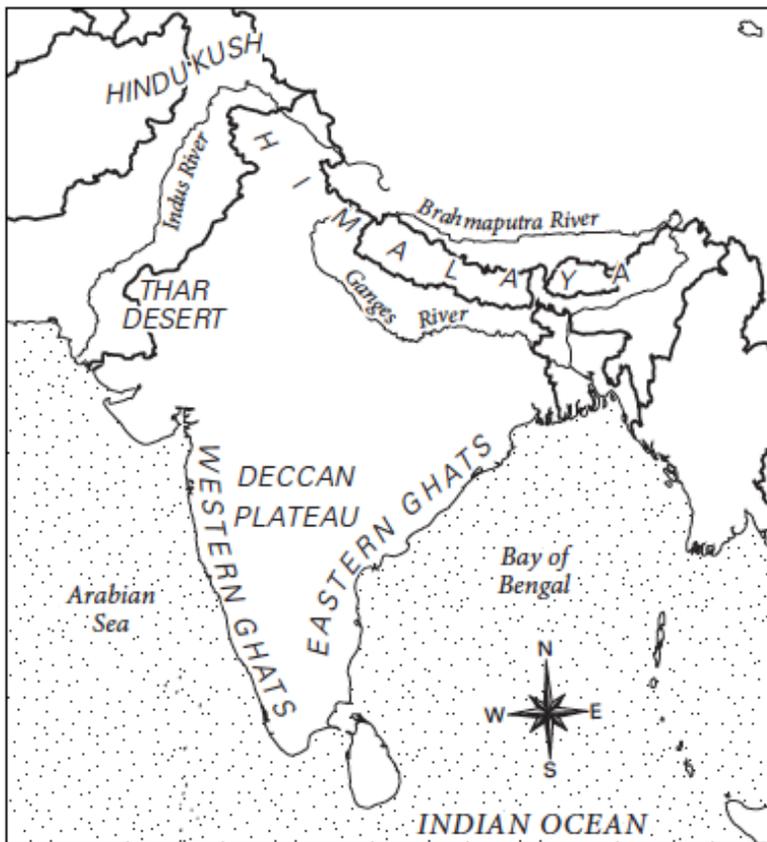Name _____ Date _____

Assessment: Geography and the Early settlement of India

Mastering the Content

Circle the letter next to the best answer. You may use the map for reference.

1. As the Brahmaputra River flows from the mountains into the valley, it becomes
   A. slower and deeper.
   B. clearer and cleaner.
   C. rockier and rougher.
   D. narrower and colder.

2. Because of its large size and its position in relation to large masses of land and water, India is called

Physical Features of India

   A. a plateau.
   B. an isthmus.
   C. an ecosystem.
   D. a subcontinent.

3. During the summer in India, the monsoon brings
   A. heavy rain.
   B. dust storms.
   C. unbearable heat.
   D. pleasant mornings.

4. Farmers in the Deccan Plateau use the iron-rich black soil principally to raise

A. tea.

B. sheep.

C. cotton.

D. oranges.

5. On the map, find the northern tip of the Bay of Bengal. Why is the nearby soil so fertile?

A. Many kinds of fish live in the bay.

B. Flooding rivers deposit rich minerals.

C. Pure water flows from the mountains.
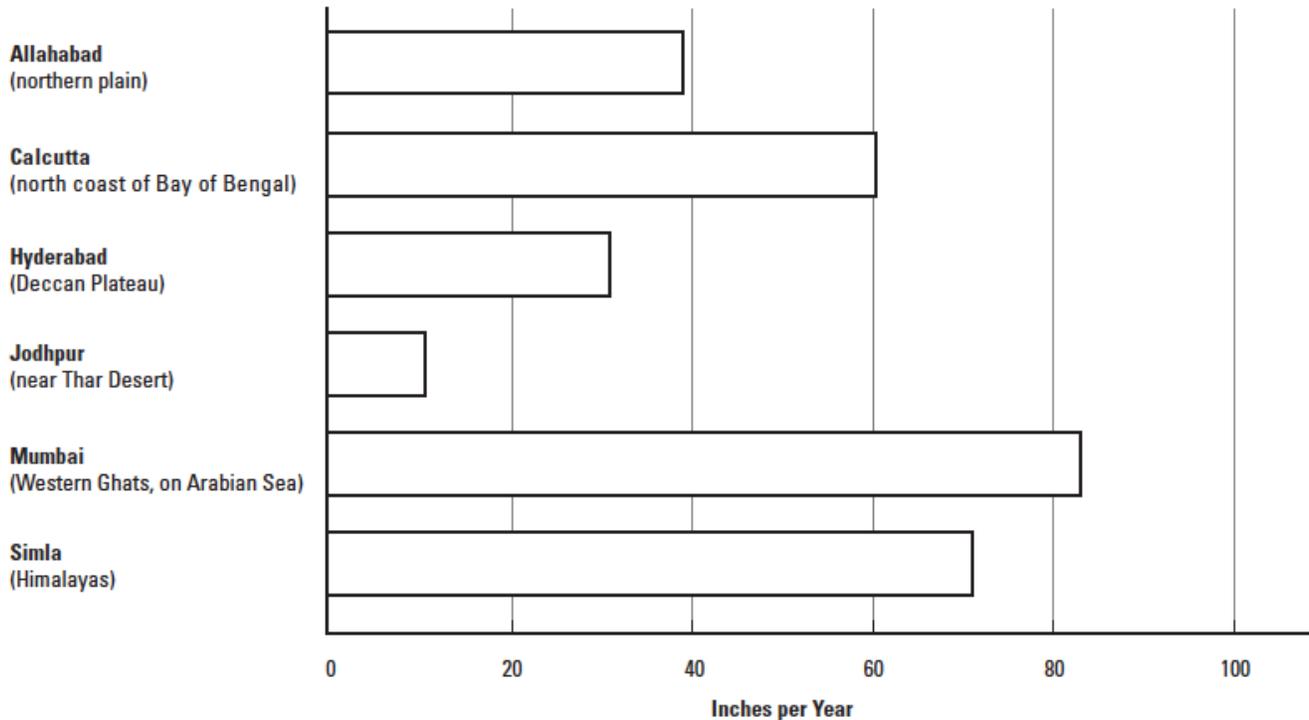
D. People have farmed there for centuries.

6. Compared with the Eastern and Western Ghats, the Deccan Plateau has
   A. denser forests.
   B. a drier climate.
   C. a longer coastline.
   D. steeper mountains.

7. Which phrase best describes the Eastern and Western Ghats?
   A. fertile plains
   B. sandy beaches
   C. mountain ranges
   D. marshy wetlands

8. Which of the following parts of India has the most fertile farmland?
   A. the Hindu Kush
   B. the Deccan Plateau
   C. the Himalaya Mountains
   D. the plains along the Ganges

9. Much of the water in the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra rivers comes from
   A. natural springs in the desert.
   B. melting ice in the mountains.
   C. rain-fed streams in the plateau.
   D. large lakes in the northern plain.

10. How has the location of the Himalaya Mountains benefited India?
    A. roads for trade routes
    B. consistent water supply
    C. protection from enemies
    D. prevention of earthquakes

11. Travelers went through the Khyber Pass to cross the
    A. Hindu Kush.
    B. Eastern Ghats.
    C. Deccan Plateau.
    D. Himalaya Mountains.

12. The lower Indus River (the part nearer the sea) flows through what is now the country of
    A. Iran.
    B. Tibet.
    C. Nepal.
    D. Pakistan.

13. A traveler in the Thar Desert would be likely to see many
    A. elephants.
    B. sand dunes.
    C. small farms.
    D. walled cities.

14. Where were the earliest known settlements in India?
    A. on the plateau
    B. near the desert
    C. beside the rivers
    D. in the mountains

Applying Social Studies Skills

Use the graph and your knowledge of history to answer the questions. Write the word or phrase in the space provided.

Average Rainfall per Year in Selected Cities of India

City	Inches per Year (approx.)
Allahabad (northern plain)	40
Calcutta (north coast of Bay of Bengal)	60
Hyderabad (Deccan Plateau)	30
Jodhpur (near Thar Desert)	10
Mumbai (Western Ghats, on Arabian Sea)	83
Simla (Himalayas)	71

15. How are the Indus and Ganges rivers similar to the Nile River in Egypt?
    A. They begin in the same general area.
    B. They carry silt that enriches the soil.
    C. They flow in the same general direction.
    D. They have big floods that prevented early settlement.

16. Which of these cities gets the least amount of rainfall—Simla, Mumbai, or Calcutta?

17. What is the location of the city on the graph with the largest amount of rain?

18. Because of the quantity of rainfall, farming would likely be especially difficult around which city?

19. Suppose that a specific crop grows best with a certain amount of rainfall. The area near Hyderabad in the Deccan Plateau gets too little rain for that crop, and the area near Calcutta on the north coast of the Bay of Bengal gets too much. Where would that crop most likely grow best?

Exploring the Essential Question: How did geography affect early settlement in India?

20. Suppose that you have bought land in ancient India and you want to persuade people to settle there. Make a poster to advertise your land. Use precise words and supporting details that help readers "see" the area as a place where they might want to live. Your poster should include the following elements:

    • a slogan to attract people to settle there

    • a description of the geography and physical features of the area

    • at least two reasons why this would be a good place to settle