

Grade 2

Knowledge 9

Take-Home Pages

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Knowledge 9

Early Asian Civilizations: India and China

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

1.1

Take-Home

Dear Caregiver,

Today, your student heard a Read-Aloud about the Indus River and the civilization that began in a nearby valley. Over the next several days, your student will learn more about life in early Asia, specifically ancient India. Your student will hear more about the Indus River Valley civilization as well as the civilization that began around the Ganges River. They will learn about some key features of civilizations and hear some folktales from early India.

Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your student will learn about early Indian civilizations over the next few days.

1. Using a Map

Have your student locate the subcontinent of India on a world map. Remind your student that during the time period that we will call ancient India, present-day India and Pakistan were one country. Have your student tell you about the two mighty rivers in India and Pakistan, the Indus and the Ganges, and their significance to the beginning of early Indian civilization. Have your student describe how the rivers flooded and what the floodwaters left behind when they receded.

2. Words to Use

Below is a list of some of the words that your student will be learning about and using. Try to use these words as they come up in everyday speech with your student.

- *fertile*—The land around the Indus River is very fertile with nutrient-rich soil.
- *cultivate*—The rich soil in the Indus River Valley makes it easier for farmers to cultivate crops.
- *recede*—The people who live near the Indus River are happy when the flood waters recede.
- *durable*—The softer, more durable paper meant that books were easier to make.

3. Read Aloud Each Day

Reading to your student every day is very beneficial to their literacy development. You can check your local library for books on early Asian civilizations, such as India and China. Celebrate times when your student shares what they have learned at school.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

5.1

Take-Home

Dear Caregiver,

Your student has learned how early Asian civilizations came into existence and what life was like during this time period. Over the next several days, they will learn about early Chinese civilizations, Chinese inventions such as paper and silk, and the Chinese form of writing called calligraphy. Your student will also learn about the creation of the Great Wall of China and the teachings of the famous philosopher Confucius.

Below are some suggestions for activities that you may do at home to reinforce what your student is learning about early Asian civilizations over the next few days.

1. Using a Map

Have your student locate China on a world map. Have your student tell you about the two mighty rivers in China, the Yellow and the Yangtze, and their significance to the beginning of Chinese civilization. Have your student describe how the rivers flooded and what the floodwaters left behind.

2. Compare and Contrast

Have your student share what they know about the importance of writing and the invention of paper by the Chinese. Have your student compare and contrast the different types of writing surfaces that were used by the Chinese before paper was invented. Have your student share with you why some writing surfaces were better than others and how experimenting with different materials resulted in a smoother surface like the one we are familiar with today.

3. Sayings and Phrases: Easier Said Than Done/Practice What You Preach

Your student will learn about two sayings and their meanings in relation to the Great Wall of China and Confucius. Have your student share with you how the saying “easier said than done” relates to the Great Wall of China, that is, it was easier to say that there needed to be a protective wall in northern China than to actually build one; and how “practice what you preach” relates to Confucius, a man who believed that people also learned by example. Talk with your student about the meanings of and the situations in which you can use these two sayings.

4. Draw and Write

Have your student draw and/or write about what they have learned so far about early Chinese civilization and then share the drawing with you. Ask questions to help your student use the vocabulary learned at school.

5. Words to Use

Below is a list of some of the words that your student has been learning about and using. Try to use these words as they come up in everyday speech with your student.

- *remarkable*—It is remarkable that the writing system used in China today is very much like the one developed in the Yellow River Valley over three thousand years ago.
- *trade*—During the 13th and 14th centuries, Europe and Asia engaged in trade with one another along The Silk Roads.
- *transport*—People, donkeys, and goats were all used to transport the materials needed to build the Great Wall of China.
- *example*—Confucius believed that one could learn from books and also from the example of others.
- *prosperous*—Chinese people prepare for a prosperous year ahead during the two-week Lunar Calendar New Year celebration.

6. Read Aloud Each Day

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