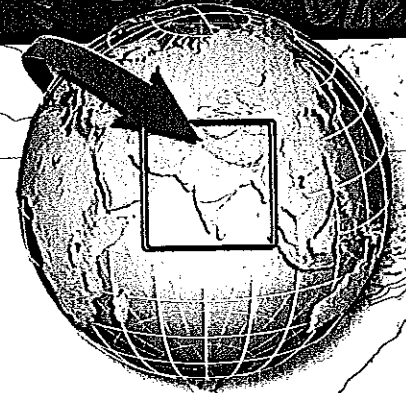




## Essential Question

How do India's rich history and culture affect the world today?



ARABIAN PENINSULA

### CONNECT

### Geography & History

Use the map and the time line to answer the following questions.

1. What are six of the important rivers of India?
2. Alexander the Great invaded India. From which direction would he have invaded and what river would he have had to cross?

INDIA

WORLD

2500 B.C.

Well-planned cities are thriving by the Indus River.

◀ (necklace, 3000 to 2000 B.C.)

1500 B.C.

Aryans begin to migrate into India.

2500 B.C.

2000 B.C.

1500 B.C.

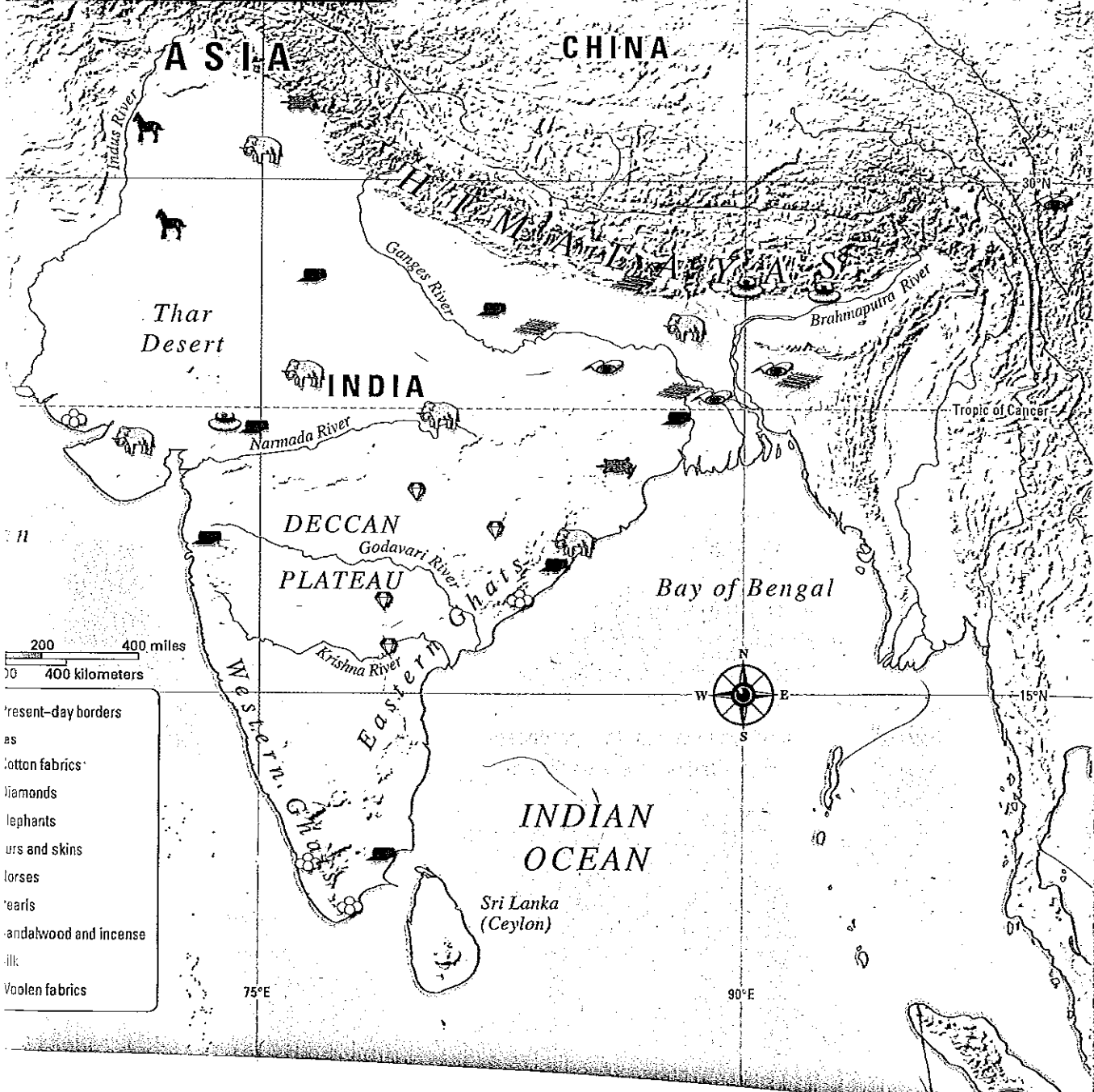
1472 B.C.

Queen Hatshepsut begins to rule Egypt.  
◀ (statue of Hatshepsut, late 1400s B.C.)



**Physical Geography and Resources of India 300s B.C.**


[Click here](#) to learn about the role of India's resources in its ancient history and culture @ClassZone.com



**563 B.C.**  
Siddhartha Gautama, who will be known as the Buddha, is born.

**c. 272 B.C.**  
King Asoka, who ruled by Buddhist principles, takes the throne.


**c. A.D. 375**  
Chandra Gupta II begins to rule. (coin, A.D. 300s) ▶



**500 B.C.**  
The Nok people are using iron in West Africa.

**333 B.C.**  
Alexander the Great of Macedonia in Europe defeats Darius of Persia. ◀ (bust of Alexander, first century B.C.)

**A.D. 220**  
The Han Dynasty, which unified China, breaks apart.



# Section 1

# Reading for Understanding

## ▶ Key Ideas

### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

Ancient civilizations such as the Sumerian, Persian, Hebrew, and Egyptian had rich cultures and histories.

### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

A complex civilization developed in ancient India that produced a sophisticated urban life as well as a rich culture.

## ▶ Vocabulary

### TERMS & NAMES

**subcontinent** large landmass that is part of a continent but is considered a separate region

**Hindu Kush** (HIHN•doo kush) mountain range to northwest of India

**Himalayas** (HIHM•uh•LAY•uhz) highest mountains in the world, which stretch along northern India, separating India from China and the rest of Asia

**monsoons** seasonal wind system that produces a wet or dry season in a region, sometimes with heavy rainfall

**Harappan civilization** ancient civilization that developed along the Indus River  
**planned cities** cities built according to a design



Visual Vocabulary Himalayas

## ▶ Reading Strategy

Re-create the chart shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the chart to make generalizations about the geography of India and Indian life.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R12.

### MAKE GENERALIZATIONS

Geography and Indian Life	
Physical Geography of India	
Cities in the Indus Valley	
Harappan Culture	



**GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS**

Go to Interactive Review @ClassZone.com

# Geography and Indian Life

**Connect to What You Know** Have you ever visited a part of the United States with a different climate? Some regions of the country receive much more rainfall than other regions do. As you are about to learn, India has two distinct seasons: a rainy season and a dry season.

## Physical Geography of India

**KEY QUESTION** How do mountains and seasonal winds shape the climate of India?

India is a **subcontinent**, which is a large landmass that is part of a continent but is considered a separate region. The subcontinent includes present-day Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, and most of Pakistan. It is often referred to as South Asia. The kite-shaped Indian subcontinent used to be a separate landmass. It inched north until it hit Asia. The collision pushed up mountains where the two lands met.

### Starting with a Story

Imagine that you live in a city along the Saraswati River and suddenly the river disappears!

[Click here](#) to listen to the story @ ClassZone.com



**Ganges River** The Ganges is one of the major rivers of India. Most Indians consider it holy. As the photograph of Varanasi shows, the banks of the Ganges today are heavily populated. ▼



**Mountains and Waterways** Those mountains form mountain ranges, including the **Hindu Kush** (HIHN•doo kush) and the **Himalayas** (HIHM•uh•LAY•uhz), the highest mountains in the world. They stretch along northern India, separating India from China and Asia.

The subcontinent's rivers include the Ganges (GAN•JEEZ) and the Indus. These two rivers carry water for irrigation. The silt they deposit makes the land fertile. In ancient times, the Saraswati (SAR•uhs•WUH•tee) river area was home to great cities. However, it dried up, perhaps because of an earthquake.

The Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, and Bay of Bengal surround India. Ancient Indians sailed these waters to other lands for trade.

**Climate** The tall mountains help block cold north winds from reaching much of India. As a result, temperatures are generally warm there. In addition, seasonal wind systems called **monsoons** shape India's climate. They produce a wet or dry season in a region, sometimes with heavy rainfalls. The summer monsoon provides rain for India's crops, but these rains can also cause severe floods.

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Describe how mountains and winds shape India's climate.

## CONNECT to Geography

**Climate** A climate graph can help you understand the physical setting of a region and the conditions under which the region's cultures developed.

### Activity

#### Make a Climate Graph

Research examples of bar graphs in your textbook. Learn the meaning of the terms *vertical axis* and *horizontal axis*. Study the chart at right of average monthly rainfall in Islamabad, a city near the ancient site of Harappa.

- 1 On a piece of graph paper, draw the horizontal and vertical axes. Below the horizontal axis write the names of all 12 months.
- 2 For each month, draw a bar whose height indicates the average amount of rainfall.

Average Monthly Rainfall in Islamabad, Pakistan

Month	Rainfall (inches)
Jan.	2.3
Feb.	2.1
Mar.	2.7
Apr.	2.1
May	1.6
June	1.2
July	10.1
Aug.	9.9
Sep.	3.8
Oct.	1.0
Nov.	0.7
Dec.	1.6

Source:  
[www.worldclimate.com](http://www.worldclimate.com)

#### Materials

- graph paper
- colored markers
- pencils or pens
- ruler

