

Name _____

Date _____



Ashoka's Reign

Ashoka was the leader of the Mauryan Empire.
Military force was the source how he kept power.
Eight years into his reign, he had a plan:
Wage violent war in the region just to expand.
On the east central coast of India was a kingdom
That Ashoka wanted to conquer named Kalinga.
Sent the troops beside him, mighty ruthless and violent,
Into war, hundreds of thousands of lives slaughtered on his whim .
Now, with a larger empire than his predecessors,
Ashoka should've been the happiest with his successes.
Instead, he was horrified,
Pained by killing and deportation taking place that he had organized.
While dealing with remorse deep inside him,
Ashoka renounced military conquest and violence.
He focused on supporting Buddhism throughout India.
Shared his views through edicts, stones and pillars
Carved with official proclamations around the country.
Those principles to him were worth more than money.
Written in local dialects when they displayed it
But not in Sanskrit, the empire's official language.
The mission was making sure the message was understood.
Preaching religious tolerance, respecting all faiths for good.
The Edicts of Ashoka changed India mentally.
Some of the earliest writings in Indian history.
He preached generosity and justice through the cruelest times.
Due to his messages, the empire had unified.
He collected taxes, supported agriculture,

Supported trade by building a whole new infrastructure.

Ashoka was a changed man;

Formerly ruthless now Buddhist, rearranged his whole game plan.

Preaching ways to be consistently kind

And different ways we could strive, keeping others in mind.

His family continued ruling after he died,

But the strength of the empire had started to decline.

Ashoka still shines through the edicts left behind

And planted the Buddhism seed deep in India's mind.