Essential Question:
– What are the major differences between the Indian religions of Hinduism and Buddhism?

Warm-Up Question:
– How was Indian society different from that in Mesopotamia & Egypt?
– Compare the geography of India to either Mesopotamia or Egypt
bell ringer

You have 5 minutes to finish anything you can on your ancient civs chart!
STOP .... COLLABORATE AND LISTEN
Grab your folder from the front table and notes from the cart! And get your folder organized...[put your folder in order and be sure that your table of contents is up to date 😊]
The Religions of Ancient India

Overview:
The people of the Indus River Valley developed 2 major religions that are still practiced today:

**Hinduism** & **Buddhism**
1. The basic foundations of Hinduism rest on the individual’s quest for ___?

2. What happens when a Hindu experiences “good karma”?

3. Name 1 of the many thousands of Hindu gods (by name or what they do)?
Hinduism

Basic beliefs:
— Hinduism is based upon the search for “perfect understanding” & the liberation from the human world
— This understanding is called moksha (also called nirvana or enlightenment)
Hinduism

Basic beliefs:
- Only the top of the caste system can achieve moksha
- Hindus believe in reincarnation (people are reborn into another form)
- Moving up in the caste is based on fulfilling dharma (duty) & gaining karma (good deeds)
Hinduism

- **Gods:**
  - Hindus believe in thousands of gods, but 3 are supreme
  - Brahma the creator, Vishnu the preserver, & Shiva the destroyer

- **Texts:**
  - There is no single Hindu text, but the *Upanishads* & *Vedas* are important works
Hinduism

Impact on society:

- Hinduism & caste system dominate all aspects of one’s life, such as who people can marry & how to dress.
Quick Class Activity:
Examine the image and the quote below & guess how Buddhism is different from Hinduism.

Let him not despise what he has received, nor should he live envying the gains of others. The disciple who envies the gains of others does not attain concentration.

—Buddhist scripture, The Dhammapada (Verses of Righteousness)
Buddhism

Origins:

- Buddhism was created by Siddhartha Gautama who abandoned a noble life in search of enlightenment.
- After a period of meditation, Siddhartha gained enlightenment & became known as the “Buddha.”
Basic Beliefs:

- Like Hinduism, Buddhists believe in moksha & reincarnation.
- But, Buddhists rejected the caste system & the idea that only Brahmins can achieve nirvana.
Basic Beliefs:

The major teaching of Buddhism are the Four Noble Truths.

Buddhists believe they can achieve nirvana by following the Eight-Fold Path.

- Control your thoughts.
- Resist evil.
- Practice meditation.
- Free your mind of evil.
- Say nothing to hurt others.
- Work for the good of others.
- Know the truth.
- Respect life.

The Eightfold Path

Buddhists believe they can achieve nirvana by following the Eight-Fold Path.
Impact on society:
- Women & Hindus in the lowest castes were attracted to Buddhism
- Missionaries spread Buddhism into Asia
Closure Activity

- Complete the comparison chart on the back of your notes.
  - What are the characteristics of Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism?
  - Be prepared to answer some discussion questions when finished.
# Three Major Religions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hinduism</th>
<th>Buddhism</th>
<th>Judaism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Number of Gods</strong></td>
<td>Many gods, all faces of Brahman</td>
<td>Originally, no gods</td>
<td>One God</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Holy Books</strong></td>
<td>Vedas; Upanishads, <em>Mahabharata</em>, and others</td>
<td>Books on the teachings and life of the Buddha</td>
<td>The Torah and other books of the Hebrew Bible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Moral Law</strong></td>
<td>Karma</td>
<td>Eightfold Path</td>
<td>Ten Commandments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Leaders</strong></td>
<td>Brahmins</td>
<td>Monks</td>
<td>Priests, judges, kings, prophets</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Final Goal</strong></td>
<td><em>Moksha</em></td>
<td>Enlightenment, Nirvana</td>
<td>A moral life through obedience to God’s law</td>
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