

World History

Caste System Notes/Questions

Name: _____
Section: _____

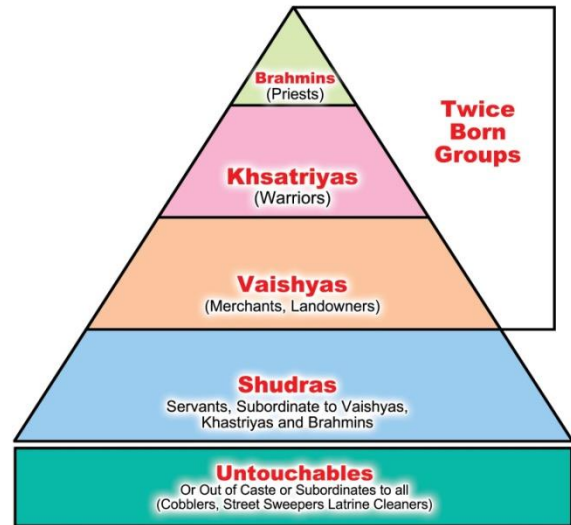
Directions: After going through the note as a class you will work with a partner to answer the thought questions at the bottom of the page. Once completed we will go over the questions as a class, be prepared to participate.

Social Organization

- Linked to Hindu Beliefs
- Higher you are the more pure/holy you are
- Different castes might as well be different species
 - o No real mixing

Social Structure

- No Social Mobility
 - o Only way to move up is reincarnation
 - o Cannot marry out
- Certain jobs reserved for certain castes
 - o Dress, activities also restricted
- Identity
 - o Created sense of community
- Had to change system as India Changed
 - o Ex. How to handle foreigners



Beliefs

- Karma – determines if you will move up or down when reincarnated
- Dharma – The Religious and moral duties of individual change depending on caste

Checking for understanding:

1. If you were born into the Harijan (untouchables) what might that have said about your past life? What is the concept that dictates that?
2. If you were born into the Vaishyas what is the main reasoning that would prevent you from becoming a soldier?
3. Using your own idea what type of impact would the caste system have on the people of India? (Ex. how might people's views change depending on their caste?)

