**Chapter 4 Reading Guide: Early Societies in South Asia.** Directions: As you read pages 74-88, answer the following questions thoroughly.

**Terms:**

Indus River:

Harappa:

Mohenjo-Daro:

Aryans:

Dravidians:

Vedas:

Vedic Age:

Caste System:

Varna:

Jati:

Indra:

Upanishads:

Brahman:

Samsara:

Karma:

Dharma:

Moksha:

**Reading Guide:**

Why is our history of the early Harappan society incomplete?

Why do historians think that Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were important?

Using Map 4.1, describe the trade system between Harappa, Mesopotamia, and Egypt.

What caused the decline of Harappan society?

Describe Aryan society.

What are the Vedas and why are they important?

What are the four main castes?

How did the caste system emerge in India?

How did the caste system change over time?

Describe the early Aryan religion.

What role might interactions between Aryan and Dravidian peoples have played in the formation of new religious views?

**Big Picture Questions (Answer in 3-4 sentences for each question)**

1. How did civilizations develop in South Asia and grow more complex before 600 BCE?
2. What were the effects of this increasing complexity?
3. Where did the earliest civilizations develop in South Asia, and why did they develop in those locations?
4. Who ruled the early states of South Asia, and which segments of society usually supported the ruler?
5. What methods did rulers use to unify their populations?
6. What architectural forms did early civilizations produce?
7. Which social strata encouraged the development of art in ancient civilizations?
8. What forms of writing developed in ancient civilizations in South Asia? What is the importance of these forms of writing for archaeologists and historians?
9. What pre-600 BCE religions strongly influenced later eras?
10. How “big” were the pre-600 BCE trading regions connecting to South Asia?
11. How did social and gender identities develop pre-600 BCE in South Asia?
12. What was significant about cities created in South Asia?