

Name _____

Journey Through India's Rich History

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The Indus Valley Civilization was characterized by well-planned cities, advanced drainage systems, and a system of writing. Its contributions include the development of a unique script that remains undeciphered, evidence of trade with other regions, and a complex social structure. These contributions provide valuable insights into early Indian history.
2. The Gupta Empire's "Golden Age" witnessed advancements in mathematics, including the concept of zero and the decimal system. In art and architecture, the period saw the creation of intricate temple sculptures and the famous Iron Pillar of Delhi. Scientific achievements included the understanding of planetary motion and the compilation of medical texts like the "Charaka Samhita."
3. India faced numerous challenges during its struggle for independence, including British repression, economic exploitation, and communal tensions. Leaders like Mahatma Gandhi led movements such as non-cooperation and civil disobedience, which ultimately contributed to India's independence in 1947.
4. Jawaharlal Nehru played a crucial role in shaping independent India's early years. He served as the first Prime Minister and initiated policies for industrialization, infrastructure development, and education. His leadership aimed to establish a secular and democratic nation, and he laid the foundation for India's growth as a modern state.

