

Classical Chinese Dynasty	Specific Characteristics	Significance
Zhou	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1029 – 258 BCE - used mandate of heaven to claim authority - worked to centralize the government - expanded territory to the south (Yangtze River Valley) - rulers (emperors) referred to themselves as Sons of Heaven - standardized spoken language 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increasingly centralized government with growing bureaucracy - expanding influence to include most of east and southeast Asia - increase in production of luxury goods, such as silk - increase in trade along Silk Roads - most advanced classical civilization, especially in terms of technology - basis of tradition established: patriarchy and government rule based on Confucian values
Qin	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 221 – 202 BCE - dynasty name gave name to country - expanded territory to the south (northern Vietnam) - construction of the Great Wall - standardized: weights, measures, money, written language - silk production encouraged and increased - construction of new roads 	
Han	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 200 BCE – 220 CE - bureaucracy strengthened - expanded territory south and west (central Asia, Korea, Indochina) - civil service exams based on Confucian values - trade increased (Silk Roads) - relative time of peace - patriarchy strengthened - technology: iron production, canals, irrigation systems, ox-drawn plows, collar for beasts of burden, paper manufacture, water-power mills - social structure: elites, peasants, artisans, unskilled laborers 	<p>Decline of Han China</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heavy taxes levied on peasants. • The decline of interest in Confucian intellectual goals. • Poor harvests. • Population decline from epidemic disease. • Social unrest, particularly by students. • A decline in morality. • Weak emperors and the increased influence of army generals. • Unequal land distribution. • A decline in trade. • Pressure from bordering nomadic tribes.
Decline	<p>As political, economic, and social decay befell Han China, Daoism gained a new popularity. In 184, the Yellow Turbans, a Daoist revolutionary movement, promised a new age of prosperity and security which would be initiated by magic. Buddhism also spread as Chinese cultural unity was dissolving.</p> <p>The decay of the Han empire made it difficult for the Chinese to resist nomadic invaders living along their borders. These invaders, or Hsiung-nu, had for decades been raiding Han China, prompting the Chinese to pay them tribute to prevent further invasions. By 220, however, Han China's strength had deteriorated to the point that it could no longer repel a final thrust by the invading Hsiung-nu, who then poured into the empire. The fall of Han China was followed by centuries of disorder and political decentralization until Chinese rulers in the northern part of the country drove out the invaders. In 589, the Sui dynasty ascended to power and continued to establish order in China. In spite of significant threats to Chinese civilization, it did ultimately survive. Confucian tradition endured among the elite classes, and the nomads eventually assimilated into Chinese culture.</p>	

Classical India	Specific characteristics	Significance
Aryan India	~1500 BCE, Aryans invade - Vedas: oral stories brought by Aryans, later written in Sanskrit - Vedic Age: early classical India (1500-1000 BCE) - Epic Age: period when great epics, such as the Ramayana, were created (1000-600 BCE) - Upanishads: basis for Hindu religion, collection of religious poems based on the Vedas patriarchy - social structure: distinctive/defined class system with Aryans on top, Dravidians (native Indians) below; largely based on ethnicity and complexion of skin (lighter-skinned Aryans vs. darker-skinned Dravidians); during Epic Age, Priests (Brahmins) became more important than the warrior/ruler class; untouchables = those outside of the social class system who performed “undesirable” jobs; gradually became a very rigid caste system - Religion: Aryans imposed their polytheistic beliefs which gradually blended with indigenous beliefs to form Hinduism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Aryans had huge influence over region, and their traditions and customs continue to influence India today - Development of Hinduism and Buddhism - Pattern: Periods of flourishing, united civilization followed by disintegration of the kingdom and fall to outside invaders
Mauryan Dynasty	322 BCE – 230 BCE - After Epic Age, India divided into 16 states, with Magadha the strongest - Chandragupta founds Mauryan dynasty - large army, united almost all of Indian subcontinent - large bureaucracy established - Ashoka (grandson of Chandragupta) known for ruthless conquering of India, later converted to Buddhism and helped spread Buddhism along the roads of India - construction of roads that connected to China’s Silk Roads After Ashoka’s death, kingdom divided again and invaders from the North ruled India until the Gupta’s rose to power	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Caste system: increasingly rigid and defined throughout the classical time period - increase in trade, especially along Silk Roads
Gupta Dynasty	320 CE – 550 CE - Hindu rulers, reinforcement of Hindu values, but Buddhism was tolerated local rulers retained control over local territories, provided they complied with Gupta law - Religion: solidification of Hindu values and traditions, construction of Hindu temples; Buddhism spread through urban monasteries - Patriarchy: women gradually lost status and privileges, married at younger age, sati (widow suicide by burning) - Sanskrit becomes language of educated - Technology/discoveries: zero as placeholder, Arabic numerals, decimal system, knowledge of astronomy, knowledge of surgical procedures and the prevention of illnesses - Trade: increase in volume of trade, especially with the East	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pattern: dramatic increases in technological and scientific discoveries, which had enormous impact as these ideas spread to the West
Decline	The fall of Gupta India to invading forces was less devastating than that of Han China or Rome. By 500, Gupta India endured a number of invasions by nomadic peoples who may have been related to the Huns whose migrations drove Germanic peoples over the borders of the Roman empire. Simultaneously, the influence of Gupta rulers was in decline as local princes became more powerful. Until about 600, the nomads drove farther into central India. India fragmented into regional states ruled by the princes, who called themselves Rajput. Although political decline occurred as a result of invasions, traditional Indian culture continued. Buddhism became less popular, while Hinduism added to its number of followers. Traditional Indian culture met another challenge after 600 in the form of the new religion of Islam.	

Classical Middle East	Specific Characteristics	Significance
Persia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 550 BCE - Cyrus the Great, first conqueror, expanded territory to include most of Southwest Asia - noted for tolerance of minorities - Religion: Zoroastrianism, emphasized rewards in the afterlife for living a good life, or punishment for leading a bad life - Technology: ironworking which spread throughout the empire - Public works: extensive road system (The Persian Royal Road) to link all parts of the empire - Trade: with West (Phoenicians, Greeks) and East (India, China, Southeast Asia) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Large empire “at the center of the world” - coming together of many cultures - roads facilitated trade and communication between east and west - rivalries between Persians and Greeks led to wars

Classical Mediterranean	Specific Characteristics	Significance
Greece	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1700 BCE, Greek migrations into the peninsula - 800 BCE, Greeks adopt alphabet from Phoenician traders - Geography: mountains and islands prevent to complete unification of Greek peoples under one ruler (instead Greece was a collection of loosely allied city-states); coastline allowed for easy access to the sea for trade and food - City-states: polis in Greek, Athens and Sparta were two of the largest and were also rivals - Sparta: aristocratic government; focus on strong military; slave labor; emphasis on agriculture - Athens: development of democracy (Pericles); many achievements in math, science, the arts, and philosophy; emphasis on trade; slave labor - Persian Wars: alliance of Athens and Sparta to defeat invading Persians - After Greek victory, Athens dominates Greek city-states - distrust for Athenian rule led to Peloponnesian Wars in which the city-states of Greece allied with either Athens or Sparta; Spartan victory coupled with widespread plague led to a deterioration of the power of Greek city-states - Culture: Greek theatre (tragedy and comedy); Olympic games; polytheistic religion with gods and goddesses vying for power and displaying human characteristics; Aristotle and the foundation of Greek philosophy - Expansion: Greek settlements/colonies throughout the Mediterranean (Italy, Eastern Mediterranean, Black Sea) 	<p>Political patterns established during the classical time continue to have an influence on the modern world</p> <p>Cultural traditions and customs shaped the arts for centuries</p> <p>development of major world religion: Christianity</p> <p>extensive trade brought new ideas and products to the region</p> <p>use of slave labor ultimately led to decline in economic expansion</p>

Classical Mediterranean	Specific Characteristics	Significance
Alexander the Great	<p>336 - 323 BCE</p> <p>Conquered Greece, Persia, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, parts of India</p> <p>Hellenistic culture: blending of Greek, Phoenician, Persian, Egyptian, and Indian cultures; later adopted by Romans</p> <p>Trade: Alexander's empire solidified trade contacts between Asia and the Mediterranean world</p> <p>Stoicism: use powers of reason to lead virtuous lives and assist others; popular philosophy during Hellenistic Age</p> <p>- Achievements: Euclidean geometry, Pythagorean Theorem, knowledge of anatomy, circumference of the world; geocentric theory (Ptolemy)</p>	<p>Political patterns established during the classical time continue to have an influence on the modern world</p> <p>Cultural traditions and customs shaped the arts for centuries</p>
Rome	<p>800 BCE: Kingdom of Rome</p> <p>509 BCE: king overthrown by aristocracy, beginning of Roman Republic ruled by the Senate (aristocrats)</p> <p>Expansion: Punic Wars bring defeat of Carthaginians (prime rivals) and domination of the Mediterranean; continued expansion in North Africa, Western Europe, and the Eastern Mediterranean coastal lands</p> <p>45 BCE: advent of Julius Caesar, beginning of transition from Republic to Empire</p> <p>27 BCE: Augustus Octavian Caesar becomes Emperor, beginning of Pax Romana</p> <p>Technology: large public works, such as aqueducts, roads, bridges; architecture such as the coliseum, roman arches (adopted from Greek architecture)</p> <p>Achievements: common coinage, common language (Latin), continuation of Greek/Hellenistic traditions and beliefs (alphabet, philosophy)</p> <p>Trade: extensive trade in Mediterranean and with the East along the Silk Roads in the Middle East</p> <p>Religion: Roman polytheistic religion based on Greek gods and goddesses; development of Christianity after birth and life of Jesus Christ in Judea</p> <p>Social structure: patriarchal; use of slave labor</p> <p>Government: during Republic, codification of Roman laws called the Twelve Tables (innocent until proven guilty; defendants may confront accusers in court; judges can nullify unjust laws); during Republic, legislative Senate with executive Consuls (two) and power to elect dictator in times of trouble; during Empire, rule of Emperor with Senate as advisors</p>	<p>development of major world religion: Christianity</p> <p>extensive trade brought new ideas and products to the region</p> <p>use of slave labor ultimately led to decline in economic expansion</p>
Decline	<p>The golden age of Rome—the Pax Romana—came to a close with the death of Marcus Aurelius in 180. Historians have noted a number of causes of the decline and fall of Rome including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ineffective later emperors concerned more with a life of pleasure than a desire to rule wisely. • The influence of army generals. • The decline of trade. • Increasingly high taxes. • A decreased money flow into the empire as conquests of new territory ceased. • Population decline as a result of epidemic disease. • Poor harvests. • Unequal land distribution. • Social and moral decay and lack of interest the elite classes. • Roman dependence on slave labor. 	

- The recruitment of non-Romans in the Roman army.
- The vastness of the empire, rendering it difficult to rule.
- Barbarian invasions.

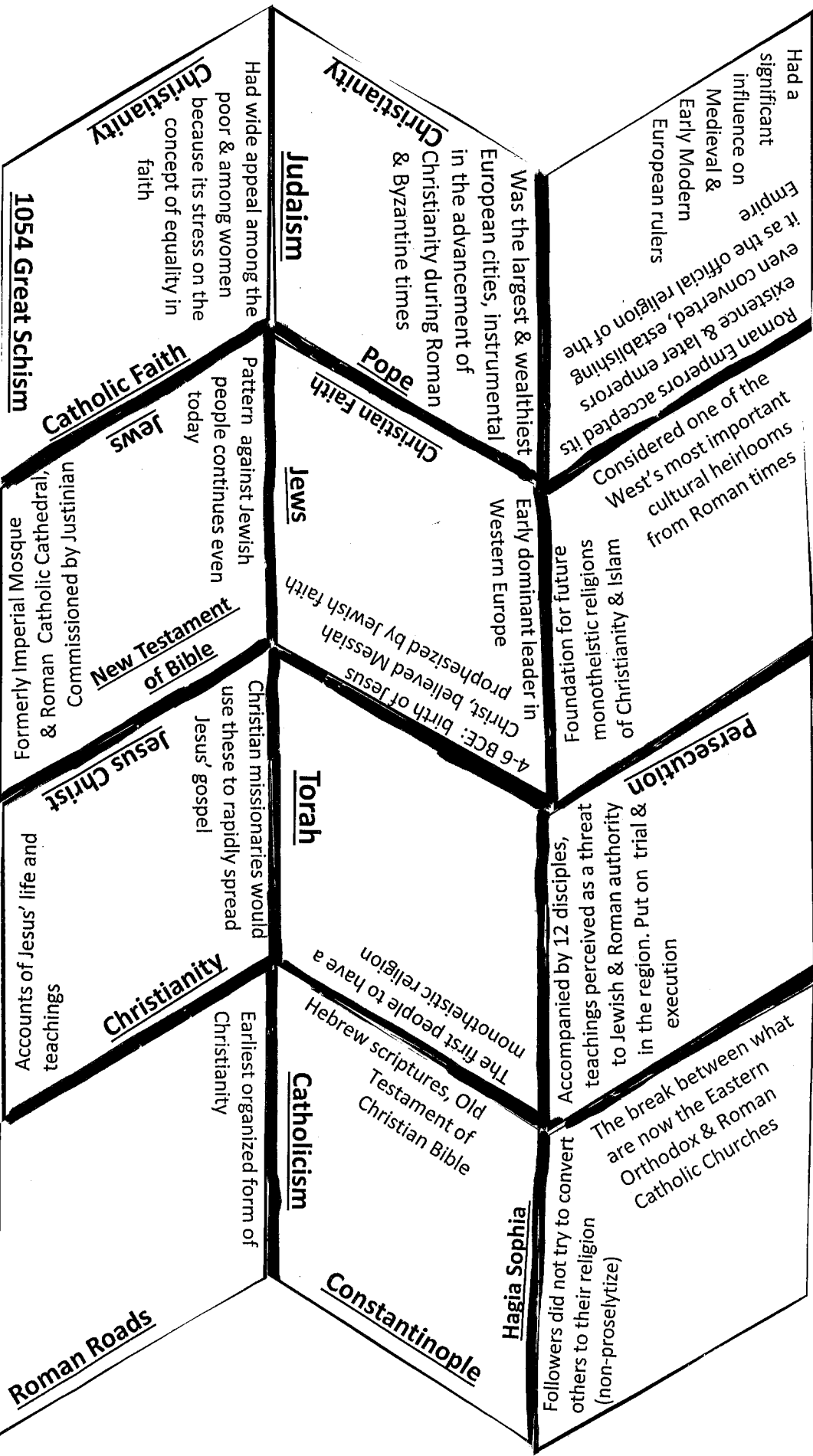
As the Roman Empire declined economically, small landowners were frequently forced to sell their land to the owners of large estates, or latifundia. The self-sufficiency of the latifundia lessened the need for a central authority such as the Roman emperor. Furthermore, the economic self-sufficiency of the estates discouraged trade among the various parts of the empire and neighboring peoples. The decline in trade eventually produced a decline in urban population.

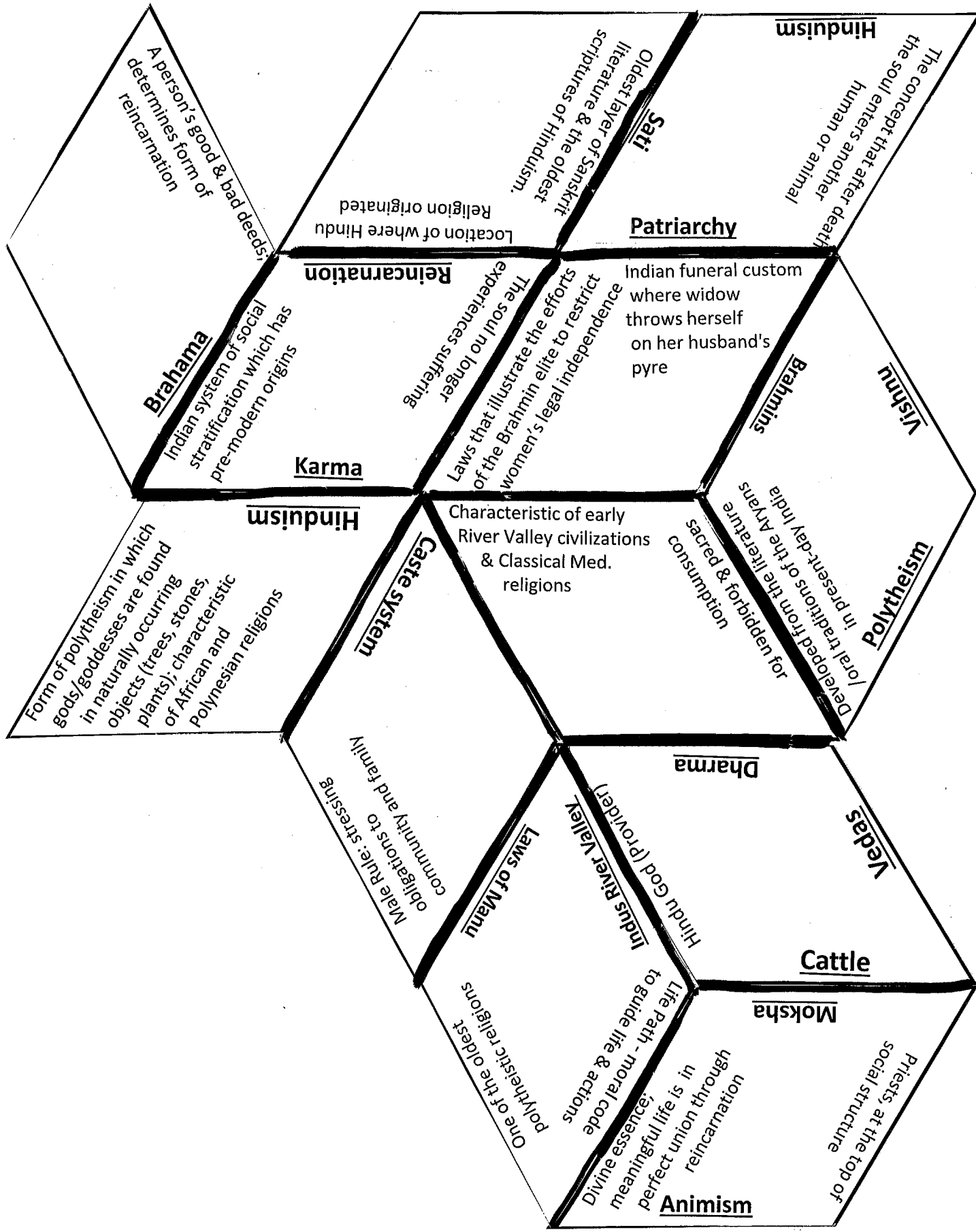
Some emperors tried desperately to save the empire. Diocletian (ruled 284–305) imposed stricter control over the empire and declared himself a god. When the Christians refused to worship him, Diocletian heightened persecutions against them. The Emperor Constantine (ruled 312 to 337) established a second capital at Byzantium, which he renamed Constantinople. Converting to Christianity, Constantine allowed the practice of the faith in Rome. Although the western portion of the empire steadily declined, the eastern portion, centered around Constantinople, continued to thrive and carry on a high volume of long-distance trade.

The last measure that weakened the western Roman empire originated in the steppes of Central Asia. In the fifth century, the nomadic Huns began migrating south and west in search of better pasturelands. The movement of the Huns exerted pressure on Germanic tribes who already lived around the border of the Roman Empire. These tribes, in turn, overran the Roman borders. By 425, several Germanic kingdoms were set up within the empire; by 476, the last western Roman emperor was replaced by a Germanic ruler from the tribe of the Visigoths.

The eastern portion of the empire did not fall at the same time as the western empire. One reason for its endurance was that it saw less pressure from invaders. Located on the Bosphorus, it was the hub of numerous trade routes and a center of art and architecture. Neighboring empires—most notably the Parthians and, after 227, the Sassanids—served as trade facilitators. Not only did they preserve the Greek culture, but they continued to bring Indian and Chinese goods and cultural trends to the eastern, or Byzantine, empire. The Byzantine Emperor Justinian (ruled 527 to 565) had attempted to capture portions of Rome's lost territory. Justinian's efforts were largely in vain, however, as the western empire increasingly fragmented into self-sufficient estates and tiny Germanic kingdoms. Trade and learning declined, and cities shrank in size. The centralized government of Rome was replaced by rule based on the tribal allegiances of the Germanic invaders.

Why you should know this: You are required to know specific characteristics about the Classical civilizations, as well as the significance of these civilizations in terms of their impact at the time, and the lasting influence these civilizations produced. You will be asked multiple choice questions about specific characteristics of each. You will also be asked to make comparisons between the classical civilizations. Comparative questions may be in the form of multiple choice or a comparative essay.





The is suffering. Suffering has an origin, Suffering can cease. There is a past out of suffering.

Confucianism

Served as lodging for traders, who learned of the teachings of Buddhism

"The Way"
(the life force found in nature)

Opposed caste system

The teachings of Siddhartha Gautama

Analects

Buddhism stressed equal treatment of all people

Nirvana (Buddhism)

Siddhartha Gautama

Chinese scholar & philosopher who studied the literature of the Zhou period & developed a theory of how to establish stability in China

Daoism

Meditation

Confucianism & Daoism remains primarily a Chinese belief system, however, elements of both have been adopted in areas that fell under Chinese control or imported heavily from Chinese culture

Bodhisattvas

"Buddha" the enlightened one, but NOT a deity

Confucius

Emerged between Zhou & Qin dynasties by Confucius

Confucius' teachings

Confucius' teachings which became the basis of the program of study for those wishing to enter China's bureaucracy

Buddhism

Depended on educated civil servants, stressed that the emperor was a positive role model

The cornerstone of Chinese tradition and culture; supported autocratic government in China & preserved patriarchal social structures/gender roles

contrast to Confucianism, teaches that political activism & education are not necessary to harmony in nature because the natural flow of events would resolve problems

Four Nobel Truths

Relief from worldly suffering through the union of soul with divine spirit

Monasteries

the belief that, through meditation, ordinary people could reach nirvana.

Confucius Government

Stressed in Daoism & Buddhism

The 8 Fold Path

Area of Influence