

CHAPTER
3

GUIDED READING *The Indo-Europeans*

Section 1

A. Summarizing As you read about the migration of Indo-European peoples, fill in the blanks in the following summary.

From about 1700 to 1200 B.C., waves of Indo-European nomads migrated from their homelands in the (1) _____, the dry grasslands north of the Caucasus Mountains. One group, the Hittites, settled in (2) _____, a rugged peninsula in a region today called Turkey. They conquered (3) _____, the chief city in the Tigris-Euphrates valley, signed a peace treaty with Egypt, and blended many of their traditions with the more advanced Mesopotamian culture. With their superior two-wheeled (4) _____ and their war weapons made of (5) _____, the Hittites created an empire that dominated Southwest Asia for over 450 years.

About 1500 B.C., another Indo-European group, the (6) _____, entered India through the mountain passes of the Hindu Kush. Unlike the people they conquered, they were light skinned and had not developed a writing system. The invaders were divided into social classes, later called (7) _____. Over time four major social classes developed, the highest being the (8) _____, or priests, and the lowest, the (9) _____, or laborers. Beginning around 1000 B.C., chiefs began to set up kingdoms in the Indian subcontinent; the most important of these kingdoms was (10) _____.

Many modern languages trace their origins to languages spoken by the Indo-Europeans. Among the Indo-European family of languages spoken in Europe and Asia today are (11) _____ and (12) _____.

B. Writing for a Specific Purpose Identify and explain the significance of the *Vedas* and the *Mahabharata* in Indian history.