

# APWH-Unit 2, Classical India

## Story of India: Power of Ideas

*As you watch the film, take notes addressing the questions below*

### Early Indian Society

1. What was the purpose of the caste system? What is the importance of social order in India?
2. How does this early ordering of society still affect India today?
3. What were the significant developments in philosophy and thought during the fifth century BCE in India and around the world?

### The Story of the Buddha

4. What did Buddha find in Bodhgaya?
5. Describe the central beliefs of Buddhism. How do they contrast with Hindu beliefs?
6. The Buddha states, "Let truth be your light." What did he mean by this?

### "But all things must pass."

7. What Buddhist ideas appealed to the rising class of merchants?
8. What aspect of Buddhism is considered a "step too far" for most Indians? Why did Buddhism decline so significantly in India in this time period?

### Chandragupta Maurya

9. How did Alexander the Great and his army influence Chandragupta Maurya?
10. What does Chandragupta's death tell us about religion and salvation in India?

## **Ashoka's Political Order**

11. How did Ashoka's character and beliefs change over the course of his reign?
12. How did Buddhism transform Ashoka?
13. What did Ashoka's animal protection edicts tell us about his larger perception of the world?
14. How did Ashoka blend religion and politics?
15. Why did the modern Indian government place Ashoka's Wheel of Law on its flag?