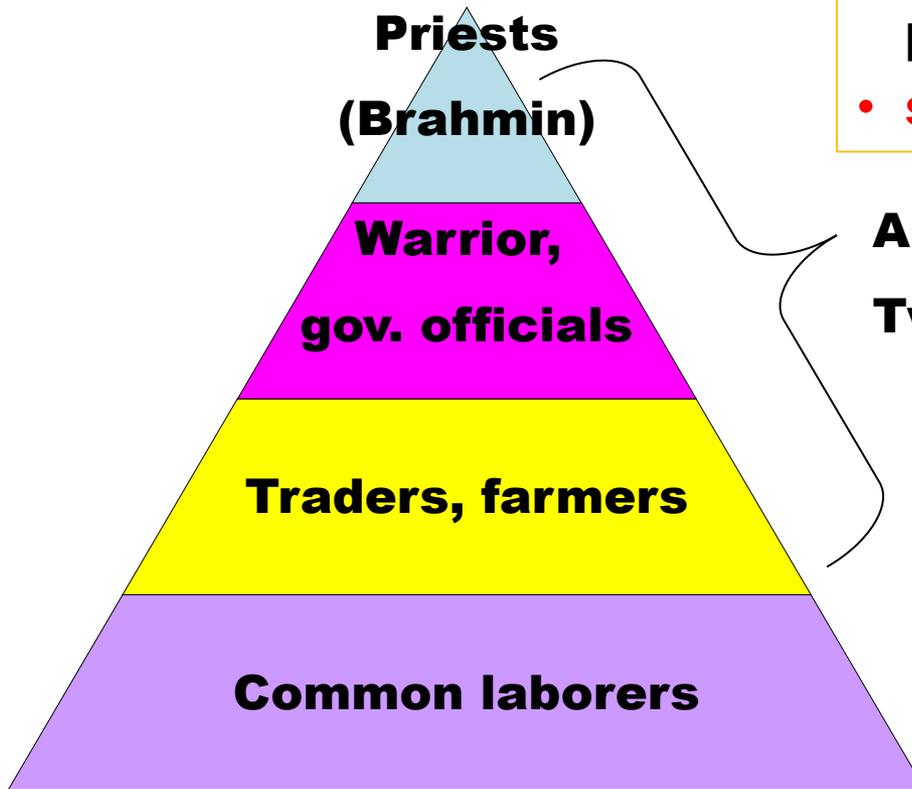


# Classical India notes



# CASTE SYSTEM

- began to show distinction between Aryans and native
- enforced rules of social behavior
- **slavery wasn't necessary**



**Untouchable children**

**Untouchables**  
Handled waste, carried dead,  
butchered animals

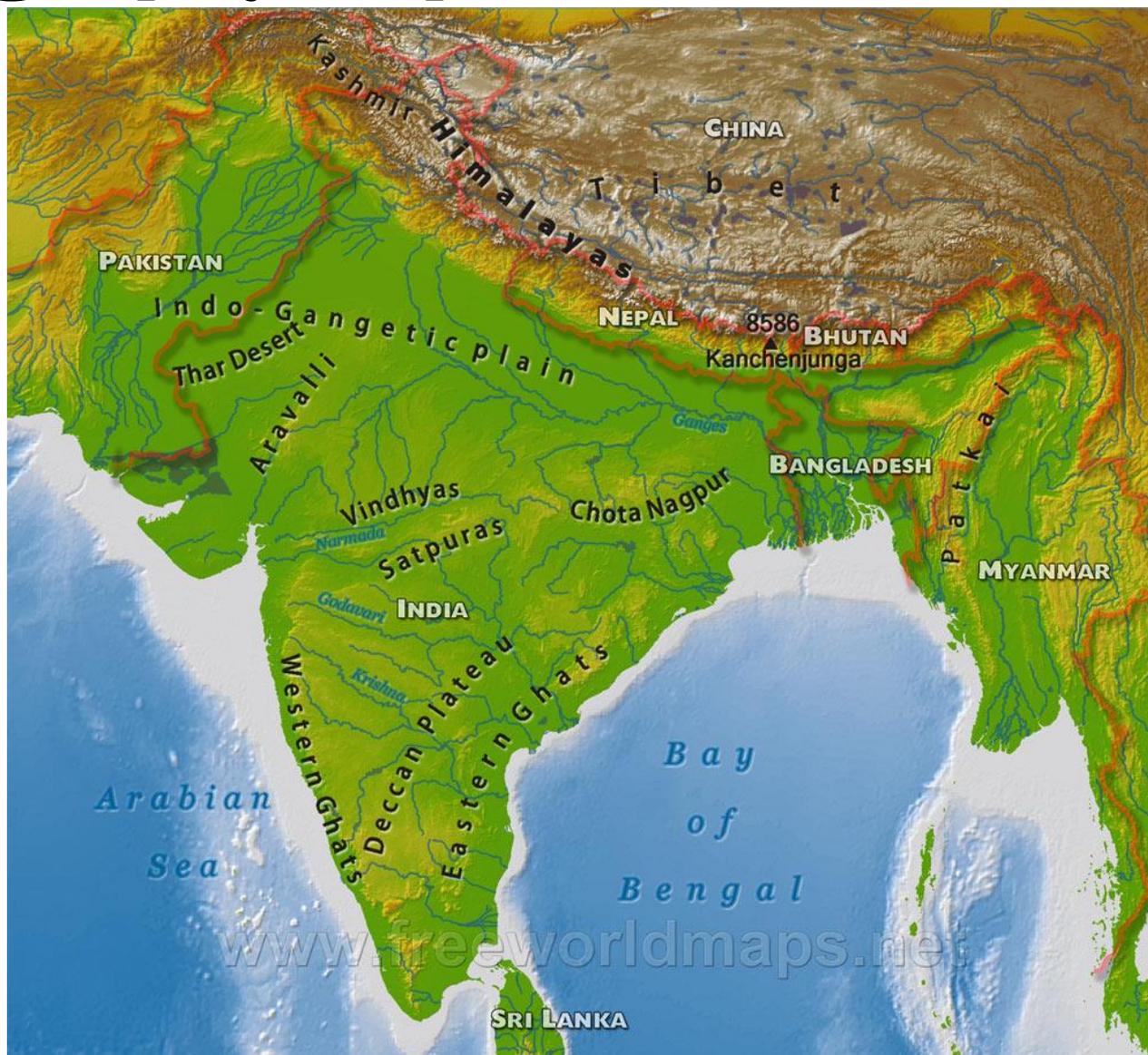
# Reincarnation



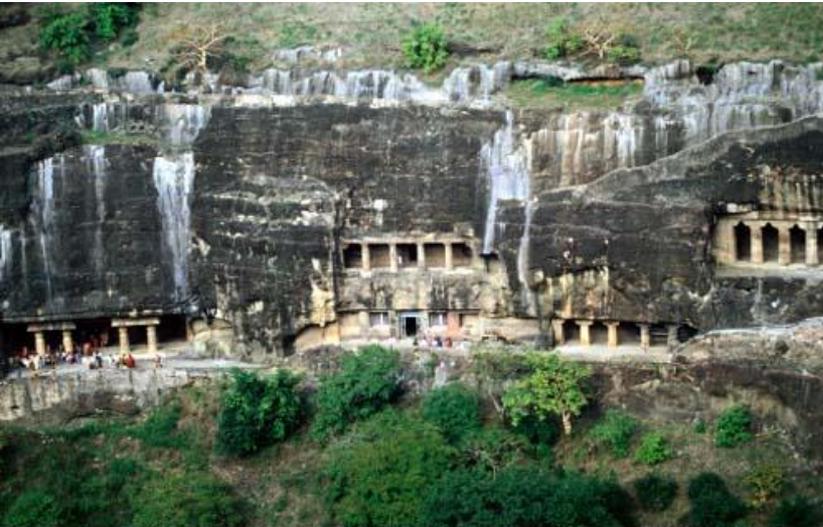


DONT PUT GARBAGE  
BBMP

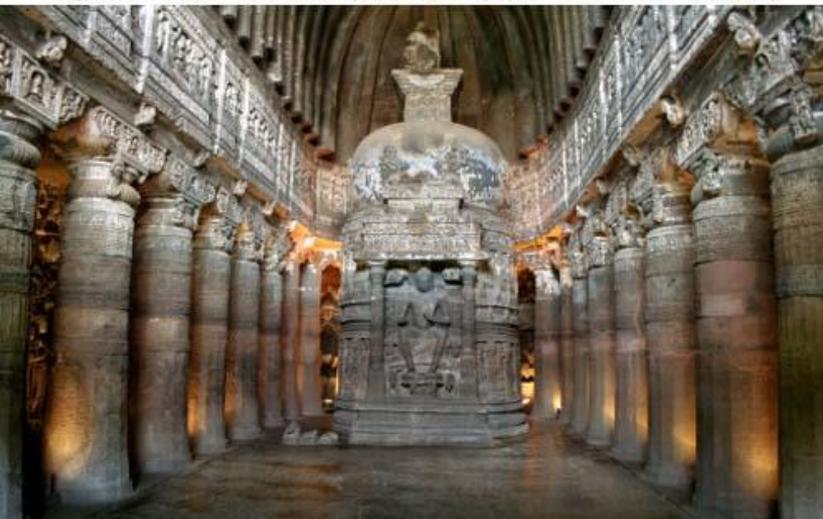
# 1. Look at the map, how do you think geography impacted India over time?



## 2. Based on the images of the Ajanta Caves, what can you learn about the civilization who built them?



Ajanta Caves - Exterior (above) Interior - Cave # 26 (below)



Ajanta Caves: Buddhist monastery cut above the natural bed of a river through living rock; 30 caves



# 1819—caves rediscovered by British Captain Smith while hunting

30 rock cut Buddhist monuments; Built 300s BCE and 400-650 CE







# Some of the best evidence of Indian painting in the caves

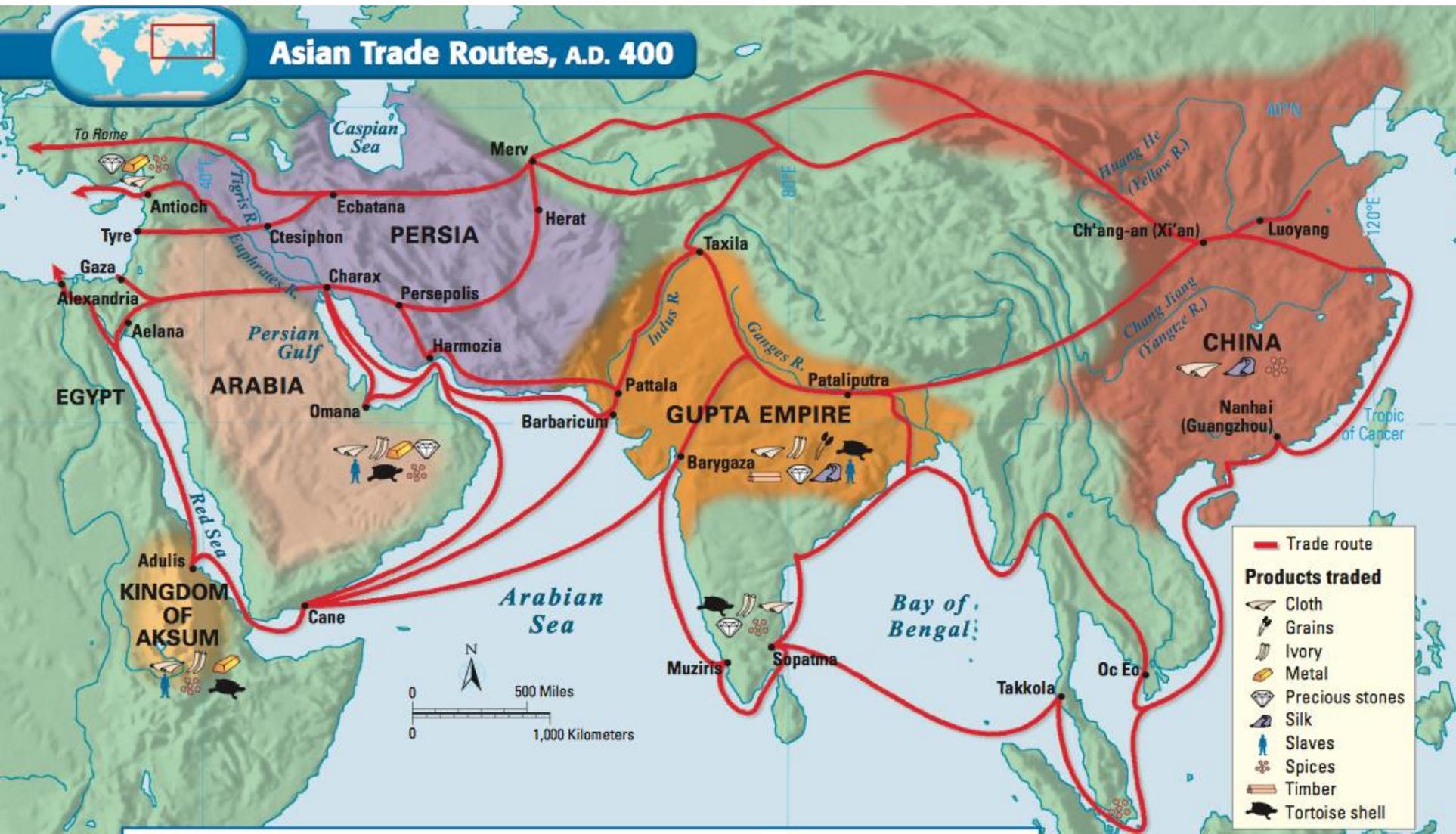




### 3. What do you think is the significance of the markings below?

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
—	=	≡	♀	♯	♯	∩	5	3
Gupta numerals around 4th century A.D.								

# 4. Based on the map, what do you learn about Asia in the 5<sup>th</sup> century CE?



# Indian History:

1. Indus River Valley
2. Alexander the Great's conquest (327 B.C.E.)
3. **Mauryan Empire** (332 BCE – 185 BCE)
4. **Gupta Empire—golden age** (320 C.E. - 500 C.E.)
  - Extensive road system (connected with **Silk Roads**)
  - Middlemen of Silk Roads



# Alexander the Great



## ALEXANDER THE GREAT'S EMPIRE

- Modern city
- City
- ▲ Mountain peak
- ⚔ Battle
- ⊙ Siege
- Alexander's route
- Alexander's Empire



0 100 200 300 400 500 Miles  
0 100 200 300 400 500 Kilometers



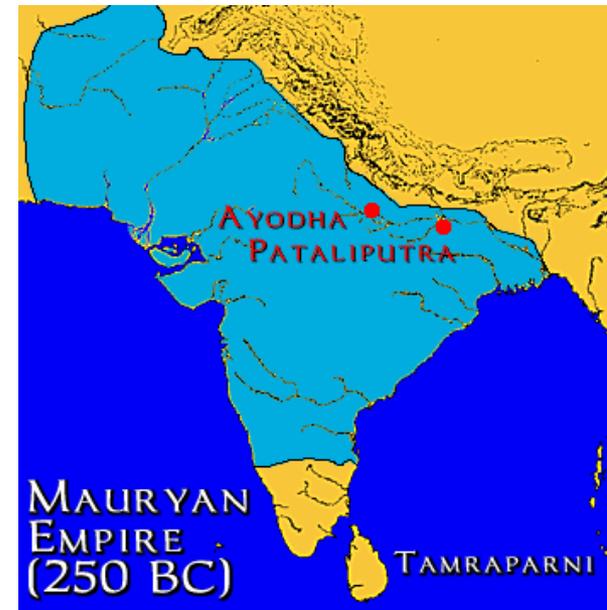
# Maurya Empire

- **One of world's largest empires**
- **Ashoka**—peace under his rule (devoted life to peace)
  - **Converts to Buddhism**



## Economy

- **Internal & external trade thrived & expanded**
- **Taxes = 1/2 of crops to king**

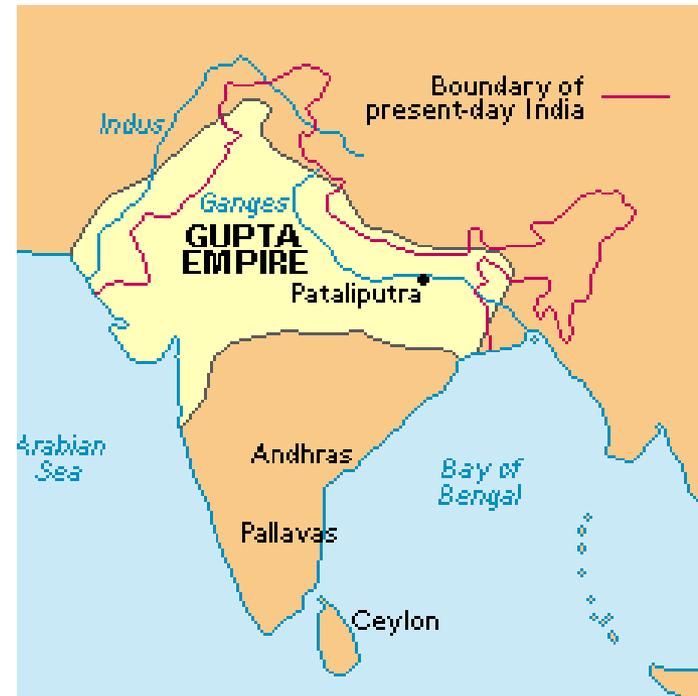


# Gupta Empire

- **Rulers were Hindus**
- **Still used caste system**
- **Buddhism was tolerated**
- **Period of peace and prosperity**
- **Excelled: philosophy, religion, literature, art, mathematics, astronomy, engineering, and science**



Hindu Temple at Bhitargaon



# Gupta Politics

- **Gov. allowed trade to prosper**
- **Regional rulers were usually members of king's family**
- **Kings gave local power to local leaders (small level of control)**
  - **Local leaders elected by merchants and artisans**
- **Decentralized gov. b/c geographic barriers & diversity of people**
  - **Fragment into small kingdoms**
- **Low taxes, little crime**



# Status of Women

- Became increasingly patriarchal
- **Wife is to worship husband as a god**
- Hinduism questioned if a woman could advance spiritually w/o 1<sup>st</sup> reincarnating as a man
- **Arranged marriages**
- **Sati**—practice of a widow throwing herself on her husband's pyre



# A woman practicing sati



که از کبریاست همیشه آتش خد کرد  
که از کبریاست همیشه آتش آب کرد  
بهار از خوشش بود و از شعله

چنان میثانه بر آتش نظر کرد  
چنان ز شوق آن میثا کردید  
در آتش سجده صحرای با

# Accomplishments of the Guptas:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
—	=	≡	५	६	७	८	९	३
Gupta numerals around 4th century A.D.								

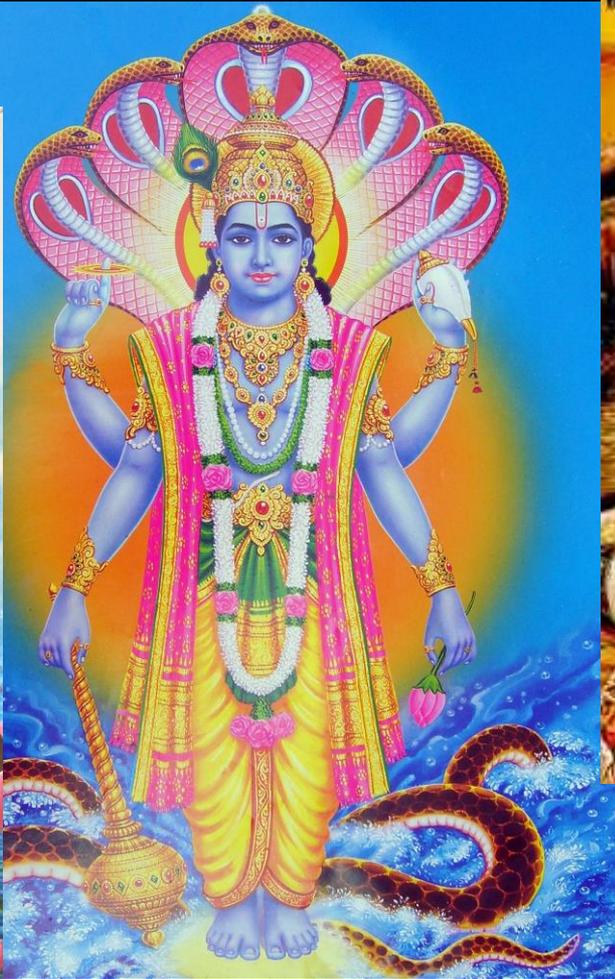
- **Discovery of zero**
- **Indian numerals**
- **Decimal system**
- **Inoculation against smallpox**
- **Sterilization during surgery**
- **Plastic surgery**
- **Setting bones**
- **Prediction of eclipses & identification of planets**
- **Expert sea traders**
- **Steel bow**



**Brahma**—creator of universe (least worshiped god—only 2 temples)



**Vishnu**—protector of universe—restores balance of good and evil



**Shiva**—destroyer of the universe to recreate it





**To the Hindu, the cow symbolizes all other creatures. The cow is a symbol of the Earth, the nourisher, the ever-giving, undemanding provider. The cow represents life and the sustenance of life.**

# **Four Noble Truths**

- 1. Life is suffering, misery, and pain**
- 2. Cause of suffering is selfishness and personal desire**
- 3. Selfishness can be counteracted. Without desire, suffering ceases to exist**
- 4. Eightfold Path is an escape from suffering**

# **Eightfold Path**

- 1. Know truth**
- 2. Resist evil**
- 3. Say nothing to hurt others**
- 4. Respect life**
- 5. Work for good of others**
- 6. Free mind from evil**
- 7. Control thoughts**
- 8. Practice meditation**

# The Spread of Buddhism, 500s B.C. – A.D. 600s

→ Spread of Buddhism

