Name_____ Section_____ Date_____

LT: I can define and synthesize important terms about the Gupta Empire

Do Now: Complete part 1.

Classical Civilizations
Gupta Review

Part 1: Concept Notes with Kelly

Religion

Hinduism believes that every living thing has a soul inside it, called the _____. You can build up good _____ by performing good deeds and fulfilling your duties, or _____. Every living thing has a different duty, depending on what it is.

If you have good karma when you die, you will be reincarnated into a higher life form. This happens over and over, in a process called _____. Eventually, you will achieve _____. You will no longer be reborn; instead, your _____ will rejoin the supreme power, Brahman.

Use the following terms to fill in the blanks on the left.

Moksha
Dharma
Samsara
Atman
Karma

The Caste System

If you were an untouchable, what did this say about your past life?

Why didn't people simply do what they wanted and ignore their caste rules?

How did you know what caste you were in?

Part 2: Fact-Finding on your own

1. Define the following terms, using the textbook.

Term	Definition (in your own words!)
Silk Road	
Centralized government	
Caste system	

2. How did the location of the Gupta Empire contribute to its wealth? What kinds of things did they trade?

3. Describe the Gupta Empire's cultural and educational achievements during its Golden Age. (4-5 sentences)

4. Explain how Indian culture (religion, art, etc) spread to other cultures (1-2 sentences)

Part 3: Thinking Bigger

1. List 2 features of Gupta that you think are unique and special. List 2 similarities you see between Gupta and either Han China, Rome, or Greece. Be specific (don't just write, "social classes" or something)

2. Which empire– Rome, Han, or Gupta– do you think was the most successful? (3-4 sentences)

Economy

From primary source accounts, it is clear that the people were rich and the country was prosperous during the Gupta period. The discovery of large numbers of gold coins of the Gupta period indicate the prosperity of the country.

The manufacture of textiles (cloth) of various kinds was one of the more important industries at this time. Muslin, calico, linen, wool and cotton were produced in great quantity.

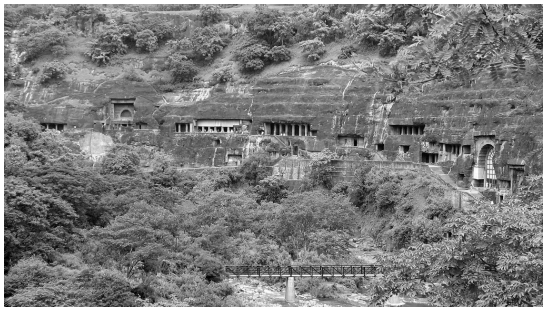
The export of spices, pepper, sandalwood, pearls, precious stones, perfumes, indigo and herbs continued as before. Pepper was exported from the ports of the Malabar coast and sesame, copper and cotton garments from Kalyana. The southern tip of India area had an important role to play in the pearl trade. Chinese silk came in greater quantity, as did ivory from Aum. Imports of horses from Persia also increased. Copper came from the western Mediterranean region and sapphire from Sri Lanka.

Art & Architecture

The wealth of the period is reflected in its town planning. Most cities were laid out in squares; wooden buildings were replaced by buildings of brick; and drains and wells were carefully planned.

Very few of the Gupta buildings have survived as most of them had been destroyed by invaders.

Bhitargaon Temple



Rock-cut cave architecture persisted in this period. An excellent example of this can be found at the **Ajanta Caves.** The chambers were cut into the caves, and the paintings and sculptures of Ajanta, considered masterpieces of Buddhist religious art, have had a considerable artistic influence.

Literature

The Guptas also excelled in the filed of fine arts and was funded by the Gupta government.
The name which immediately comes to mind is that of Kalidasa, regarded as the most outstanding writer of classical Sanskrit. His most famous work, the play Shakuntala, later came to be known in Europe through the impact it made on later European artists.. Plays continued to be romantic comedies, tragic themes being avoided, since the purpose of the theatre was to entertain.

Higher Learning

The Gupta rulers encouraged higher learning by patronizing centers of higher education at Nalanda, Takshila, Ujjain, Vikramshila and Vallabhi. Each university specialized in a particular field of study. Takshila specialized in the study of medicine, while Ujjain laid emphasis on astronomy. Nalanda, being the biggest center, handled all branches of knowledge. During the Gupta period India became a center for higher studies by attracting scholars from all parts of India and from several foreign countries.

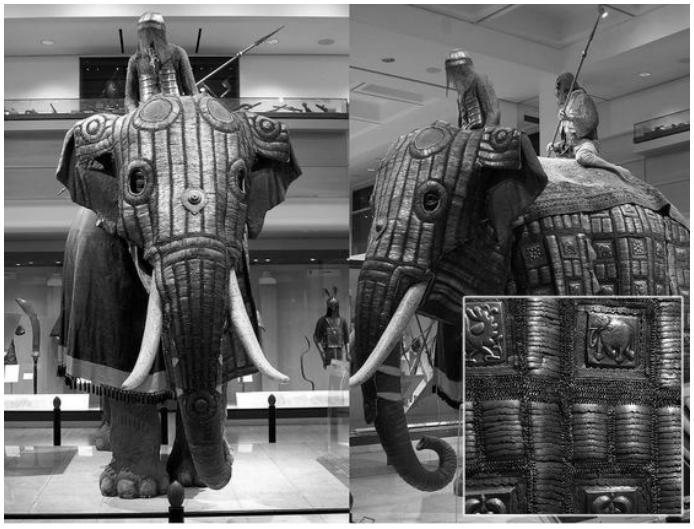
People flocked to the Sarnath university to study Buddhist religion and to Ajanta to specialize in art, architecture and painting. These educational institutions were financed by grants of land and donations from kings as well as from other rich people, like merchants.

Gupta Warfare/Military

The Gupta territories expanded so greatly that it has often been compared to great conquerors such as Alexander the Great. Local squads — which each consisted of one elephant, one chariot, three armed cavalrymen, and five foot soldiers — protected Gupta villages from raids and revolts. In times of war, the squads joined together to form a powerful royal army. The Gupta army is thought to have a higher level of discipline compared to tribal rivals. At its height the Gupta Empire had 750,000 soldiers.

War elephants continued to be used and elephant armor was advanced throughout this a period. Fire arrows were used by the Gupta, their long bamboo cane arrows being particularly well suited for use in these operations.

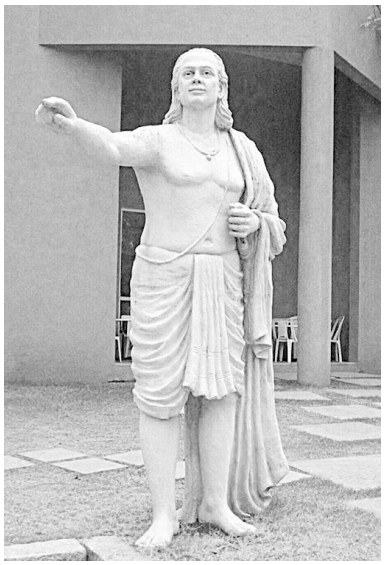
The Gupta empire also maintained a navy to control water ways and their coasts. They also had a high level of understanding of siege warfare, employing catapults and other sophisticated war machines.

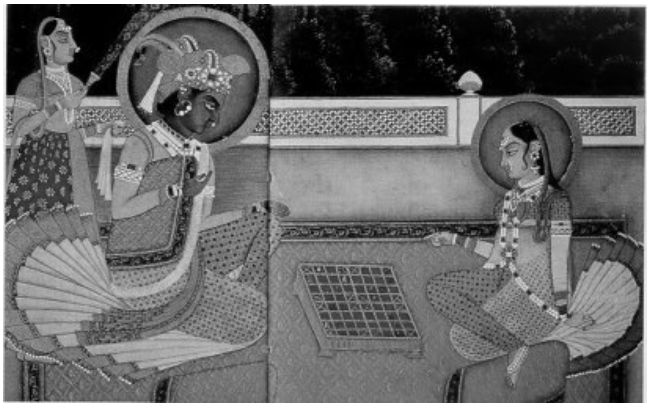


Science & Mathematics

The 24-foot iron pillar of Delhi was erected as part of a larger monument. It is notable for two reasons. First, at 24 feet, it was among the tallest pillars in existence. Second, the blacksmiths who created it were skilled enough to cover it in a chemical phosphate mixture that prevented it from rusting, explaining how it continues to stand, rust-free, today.

Aryabhata was the most famous mathematician and astronomer of the Gupta Age, and for many years to come. His book, written at the age of 23, proposed many theories that we still use today. Aryabhata is believed to be the first to come up with the concept of zero and who created the theory that the Earth moves round the Sun. Aryabhata proposed that the earth is not flat, but is instead round and rotates about its own axis. He also may have discovered that the Moon and planets shine by reflected sunlight. He calculated the length of the solar year to be 365.3586805 days, off by only a few minutes. His estimation of the length of Earth's day was off by only a matter of minutes. Aryabhata also worked out a value for pi that equates to 3.1416, very close to the approximations still used today. Using this value, he was able to calculate that the Earth had a circumference of 24,835 miles. This is correct to within 0.2%, and remained the best figure available for close to 500 years.





The game of chess probably originated from this period, where its early form was called chaturanga and contained game pieces for infantry, cavalry, elephants, and chariots, which would each evolve into the modern pawn, knight, rook, and bishop, respectively.

<- Hindu gods playing chess.