

Ideas Across Asia

Recognize people, events, and lasting contributions in classical China and India.

SS.6.W.4 "Recognize significant events, figures, and contributions of classical Asian civilizations (i.e., China, India)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each significant event, circle each named person, and number three contributions that had lasting effects. These marks will help you connect people and events to their importance.

Classical China and India

- ① More than two thousand years ago, China was divided among rival states. In 221 BCE, the ruler Qin Shi Huang united many of these states and founded the Qin dynasty. He created a stronger central government and set common rules for money, weights, measures, and writing. These changes made trade and government easier across a large area. Qin Shi Huang also ordered work on connected defensive walls. His rule was harsh, but his actions helped shape later Chinese governments.
- ② In ancient India, Siddhartha Gautama became known as the Buddha after seeking an answer to human suffering. His teachings became Buddhism, a religion that encouraged people to act with compassion and self-control. Centuries later, Emperor Ashoka ruled much of India. After a bloody war in Kalinga, he rejected further conquest. Ashoka had messages about fair treatment, religious respect, and nonviolence carved on pillars and rocks. These edicts helped spread his ideas throughout his empire and beyond.
- ③ Classical Asian civilizations also produced ideas and inventions that traveled far beyond their borders. In China, Han officials improved papermaking, making written records less costly than materials such as silk. Chinese inventors later developed the magnetic compass, which aided travel and navigation. In India, scholars developed a number system using place value and zero. Mathematician Aryabhata wrote about mathematics and astronomy. Indian numerals eventually moved through trade and scholarship to other regions, influencing the number system used widely today.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What happened in China in 221 BCE, and name one change Qin Shi Huang made after that event.

2 What event caused Ashoka to reject further conquest, and how did he share his new ideas?

3 How did the Buddha's teachings contribute to life in ancient India?

4 Name one contribution from China and one contribution from India that influenced people beyond their civilizations.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum label about one significant person, event, or contribution from the passage. Name it, describe what happened or what it contributed, and explain why it was important.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each significant event, circle each named person, and number three contributions that had lasting effects. These marks will help you connect people and events to their importance. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What happened in China in 221 BCE, and name one change Qin Shi Huang made after that event.	Qin Shi Huang united many rival states and founded the Qin dynasty. He made common rules for money, weights, measures, and writing, or created a stronger central government.
2	What event caused Ashoka to reject further conquest, and how did he share his new ideas?	A bloody war in Kalinga caused Ashoka to reject further conquest. He had messages carved on pillars and rocks.
3	How did the Buddha's teachings contribute to life in ancient India?	His teachings became Buddhism and encouraged people to act with compassion and self-control.
4	Name one contribution from China and one contribution from India that influenced people beyond their civilizations.	China: improved papermaking or the magnetic compass. India: the place-value number system using zero, or Indian numerals. The passage states that these ideas traveled or influenced regions beyond their origins.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Ashoka was an emperor who ruled much of ancient India. After the Kalinga war, he rejected further conquest and ordered messages about nonviolence and fair treatment. His edicts were significant because they spread his ideas throughout his empire.

Accept equivalent wording that accurately connects a person, event, or contribution to its historical importance. For the open response, accept any passage-based choice that includes all three requested parts.