**4a Persia**

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| Built on earlier Central Asian and Mesopotamian civilizations, Persia developed the largest empire in the world.  Zoroastrianism was the main Persian religion, although other religions were tolerated. | Persian Empire   * Tolerance of conquered peoples * Development of an imperial bureaucracy * Construction of road system * Practice of Zoroastrianism * Religion of Persia * Belief in two opposing forces in the universe |

4b India

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| Classical Indian civilization began in the Indus River Valley, spread to the Ganges River Valley, and then spread throughout the Indian subcontinent. This spread continued with little interruption because of the geographic location.  Indo-Aryan people migrated into the area, creating a structured society (caste system) and blending their beliefs with those of the indigenous people.  During the Golden Age of classical Indian culture, Indian people made significant contributions to world civilization. | Physical barriers, such as the Himalayas, the Hindu Kush, and the Indian Ocean, made invasion difficult.  Mountain passes in the Hindu Kush provided migration routes into the Indian subcontinent.  The Indus and Ganges were the important rivers in the Indian subcontinent.  Indus River Valley civilization   * Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro   Aryans (Indo-Aryans)   * Migration, assertion of dominance * Caste system, which influenced all social interactions and choices of occupations   Mauryan Empire - Asoka   * Continued political unification of much of India * Contributions: Spread of Buddhism, free hospitals, veterinary clinics, good roads   Gupta Empire   * Golden Age of classical Indian culture * Contributions: Mathematics (concept of zero), medical advances (setting bones), astronomy (concept of a round earth), new textiles, literature |

4c Hinduism

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| Hinduism was an important contribution of classical India.  Hinduism influenced Indian society and culture and is still practiced in India today. | Hinduism   * Belief in many forms of one God * Reincarnation: Rebirth based upon karma * Karma: Knowledge that all thoughts and actions result in future consequences * Vedas and Upanishads: Sacred writings * Spread along major trade routes |

4d Buddhism

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| Buddhism was founded by Siddhartha Gautama in a part of India that is in present-day Nepal.  Buddhism became a major faith when Asoka sent missionaries throughout Asia. | Buddhism   * Founder: Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha) * Four Noble Truths * Eightfold Path to Enlightenment   Asoka’s missionaries and their writings spread Buddhism from India to China and other parts of Asia. |

4e,f China, Confucianism, Taoism

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| Essential Understandings | Essential Knowledge |
| Classical China was centered on the Huang He (Yellow River) and was geographically isolated. Invaders entered China from the north. The Great Wall was built for China’s protection.  Chinese culture began around 1500 b.c. (b.c.e.). Of Chinese contributions to civilization, Confucianism and Taoism are among the most noted. | Migratory invaders raided Chinese settlements from the north. Qin Shi Huangdi built the Great Wall as a line of defense against invasions. China was governed by a succession of ruling families called dynasties. Chinese rulers were considered divine, but they served under a Mandate of Heaven only as long as their rule was just.  The Silk Road facilitated trade and contact between China and other cultures as far away as Rome.  Contributions of classical China   * Civil service system * Paper * Porcelain * Silk   Impact of Confucianism in forming the social order in China   * Belief that humans are good, not bad * Respect for elders * Code of politeness (still used in Chinese society today) * Emphasis on education * Ancestor worship   Impact of Taoism in forming Chinese culture and values   * Humility * Simple life and inner peace * Harmony with nature   Yin and yang represented opposites for Confucianism and Taoism.  Chinese forms of Buddhism spread throughout Asia. |