Aim: What led to the Gupta Golden Age? How did the Gupta Golden Age impact India?

Homework: Use p. 75-79 to complete your Gupta Golden Age Chart

Test - Wed.
Objective:
What led to the Gupta Golden Age? How did the Gupta Golden Age impact India, other regions, and later periods in history?

- Contextualize the Gupta Golden Age.
- Explain the impact of the Gupta Golden Age on India, other regions and later periods in history.

Introduction
Directions: Read the definition of golden ages, then complete the tasks that breakdown the definition.

Historians refer to certain time periods of some civilizations as golden ages.

Golden ages are periods of great wealth, prosperity, stability, and cultural and scientific achievement.

Let’s break down the definition...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>period</th>
<th>span of time</th>
<th>wealth</th>
<th>a large amount of money</th>
<th>prosperity</th>
<th>success</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. What other time periods have you learned about?</td>
<td>2. What effects might wealth have on a civilization?</td>
<td>3. Describe the characteristics that prosperous civilization might have.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Paleolithic Period</td>
<td>Neolithic Revolution</td>
<td>River Valley</td>
<td>Classical Period</td>
<td>Trade Routes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>stability</td>
<td>consistency</td>
<td>use money to improve society</td>
<td>encourage business trade</td>
<td>trade art, literature, music</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4. Explain why a stable civilization is more likely to have a golden age than an unstable civilization.
5. Given what culture means, give an example of what might count as a cultural achievement.
6. Identify one scientific achievement that you learned about in history class this year.

- strong government
- written Code of Law
- creating a religion
- Art, Music, Literature
- Medicine
- Heart transplants
- Microscope

UNIT 3 | Classical Civilizations | SQ 14: What led to the Gupta Golden Age? How did the Gupta Golden Age impact India, other regions, and later periods in history?
Why Golden Ages are Important to Historians

During Golden Ages, a lot of new ideas and innovations are produced in visual arts, architecture, literature, philosophy, and science and technology in a relatively short period of time in one geographic area, but these new ideas and ways of doing things do not stay in one place for long. They are carried to other civilizations through cultural diffusion and passed down to new generations through the process of collective learning.

Golden Ages move human intellectual and technological life ahead by leaps and bounds. These spurts of growth in our collective ability to understand the world around us, express it through art, and invent new ways of doing things have been important in getting the human race to where it is today.

The Gupta Golden Age Museum Walk

A lot of the artifacts that appear in museums come from the golden ages of civilizations.

In this activity, you will visit exhibits on the Gupta Golden Age. As you learn about the Gupta Empire, fill out the appropriate row in the Golden Ages of Classical Civilizations Graphic Organizer.

UNIT 3 | Classical Civilizations | SQ 14: What led to the Gupta Golden Age? How did the Gupta Golden Age impact India, other regions, and later periods in history?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GOLDEN AGE</th>
<th>Prosperity and Stability</th>
<th>Visual Arts and Architecture</th>
<th>Literature, Music, and Poetry</th>
<th>Science, Mathematics, and Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gupta</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Gold</td>
<td>Standardized currency</td>
<td>Nine Gems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Empire (200 CE)</td>
<td>- went</td>
<td>- coins</td>
<td></td>
<td>Gems/ Poems/ Plays</td>
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23:16-26:38
<table>
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<tr>
<th>GOLDEN AGE</th>
<th>Prosperity and Stability</th>
<th>Visual Arts and Architecture</th>
<th>Literature, Music, and Poetry</th>
<th>Science, Mathematics, and Technology</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Gupta Empire (320-550 CE) | - Military alliances  
- Aggressive expansionist policy  
- Standardized money  
- Taxed trade and made money from it  
- Silk Road | - Udayagiri Caves  
- Ajanta Caves  
- Metallurgy  
- Stepwells | - Scholars/ Nine Gems  
- Kalidasa, one of the most important scholars | - Had their own coin made during the Gupta Golden age  
- Swords, and metal bows (bow and arrow)  
- Advanced in trigonometry  
- Close to finding the value of π |
The Gupta Empire ruled parts of India from 320-550 CE. Chandragupta II was one of the most powerful emperors of the Gupta empire. His rule spanned from 375 to 415 C.E. when the Gupta empire was at its height, often referred to as the Golden Age of India. He attained success by pursuing both favorable military alliances and an aggressive expansionist policy which made it possible for him to control a vast empire.

In addition to military prowess, Chandragupta II elevated culture, art, mathematics, philosophy, religion, and astronomy during his reign.

The Gupta Empire and conquests of its most powerful rulers.

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Exhibit B: Trade, Prosperity, and Wealth

Standardized Money

Golden Ages require a lot of wealth. For artists and scientists to devote themselves to their work, they need someone to pay them for it so they can focus on their scholarly pursuits. Usually wealthy families or governments provide this support.

The government funded many of the innovations during the Gupta Dynasty. The government regulated and taxed trade and earned money from the mines and land it owned.

As evidence of the Gupta government’s control and support for trade in the economy, archaeologists have unearthed many coins created by the Gupta government. The coins show that the Gupta had the technology and power to mass-produce them, and the power needed to get merchants to use them. This also made it possible for the government to more easily tax business transactions.
Exhibit C: Trade, Prosperity, and Wealth

Located On Trade Routes Between Rome and China
The Gupta ruled the largest and most prosperous empire in India, but in the first centuries CE it was not the most powerful in the world. To the west, Rome ruled the area around the Mediterranean Sea, and to the east, the Han Dynasty controlled China. The stability that the Roman, Han, and Gupta Empires brought spurred trade in Asia on the Silk Roads. This greatly benefited all three empires and the areas in between. Wealth and ideas passed along the trade network providing the money and ideas necessary for Golden Ages.

Classical Civilizations ca. 400 CE

Key
- Territory that was not controlled by a large government

Pataliputra, the capital of the Gupta Empire


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Exhibit D: Visual Arts and Architecture

Visual Arts and Architecture: Gupta Cave Shrines
Most of the examples we have of Gupta sculpture and architecture were inspired by Hinduism and Buddhism. The most well-preserved and impressive of these examples are reliefs carved out of caves.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Udayagiri Caves</th>
<th>Ajanta Caves</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The image below is of a sculpture carved out of a cave wall of the Hindu god Vishnu in a boar-headed incarnation. It is roughly 23 feet tall and 13 feet wide.</td>
<td>The Ajanta Caves are covered in carvings and paintings that depict the lives of the Buddha.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Exhibit E: Literature

Some sources state that Chandra Gupta II supported literature and science in his empire directly by providing for a circle of scholars known as the Nine Gems in his court. A writer named Kalidasa stood as the greatest among them. He authored numerous pieces of literature, poems and plays, earning him the title of “the Shakespeare of India.”
Scholars during the Gupta period made important advances in mathematics including:
- a close approximation of the value of π (pi)
- advances in trigonometry
- the use of negative numbers
- the use of decimal points

π

Exhibit G: Science and Technology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stepwell Architecture</th>
<th>Metallurgy and the Iron Pillar of Delhi</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Watch an excerpt of &quot;Ancient India's Contributions to the World&quot; (23:16-26:38) about stepwells.</td>
<td>Indian metal workers were known for their expertise in ancient times. The swords used by their soldiers were admired by other armies for their strength and the officers carried metal bows. In Delhi, there is an iron pillar from the Gupta era that stands 23 ft tall. It is over 1,500 years old but has very little rust or wear.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stepwell in Abhaneri, India

Iron Pillar of Delhi.

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Directions: Based on what you have learned about the Gupta Golden Age, complete the prompts below.

FA 1. Contextualize the Gupta Golden Age by completing the following tasks:
  - Identify when and where the golden age took place
  - Describe the factors that led to the golden age

FA 2. Explain the impact of the Gupta Golden Age on India, other regions, and later periods in history by completing the following tasks:
  - Identify two innovations developed during the golden age
  - Describe the effects of those innovations on India, other regions and/or later periods in history

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