Social Studies Vocabulary!

1. Himalayas – the highest mountains in the world, in the north of India
2. Ganges – a main river in India, sacred to Hindus, used for cremation rites
3. Indus – a main river in early India (now in Pakistan), site of the earliest cities of India’s first civilization starting about 3,000 BC
4. South Asian Subcontinent – a land mass, smaller than a continent, that moved north on a tectonic plate, joining Asia 20-50 million years ago
5. Sanskrit – the oldest written language of India
6. caste – a social group that someone is born into and cannot change
7. monsoon – a strong wind that blows one direction in winter and the opposite direction in summer, producing heavy rains
8. theocracy – a government headed by religious leaders, ruled according to the doctrine of a particular religion
9. dynasty – a series of rulers from the same family
10. Hinduism – one of the world’s oldest religions, today the third largest; its members worship thousands of gods and goddesses – all part of Brahman

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1. Mahabharata – a Hindu epic poem (the longest in any language at 88,000 verses) about a great war for control of an Indian kingdom about 1,000 BC
2. Ramayana – a Hindu epic poem which tells of the adventures of king Rama, whose queen, Sita, is kidnapped by the demon Ravana
3. reincarnation – the idea of passing through many lives to reach Brahman
4. karma – for Hindus, the consequences of how a person lives
5. dharma – the divine or natural law that indicates your duties in Hinduism
6. virtue – a positive trait or quality deemed to be morally good
7. Buddhism – the religion founded by Siddhartha Gautama around 500 BC
8. Four Noble Truths – the Buddhist belief that life is full of suffering because people desire things and self-satisfaction, includes the belief that to end suffering you need to stop desiring things
9. Eightfold Path – a Buddhist set of eight steps for enlightenment, including: give up worldly things, don’t harm others, tell the truth, don’t gossip, don’t kill, don’t steal, don’t live an unclean life, do rewarding work for good, use your mind to keep your senses in control, and practice meditation
10. nirvana – the Buddhist belief that if a person gives up all desires, he or she can reach a state of wisdom or enlightenment
11. bodhisattva – Buddhist word for enlightened people who postpone going to heaven, instead staying on Earth to help others and do good deeds
12. algorithm – a series of steps to solve a problem
13. profit – the money a business or individual makes after accounting for all expenses, such as materials, labor, advertising and taxes
14. supply – the amount of a product which is available to customers
15. demand – the amount of a product people are willing to buy at a certain price
16. price – the quantity of payment given by one person to another for goods or services
17. Four Basic Laws of Supply and Demand -- If demand increases and supply remains unchanged, a shortage occurs, leading to a higher price. If demand decreases and supply remains unchanged, a surplus occurs, leading to a lower price. If demand remains unchanged and supply increases, a surplus occurs, leading to a lower price. If demand remains unchanged and supply decreases, a shortage occurs, leading to a higher price.

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1. scarcity – the economic problem of having humans with unlimited wants and needs in a world of limited resources
2. imports – a good or service brought from one country into another country for sale
3. exports – a good or service sent out from a country for sale
4. outsourcing – the contracting out of part of a business’ processes to avoid or reduce costs such as labor, medical benefits, or taxes
5. cost-benefit analysis – a process of calculating and comparing benefits and costs of a project or decision, by comparing different options, and comparing the total expected cost of each option against the total expected benefits, to see if the benefits outweigh the costs, and by how much