

# HISTORY OF HINDUISM

Evolved around a thousand years before Jesus **WHEN?**

Developed as a result of Aryan invasion of India **WHY?**

Aryans- Indo-Europeans who spread into Asia and Europe **WHO?**

2 world religions developed in South Asia- Hinduism and Buddhism **SIGNIFICANCE?**

# HINDU GODS

Brahman- Supreme Force of the Universe

Many Gods developed out of Brahman



# THE VEDAS

Ganges River- sacred to Hindus  
Sacred Texts: Vedas (contains eternal truths) and Upanishads (explains and interprets)



Moshka- when the soul is free to unite with Brahman



Yoga- meditation to lead to union with Brahman

Reincarnation- reborn based on past lives



Karma- every action affects the future

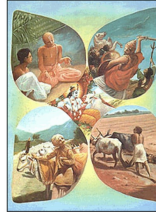


Nonviolence and Dharma- associated respect for nature with caste, duties

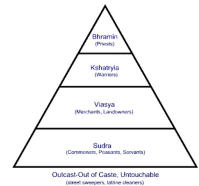
# CASTE SYSTEM

Caste System- rigid social and religious order

Jati- based on a person's occupation or family



Caste System Today:  
- Cities- less apparant, more diverse  
- Rural- fewer changes



Brahmins- Priests



Kshatriyas- Rulers and Warriors



Vaishyas- Peasants and Traders



Shudras- Laborers



Untouchables- Outside the caste system



# OTHER MAJOR RELIGIONS

ISLAM



BUDDHISM



Siddhartha Gautama (Buddha)

SIKHISM



JAINISM



Nonviolence and equality  
Inner peace  
Rejected caste system