AKS 30 – Transition from River Valleys to Empires: Persia, India, & China

I. What is an Empire?
   A. Warm-up....
      1. What is an “empire”?
      2. How are “empires” different from “river valley civilizations”?
      3. What are the advantages of having an empire?

   B. From Civilization to Empire
      1. After thousands of years of civilization in river valleys, the first ____________________ appeared
      2. River valley civilizations were ____________________ societies with advanced technologies, cities, workers, writing, & institutions
      3. Empires were advanced societies with well-organized, ____________________ that ____________________ & ruled a variety of formerly ____________________ people

II. Major Empires
   A. Empire in Mesopotamia: The Persians
      1. The ____________________ soil & lack of natural boundaries in Mesopotamia led to frequent ____________________ & conquests
      2. One of the most important ancient empires were the Persians (in present-day ________________)
      3. Who were the Persians?
         a. The Persians grew into a powerful empire under Kings ____________________ & ____________________
         b. With a powerful ____________________, the Persians conquered Mesopotamia, ____________________, & India
         c. Persian religion was ____________________, which viewed life as a struggle between good & evil
            i. Persians believed in ____________________ & __________ as consequences for how they lived their lives
            ii. Zoroastrianism influenced the views of the afterlife in Judaism, ____________________, & __________
      4. Brainstorming: How did the Persians control such a massive empire?
      5. Persians controlled their empire in a variety of ways:
         a. Persian kings were ____________________ & allowed conquered people to keep their languages & religions;
            Rather than destroying or looting conquered cities, King Cyrus would show ________________ for local customs
         b. King Darius ____________________ the empire into 20 provinces each ruled by a ____________________ (local governor); Satraps were the “_______ & ______” of the king, collected taxes, & informed the king of uprisings
         c. The Persians built a network of ____________________ in order to collect __________ & improve communication & trade throughout the empire
         d. The Persians used ____________________ with standardized values to help promote __________

   B. Empire in India: The Mauryans & Guptas
      1. After the river valley era, India transitioned into the Mauryan Empire
         a. Chandragupta Maurya became king of India in 321 BC, created a vast ____________________, & conquered new lands
         b. ____________________’s empire controlled most of the Indian subcontinent
2. Chandragupta used tactics to control his empire
   a. Like the Persians, Chandragupta _____________ his empire into provinces each ruled by a ________ prince
3. In 269 B.C., King __________________________ took over & expanded the Mauryan Empire to its greatest extent
   a. During his wars of expansion, Asoka converted to _______________________
   b. Asoka developed new policies of ___________________ & ___________________ for his empire
   c. Buddhism ___________________ as a result of Asoka’s influence
2. After Asoka’s death, the Mauryan Empire declined & was replaced by the Gupta Empire
   a. ___________________________ formed the Gupta Empire in 320 A.D. & expanded the empire
   b. India experienced a “_______________________” during the Gupta Empire & became a “classical empire”
      i. Indian astronomers were the first to discover that the __________________ was __________________
      ii. Mathematicians invented modern _______________________, _____________, pi, & the decimal system
      iii. Merchants sold exotic _____________ & _____________ to people in the Mediterranean world

C. Empire in China: The Han Dynasty
1. Government in China was based upon the ___________________________
   a. One ruling family (a “dynasty”) gains the “______________________________” then rules until the dynasty grows _____________ & is overthrown
   b. As a result, eras in Chinese history are ___________________ after the ruling dynasties: Shang, Zhou, Qin, Han
2. During the Han Dynasty, China became a “_______________________ civilization” marked by its advanced gov’t, trade, & technology
   a. Han kings built a powerful ______________ & expanded into Asia to form China’s first empire
   b. Chinese emperors added thousands of gov’t workers (called ___________________________________) to collect ____________, enforce laws, & oversee building projects
      i. In order to gain one of the 130,000 gov’t jobs, citizens had to pass a ________________________________
      ii. Exams were based on __________________________________ teachings
   c. Chinese technologies became advanced, especially _________ & __________ making. Paper made books cheaper & increased ____________________ in China
   d. The desire for Chinese ____________________ goods led to the ___________________, which connected China with Indian, Persian, & Mediterranean societies

Similarities and Differences among Empires

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 similarities among the empires</th>
<th>3 differences among empires</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• All the empires have...</td>
<td>• The Persians were unique because...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All the empires have...</td>
<td>• The Mauyran/Gupta Empires were unique because...</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• All the empires have...</td>
<td>• The Han Dynasty was unique because...</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>