

Ancient India and the Spread of Hinduism

► Places, Regions, and Landscapes

1. Turn to pages 24–25 in the Atlas. Read the introduction and look at map A, “How Big is the Indian Subcontinent?” Write **T** next to each of the following statements if it is true or **F** if the statement is false.
 - a. The earliest civilization in India was centered around the Indus River. _____
 - b. The Indus Valley civilization had no cities. _____
 - c. The Indian subcontinent includes only the present-day countries of India and Pakistan. _____
 - d. Nomads who migrated to India started a religion called Hinduism. _____

★ Gathering the Facts

2. Use map B, “Indus Valley Civilization,” to answer the following questions.
 - a. What year did farming begin in western India? _____
How many years ago did this take place? _____
 - b. After farming began in western India, how many years passed before farmers moved into the Indus River Valley? _____
 - c. Why did farmers move to the Indus Valley?

 - d. When did the first planned cities develop? _____
 - e. What are the names of the two major Indus Valley cities?
_____ and _____
 - f. There were other cities in the Indus Valley and beyond. How were these cities connected? _____
 - g. Was trade important to the Indus Valley civilization? How do you know?

★ Links Near and Far

3. Use map C, "Mohenjo-Daro," to answer the following questions.

a. What barrier enclosed the city of Mohenjo-Daro?

b. What major public buildings did Mohenjo-Daro have?

c. Turn to page 8 and look at the illustration of Jericho. How is this city similar to Mohenjo-Daro? _____

d. How was Mohenjo-Daro different from Jericho?

e. How was Mohenjo-Daro like cities today? _____

f. How was Mohenjo-Daro different from cities today? _____

★ History Through Maps

4. Look at map D, "Aryans and Hinduism." Then, for each pair of events below, write **C** next to the cause and **E** next to the effect.

a. _____ Aryans migrate from Central Asia into India.

_____ Dravidians migrate south.

b. _____ Hinduism spreads throughout India.

_____ Aryans expand across Ganges Plain.

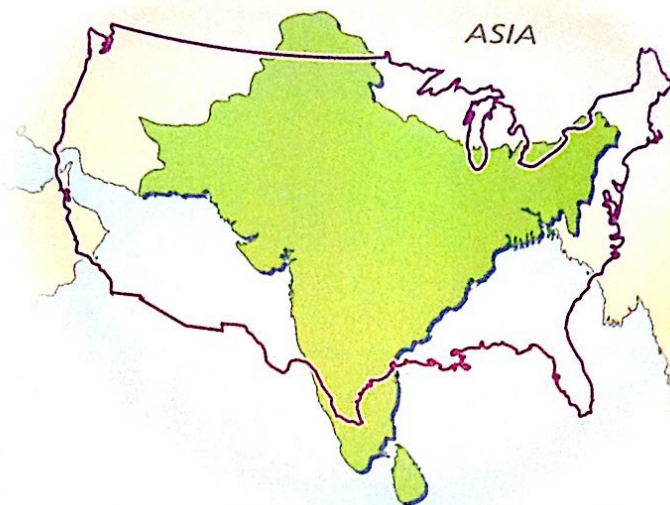
➤ People and Cultures

5. Read the history question, "What do Hindus believe?" According to Hinduism, what are the consequences of good actions?

Ancient India and the Spread of Hinduism

One of the first civilizations and one of the world's oldest religions developed in ancient India.

- People began to settle in the Indus River Valley in south Asia about 6,000 years ago. Farming and herding communities developed.
- An advanced civilization with carefully planned cities developed in the valley. The Indus Valley Civilization thrived for 900 years.
- A large group of nomads, the Aryans, migrated to India. Their religious beliefs helped form a new religion called **Hinduism**.

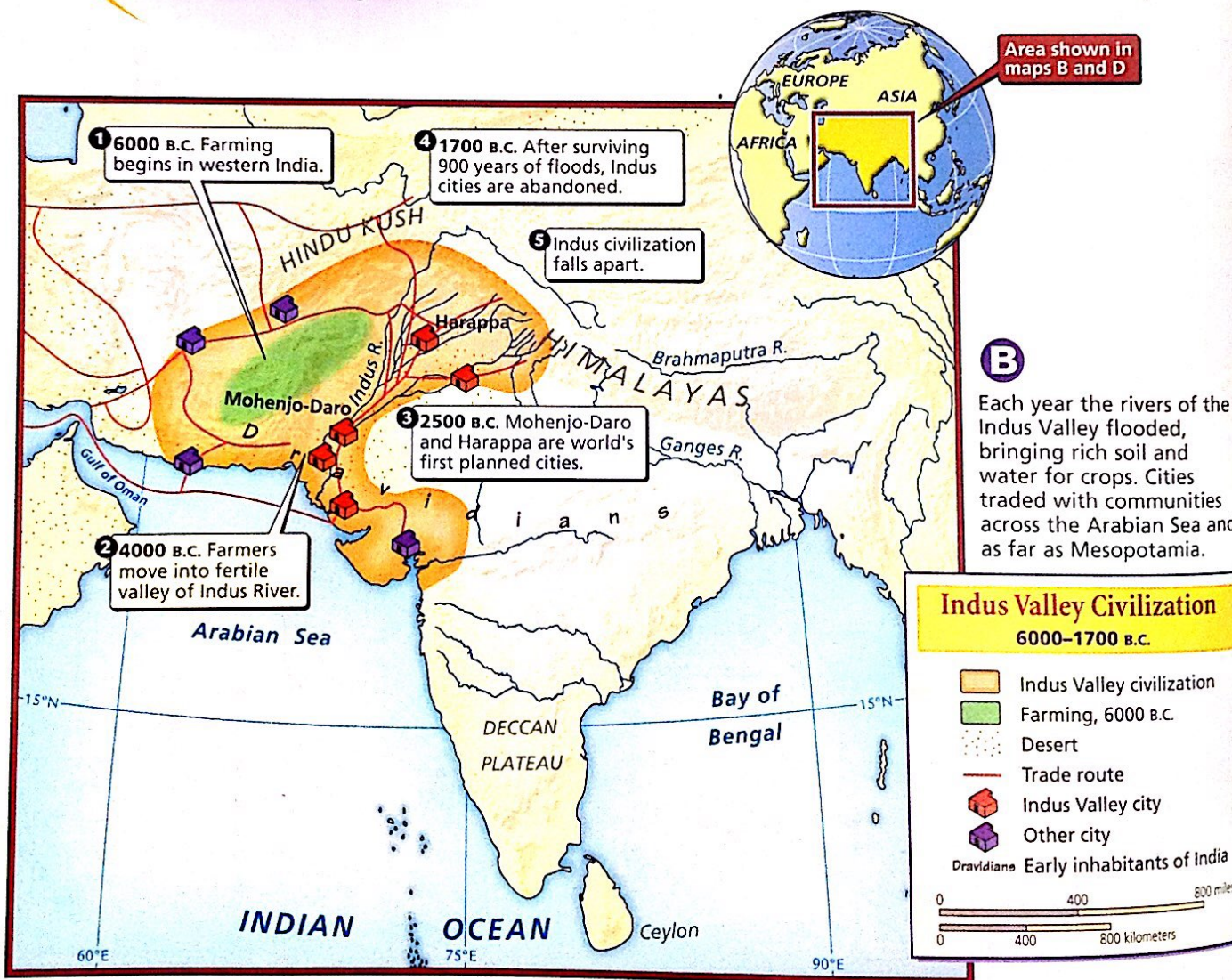


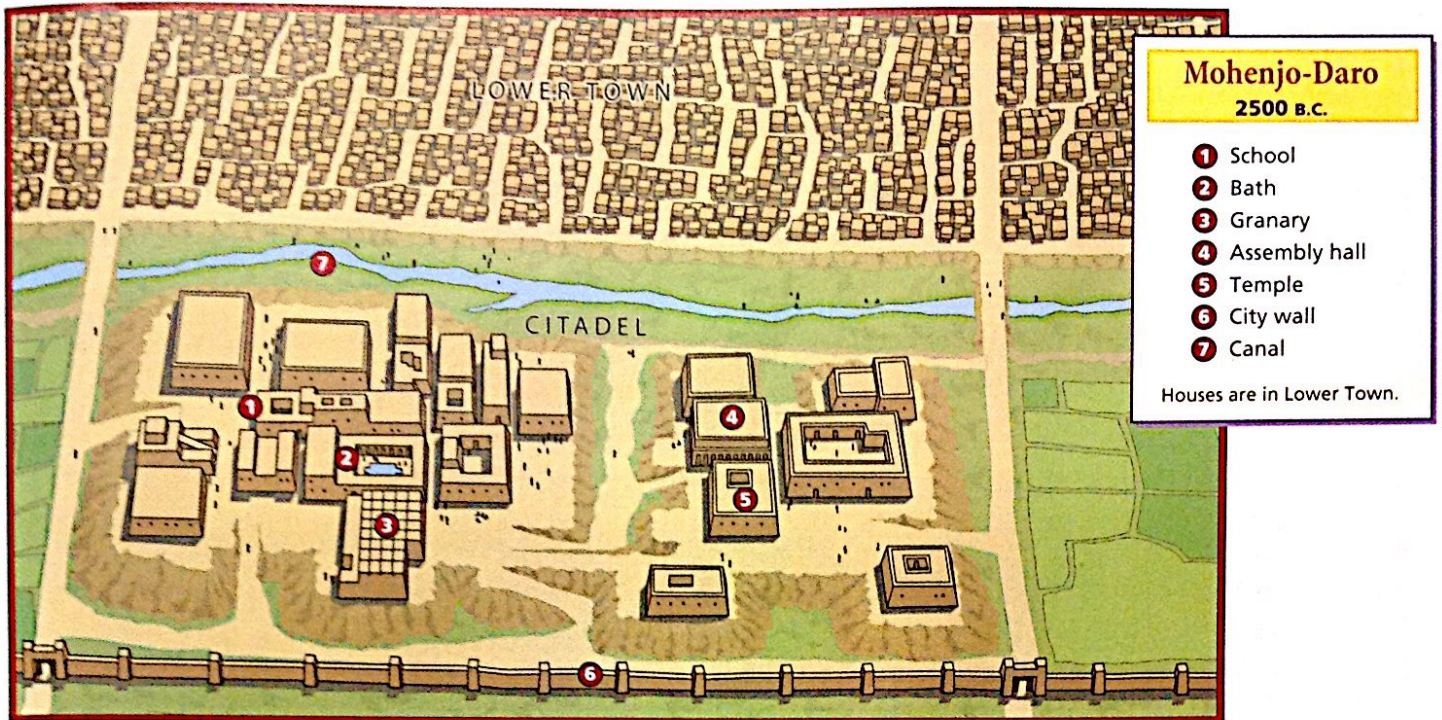
What do Hindus believe?

Hindus believe that all living things have many lives. If you do good things in this life, you will come back as someone wiser and better in your next life. If you do bad things in this life, you could come back as a rat or even a gnat!

How Big Is the Indian Subcontinent?

- A** India is part of a subcontinent that includes the modern countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan. (See their boundaries on page 129.)





C Mohenjo-Daro had straight streets and large public buildings and meeting places. Its two-story houses were built of baked bricks, and many included rooms for bathing.

D Hinduism developed and spread throughout India after the Aryans migrated there. Hinduism remains one of the world's major religions.

