut out the entire activity. Then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs.

Glue this strip into your notebook.
Cut out the entire activity. Then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs. Glue the tab onto your notebook paper.
Cut out the entire activity. Then fold along the solid lines to create a tab and folded booklet. Glue the tab to the notebook paper.

Glue this strip into your notebook.

The Indus Valley Civilization
Cut out the entire activity. Then fold along the solid lines to create a tab and folded booklet. Glue the tab to the back of the "Regions" page to connect the pages.

The Indus Valley Civilization
Glue this map into your notebook. Then glue The Aryans activity on top!
The Aryans

Who?

Why?

When?

Where?

Cut out the entire activity. Then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs.

Glue this strip into your notebook. You can glue it on top of the map of India.

©The Teacher’s Prep
Cut out the entire activity.

The Caste System
Cut out the entire activity.

The Caste System

- Brahmins
- Kshatriyas
- Vaisyas
- Sudras
- The Untouchables
Cut out the entire activity. Then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs.
Hinduism

Cut out the entire activity.

Glue these strips into your notebook.

Brahman

Glue each page underneath the previous one. The tab should be glued directly beneath the previous tab.

The Vedas and Upanishads

©The Teacher's Prep
Cut out the entire activity.

Glue these strips into your notebook.

Glue each page underneath the previous one. The tab should be glued directly beneath the previous tab.
Cut out the entire activity.

Glue these strips into your notebook.

Glue each page underneath the previous one. The tab should be glued directly beneath the previous tab.

reincarnation

karma

dharma
Buddhism

Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)

Nirvana

The Four Noble Truths

The Eightfold Path

Cut out the entire activity. Then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs.
## Types of Buddhism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theravada Buddhism</th>
<th>Mahayana Buddhism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Cut out the entire activity. Then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs.
Glue this strip into your notebook.

Cut out the entire activity. Then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs.
Empires of India

| The Mauryan Empire | The Gupta Empire |

Cut out the entire activity. Then cut along the dotted lines to create tabs.
Cut out the entire activity. Then glue the pockets one on top of the other to create layered pockets in your notebook or just glue to edges to create one pocket.
Cut out the entire activity. Then glue the pockets one on top of the other to create layered pockets in your notebook or just glue to edges to create one pocket.
Cut out the entire activity.
Ancient India

Cut out the entire activity.
Other Resources You Might Like:

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Special thanks to these wonderful stores for the backgrounds in this resource –

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Happy Teaching!