



Teacher's Guide

India **Time Compass**

Grade Levels:

4-8

Subject Areas:

Social Studies

Synopsis:

Innovative animation and a tongue-in-cheek approach to ancient history tell of the settlement of Indus and Ganges River valleys and the development of Hinduism and Buddhism in India. Students gain an understanding of how the concept of Destiny influenced the development of the Caste system and theories of reincarnation. They follow the foreign invasions that undermined the social advancements initiated by Ashoka and see how these invasions resulted in separate Indian empires ruled by Maharajahs. The episode closes with the story of Shah Jahan and his love for Mumtaz, followed by a brief sequence on other women who were influential in history.

Learning Objectives: Students will:

- Explain why civilizations are often established on the banks of major rivers.
- Describe some of the gods and goddesses of Vedic origin.
- Compare and contrast the caste system to the social structure of ancient Egypt.
- Recall the life of Siddhartha and the development and progress of Buddhism in India.
- Tell the love story behind the creation of the Taj Mahal.

Vocabulary:

civilization, destiny, reincarnation, caste system, Indo-European, Vedic, Brahmins, Kshatrijas, Yaysallas, Sudras, Dalits, Untouchables, Enlightenment, suffering, meditation, Nirvana, occupied territories, cultural influences

Pre-Viewing Discussion:

Have you ever wanted to travel to India? What are some of the sights you would like to see there?

What are the predominant religions practiced in India today? How long ago were these religions established in India?

What is a Maharaja? Are the Maharajas powerful leaders in India today? Why were they once very powerful?

What is the of population in India today? How do people support themselves? Are some people still considered to be “untouchable”? What is meant by that term?

Post-Viewing Discussion:

What are the two most important rivers in India? What was the first Indian civilization that developed near the Ganges River?

What civilization loved the stories contained in the Vedas? Who were some of the gods and goddesses described in the Vedas? Why were there so many gods and goddesses?

How did the Caste system develop in India? What were some of the levels designated in this system? How did this system differ from the levels of society that were typical of ancient Egyptian society?

Why did the teachings of Buddha convince some people that they could reach Nirvana and not be limited by their caste?

What is the story behind the construction of the Taj Mahal? Are there other women who changed the course of ancient history?

Further Activities:

Read more stories about Hindu gods and goddesses and their effects on human lives.

Investigate Hindu festivals that are celebrated on the banks of the Ganges River.

Find more information about Vedic civilization and its influence throughout the history of India.

Discover how Indian society changed as a result of British rule in India.

Related New Dimension Media Titles:

India (Beyond Our Border series)

India: Sadanand in India

India: Renymul in India

14 Wonders of Our World

The Taj Mahal and Shah Jahan