**HANDOUT 12:THE GUPTA EMPIRE**

Key word🡪 Golden Age: a period of advancements in arts, science, and culture of a civilization.

Part I: Read the following passage and answer the questions:

In 320 A.D., a new ruling family, the Gupta, emerged in northeastern India and united the territory around the Ganges. The Guptas encouraged peace, prosperity, and trade. Gupta emperors built universities and supported learning, the arts, and literature, Hindu scholars excelled at the sciences. Hindu mathematicians developed the concept of zero, the idea of infinity, and a decimal system. Artists painted colorful murals, while writers composed poems and plays in Sanskrit (the literary and religious written language of India). Because the Guptas were Hindus, the two centuries of Gupta rule are sometimes referred to as the Golden Age of Hindu Culture.

1. What Contributions did the Gupta make to our world?

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2. Would you want to live in the Gupta Empire? Why? Why not?

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Part II: Read the following is an excerpts:

1. form the memoirs of a scholar traveling throughout the Gupta empire.

“ I have traveled many lands in my days but never have I encountered the greatness that I witnessed amongst the Guptas. The technology and mathematical wizardry achieved by these people is beyond comparison. A new system of numbers ranging from 1-9 has replaced the many symbols of the past. Never have I considered the concept of zero, a measurement representing nothingness; nor have I pondered the possibility of infinity, an endless set. I have been taught the methods of algebra in which on can calculate great quantities with ease. With this newly gained knowledge, the Guptas have studied the stars and the outer universe.

1. A Buddhist monk from China traveled to India, This is from his diary.

“ In the Gupta Empire, people are happy; only those who farm the royal land have to pay in grain… If they want to go they go; if they want to stay, they stay. The king governs without decapitation (cutting off heads) or corporal punishment…. The leaders have houses in the cities for dispensing charity and medicine.

**Write a brief journal entry in your notes, describing life in the Gupta Empire based on either reading 2 A or B.**

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