6-1 Notes

* India is a subcontinent because it is separated from Asia by the Himalaya Mountains – the highest mountains in the world.
* Two important rivers of India – Ganges and Indus Rivers.
* Monsoons – winds that blow one direction in winter and the opposite direction in summer.
* India’s early civilizations grew up along the Indus River.
* Two major cities of India’s earliest civilizations were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.
* Most Harappans were farmers and lived in the Indus River Valley @3000BC.
* The Harappans traded with the Mesopotamians.
* Earthquakes and floods possibly caused the collapse of the Harappan civilization.
* The Aryans lived in central Asia and migrated to India. They raised cattle and were good warriors.
* The Aryans brought technology to India – the iron plow which improved farming.
* The Aryans developed a new language – Sanskrit.
* The Aryans developed the caste system to control people. The Caste system is a social group that someone is born into and cannot change. It dictates your job, who you marry and even who you can eat and drink with.
* Guru – a teacher
* Sutee- the ancient Indian practice of a wife of a prominent male throwing herself into his funeral flames to show respect for her husband