

3.1

Early Civilizations in South Asia

精舍百鍊出紅爐梅徑寒苔落清音
笑矣之秋日書于碧村石室

百鍊劍



As a Young Historian, I will be able to...

- Describe the Indian subcontinent's geography.
- Understand the clues archaeology has provided about the rise and fall of the Indus civilization.
- Analyze the main characteristics of the Aryan civilization & the Vedic Age.
- Explain what ancient Indian epics reveal about Aryan life.

Geography of Indian Subcontinent

Subcontinent- Large landmass that juts out from a continent.

Indus valley includes 10 of the most populous countries in the world

Three zones- The Northern Plain, The Deccan Plateau, & the Coastal Plains

Three major rivers: The Indus, the Ganges, & the Brahmaputra

Land & Cultural Diversity

Plateau- raised area of level land, such as the area of India that juts into the Indian Ocean

Monsoon- Seasonal wind that is part of global wind pattern. Brings in heat or moisture to area

Due to India's great size, many different cultures
& languages developed & customs survived
mass Empires

精舍百鍊出紅爐梅徑寒苔落清音
吳昌碩書



Forgotten Indus Civilization

Little is known about the civilizations of the Indus valley before the rise of Persia

The cities of **Harappa** & **Mohenjo-Daro** show complex planning & water systems

This suggests a complex government system & mathematics were needed.

People grew wheat, barley, melons, dates, & may be the first people to grow cotton

Religion & Decline

Evidence of a mother goddess has been discovered & people believed to by polytheistic

Veneration- Special regard, such as cattle for the Hindu religion

The population eventually decline due to possible environmental factors, region is a desert today

精舍百鍊出紅爐梅徑寒苔落清音
吳昌碩書



Aryan Civilization & the Vedas

The Aryan civilization began **acculturation**- the blending of two or more cultures

We only know about these people from the **Vedas**- a collection of hymns, chants, ritual instructions & other religious teachings

People were seen as warriors who fought in chariots with bows & arrows

People valued cattle & measured wealth with cows & bulls

Nomads to Society

Aryans settled down to raise crops & began to develop tools out of iron

Aryan leaders, known as Rajahs, lead tribes & were elected to positions by warriors

The Aryans began to class people into four classes to make society function “properly”

Society was later divided up by occupational groups, then into a more rigid caste system

精舍百鍊出紅爐極經寒苦炭清香
笑矣之秋日書于碧松石堂

百鍊劍

Aryan Religion

Gods & goddesses were embodiments of natural forces like fire & the sky

Indra- Chief god who was the god of war who fought with a thunderbolt

Brahman- Single spiritual power that resided in all things

Mystics- People who seek direct communion with the divine

The Great Vedic Epics

Mahabharata- Story of the Pandava brothers losing their kingdom to their cousins. Fight war to regain it. Described war & religion

Ramayana- Story of the hero Rama & the rescue his bride. Taught values to the reader

精舍百鍊出紅爐梅徑寒苔落清香
笑矣之秋日書于碧松石堂

百鍊劍

