

-Name:	Date Issued: Date Due:	Period:	Assignment: Close Read Point Value =
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**Instructions:** Students take notes and place questions under Notes and Questions. Circle vocabulary terms or words you do not understand in the reading and write the definitions in the Notes/Questions/Vocabulary section

**Background:** Close reading is thoughtful, critical analysis of a text that focuses on significant details or patterns in order to develop a deep, precise understanding of the text's form, craft, meanings, etc. It is a key requirement of the Common Core State Standards and directs the reader's attention to the text itself.

<b>Steps:</b>			
1. Read the entire document.	2. Underline the Supporting Details.	3. Place a STAR by the Main Idea.	4. Summarize any notes on the right-side margin.
Things to Consider...	A: What is the author's purpose?	B: What text features were used?	C: What is the tone?

<b>Article Title: Indian Society Divides</b>	<b>Notes/Questions/Vocabulary</b>
<p><b>Source:</b> <u>World History: Ancient Civilizations</u> by Stanley M. Burstein and Richard Shek, © 2006 Holt California Social Studies, a Harcourt Education Company</p>	
<p><b>INDIAN SOCIETY DIVIDES</b></p> <p>As Aryan society became more complex, their society became divided into groups. For the most part, these groups were organized by people's occupations. Strict rules developed about how people of different groups could interact. As time passed, these rules became stricter and became central to Indian society.</p> <p><b>THE VARNAS</b></p> <p>According to the Vedas, there were four main <i>varnas</i>, or social divisions, in Aryan society. These <i>varnas</i> were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brahmins, or priests,</li> <li>• Kshatriya, or rulers and warriors,</li> <li>• Vaisyas, or farmers, craftspeople, and traders, and</li> <li>• Sudras, or laborers and non-Aryans.</li> </ul> <p>The Brahmins were seen as the highest ranking because they performed rituals for the gods. This gave the Brahmins great influence over the other <i>varnas</i>.</p> <p><b>THE CASTE SYSTEM</b></p> <p>As the rules of interaction between <i>varnas</i> got stricter, the Aryan social order became more complex. In time, each of the four <i>varnas</i> in Aryan society was further divided into many castes, or groups. This caste system divided Indian society into groups based on a person's birth, wealth or occupation. At one time, some 3,000 separate castes existed in India.</p> <p>The caste to which a person belonged determined his or her place in society. However, this ordering was by no means permanent. Over time, individual castes gained or lost favor in society as caste members gained wealth or power. On rare occasions, people could change caste.</p> <p><b>CASTE RULES</b></p>	

To keep their classes distinct, the Aryans developed sutras, or guides, which listed all the rules for the caste system. For example, people were not allowed to marry anyone from a different class. It was even forbidden for people from one class to eat with people from another. People who broke the caste rules could be banned from their homes and their castes, which would make them untouchables. Because of these rules, people spent almost all of their time with others in their same class.

**The Varnas** **QUICK FACTS**

**Brahmins**  
Brahmins were India's priests and were seen as the highest *varna*.

**Kshatriyas**  
Kshatriyas were rulers and warriors.

**Vaiśyas**  
Vaiśyas were farmers, craftspeople, and traders.

**Sudras**  
Sudras were workers and servants.

**ANALYSIS SKILL** ANALYZING VISUALS  
Why do you think priests were at the top of Indian society?

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