Ancient India Study Guide                    Name:

1. Place an X next to each physical feature that the first people in India settled near.

    Indus River \_\_\_X\_\_        Thar Desert \_\_X\_\_\_        Hindu Kush \_\_\_\_\_\_

    Himalaya Mountains \_\_\_\_\_     Ganges River \_\_\_X\_\_    Deccan Plateau \_\_\_\_\_

    Brahmaputra River \_\_\_\_\_        Eastern and Western Ghats \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did the first people in India settle where they did?

*The rivers provided drinking water, fertile soil for farming, and opportunities for travel and trade. Those that settled in the Thar Desert only did because it was between the two rivers.*

*The other physical features also had problems. The Ghats, Hindu Kush, and Himalayas were too high, cold, and rocky. The Deccan Plateau was high and hot. The Brahmaputra was behind the Himalayas.*

3. Why is Mohenjodaro an important site to historians?

*Mohenjodaro was almost perfectly preserved and many artifacts were found there. Historians used those artifacts to learn about daily life in ancient India since we could not read their earliest forms of writing.*

4. What did the following artifacts from Mohenjodaro tell us about life in India?

*-*Weights and scale: *they traded and had precise measurements*

*-*The Great Bath: *they had public bathing and religious ceremonies*

-Seal/beads with animal prints: *they were used as name tags to show possession or to keep evil spirits away*

-Sewer system: *they were the first to have bathrooms in their homes, they had running water*

-Homes: *they had rich people with large houses and poor people with small houses, they had windows on the second floor to protect from floods*

-Games: *they had free time and cared about leisure/having fun*

5. Which empire was the first to unite India? How did they get their power?

*The Mauryan Empire was the first to unite India. They gained power by fighting weaker kingdoms (war) before giving up war and spreading Buddhist values.*

6. In your opinion, was Ashoka a good or a bad ruler? Why?

*Good: gave up war, spread values of kindness and respect, gained a lot of territory, dug wells and provided farm land*

*Bad: allowed slavery, fought many wars early on, had severe punishments for crimes*

7. Describe the four categories of Ashoka’s edicts.

*-Buddhist values: encouraged love, respect, nonviolence, doing what’s right, and not getting attached to your possessions*

*-General welfare: provided health, shelter, food, water, and other things for people’s well-being*

*-Justice: fair laws, fair punishments, fair treatment in court*

*-Security: how to treat citizens of other nations, when to be peaceful and when to go to war*

8. When was the Mauryan Empire in power? When was the Gupta Empire in power?

*Mauryan: 322-187 BCE*

*Gupta: 320-550 CE*

9. How was the Gupta Empire different than the Mauryan Empire?

*The Mauryan Empire had a central government with all power given to the king, while the Gupta Empire was divided into provinces that gave power to local leaders.*

10. How did the Gupta Empire unite India?

*They conquered kingdoms through war and they arranged marriages between their family and sons and daughters of other rulers?*

11. What were the seven main achievements of the Gupta Empire?

*Universities, literature, paintings, sculpture, metalwork, roads, mathematics*

12. Why is the Gupta Empire considered a “golden age?”

*The Gupta Empire is considered a golden age because they lived in a time of peace and achieved many important accomplishments that are still celebrated in India today.*

13. Locate the following features on the map: Thar Desert, Himalayas, Hindu Kush, Indus River, Ganges River, Deccan Plateau, Eastern and Western Ghats, Brahmaputra River

