

AP WORLD HISTORY 9

Religions of Salvation: Buddhism, Mahayana Buddhism, and Popular Hinduism

Buddhism – Use textbook pages 219-221 to fully answer the following questions.

1. What cause Gautama to become dissatisfied with his very comfortable life?
2. Identify the “Four Noble Truths.”
3. What is the “Eightfold Path?”
4. How would the Eightfold Path lead Buddhists to “personal salvation”? (AND, what was meant by “personal salvation”?)
5. Why was Buddhism particularly appealing to those in the lower castes?
6. Identify any 3-4 additional reasons why Buddhism was a very appealing religion in India?

Mahayana Buddhism – Use textbook pages 222-224 to fully answer the following questions.

1. What were the THREE new developments in Buddhism between the 3rd century BCE and the 1st century CE that lead to an explosive popularity of the religion?
2. What does “Mahayana” mean? Where does Mahayana Buddhism become popular, illustrating the diffusion of the religion?

Popular Hinduism - Use textbook pages 224-227 to fully answer the following questions.

1. Carefully read the section on the Bhagavad Gita just to understand what the story is about and its importance!!
2. Carefully read the section on “Hindu Ethics.” How did the teachings of the Bhagavad Gita differ from previous Hindu teachings, AND how did it help Hinduism become more popular and accessible among the people of India?
3. In what ways did the Guptas help facilitate the popularity of Hinduism in India?