

Paths Into India

Trace how migration and contact shaped early Indian civilization.

SS.6.W.4.1 "Discuss the significance of Aryan and other tribal migrations on Indian civilization."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each phrase that tells about a migration or movement. Then write 1, 2, and 3 beside three results of migration or contact, so you can trace how movements shaped Indian civilization.

Migration and a Changing Civilization

- ① Beginning around 1500 BCE, Indo-Aryan-speaking pastoral groups moved through mountain passes into northwestern South Asia. Historians describe this as a gradual migration, not one single invasion. These groups brought Indo-Aryan languages and traditions that were later recorded in the Vedas, sacred hymns. They met farming communities already living near the Indus and other rivers. Instead of replacing everyone, newcomers and local peoples traded, married, fought, and shared ideas. Their contacts helped shape early Vedic society.
- ② The migrants' herding life and religious practices influenced the developing culture. Sanskrit, an Indo-Aryan language, became important for Vedic prayers and learning. As Indo-Aryan-speaking clans moved east toward the Ganges River valley, they joined and competed with many other tribal communities. New settlements grew where people farmed, raised animals, and exchanged goods. Over time, social groups became more organized. The varna system, which divided society into broad categories, developed during this period, although real communities remained varied and changed over time.
- ③ Other migrations also mattered because India was home to many language and tribal groups, including Dravidian-speaking peoples in the south and central regions. Different groups did not all live separately. Trade routes, shared farming methods, and political alliances connected communities. Migration changed where people lived and who they met, but local people also shaped the newcomers' culture. Indian civilization grew from these long contacts, combining traditions rather than coming from only one group. This mixture influenced languages, religions, social customs, and regional cultures for centuries.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How does the passage describe the Indo-Aryan migration into northwestern South Asia?

2 Name two ways Indo-Aryan newcomers and local communities interacted.

3 What happened as Indo-Aryan-speaking clans moved toward the Ganges River valley? Include one change in settlements or work.

4 Why does the passage say Indian civilization did not come from only one group?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label explaining how migration and contact together changed Indian civilization. Include one language or religious detail and one settlement, economic, or social detail from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each phrase that tells about a migration or movement. Then write 1, 2, and 3 beside three results of migration or contact, so you can trace how movements shaped Indian civilization. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How does the passage describe the Indo-Aryan migration into northwestern South Asia?	It was a gradual migration beginning around 1500 BCE, not one single invasion.
2	Name two ways Indo-Aryan newcomers and local communities interacted.	They traded, married, fought, and shared ideas. Any two are correct.
3	What happened as Indo-Aryan-speaking clans moved toward the Ganges River valley? Include one change in settlements or work.	They joined and competed with other tribal communities. New settlements grew, and people farmed, raised animals, and exchanged goods.
4	Why does the passage say Indian civilization did not come from only one group?	Many language and tribal groups had long contact. Migrants brought traditions, while local people also shaped newcomers' culture through trade, shared methods, and alliances.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Migration brought Indo-Aryan languages and Vedic traditions into northwestern South Asia. Contact with local communities mattered because people traded, married, fought, and shared ideas. As clans moved toward the Ganges valley, settlements grew through farming, animal raising, and exchange. These long contacts helped create varied Indian cultures, not a civilization made by one group.

Accept equivalent evidence-based explanations of gradual migration, interaction, and cultural change. For the open response, require four sentences, one language or religious detail, and one settlement, economic, or social detail.