

Indian Empires #24

320s BC--Chandragupta Maurya took control of northern India.

- spies, 600,000 soldiers, 1000s of war elephants and chariots.
- heavy taxes
- became Jainist monk
- son took control-expanded empire

270 BC--Asoka (Maurya) became king (grandson)

- strong ruler, made empire stronger and richer
- armies brutal and bloody
- converted to Buddhism (sent missionaries)
- improved lives of people
- built wells, roads, shade trees, rest houses

- 233 BC--died--sons fought for power
- 184 BC--Last Mauryan ruler killed
- India divided into smaller states

India divided for 500 years

AD 320--Gupta dynasty takes over northern India

- Chandragupta I (not Maurya)
- Hindu religion--India became Hindu again
- built Hindu temples
- supported Buddhism and Jainism
 - built temples, art, university for Buddhism

AD 325--Chandragupta II

- Gupta dynasty high point
- India wealthy--much art, literature
- encouraged Caste system

Women--few rights

- marry, have children, serve husbands
- marriages arranged

AD 400s--Huns invade India

Guptas lost power and wealth

Middle AD 500s--India divided into small kingdoms again

Indian Achievements

Temples--early temples simple

- Gupta period--Hindu temples complex--towers, carvings
- Buddhist Temples--also impressive
- Stupas--domed roofs, housed sacred objects

Paintings and sculptures

- Great paintings and statues--clear, colorful, detailed
- Hindu art and Buddhist art
 - in/on temples
 - finest art in India

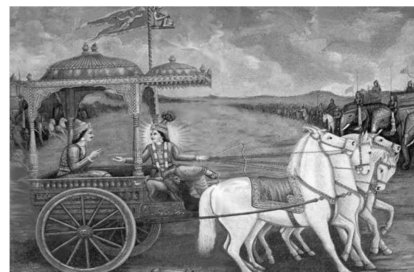
Sanskrit Literature

--sacred texts--Mahabharata, Ramayana

--Plays, poetry etc.

--Panchatantra--stories that teach lessons

Literature became popular even in Europe



Scientific Advances

Metallurgy—working with metals

- high quality tools and weapons
- created alloys (mixtures of metals)
- Indian Iron-hard and pure

Mathematics and Science

- advanced mathematics
- Hindu-Arabic numbers(same numbers we use now)
- created the Zero
- wrote medical books

Medicine

- inoculation-injecting virus to build up body's defenses.
- surgery
- repaired broken bones, removed tonsils, fixed broken noses, reattached earlobes
- magic spells

Astronomy

- knew 7 out of 9 planets
- knew sun is a star and planet revolved around it.
- knew earth is a sphere and rotates on axis
- could predict eclipses of the sun and moon.