

Gupta Empire

Learning objective: Will will analyze the geographic, political, economic, religious, and social structures of the Gupta Empire.

Gupta Empire

- ◆ After 500 years of fighting, another Chandragupta took power creating the Gupta dynasty.
- ◆ Samudragupta took over after his father's death and the Gupta dynasty lasts for about 200 years.
- ◆ The Gupta emperors had an advantage over the Mauryan rulers as the Gupta empire was smaller and easier to manage.

Trade and Wealth in Gupta

- ◆ The Gupta Empire grew wealthy from trade.
(salt, cloth, iron)
- ◆ Trade created jobs and allowed for cities to grow up along trade routes.



Trade and Wealth

- ◆ Pilgrims used trade routes to travel to religious shrines.
- ◆ Just as cities today make money from tourism, cities with famous temples became wealthy from pilgrim's religious donations.



Gupta Society

- ◆ The Guptas were hindus unlike Asoka and the Mauryan dynasty.
- ◆ Hinduism was made the official religion and money was given to Hindu scholars and Hindu shrines.
- ◆ During the Gupta Empire art, literature, science, and math began to develop.

Indian Literature

- ◆ The Vedas of India are hymns and prayers used in religious ceremonies.
- ◆ The Vedas were recorded in Sanskrit after the Aryan invasion.
- ◆ The epics Mahabharata and **Ramayana** are 2 poems that are still famous in India today.

Literature and Music

- ◆ Kalidasa was a writer who lived during the Gupta dynasty. He wrote the poem *The Cloud Messenger*, a popular sanskrit poem.
- ◆ Music was also an important part of religious and social lives.



Math

- ◆ Aryabhata was a mathematician who was one of the first to use algebra.
- ◆ Mathematicians in the Gupta empire developed symbols for the numbers 1-9 that we use today.
- ◆ They also invented algorithms and the ideas of zero and infinity.

Science

- ◆ Scientists followed and mapped the movements of the planets and stars.
- ◆ They understood the Earth was round and revolved around the sun. They also were aware of gravity.
- ◆ Scientists made advancements in metal technology making iron and steel tools.
- ◆ Doctors could perform operations and set broken bones. They even carried out an early form of plastic surgery.

