SSWH2: IDENTIFY THE MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS OF CHINESE AND INDIAN SOCIETIES T0 500 CE/AD
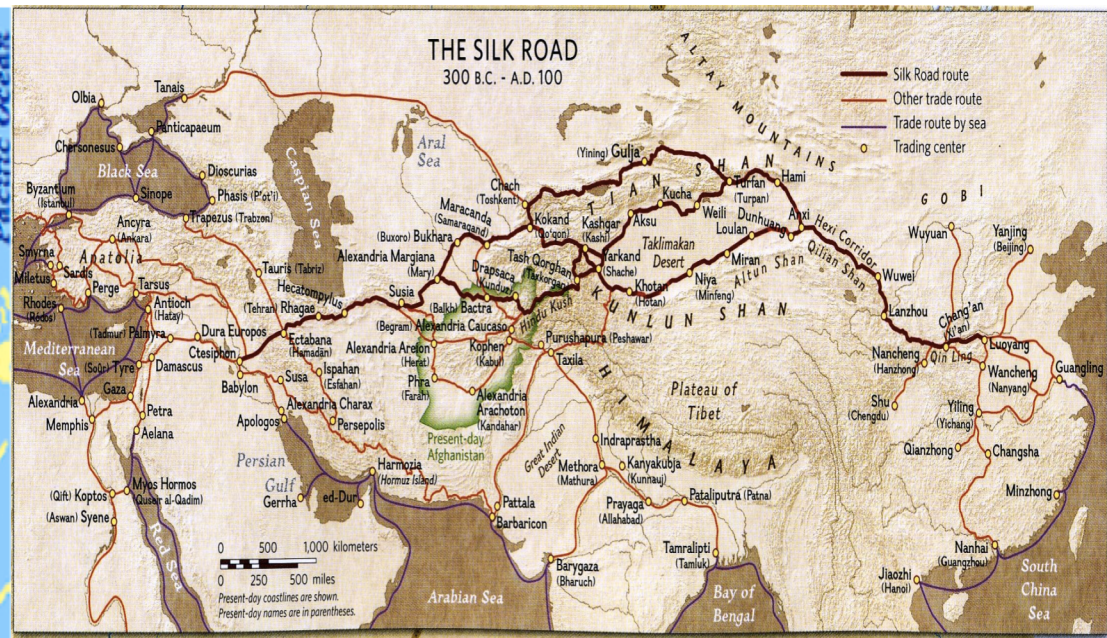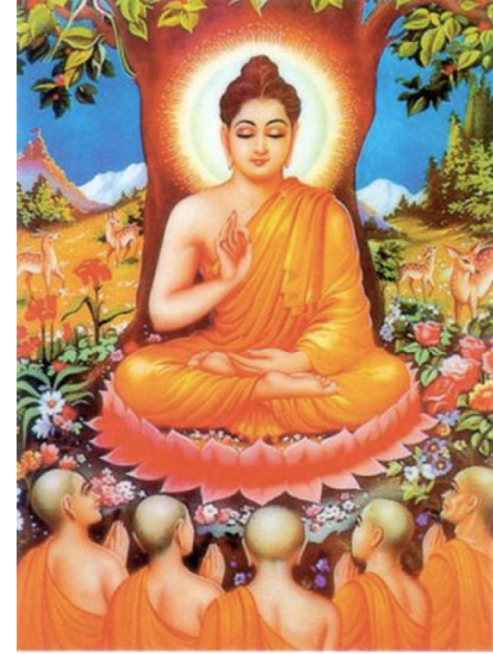

C. EXPLAIN THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPACT OF BUDDHISM ON INDIA.
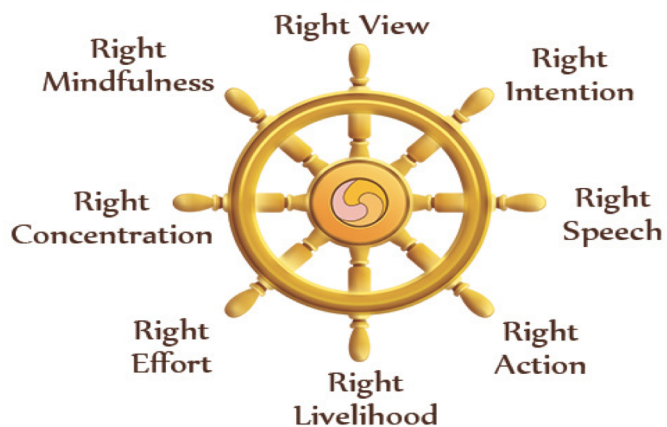
D. EXPLAIN HOW GEOGRAPHY CONTRIBUTED TO THE MOVEMENT OF PEOPLES AND IDEAS, INCLUDE: SILK ROADS AND THE INDIAN OCEAN TRADE.

BUDDHISM'S ORIGINS

❑ While Buddhism had little success in gaining adherents in South Asia it did spread along trade routes and became a major faith in East and Southeast Asia.

❑ Buddhism was founded by Hindu prince named Siddhartha Gautama who rejected caste system and the pantheon of Hindu Gods and taught instead that spiritual enlightenment (Nirvana) and escape from the cycle of reincarnation could be reached in a single lifetime by accepting the "Four Noble Truths" and following the "Eight Fold Noble Path."
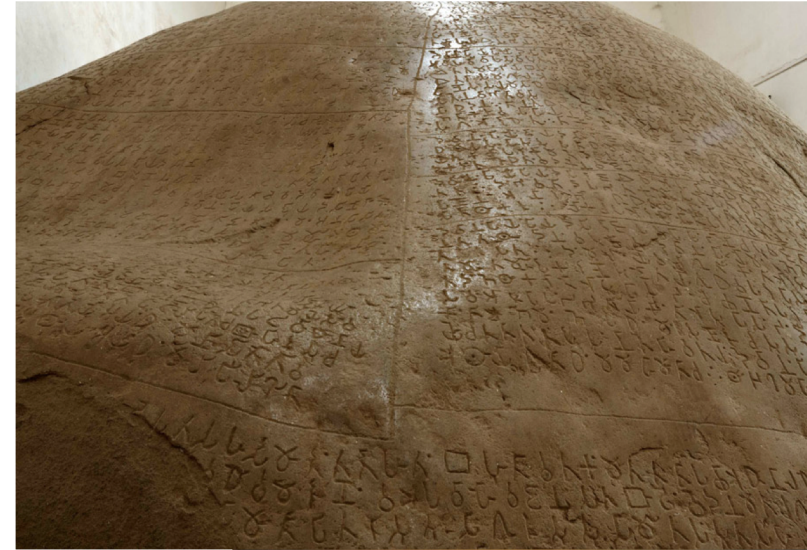
The Noble Eightfold Path

Four Noble Truths

ALTERNATIVE TO HINDUISM AND DEVELOPMENT

- In the period after c. 500 BCE Buddhism offered an alternative to the sometimes oppressive nature of Hinduism's caste system and patriarchal traditions.
- The popularity of Buddhism reached its peak in the Mauryan Dynasty (324-184 BCE) under the Emperor Ashoka.
- Ashoka made it state policy to promote spread of Buddhism.
  - These policies ensured that Buddhism would endure as a world religion.
- During the Gupta Dynasty (320 CE- 550 CE) Buddhism fell out of favor in South Asia but endured as a major faith along the trade routes in the Indian Ocean and the Silk Road.

RELIGIOUS DIFFUSION

❏ Had little success in gaining followers in South Asia it did spread along trade routes (Silk Roads & Indian Ocean Trade) and became a major faith in East and Southeast Asia.

❏ This endurance was facilitated by the tradition of monasticism in the Buddhist faith.

- ▪ Buddhist nuns and monks established monasteries the remote areas along major trade routes.
- ▪ These monasteries spread the faith among traveling merchants and offered a life free of the traditional confines of patriarchy and caste for both women and men.