# Classical India

| Geography | • Indus and Ganges Rivers provided silt for early Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro  
|           | • Himalayan Mountains and Thar Desert offered protection  
|           | • Monsoons (shifting seasonal winds) brought rainfall for agriculture but could also cause flooding  
|           |   ○ Lack of monsoons led to drought and famine |
| Trade | • Location allowed for profitable trade  
|       |   ○ Middle-men on Silk Roads between China and Rome  
|       |   ○ Trade with Africa and Arabia on Arabian Sea and Persian Gulf  
|       | • Trade helped spread Indian culture leading to cultural diffusion  
|       | • Trade contributed to banking systems developing in India |
| Mohenjo-Daro 2500 BCE | • Early Mohenjo-Daro civilization (2500 BCE) had advanced plumbing not found in other civilizations until the 19th century  
| |   ○ Private bathrooms and toilets built with bricks and wood  
| |   ○ Pipes connected to each home carried waste into an underground sewer |
| Mauryan Dynasty and Asoka 321 BCE – 232 BCE | • United Northern India  
| |   ○ Harsh rules  
| |   ○ Heavy taxes  
| |   ○ Controlling military and spies  
| | • Emperor Asoka (269 – 232 BCE)  
| |   ○ Expanded Indian Empire through violence  
| |   ○ Converted to Buddhism in 269 BCE  
| |     ▪ Granted religious tolerance  
| |     ▪ Supported non-violence  
| |     ▪ Fought for human rights  
<p>| | • Built roads, rest houses, and watering holes for easy traveling |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gupta</th>
<th>320 CE – 550 CE</th>
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| **What were the accomplishments of the Gupta Dynasty’s Golden Age?** | **• Led Indian Golden Age**  
  o Literature and Theater  
  o Writing and Poetry Academies  
  o Traveling troupe and drama acts  
  **• Math**  
  o Modern numerals and decimals  
  o Calculated Pi (3.14)  
  **• Astronomy**  
  o Navigated using stars  
  o Create a calendar  
  o Observed eclipses to prove earth was round – 1000 years before Columbus  
  **• Medicine**  
  o Classified 1000 diseases and 500 medical plants  
  o Surgery and inoculations (shots) |

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<tr>
<th>Decline of Classical India</th>
<th>Why did classical India decline?</th>
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| **Mauryan Dynasty experienced instability following death of Asoka**  
 **Central India - Kingdoms regained independence**  
 **Northern India - flooded with political refugees from Greece, Persia, and Central Asia**  
 **Southern India - war broke out among the three Tamil Kingdoms**  
 **Gupta Dynasty lost power following death of Chandra Gupta II**  
 **Northern India invaded by Hunas (related to Huns) from Central Asia**  
 **India broken up into several small kingdoms** |