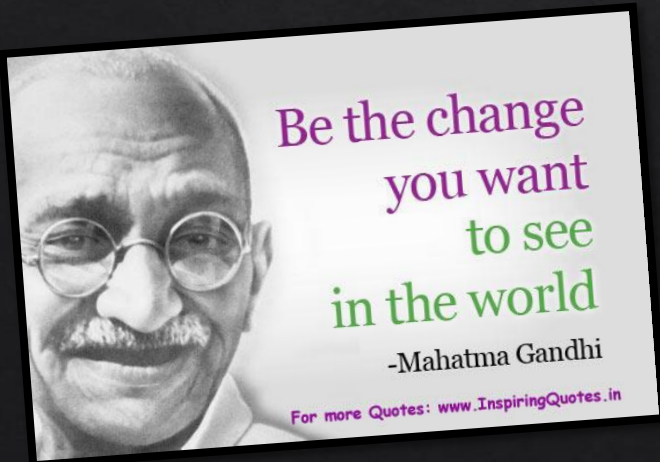




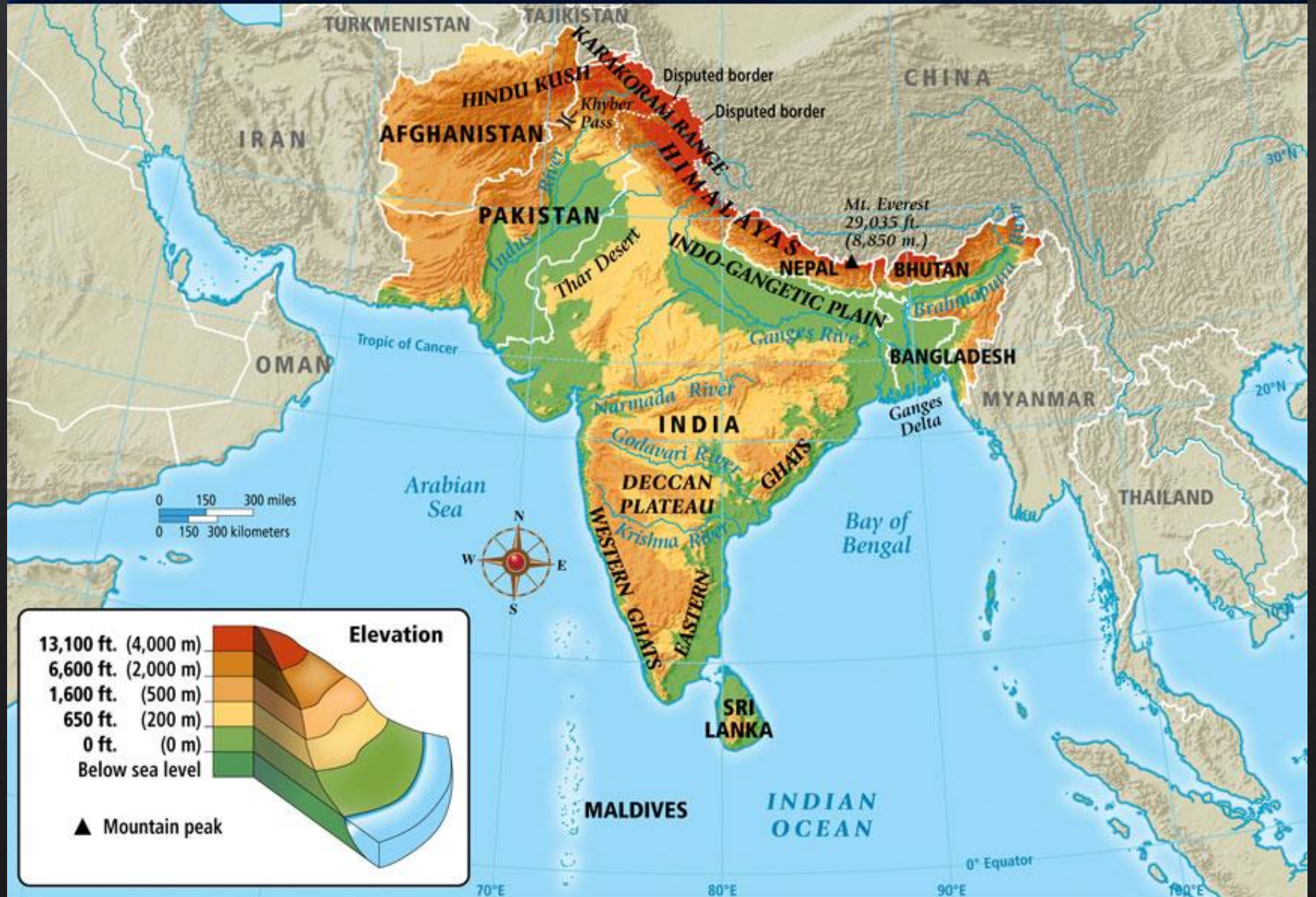
South Asia



Geography of South Asia

- ◆ Subcontinent: part of a continent that is geographically separated from the rest of the continent.
 - ◆ South Asia is separated from the rest of Asia by the mountains (Himalayas and Hindu Kush)
- ◆ Most of India today lies on the Deccan Plateau.
- ◆ Two major rivers in South Asia are the Ganges (northern India) and the Indus (Pakistan).

Physical Geography of South Asia



Climate of South Asia



- ◇ South Asia has 2 distinct seasons:
 - ◇ June-October is the rainy season
 - ◇ November-May is the dry season
- ◇ These seasons are created by monsoons (seasonal winds that blows over the Indian Ocean)

Climate of South Asia

◆ **Impact of the monsoons: farming is dependent on the timing of the summer monsoons.**

◆ **Too Early: Crops aren't planted yet**



◆ **Too late: crops die from lack of water**



Checkpoint #1

True or False?

1. **South Asia is a subcontinent separated from the rest of Asia by deserts.**
2. **South Asia has 2 main rivers: Ganges and Indus.**
3. **South Asia's climate is based on the monsoon winds.**
4. **The summer monsoons have no impact on farming in South Asia.**

Early Indian Civilizations



- ◆ Civilization began in the Indus River Valley region around 2500 BCE
- ◆ Annual flooding created good farmland.
- ◆ The first civilization in this region was the Harappan Civilization.
- ◆ The two largest cities of this civilization were Harappa and Mohenjo-daro

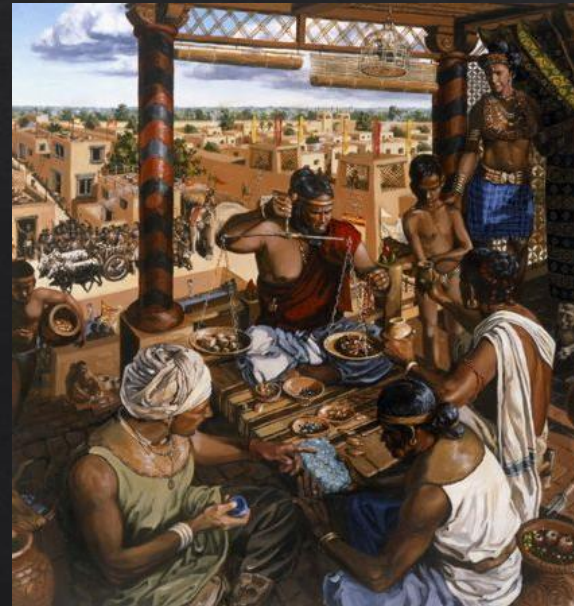


Harappan Civilization



◆ Farmers depended on the Indus and Sarasvati rivers and flooding to irrigate their fields. They grew a variety of crops including wheat, barley, vegetables, and dates.

- They had a strong centralized government with a king.
- They traded with other civilizations, including Mesopotamia and Egypt.



Harrapan Achievements

◇ They developed a **writing system**

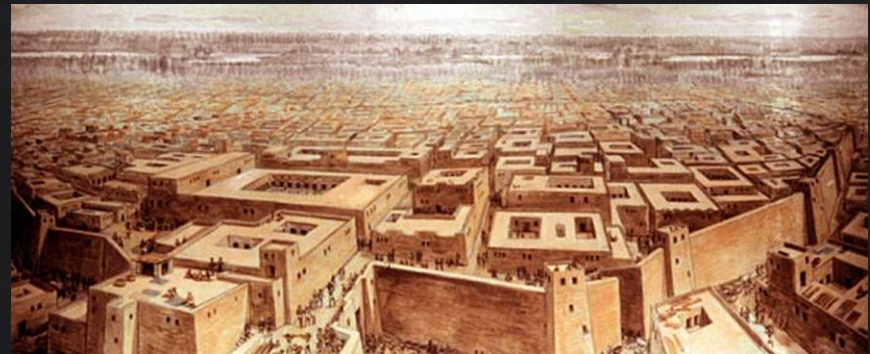


• They were **skilled artisans** and made pottery, jewelry and statues



• Their cities were **well-planned**:

- Straight streets formed a checkerboard pattern.
- Walled fortress protected city, Homes and public buildings were separate
- Special Warehouses stored food supplies
- Elaborate bath houses with drains
- Plumbing and Sewer Systems
- Bricks were uniform in size





This is a photograph of “The Great Bath” at Mohenjo-Daro. This is one of the earliest examples of public baths or water storage system found in the world. The Indus Valley people were great architects and city planners.

A reconstruction of what the entrance to Mohenjo-Daro might have looked like.



End of Harappan Civilization

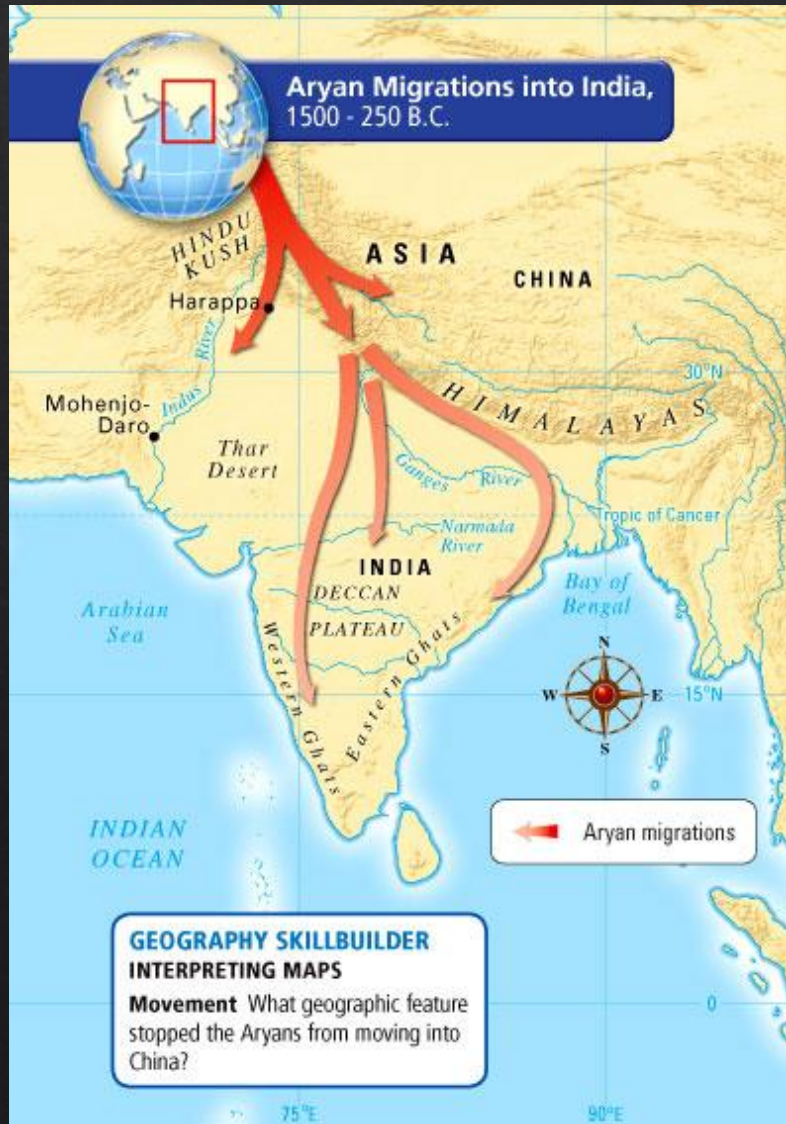
◆ Harappan ended in the early 1700s BCE, but historians have been unable to determine what caused the civilization to decline.

◆ Two theories:

1. Invaders destroyed the cities
2. Natural disaster, such as a flood or earthquake



The Aryans



- ❖ Migrated to South Asia from Central Asia (near the Caspian Sea) in the **2000s BCE**. They crossed through mountain passes to reach India.
- ❖ Aryans were originally Nomads that eventually settled into **small communities**.
- ❖ Unlike the Harrapans they did not have a strong central government. Their **local leaders were called Rajas**
- ❖ These **villages often fought one another**.

The Aryans



- ❖ The Aryans spoke Sanskrit.
- ❖ They had a strong oral tradition. They had to memorize important poems, stories and history.
- ❖ They eventually created a **written language** so they could keep records.
- ❖ Sanskrit is not widely spoken but is the **root of many other languages**.



Checkpoint #2

◇ Which of the following is NOT TRUE about the Harappan civilization?

1. It developed along the Indus River in modern-day Pakistan.
2. Cities were poorly built and lacked organization.
3. The 2 largest cities were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.
4. They traded with Mesopotamia and Egypt.

• Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of Indus Valley cities?

1. Walls for defense
2. Checker-board streets
3. Elaborate bath houses
4. Sewer systems
5. Ziggurats in each city

◇ Which of the following is NOT true about the Aryans?

1. Migrated from central Asia near the Caspian Sea.
2. Villages were governed by emperors.
3. Written language was Sanskrit.
4. Combined beliefs with Indus Valley people to create Hinduism.