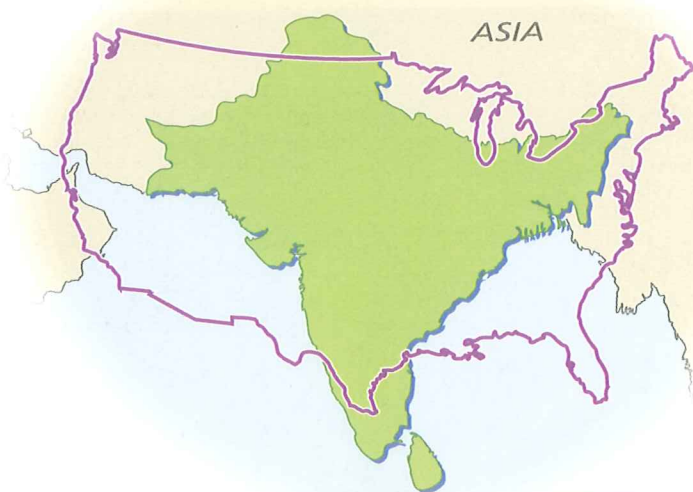


Ancient India and the Spread of Hinduism

One of the first civilizations and one of the world's oldest religions developed in ancient India.

- People began to settle in the Indus River Valley in south Asia about 6,000 years ago. Farming and herding communities developed.
- An advanced civilization with carefully planned cities developed in the valley. The Indus Valley Civilization thrived for 900 years.
- A large group of nomads, the Aryans, migrated to India. Their religious beliefs helped form a new religion called **Hinduism**.

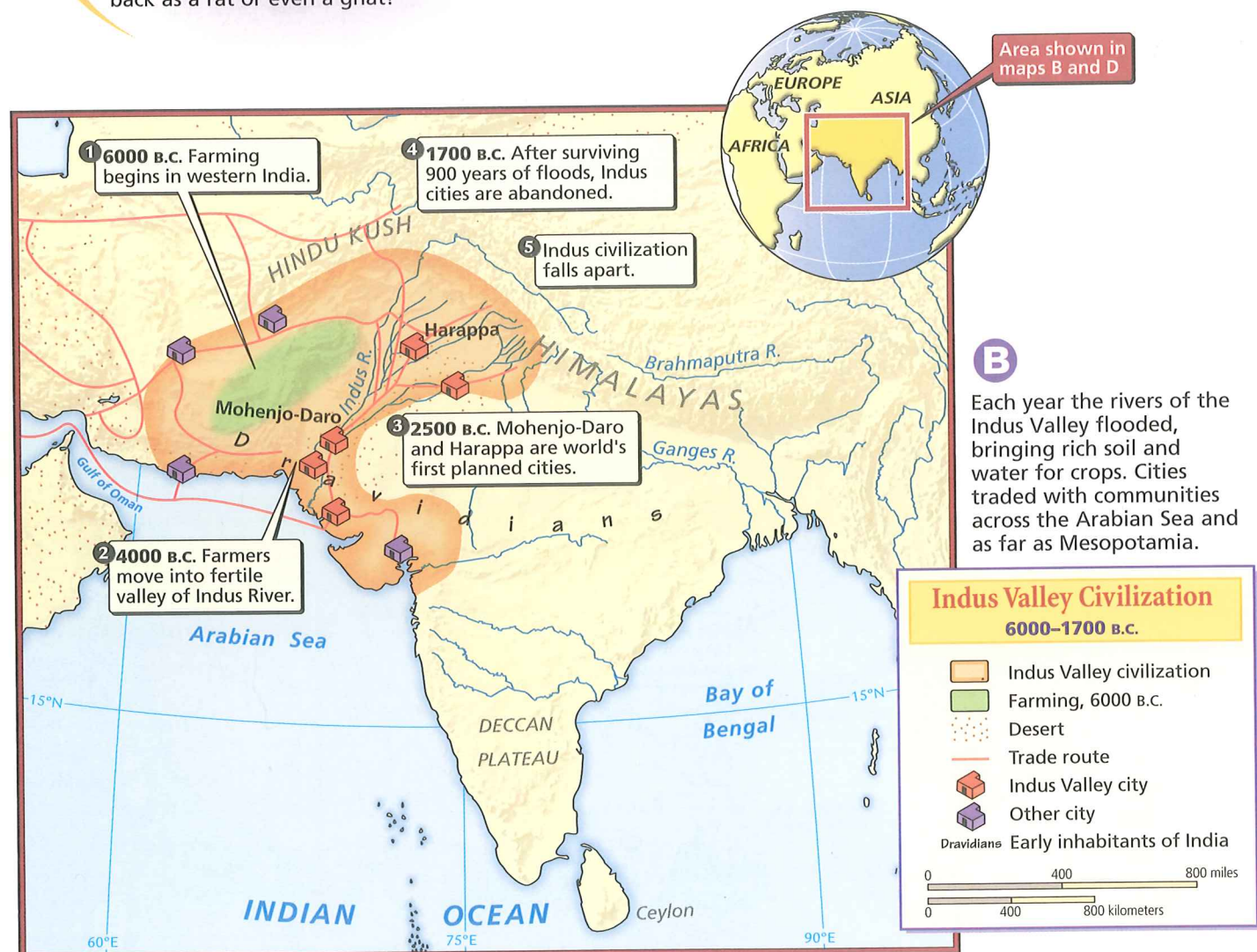


How Big Is the Indian Subcontinent?

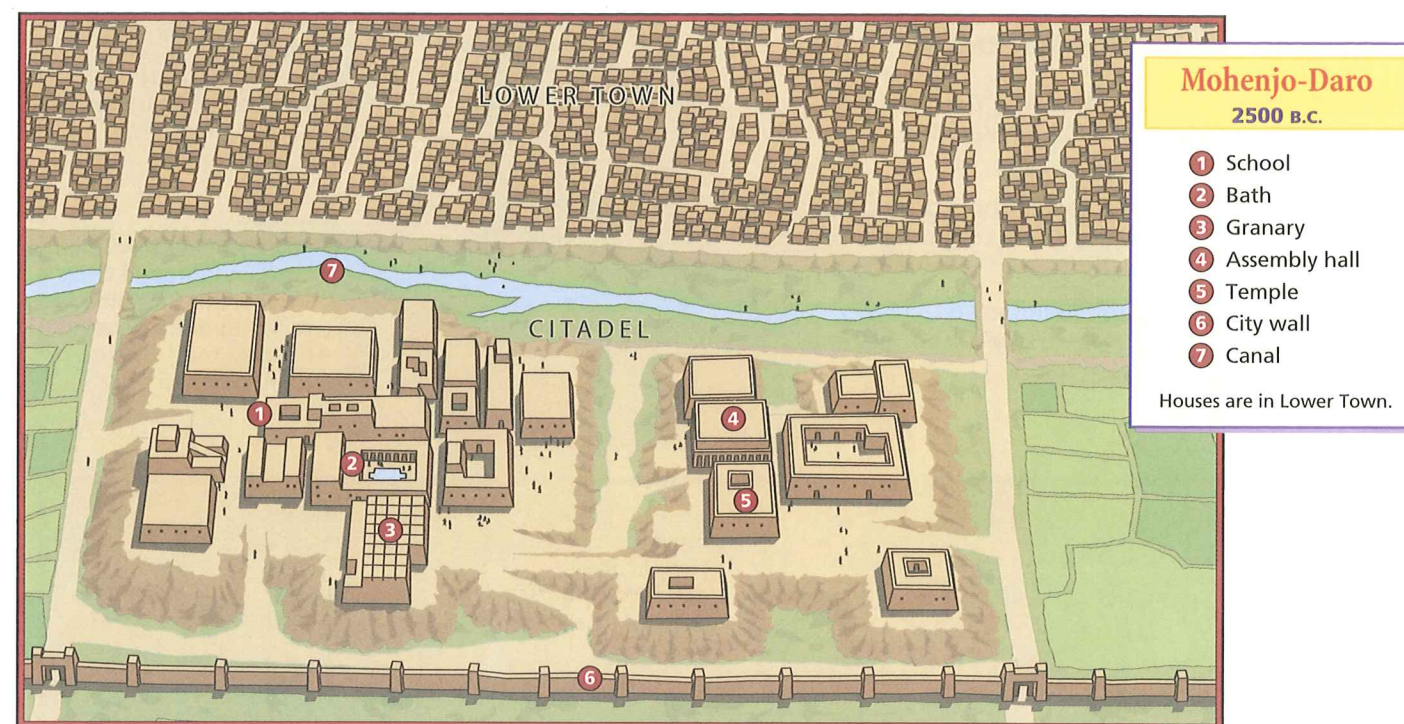
A India is part of a subcontinent that includes the modern countries of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan. (See their boundaries on page 129.)

What do Hindus believe?

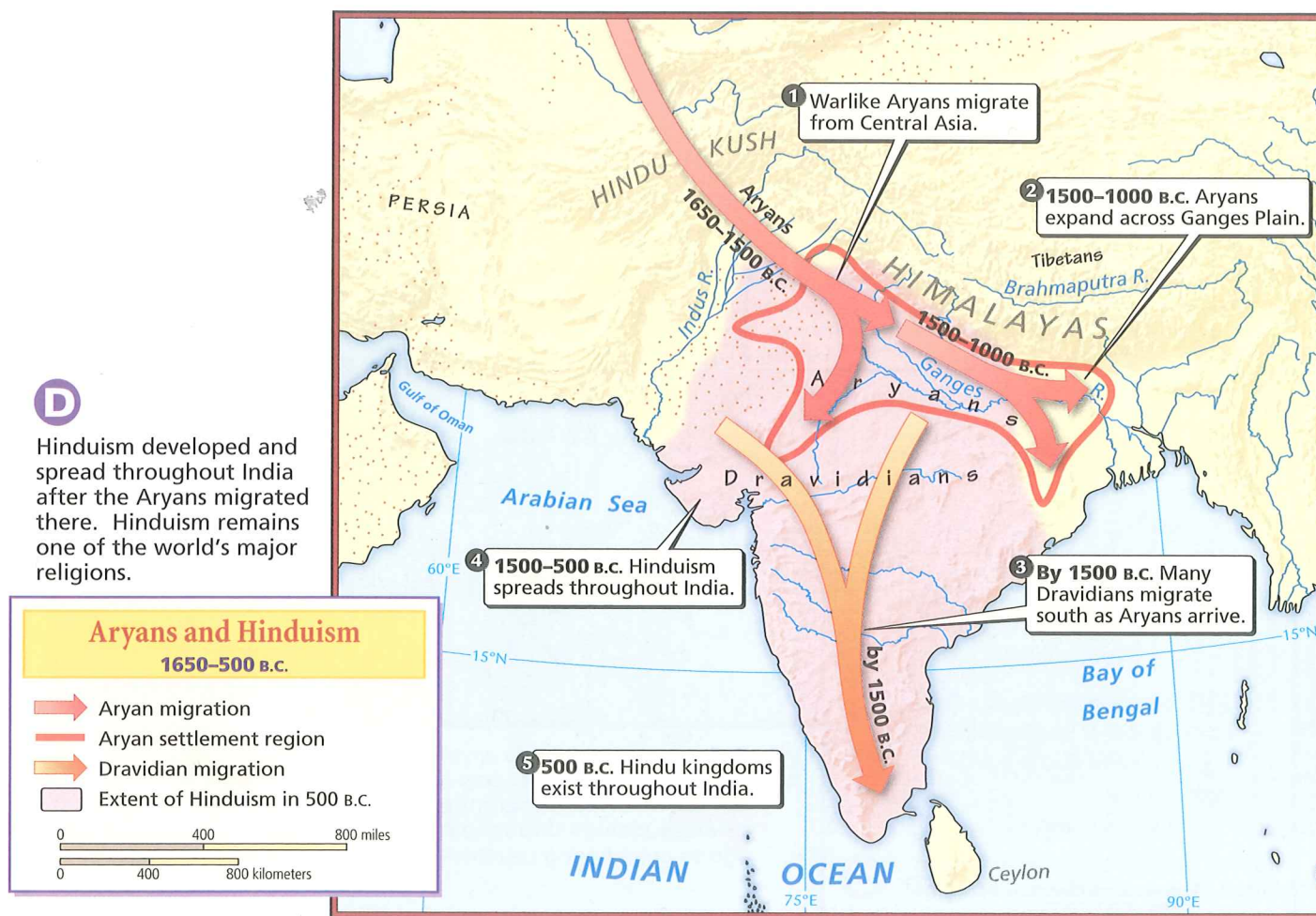
Hindus believe that all living things have many lives. If you do good things in this life, you will come back as someone wiser and better in your next life. If you do bad things in this life, you could come back as a rat or even a gnat!



B Each year the rivers of the Indus Valley flooded, bringing rich soil and water for crops. Cities traded with communities across the Arabian Sea and as far as Mesopotamia.



C Mohenjo-Daro had straight streets and large public buildings and meeting places. Its two-story houses were built of baked bricks, and many included rooms for bathing.



D Hinduism developed and spread throughout India after the Aryans migrated there. Hinduism remains one of the world's major religions.

Agriculture and Early Settlements

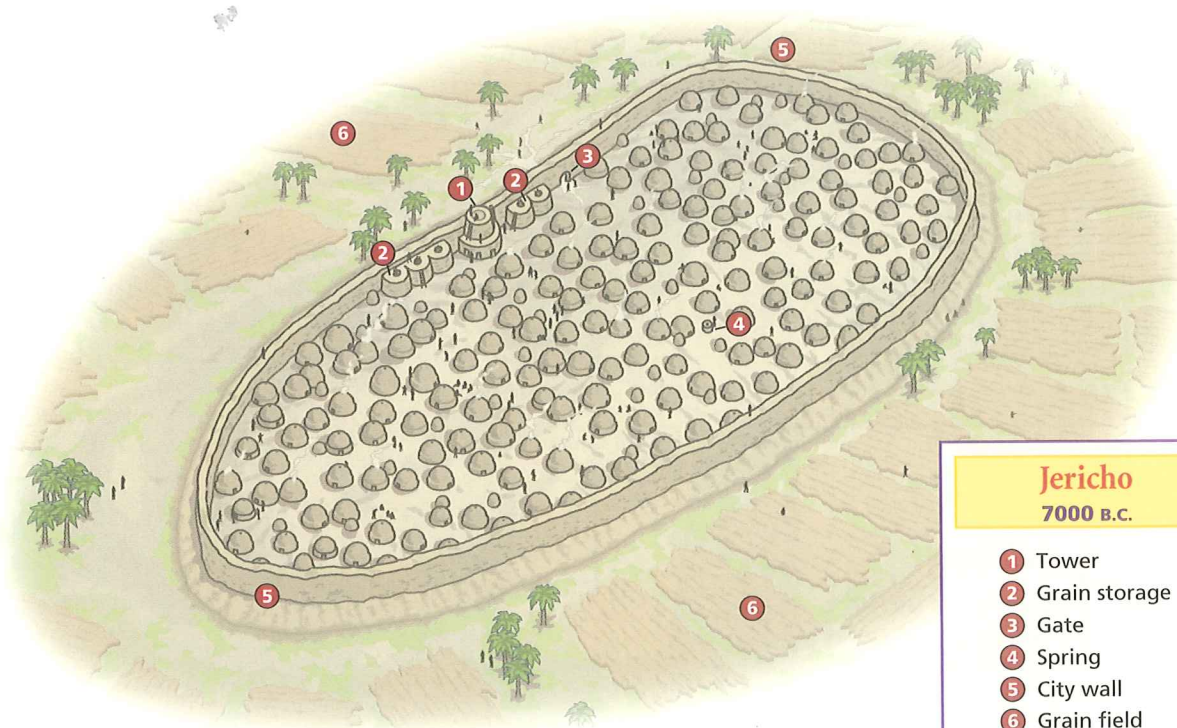
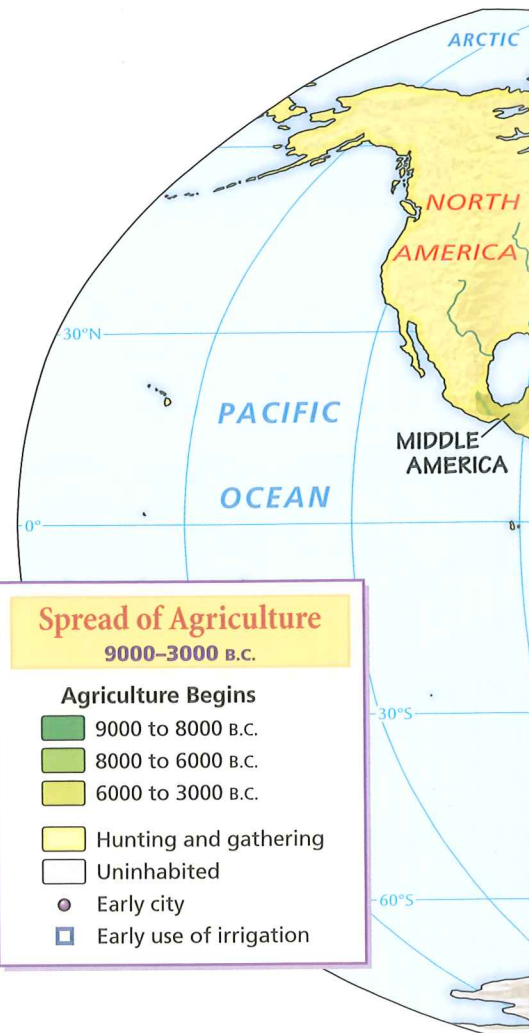
Agriculture, or growing plants and raising animals for food, changed human society forever. Agriculture was more reliable than hunting and gathering.

- People began to herd or keep wild animals in pens. They also planted seeds from wild grasses, using hoes and digging sticks. They had become farmers.
- Farmers could get their food in one place, so their settlements became permanent. Farming communities became villages.
- As farmers grew more food than they needed, some people became free to **specialize**. They worked at other jobs, such as making pots or tools.

Isn't that wild?

Wild dogs probably followed people to get food scraps. Early people trained these dogs to guard their camps and to help them hunt or herd other animals. The dog is the earliest known **domestic** animal, living with people or under their care.

A Agriculture developed in several different regions of the world at about the same time. In areas unsuitable for farming, people continued to hunt and gather.



Jericho

7000 B.C.

- 1 Tower
- 2 Grain storage
- 3 Gate
- 4 Spring
- 5 City wall
- 6 Grain field

Other buildings are houses.

B About 1,000 people lived in Jericho, one of the world's oldest cities. What clues does this illustration give you about their society?