

Name: _____

Period: _____

Ancient India Document-Based Question (DBQ) Activity - Student Packet

Purpose: To conclude our study of ancient India, you will be asked to examine a series of documents, maps, and visuals to answer an historical question. A DBQ or Document-Based Question is a way to analyze sources, write a thesis, and support it with evidence based on the documents that are provided for you.

Historical Question (Prompt):
What contributions has Ancient India made to our current world?

Steps to complete the DBQ Activity:

_____ 1. Read the historical question. This is your prompt that you will write a thesis to answer.

_____ 2. Read and analyze the provided documents (in the colored packet). Answer the questions related to each document to help in your analysis. **Write your responses on this packet** (student activity packet).

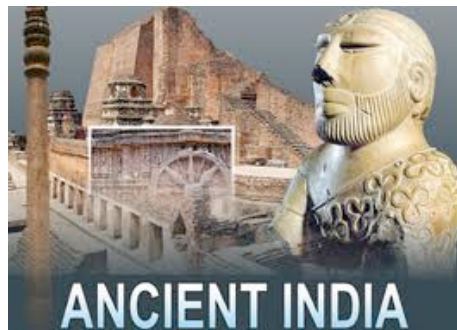
***Answering these questions should help you start to formulate an answer to the prompt.*

_____ 3. Use the graphic organizer as a way to organize your thinking about the documents and how they would help support your thesis.

_____ 4. Write a thesis statement in response to the historical prompt (above). You must use your knowledge from the documents; also think about what we have learned about ancient India in class, too.

***Use your Thesis Statement Guided Notes = 2 or 3 parts of formula, 5 features of checklist – Do a self-check on your thesis!*

Typically, a DBQ would be answered through a 5-paragraph essay. However, we are working towards that goal, so you will not write a full essay.



Name: _____

Period: _____

PART 1 – Analyzing & Answering Document Questions

Answer the questions based upon the documents. You must write your response ***using complete sentences*** to receive credit for your answer. Use information from the document and incorporate any background knowledge that fits.

Document 1 – Map of India Subcontinent

Question 1: What bodies of water surround the Indian subcontinent (present-day country)?

Question 2: List two ways that the Indus River provided a rich valley for farmers.

Document 2 – Asoka & Buddhism

Question 3: What did the Mauryan ruler, Asoka, say about how people from different religions should treat each other?

Question 4: Based on the map, what seems to be the effects on Buddhism because of Asoka's edicts (laws)?

Document 3 – Empires of Ancient India

Question 5: What contributions were made in math and science during the Gupta Empire?

Document 4 – Religion from Ancient India

Question 6: Examine the pie chart of modern-day religions. Which religion is the 4th largest (most popular) in the world currently? What percentage of the world's population is estimated to practice that religion?

Question 7: What *percentage* of people in the world today practice Buddhism?

Document 5 – Influence on Wellness

Question 8: Review the fitness schedule from No Body Denied, a local gym. On Thursdays, which fitness class is offered most?

Question 9: What Ancient Indian religion(s) does this type of exercise class connect to?

Criterion A Grade: _____

PART 2 - Categorizing the Documents

Now think of how you could categorize the documents to help create the 3 reasons/key ideas in your thesis.

**What topic(s) or theme(s) about Ancient India does each document cover?*

**Are there any documents you could group together based on a common topic or information to create a key reason for your thesis?*

**You could use GRAPES as a guide or some other way to categorize the documents that makes sense to help you answer the prompt.*

Use the graphic organizer as a way to organize your thinking about the documents and how they would help support your thesis.

Doc #	Category/Topic of Doc (ex: Religion, science, etc.)	What info could you use from this document to answer the prompt?
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

Name: _____ Period: _____

DBQ Historical Question (Prompt):
What contributions has Ancient India made to our current world?

Part 3 – Thesis Statement:

Write a thesis statement to answer the Historical Question for this DBQ. Use your Thesis Statement guided notes to help you!

Criterion D Grade: _____

Comments: