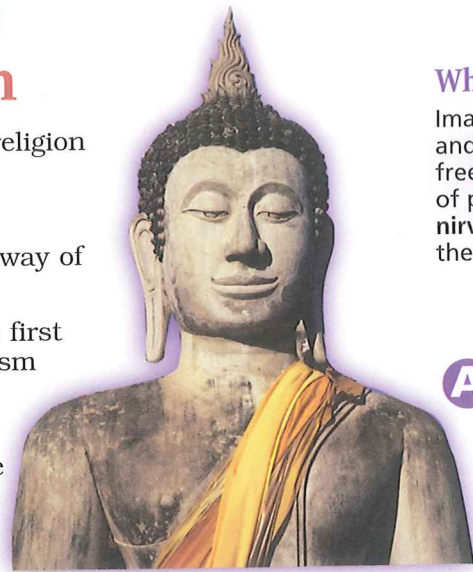


# Ancient India and the Spread of Buddhism



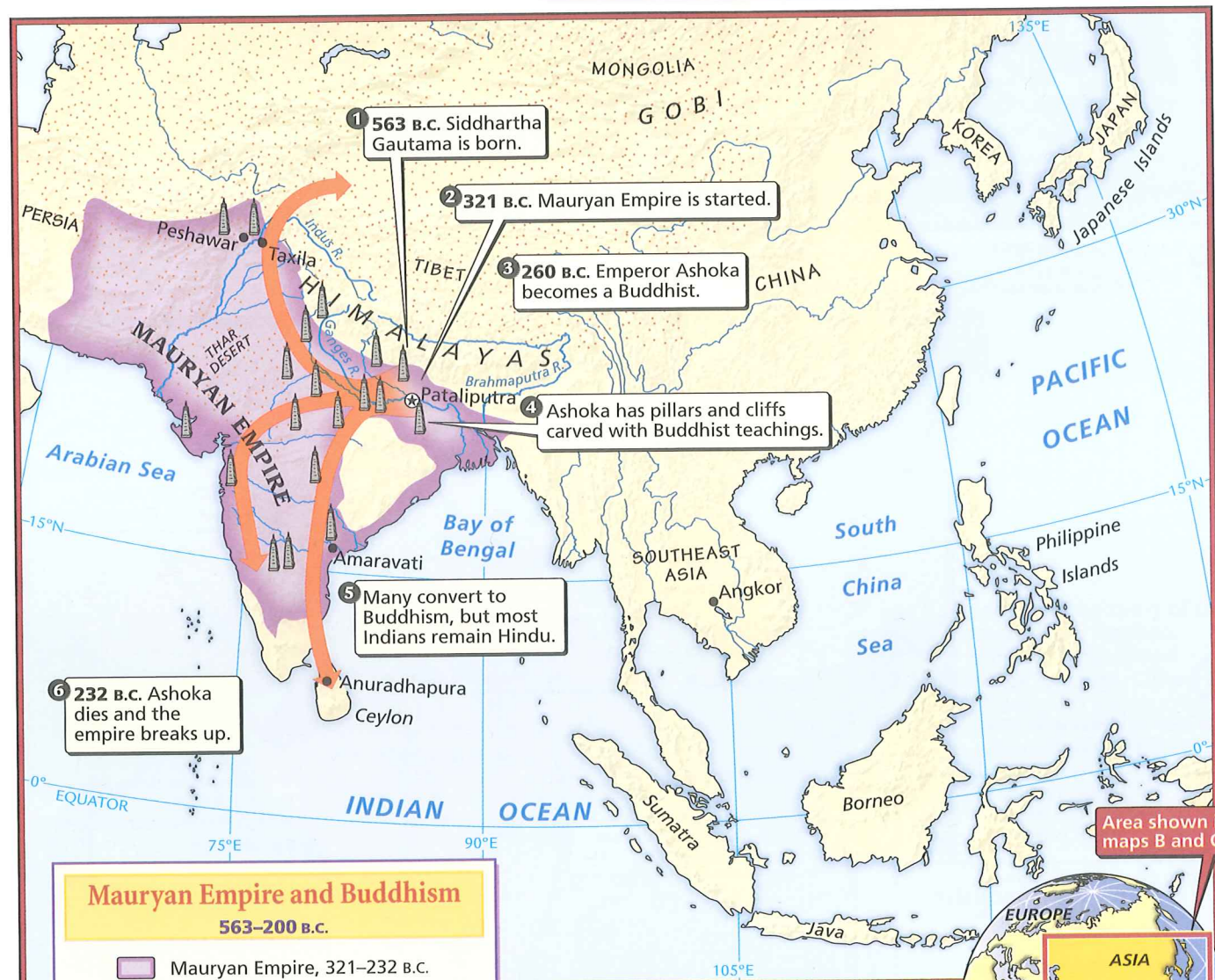
### What's nirvana?

Imagine having great wisdom and compassion and being free from suffering. This state of peacefulness is called **nirvana**. Reaching nirvana is the goal of Buddhism.

**A** The name **Buddha** means "the Enlightened One." Siddhartha Gautama was called Buddha because of his wise teachings on how to live a good life.

In addition to Hinduism, another major world religion developed in ancient India—**Buddhism**.

- Buddhism was based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama. He preached a new way of life to end suffering.
- The Mauryas united India and created the first Indian empire. During their reign, Buddhism spread throughout India.
- Later the Gupta Empire emerged. They started a golden age in India when culture and science thrived.

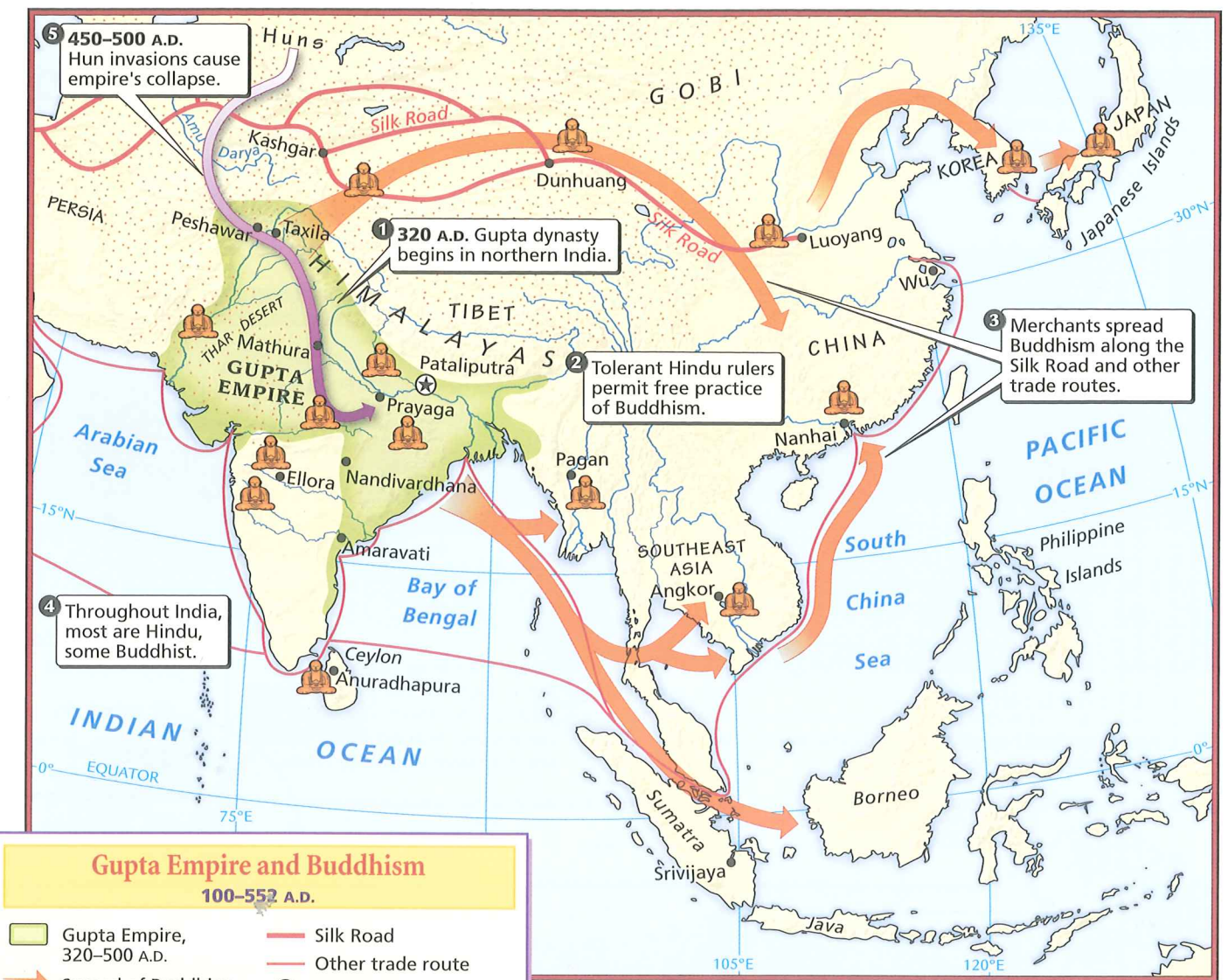
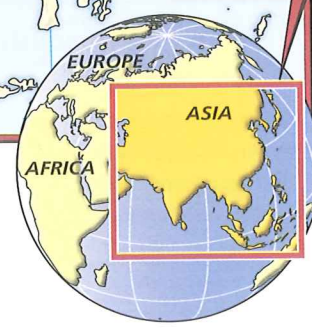


### Mauryan Empire and Buddhism 563–200 B.C.

- Mauryan Empire, 321–232 B.C.
- Spread of Buddhism by 200 B.C.
- ⚓ Buddhist teaching pillar
- ★ Capital
- TIBET Culture region
- ☁ Desert

0 500 1000 miles  
0 500 1000 kilometers

**B** India was mostly Hindu when the Maurya family built its empire. But the last Mauryan emperor helped spread Buddhism throughout India and to neighboring countries.



### Gupta Empire and Buddhism 100–552 A.D.

- Gupta Empire, 320–500 A.D.
- Spread of Buddhism, 100–552 A.D.
- Hun invasion
- Silk Road
- Other trade route
- ★ Capital
- ⚓ Major Buddhist site

0 500 1000 miles  
0 500 1000 kilometers

**C** The Gupta were Hindus, but they also tolerated the spread of Buddhism. Indian traders introduced Buddhism to faraway places.



Top 10 Cities, 100 A.D.		
Rank	City (Modern Country)	Population
1	Rome (Italy)	450,000
2	Luoyang (China)	420,000
3	Seleucia (Iraq)	250,000
4	Alexandria (Egypt)	250,000
5	Antioch (Turkey)	150,000
6	Anuradhapura (Sri Lanka)	130,000
7	Peshawar (Pakistan)	120,000
8	Carthage (Tunisia)	100,000
9	Wu (China)	90,000
10	Smyrna (Turkey)	90,000

**D** Which of these cities can you find on map C? Which were centers of Buddhism?