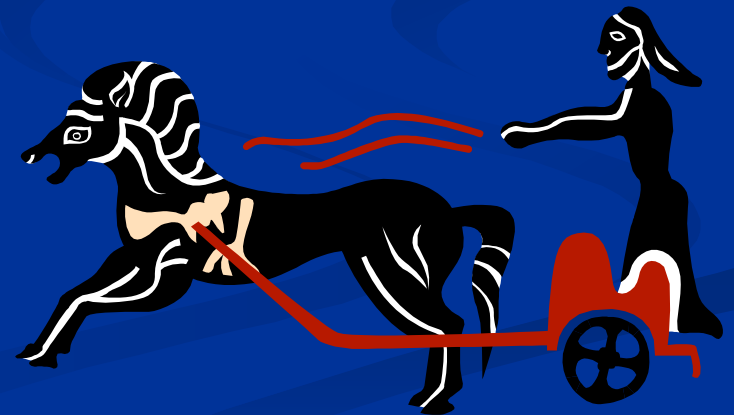


Ancient Indus Valley

The Arrival of the Aryans

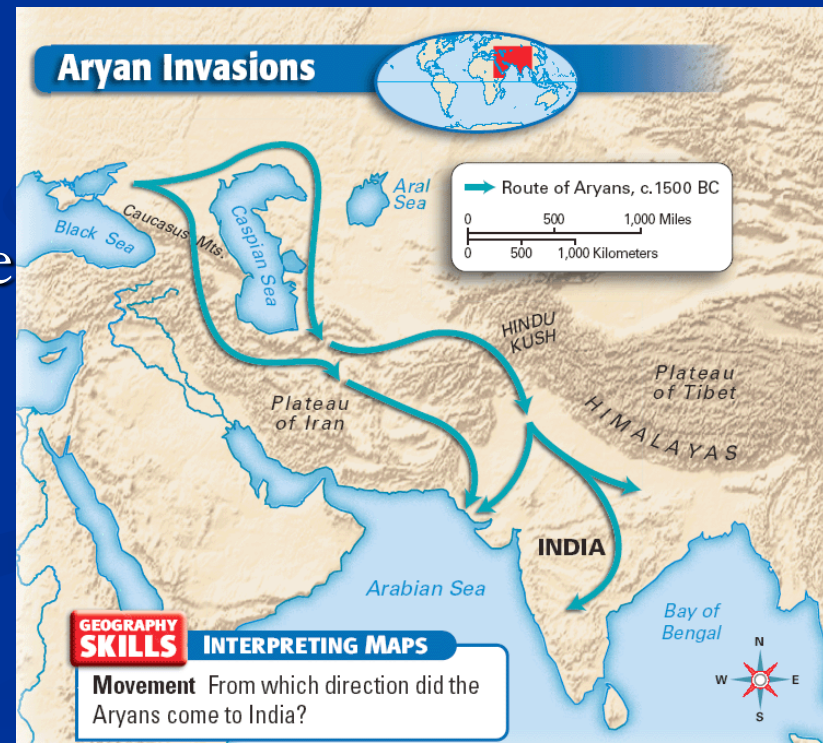
Harappan Civilization

- How did the great civilization disappear?
 - Natural Disaster
 - Decreasing Fertility of the Soil
 - Over-use of Resources
 - Migration
 - Aryan Invasion



Aryans

- The word Aryan means “nobles”
- The Aryans came from Central Asia
 - Came through the Hindu Kush Mountains
 - Their arrival changed the course of Indian history



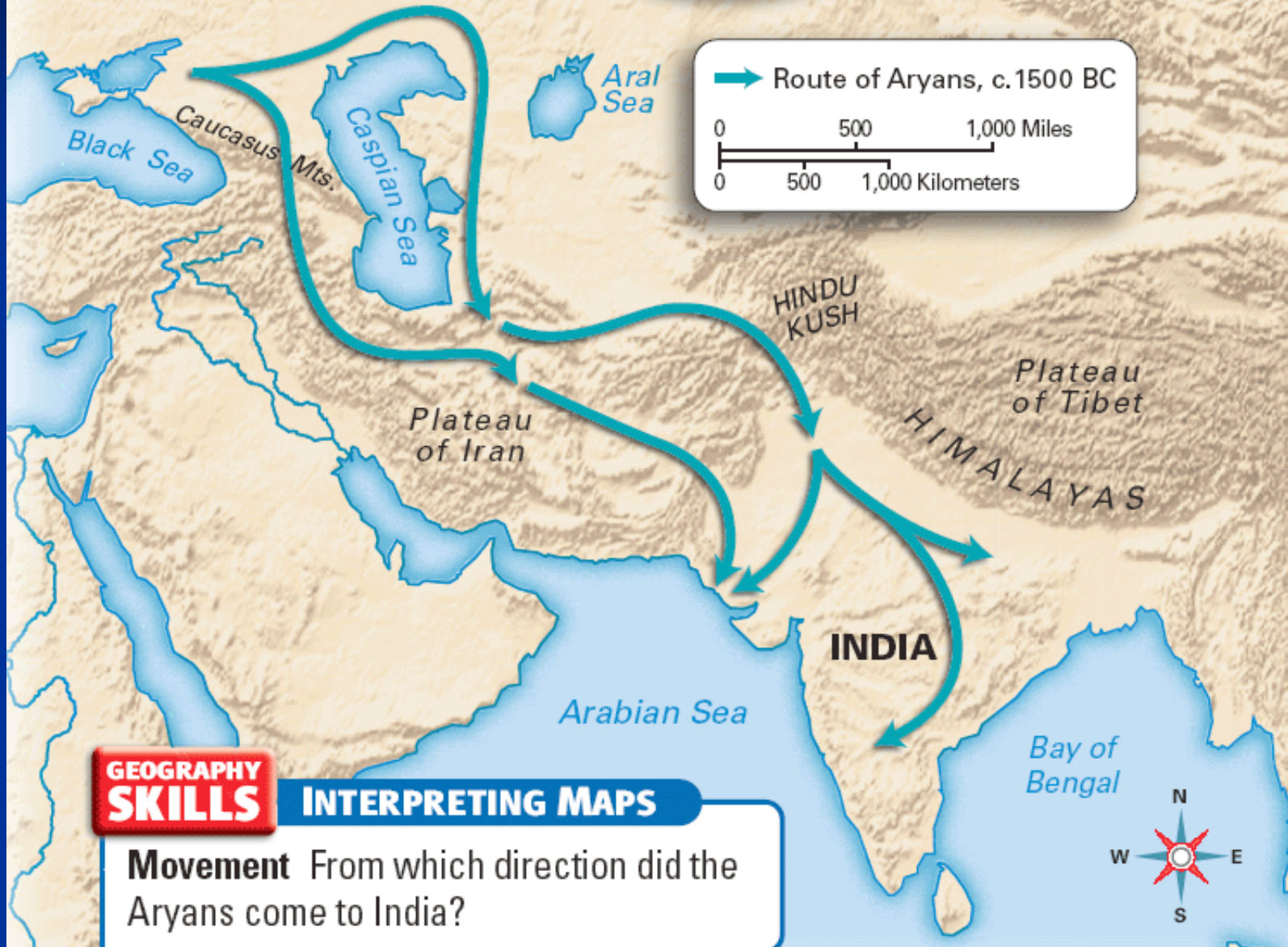
Indo-Europeans



- Aryans are part of a group called Indo-Europeans
 - People who herded cattle, goats, and sheep
 - Tamed the horse and developed a chariot
- 2000_{BCE} – The Aryans begin to migrate
 - Pasturelands dried up?
 - Population got too large?
 - Head toward the south – to India
 - Or NorthWest, towards Europe
- 1500_{BCE} – Aryans begin invading India
 - Come through the Hindu Kush



Aryan Invasions



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

Movement From which direction did the Aryans come to India?

What did they bring?

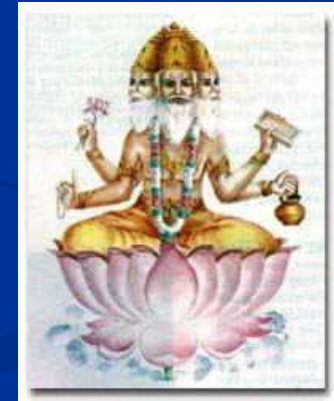
■ The Aryans brought many new ideas to India

■ New language – Sanskrit

सरस्वतीप्रार्थना

शारदा शारदाम्भोज-
वदना वदनाम्बुजे ।
सर्वदा सर्वदास्माकम्
सन्निधिस्सन्निधिं क्रियात् ॥

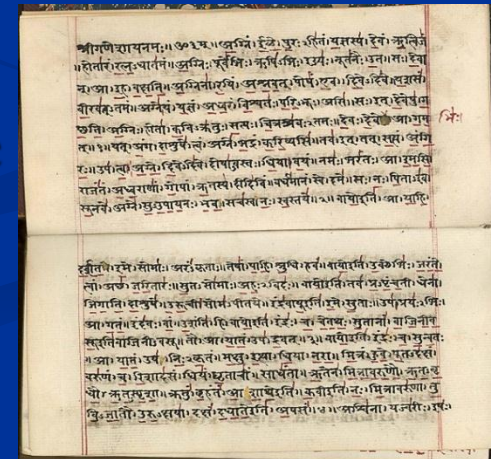
■ New gods and religion – Hinduism



■ New Social Structure – The Caste System

Aryan Religion

- Aryan houses have decayed, leaving no evidence
- The best evidence of the Aryans comes from their writing
 - Wrote religious beliefs and daily life in the Vedas
 - Vedas were passed down orally for thousands of years
 - 1500_{BCE} – 1000_{BCE} is known as Vedic Period
 - That's when the Vedas were written down
- Vedas were full of information on Aryan religion
 - Polytheism
 - Sacrificed food and drink over a Vedic Fire
 - Religion was very important
 - Priests were powerful



Aryan Social Structure



■ Four social classes (varnas)

- Priests – Brahmins
- Ruler and his Warriors - Kshatriya
- Merchants and Farmers - Vaishya
- Servants - Shudra



■ Only males of top three classes could study Vedas

- Called “Twice Born”
 - Had a second ritual birth after they began their studies



Aryan Classes

- Each class provided something for the people
 - Priests – Performed religious rituals
 - Kings/Warriors ruled and protected
 - Merchants provided goods like food and clothing
 - Servants served others
- Within each class = subgroup called jatis
 - Born into subgroup – stayed there your entire life
 - Could not move out of your jatis
 - Caste system – a system where you cannot change

Untouchables

- Aryans were very concerned with cleanliness/purity
- Jobs were ranked by purity
- People who did dirty jobs were outside caste system
 - Called “Untouchables”
 - People felt that the impurity could be transferred through touch

