

CHAPTER
7

Ancient India

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Think about how this question might relate to ancient India.



TALK ABOUT IT

Discuss with a partner what type of information you would need to know to answer this question. For example, one question might be: What factors contributed to the development of ancient Indian culture that set it apart from other cultures?

DIRECTIONS: Now write three additional questions that would help you explain what made ancient Indian culture unique.

MY RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Supporting Question 1:

Supporting Question 2:

Supporting Question 3:

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
How does geography influence the way people live?

LESSON 1
Early Civilizations

THE STORY BEGINS...

The students were very excited as they approached their destination. They had spent months planning their trip to Harappa, carefully researching where to go and what to see. On the very top of their list was the ancient city of Mohenjo-daro. Like the textbooks they used to read, the travel brochure's description of Mohenjo-daro captured the complexity of the city.

44 The layout of the city of Mohenjo-daro generally seems to have consisted of a grid of streets with a main thoroughfare running north-south. The houses had small rooms, including bedrooms and bath rooms. The houses had small rooms, which were used for the street and chairs for disposal of rubbish which had also been provided through the walls and opened into underground drains which were probably regularly cleaned by a municipal system. 45

—“Mohenjo-daro” World Book



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

As you gather evidence to answer the Essential Question, think about:

- the landforms and climate of India’s subcontinent.
- development of ancient cultures along the Indus and the later impact of the Aryans.

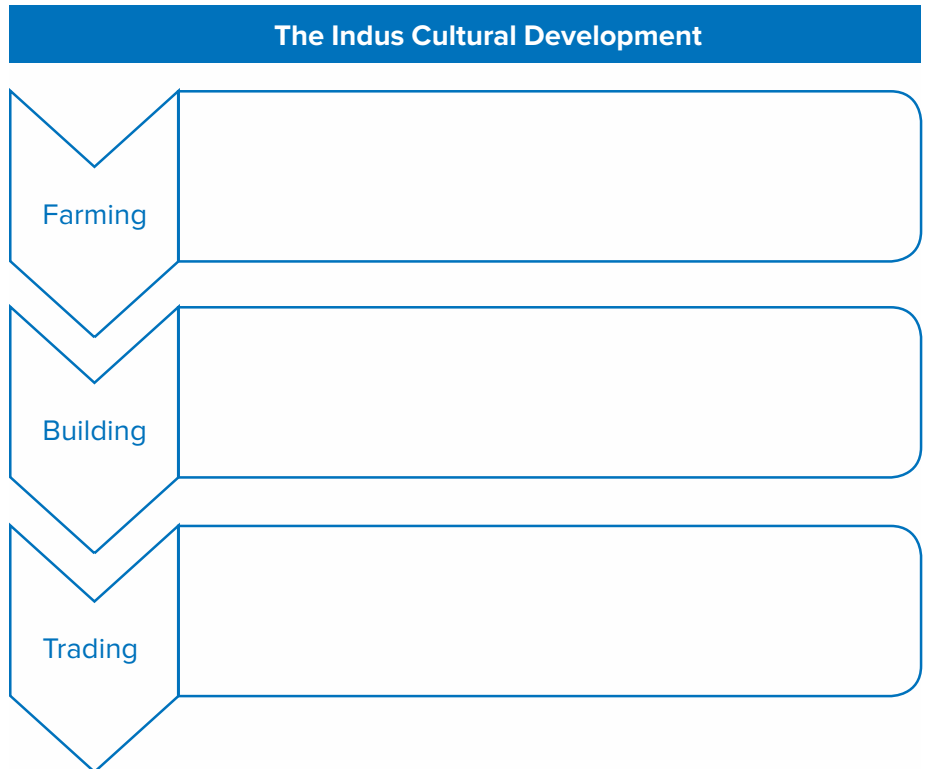
My Notes

Early Civilizations

DIRECTIONS: Search for evidence in Chapter 7, Lesson 1 to help you answer the following questions.

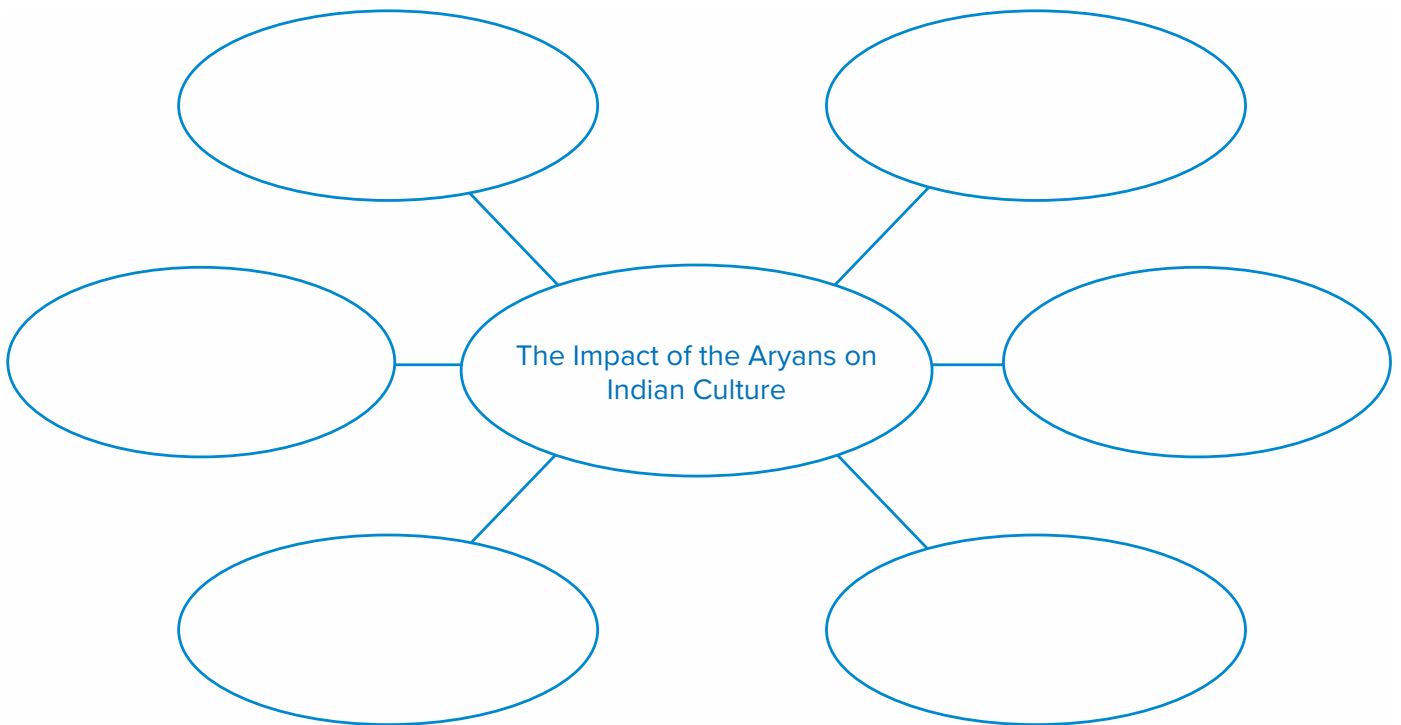
1 EXPLAINING CAUSE AND EFFECT How did geography and climate influence ancient cultures in India?

2 HISTORY Describe the elements responsible for progress in the Indus civilization. Use the text’s discussion of these elements and the chart below to help you organize the facts.



3 RELATING EVENTS How did the Aryans influence the culture of India? Use the organizing web to show the various ways Aryans influenced India.

4 CIVICS How did the varnas affect ancient Indians and their civic choices?



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?



VOCABULARY

resplendent:
magnificent, with
glowing light

prescribed: assigned
caste: assigned
position or social
status

merit: spiritual credit
virtuous: principled,
moral
censured: criticized
exaltation: honor,
praise
Brahmanas: sacred
writings about the
Vedas

The Laws of Manu

DIRECTIONS: Study the excerpt below and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: The Laws of Manu are believed to have been written around 200 C.E. They contain one of Asia's first written codes of law, both moral and religious. The laws were specific and detailed about how class or varna relationships were to be conducted in India.

PRIMARY SOURCE: LEGAL CODE

“But in order to protect this universe He, the most resplendent one, assigned separate (duties and) occupations to those who sprang from his mouth, arms, thighs, and feet.

91. One occupation only the lord prescribed to the Sudra, to serve meekly even these (other) three castes. . . .

127. (Sudras) who are desirous to gain merit, and know (their) duty, commit no sin, but gain praise, if they imitate the practice of virtuous men without reciting sacred texts.

128. The more a (Sudra), keeping himself free from envy, imitates the behaviour of the virtuous, the more he gains, without being censured, (exaltation in) this world and the next.

129. No collection of wealth must be made by a Sudra, even though he be able (to do it); for a Sudra who has acquired wealth, gives pain to Brahmanas.”

—from *The Laws of Manu* (Sacred Books of the East, Volume 25)



1 DETERMINING POINT OF VIEW Discuss this excerpt with a partner. Whose point of view is being proclaimed? Does this suggest that there are other points of view to be considered? Use evidence from the text to support your answers.

2 ECONOMICS How did the Laws of Manu impact the economy of the Sudra? Would the greater economy of India also have been impacted? Support your answer with details using the text and the excerpt.

3 ANALYZING TEXT How does the first sentence of instruction (91) contribute to the development of these rules for the Sudra? Explain, citing references in the text.

4 DETERMINING MEANING Based on the excerpt, what is the only hope of the Sudra who follows the Laws of Manu? Use details to support your answer.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Life in Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro

DIRECTIONS: Study the excerpt below and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: This excerpt is from a study on the ancient cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. It takes a look at the archaeological evidence and provides insights into what life might have been like when the cities thrived.

SECONDARY SOURCE: BOOK EXCERPT

“The ruins of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro reveal that they were the products of the first city planning in history. Wide, straight streets divide residential areas into square city blocks. Archaeologists have excavated houses, granaries, public halls, and shops. Both cities had extensive sewer systems. Walled fortresses with towers provided protection. To create such well-planned cities, the people needed a knowledge of surveying and geometry. Furthermore, only a strong central government in each city could have supervised the planning and construction. Scholars are not sure who ruled the Indus Valley cities, but they think that a priest-king probably headed the government of each city. The rulers must have had considerable power because the governments exercised strict control. For example, they controlled construction of new buildings and established standards of weight and measures. Because of the tight control, writing, building styles, street plans, and even the size of bricks remained unchanged for nearly 1,000 years. . . . Evidence from the diggings shows that the Indus Valley civilization began to decline many years before it finally ended about 1500 B.C. Builders abandoned the uniform standards of earlier times, and quality of work declined. The arts showed less creativity, and trade with Mesopotamia dwindled.”

—from *World History: Patterns of Civilization* by Burton Beers, 1990 C.E.

VOCABULARY

archaeologists: people who study earlier cultures by examining their artifacts and writings
excavated: dug holes in the earth to find remains of cultures
granaries: storage buildings for harvested grain

extensive: wide and broad in size
surveying: figuring the exact size and form of something using mathematics, geometry, and trigonometry
decline: weaken
uniform: all the same; consistent
dwindled: decreased

1 EVALUATING ARGUMENTS What evidence does the author use to suggest the cities had strong, powerful governments?

2 COMPARING AND CONTRASTING TEXTS How is this excerpt similar to the text description of Mahenjo-Daro and Harappa? How are the two sources different?

3 GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY Considering the geography and history of these great cities, what might have led to their ruin? List evidence from your text and the excerpt that supports your ideas.

4 MAKING CONNECTIONS The excerpt notes that the quality of work declined in these ancient cities once uniform standards were abandoned. Give examples of how uniform standards help ensure quality in the United States today.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION
How do religions develop?

LESSON 2
Religions of Ancient India

THE STORY BEGINS...

Siddhartha had had a privileged life from day one. Born into a wealthy family, he was raised in a palace. He had many attendants. He had good food and a beautiful family. Even so, there was something missing. The prince had a deep spiritual longing. He understood the suffering of others and to ease their pain, he knew that he could not do things without having helped others. He knew he was not well. Before embarking on his journey to find the meaning of life, Siddhartha prepared to his grandfather one last time.

“I have returned to the truth and I am content to accomplish my purpose. I will leave of the lot that has been my lot in the world, and I will go out from my home to seek the way of liberation. . . . The prince returned to the bedroom of his wife to take his farewell gift of an elephant for his chariot and a horse at the request of his coach. He longed to take the chariot and to ride to the ends of the earth, and the prince could not do this without abandoning his throne. Siddhartha said good-bye to his beautiful wife and his beloved son, and his horse grunted. The prince's parting conversation was as follows. . . .”

—The Buddha's Enlightenment, from Buddha, the Dragon



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

As you gather evidence to answer the Essential Question, think about:

- how religions and philosophies are established.
- how beliefs and philosophies influence the way people live.

My Notes

Religions of Ancient India

DIRECTIONS: Search for evidence in Chapter 7, Lesson 2 to help you answer the following questions.

1 EXPLAINING CAUSE AND EFFECT How did the Hindu belief in reincarnation contribute to people’s acceptance of the *jati* system?

2 COMPARING AND CONTRASTING How does Hinduism compare or contrast with Buddhism in the belief about how to live life successfully? Use the chart below to organize your answer.

BELIEFS ABOUT HOW TO LIVE SUCCESSFULLY	
Hinduism	
Buddhism	

- 3 ECONOMICS** Complete the following chart to analyze the relationship between religion and economics in ancient India. Use details from the text to complete the chart.

Religions	What were the core beliefs of each religion, and how did they influence India's economy?
Hinduism	
Buddhism	
Jainism	

- 4 ANALYZING IDEAS** What is a similar belief in both Hinduism and Jainism that shaped the way Hindus and Jains live? Cite details from the text to support your ideas.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Jain Ethics

DIRECTIONS: Study the excerpt below and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: There were five challenging vows the monks had to follow in order to be spiritual leaders of the Jain teachings. The monks had to be free from relationships with their families and with everything of the world. For those followers of the faith who remained in their families, there were twelve specific, but easier, vows to follow.



SECONDARY SOURCE: BOOK EXCERPT

Non-violence Anuvrat (small vow)

“In this vow, a person must not intentionally hurt any living being (plants, animals, humans etc.) or their feeling either by thought, word or deed, himself, or through others, or by approving such an act committed by somebody else. Intention in this case applies selfish motive, sheer pleasure and even avoidable negligence. He may use force, if necessary, in the defense of his country, society, family, life, property, religious institute.

His agricultural, industrial, occupational living activities do also involve injury to life, but it should be as minimum as possible, through carefulness and due precaution.”

— Ahimsa Anuvrata, c. 500s B.C.E. quoted in *Twelve Vows of Layperson*, compiled by Pavin K. Shah, 1993 C.E.

VOCABULARY

ethics: principles of morality

layperson: a follower as opposed to leader

intentionally: on purpose

motive: the reason behind an action

negligence: ignoring a problem; carelessness

institute: a place where work is carried on

occupational: relating to a person's employment

1 ANALYZING TEXT What does the word *intentionally* mean? What does the use of this word mean for those taking this vow? Explain your answer using details from the excerpt.

2 EXPLAINING POINTS OF VIEW What does the Jain vow have in common with the Buddhist Eightfold Path and the Hindu belief in reincarnation and karma? Support your answer with evidence from Lesson 2.

3 CIVICS Which part of the vow makes it possible for Jains to serve in the military?

4 MAKING CONNECTIONS How would a commitment to be kinder to one another change the environment of your school?

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

Nidāna: The Words of Disburdenment

DIRECTIONS: Study the excerpt below and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: *The Twelve Nidānas* are Buddhist writings that show cause-and-effect relationships between each of their twelve doctrines. In Sanskrit, the term *nidāna* means “motivation” or “link between things.” The writings of Theravada Buddhism are written in Pāli, a language that developed in northern India between the fifth and second centuries B.C.E.

SECONDARY SOURCE: BOOK EXCERPT

Reverence to the Blessed One, the Holy One, the Fully Enlightened One: *Nidana: The Words of Disburdenment*

“Now, venerable Sirs, it is by your silence, that I shall know whether you are pure. As to each one question put there must be an answer, so, in such a meeting as this, each question is put as many as three times. Then if any Bhikkhu, when it has been three times put, knowingly omit to declare a fault incurred, he is guilty of uttering a conscious lie. Venerable Sirs, the uttering of a deliberate lie has been declared by the Blessed One to be a condition hurtful (to spiritual progress). Therefore a fault, if there be one, should be declared by that Bhikkhu who remembers it, and desires to be cleansed therefrom. For a fault, when declared, shall be light to him.

Venerable Sirs, the Introduction is now recited.

Thus do I question you, venerable Sirs, ‘Are you pure in this matter?’

A second time do I question you, ‘Are you pure in this matter?’

A third time do I question you, ‘Are you pure in this matter?’

The venerable ones are pure herein. Therefore do they keep silence. Thus I understand.”

— Siddhartha Gautama, c. 500 B.C.E., as recorded in *The Pātimokkha, Vol. XIII of The Sacred Books of the East*, translated from Pāli by T.W. Rhys Davids and Hermann Oldenberg

VOCABULARY

reverence: deep respect or awe

enlightened: having achieved knowledge through spiritual practice

disburdenment: the removal of a burden or a problem

venerable: worthy of respect because of age or spiritual status

bhikkhu: a male Buddhist monk, or spiritual teacher

incurred: brought upon oneself

uttering: speaking

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

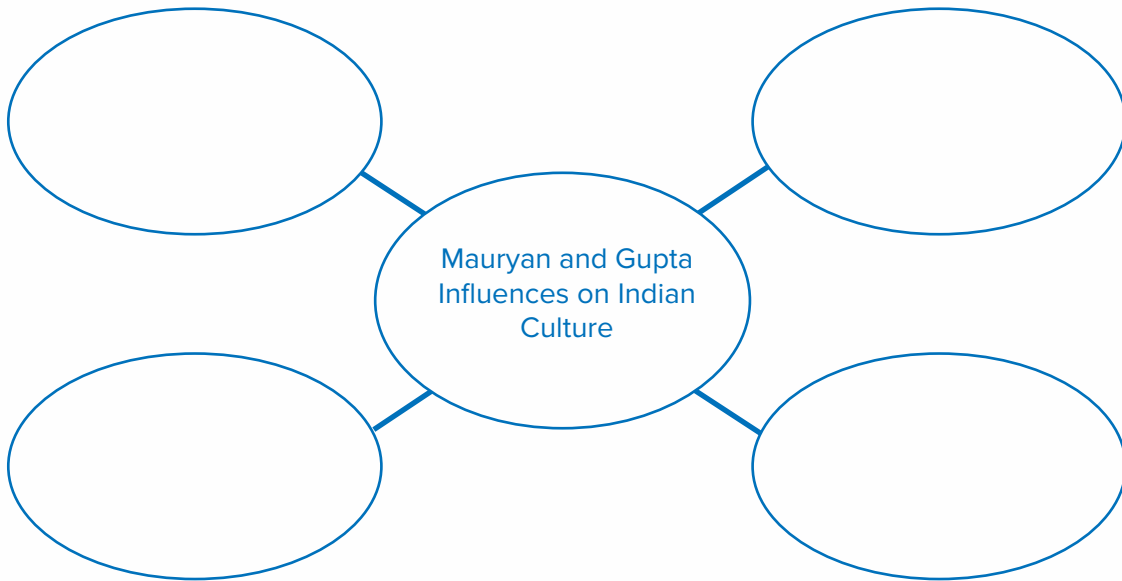
What makes a culture unique?

- 2** **COMPARING AND CONTRASTING TEXTS** Examine the description of Buddhist beliefs in Lesson 2. Does this excerpt match what you read? Explain whether the ideas in the two sources are in agreement or not, and support with text evidence.

- 3** **CIVICS** How might this Buddhist principle apply to government and citizenship? Explain your ideas.

3 HISTORY How did the Mauryan rulers who followed Ashoka govern India? What were the consequences of their rule for the Mauryan Empire? Explain.

4 DETERMINING CENTRAL IDEAS What influence did the Mauryan and Gupta Empires have on Indian culture? Collect details from your text. Use the chart below to organize your information, and then write a central idea statement.



ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

The Bhagavad Gita

DIRECTIONS: Study the excerpt below and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: *The Bhagavad Gita* is a 700-verse Hindu scripture composed in Sanskrit, often referred to as “the Divine Song.” It is part of an epic poem that is considered the longest in the world. Sections are broken out into numbered lines, often called verses. Historians believe the *Bhagavad Gita* was recorded in writing between 400 B.C.E. and 200 C.E.

PRIMARY SOURCE: BOOK EXCERPT

“22 As a man throweth away old garments, and putteth on new, even so the soul, having quitted its old mortal frames, entereth into others which are new. 23 The weapon divideth it not, the fire burneth it not, the water corrupteth it not, the wind drieth it not; 24 It is indivisible, inconsumable, incorruptible, and is not to be dried away: it is everlasting, all-pervading, stable, immovable, and eternal; 25 it is invisible, inconceivable, and unalterable; therefore, believing it to be thus, thou shouldst not grieve. 26 But whether thou believest it of eternal birth and duration, or that it dieth with the body, still thou hast no cause to lament it. 27 Death is certain to one that is born, and to one that dieth birth is certain. Wherefore it doth not behove thee to grieve about that which is inevitable. 28 The former state of beings is unknown; the middle state is evident, and their future state is not to be discovered. Why then shouldst thou trouble thyself about such things as these? 29 Some regard the soul as a wonder, whilst some speak and others hear of it with astonishment; but no one knoweth it, although he may have heard it described. ”

— from *The Bhagavad Gita*

VOCABULARY

quitted: released or let go

mortal frames: human bodies

indivisible: incapable of being divided or separated

inconsumable: cannot be used up

incorruptible: unable to be spoiled or corrupted

all-pervading: spread throughout

inconceivable: unable to be understood

unalterable: unchanging

lament: grieve or regret

behave: fit or suit a person

inevitable: sure to happen

1 DETERMINING MEANING How does the writer support his idea that when the human frame (the body) is finished, the soul (the spiritual or emotional part) is not?

2 ANALYZING POINT OF VIEW What lines in the excerpt explain the writer's beliefs about rebirth, or reincarnation?

3 ANALYZING TEXT Why does the writer believe it is foolish to worry about death?

4 HISTORY What historic developments contributed to the writing of the *Bhagavad Gita*, and how might this excerpt have fit into the story? Cite evidence from Lesson 3 to support your answer.

The Iron Pillar near Delhi, India

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

DIRECTIONS: Examine the image below and answer the accompanying questions.

EXPLORE THE CONTEXT: The large iron pillar from the Gupta period is remarkable not only because of its size (about 23 feet, or 7 meters, tall), but because its metal is resistant to rust. The ancient writing on it remains well-preserved, and readable. The pillar was created around 400 C.E.

PRIMARY SOURCE: PHOTOGRAPH



1 INTEGRATING VISUAL INFORMATION Based on information from Lesson 3 and the photograph of the Iron Pillar, why do you think this pillar may have been built?

2 HISTORY How does the pillar compare to other iron works from its era in size, structure, and resistance to rust? Use information in Lesson 3 to help you explain why this pillar is considered noteworthy.

3 DRAWING CONCLUSIONS What does the pillar suggest about the culture of the Gupta era? Explain.

4 MAKING CONNECTIONS If you saw a similar monument in Washington, D.C., what would you think about the builder's purpose? What might be inscribed on it?

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What makes a culture unique?

1 Think About It

Review the Supporting Questions that you developed at the beginning of the chapter. Review the evidence that you gathered in Chapter 7. Were you able to answer each Supporting Question?

If there was not enough evidence to answer your Supporting Questions, what additional evidence do you think you need?

2 Organize Your Evidence

Use the chart to organize the evidence you will use to support your Position Statement.

	WHAT MAKES A CULTURE UNIQUE?	

3 Talk About It

Work with a partner or small group to discuss your position statement and the evidence you have gathered. Before you write your final conclusion, gather ideas from your classmates. Group members should take turns sharing their ideas, asking questions, and offering insights. Use your lesson readings to guide you as you support your ideas.

4 Write About It

Write your position statement for the ESSENTIAL QUESTION, using your gathered information: *What makes a culture unique?*

5 Connect to the Essential Question

On a separate piece of paper, create a visual essay. Use the organizer from question 2 to prepare your case explaining how Indian culture is unique. Either draw pictures to represent the various influences that helped shape ancient Indian culture or find photographs to copy and insert into your essay.

