**Chapter 5, Section 3- Buddhism and India’s Golden Age**

**The Rise of Buddhism:**

* **Buddhism began in India and is based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, who became known as the Buddha**
* **Taught that people can stop suffering by not wanting things they don’t have**
* **The of suffering, or Nirvana*,* could be reached and would break the cycle of reincarnation**

**The Maurya Empire:**

* **Around 321 BC Chandragupta Maurya became king of the Aryan kingdom of Magadha and created an empire that soon covered much of the subcontinent.**
* **His grandson, Asoka, ruled by Buddhist teachings. He let people of other religions worship freely, he set up hospitals, and improved travel conditions.**
* **Many Hindus became Buddhists because religious rites were in a language few understood**
* **Buddhism declined in India while growing stronger in other Asian contries**

**The Golden Age of the Guptas:**

* **During the reign of Chandra Gupta II, India enjoyed a golden age. He promoted the arts and advances were made in the sciences as well.**
* **Invented the number system 1-9 and the symbol for zero**
* **Proved the earth was round**
* **Indian culture and beliefs spread through Asia**