

India's Lasting Ideas

Read closely to summarize major achievements of ancient India.

SS.6.W.4.5 "Summarize the important achievements and contributions of ancient Indian civilization."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one achievement in each paragraph, then circle words that tell how that achievement affected people or later learning.

Contributions from Ancient India

- ① More than 4,000 years ago, cities of the Indus Valley civilization showed careful planning. Harappa and Mohenjo-daro had streets that crossed in organized patterns. Many homes had wells, bathing areas, and drains that carried wastewater away. Builders used bricks of standard sizes, which helped create strong, regular buildings. These choices reveal an early achievement in city planning, sanitation, and construction. They also show that people worked together to manage crowded communities and shared water supplies.
- ② Ancient Indian thinkers shaped religious and ethical ideas that influenced millions of people. Hindu traditions developed over many centuries and included teachings about dharma, or duty and right action. In the 500s BCE, Siddhartha Gautama began teaching Buddhism after seeking answers about human suffering. Buddhist teachers spread ideas about compassion and self-control across Asia. These traditions contributed lasting beliefs, art, buildings, and ways people considered how to live responsibly every day and treat others fairly.
- ③ Indian scholars made important advances in mathematics, science, and medicine. By the Gupta period, mathematicians used a decimal place-value system and treated zero as a number, making large calculations easier. In 628 CE, Brahmagupta wrote rules for working with zero and negative numbers. The astronomer Aryabhata explained that Earth rotates on its axis and calculated an approximation of pi. Medical texts described surgeries, medicines, and ways to prevent illness. Later scholars in Asia, the Middle East, and Europe built on several of these ideas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did Indus Valley cities show an achievement in planning and sanitation?

2 Summarize one way ancient Indian religious traditions influenced people.

3 What mathematical contribution made large calculations easier?

4 Name one achievement in astronomy or medicine from the passage. Explain its importance.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence summary of ancient India's contributions. Include one contribution from city planning, religious or ethical ideas, and mathematics, science, or medicine. Explain how one contribution affected people or later learning.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one achievement in each paragraph, then circle words that tell how that achievement affected people or later learning. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Indus Valley cities show an achievement in planning and sanitation?	They had organized streets, wells and bathing areas, drains for wastewater, and standard-size bricks.
2	Summarize one way ancient Indian religious traditions influenced people.	Hindu teachings included dharma, while Buddhism spread ideas such as compassion and self-control across Asia.
3	What mathematical contribution made large calculations easier?	Indian mathematicians used a decimal place-value system and treated zero as a number.
4	Name one achievement in astronomy or medicine from the passage. Explain its importance.	Answers may include Aryabhata's explanation that Earth rotates on its axis, his approximation of pi, or medical texts describing surgeries, medicines, and illness prevention. These ideas added to scientific or medical knowledge that later scholars built on.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ancient India made important contributions in several areas. Indus Valley cities used organized streets, drains, and standard bricks to help manage community life. Hindu traditions and Buddhism shaped beliefs about duty, compassion, and self-control. Indian scholars also developed place value and rules for zero, which made calculations easier for later learners.

Accept accurate summaries that include contributions from all three required areas and explain one effect. Students may use different wording, but their details and explanation must match the passage.