

Ancient India and the Spread of Buddhism

➤ Gathering the Facts

1. Turn to pages 26–27 in the Atlas. Read the introduction and the history question, “What’s nirvana?” Also look at picture A and read its caption. Use the information to complete the following paragraphs.

Two major world religions developed in India: _____ and Buddhism. _____ developed after Hinduism had spread throughout India. It was based on the teachings of a wise man named _____. He became known as _____ which means “the Enlightened One.” His teachings focused on a new way of life to end _____. The goal for Buddhists is to achieve a state of peacefulness called _____.

India was united by a Buddhist family named the _____. They created the first Indian _____. After the Mauryan Empire fell, the _____ Empire emerged. Under the rule of the Gupta, _____ and _____ thrived.

★ Time and Change

2. Use map B, “Mauryan Empire and Buddhism,” to sequence the events below in chronological order. Write 1 next to the event that occurred first and 6 next to the event that occurred last.
- a. Ashoka becomes a Buddhist. _____
 - b. Buddhism spreads south to Anuradhapura. _____
 - c. Siddhartha Gautama is born. _____
 - d. Ashoka dies. _____
 - e. Pillars carved with Buddha’s teachings are built throughout India. _____
 - f. Mauryan Empire begins. _____

➤ History Through Maps

3. Use map C, "Gupta Empire and Buddhism," to answer the following questions.

- a. What year did the Gupta dynasty begin? _____
- b. How did Buddhism spread to China and Japan? _____

- c. What major Buddhist site developed in Southeast Asia? _____
- d. What was one major Buddhist site that developed in China?

- e. What islands did Buddhism reach by 552 A.D.? _____
and _____
- f. What group caused the collapse of the Gupta Empire? _____

➤ Places, Regions, and Landscapes

4. Look at chart D, "Top Ten Cities, 100 A.D." Order the cities below from largest to smallest, with 1 having the largest population and 7 having the smallest. Then look at map C, "Gupta Empire and Buddhism." Circle the cities below that were major Buddhist sites.

- a. Anuradhapura _____
- b. Carthage _____
- c. Wu _____
- d. Peshawar _____
- e. Alexandria _____
- f. Rome _____
- g. Luoyang _____

➤ People and Cultures

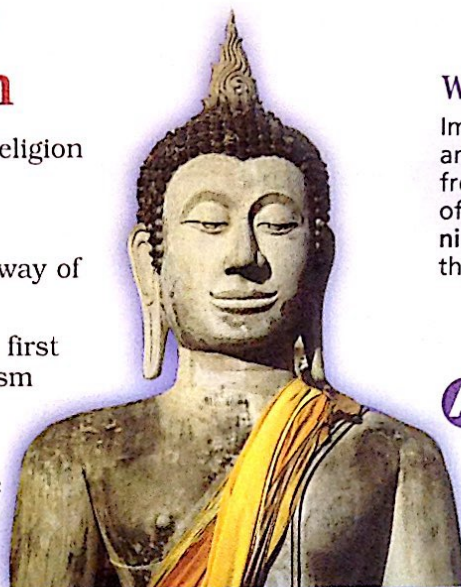
5. Look at map B, "Mauryan Empire and Buddhism," and map C, "Gupta Empire and Buddhism." Next to each statement below, write a **M** if it describes the Mauryan Empire or a **G** if it describes the Gupta Empire. Some statements describe both empires.

- a. The empire began in northern India. _____
- b. Buddhism reaches Japan during their rule. _____
- c. They had a Buddhist emperor. _____
- d. Their capital was located at Pataliputra. _____

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In addition to Hinduism, another major world religion developed in ancient India—**Buddhism**.

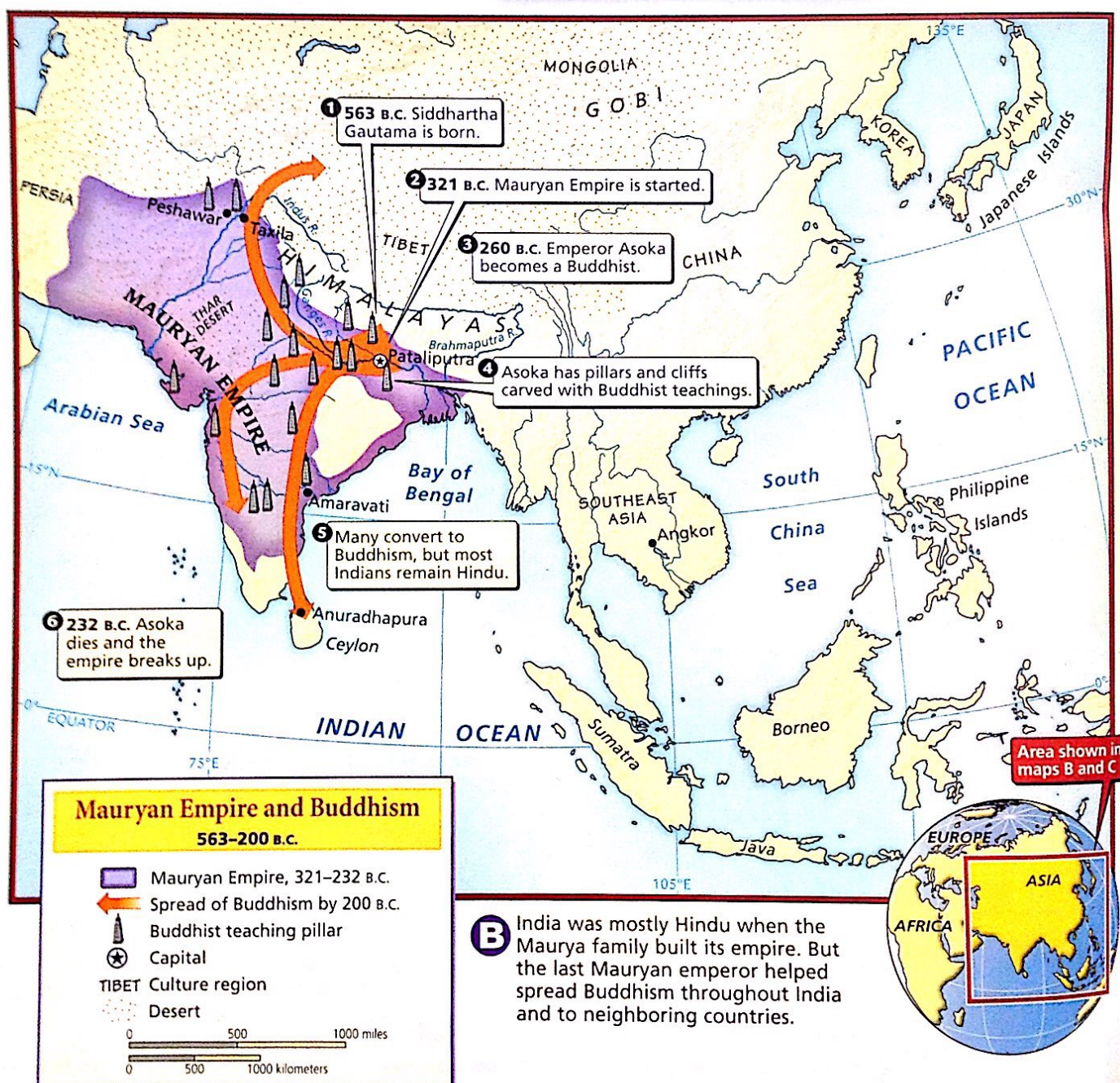
- Buddhism was based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama. He preached a new way of life to end suffering.
- The Mauryas united India and created the first Indian empire. During their reign, Buddhism spread throughout India.
- Later the Gupta Empire emerged. They started a golden age in India when culture and science thrived.

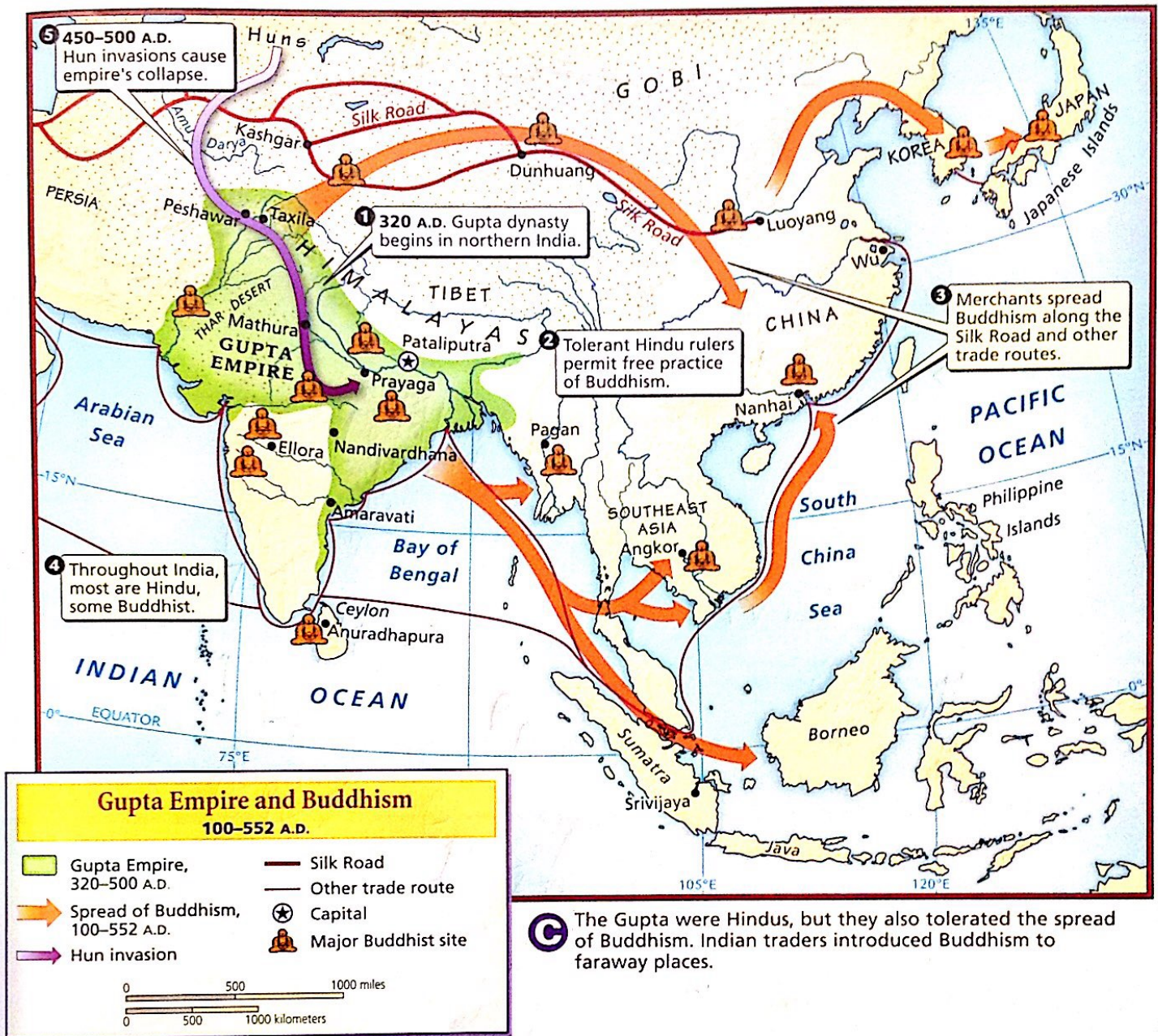


What's nirvana?

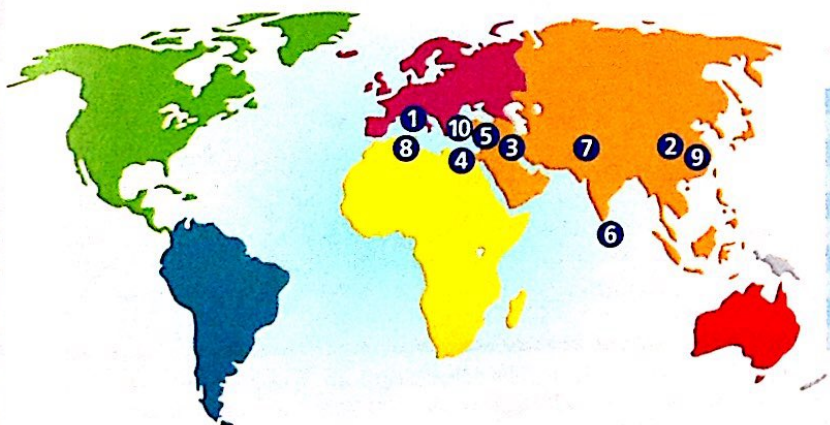
Imagine having great wisdom and compassion and being free from suffering. This state of peacefulness is called **nirvana**. Reaching nirvana is the goal of Buddhism.

A The name **Buddha** means "the Enlightened One." Siddhartha Gautama was called Buddha because of his wise teachings on how to live a good life.





C The Gupta were Hindus, but they also tolerated the spread of Buddhism. Indian traders introduced Buddhism to faraway places.



Top 10 Cities, 100 A.D.

Rank	City (Modern Country)	Population
1	Rome (Italy)	450,000
2	Luoyang (China)	420,000
3	Seleucia (Iraq)	250,000
4	Alexandria (Egypt)	250,000
5	Antioch (Turkey)	150,000
6	Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka)	130,000
7	Peshawar (Pakistan)	120,000
8	Carthage (Tunisia)	100,000
9	Wu (China)	90,000
10	Smyrna (Turkey)	90,000

D Which of these cities can you find on map C? Which were centers of Buddhism?