

Mauryan Empire- Ashoka was the successor to [Chandragupta Maurya](http://www.hinduyuva.org/tattva-blog/wp-content/uploads/2007/11/chanakya.gif), the founder of the Mauryan Empire. Chandragupta used a massive [elephant army](http://www.dkimages.com/discover/previews/756/210881.JPG) (appx 9000) and 700,000 soldiers to unify the India under one emperor. Ashoka ruled from 269 to 232 BCE. Early into his reign, Ashoka continued the work of [expanding the empire](http://tjbuggey.ancients.info/images/Maurya.jpg) (1 million sq. miles) to the south and east using the same brutal tactics. At the battle of [Kalinga](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/5/5b/Kalinga_battlefield_daya_river_dhauli_hills.jpg), 100,000 of Ashoka’s enemies were slaughtered (including women and children).

**Religion-** Ashoka changed after walking through the rubble of Kalinga. The young king saw the death and destruction he had caused and became a new man. Ashoka began to support the basic Buddhist [values](http://web000.greece.k12.ny.us/SocialStudiesResources/Social_Studies_Resources/GHG_Documents/Eightfold%20Path%20Illustration%2008.02.jpg) of love, peace, and non-violence. He stopped hunting to respect all living things and he also became a vegetarian. He went on pilgrimages to different [temples](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4e/Mahabodhitemple.jpg), encouraged his people to follow the Buddhist path, and spread the teachings of Buddha beyond the borders of India. On the contrary, Ashoka still allowed slavery, enforced the death penalty for serious crimes, kept his military strong, and never returned the lands he had stolen by conquest.

**Edicts of Ashoka-** Ashoka believed that his empire would be united by Buddhist values. To spread the word of Buddhism, he constructed [**edicts**](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/f/ff/EdictsOfAshoka.jpg) (commands) that were carved in [**Prakrit**](http://farm1.static.flickr.com/93/265193608_2183cb5e48.jpg?v=0) into walls, rocks, and [pillars](http://images.exoticindiaart.com/sculptures/the_pillar_of_ashoka_zp21.jpg) throughout the land. There were four main goals: **1. Buddhist Values**- Be kind and loving, do no get too attached to worldly things, and act morally **2. General Welfare**- Take care of people, give them shelter, water, and food **3. Justice-** Laws were to be followed upon threat of punishment **4. Security**- this pertained to non-citizens and enemies of the Mauryan Empire. 45 years after his death, his empire was divided once more. Ashoka is credited with helping spread Buddhism to the southern and northern India, and eventually China. Today, there are an estimated 1.5 billion Buddhists in the world.

*Use* ***the previous page*** *and the webpage* [*http://www.pbs.org/thestoryofindia/gallery/photos/6.html*](http://www.pbs.org/thestoryofindia/gallery/photos/6.html) *to complete the prompts. On the website, you will need to click the pink button that says Display All to see all the information or click the yellow “Explore the Topic” drop down and click on the blue links to find answers related to the website. Do not navigate away from this one page. Write complete sentences with specific details from the texts. DO NOT PLAGARIZE. PARAPHRASE USING YOUR OWN VOCABULARY. Be thorough in your answers. Input Charts are the primary source for Unit Exams (30% HISTORY category), use as study guide.*

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| **PROMPT** | **YOUR ANSWER** |
| 1.) What empire did King Ashoka rule? | He ruled the Mauryan Empire |
| 2.) When did King Ashoka rule? | Ashoka ruled from 269 to 232 BCE. |
| 3.) At the Battle of Kalinga, what was the cost of expanding the Mauryan Empire? | The cost was that 100,000 of Ashoka’s enemies were slaughtered |
| 4.) What event changed King Ashoka’s perspective on religion and values? | Ashoka changed after walking through the rubble of Kalinga. |
| 5.) How did Ashoka demonstrate the Buddhist values of love, peace and non-violence? *There are multiple answers to this question.* | He stopped hunting to respect all living things and he also became a vegetarian. |
| 6.) In what ways did Ashoka not demonstrate Buddhist values? | Ashoka still allowed slavery, enforced the death penalty for crimes, kept his military brave and strong, and never returned the lands he had stolen by conquest. |
| 7.) How did Ashoka attempt to unite his empire through Buddhism? | He went on pilgrimages to different [temples](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4e/Mahabodhitemple.jpg), encouraged his people to follow the Buddhist path, and spread the teachings of Buddha beyond the borders of India. |
| 8.) What is an edict? | An edict is a official order or proclamation issued by a person in authority. |
| 9.) What are the four main goals of the edicts? | 1.) Be kind and loving 2.) Take care of people 3.) Laws were to be followed with punishment if done wrong 4.) This pertained to non-citizens and enemies of the Mauryan Empire. |
| 10.) What is Ashoka credited with accomplishing? | Ashoka is credited with helping spread Buddhism to the southern and northern India, and eventually China |
| 11.) Explore the webpage (Remember click the pink button that says Display All) and answer -- What purpose did the Ashokan pillars play during Ashoka's rule? Why do you think they would have been effective? | The sandstone pillars with edicts are displayed because it shows the moral principals based on the ideal of dharma. I think that they were affective because maybe every time someone walked past them they would remember to follow the rules of dharma. |
| 12.) Explore the webpage (Remember click the pink button that says Display All) and answer -- How did the possible meeting between Alexander the Great and a young Chandragupta influence the development of the Mauryan Empire? | Legends about Chandragupta are many and claim his family was related to the Buddha that he met Alexander the great, and that he resigned his kingship to become a Jain monk. |
| 13.) Explore the webpage (Remember click the pink button that says Display All) and answer -- In light of India's many religious traditions, why do you think Buddhism suffered a sharp decline in India after Ashoka? | After Ashoka's death, the empire declined and lost territory under a series of weak rulers about whom little is known. In 185 BCE, Pushyamitra Shunga, a general, assassinated the last king of the Mauryan dynasty, Brihadratha. |
| 14.) Explore the webpage (Remember click the pink button that says Display All) and answer -- What teachings of the Buddha are most relevant in today's world? | Buddhists currently number around 400 million worldwide, and the philosophy's two major traditions are Theraveda—practiced primarily in Sri Lanka, Burma, Thailand, Cambodia, and Laos—and Mahayana—practiced chiefly in China, Tibet, Japan, and Korea. Wesak, the celebration that marks the Buddha's birth in May, is the most important Buddhist festival. |