

## Chapter- 18

# People Who Make a Difference

## STUDY NOTES

Out of the millions and millions of people in the world, only a few achieve greatness.

They could be religious leaders, social workers, scientists, kings or others who influence the lives of people by their teachings or work.

### Religions and Spiritual teachers



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### Hinduism

- Hinduism is one of the oldest religions in the world. It began in India about 3600 years ago.
- Many religious leaders have helped Hinduism grow, by making people understand the religion better.
- Adi Shankaracharya, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati and Swami Vivekanand are some of them.
- Hinduism has many holy books that were composed long ago.
- The most important are the Vedas, the Puranas, the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Bhagawad Gita.



### Buddhism

- The teachings of Gautama Buddha gave birth to a new religion called Buddhism.
- He was a rich prince who left the comforts of his palace to try to understand the meaning of life.
- He taught equality of all human beings and kindness to all living beings.



### Jainism

- This religion is believed to have been started by Rishabhdev, the first tirthankara, or spiritual teacher.
- The religion gained widespread acceptance in India at the time of Vardhamana Mahavira- the 24th tirthankara.
- He lived at about the same time as Gautama Buddha.

- He preached kindness to all living beings.
- He urged people to live a simple life and follow the path of non-violence.



## Islam

- Islam was founded by the Prophet Mohammad.
- It is believed that Islam is the word of God and that Mohammad was God's messenger on Earth. Prophet Mohammad lived in Arabia about 1400 years ago.
- He gave the message of love, peace and brotherhood to the Arabs, who were fighting with each other at that time.
- His teachings spread throughout the world, including India.
- Followers of Islam are known as Muslims.
- The holy book of Muslims is the Quran.



### Christianity

- Christianity is a religion based on the teachings of Jesus Christ. He was born about 2000 years ago in Bethlehem.
- He taught people to love God and all other people, and emphasised the importance of forgiveness.
- The holy book of the Christians is the Bible. Christianity was brought to India by St Thomas.





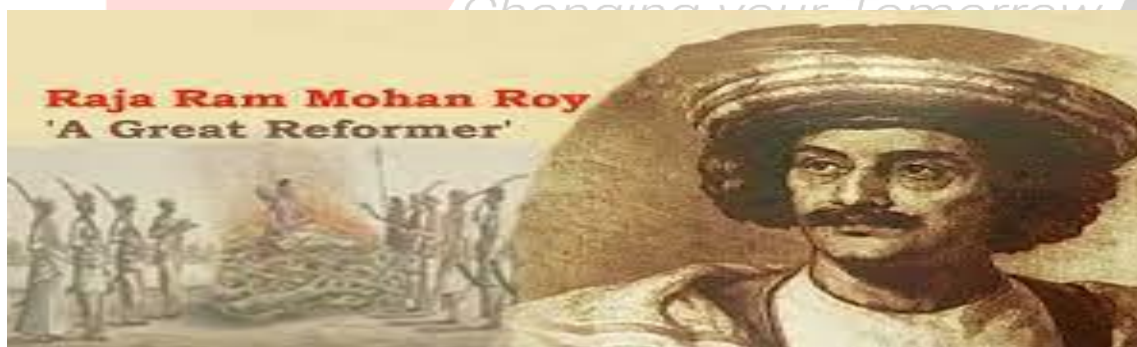
### Zoroastrianism (the religion of the Parsis)

- Parsis believe in the teachings of Zoroaster. He lived in Iran about 2500 years ago.
- He taught that our duty is to be good and fight evil.
- The holy book of the Parsis is called the Zend Avesta.



### Sikhism

- This religion was founded by Guru Nanak Dev. He lived in Punjab about 500 years ago.
- He believed that there is only one God, and people had given Him different forms and names.
- The holy book of the Sikhs is the Guru Granth Sahib.



### Raja Ram Mohan Roy

- He was born in Bengal about 250 years ago.
- He fought against the evils of child marriage, caste system and sati (burning of a widow)

along with the body of her husband).



### Ramabai Ranade

- She was a social reformer of Maharashtra.
- She worked to improve the condition of women in India.



### Kings Emperor Ashoka

- Ashoka wanted to be a great conqueror.
- He fought and won many battles. But after winning the famous battle of Kalinga, he was very
- sad to see thousands of dead and injured soldiers.
- and gave up war follower of Gautama Buddha. He helped to spread Buddha's message of

- He followed the path of non-violence. He built free hospitals,
- roads, Dharamshala's (rest houses), wells and tanks for the welfare of the people.
- He was a kind and wise king and came to be known as Ashoka the Great.



Krishnadevaraya

### Krishnadeva Raya

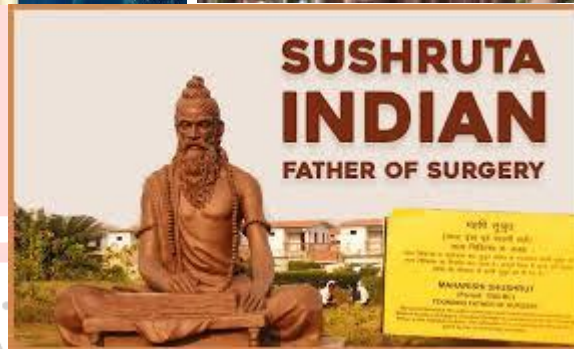
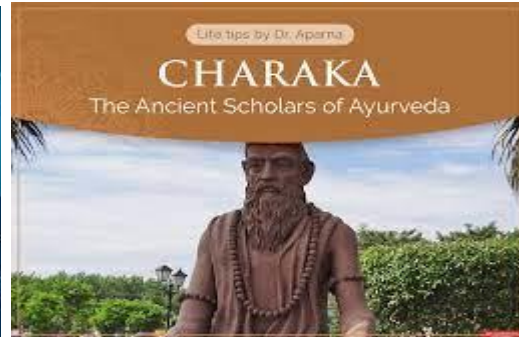
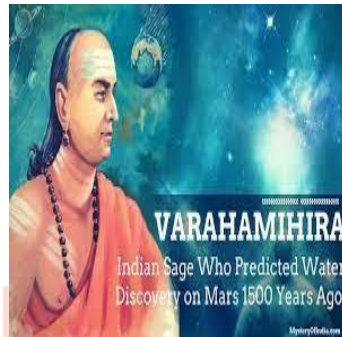
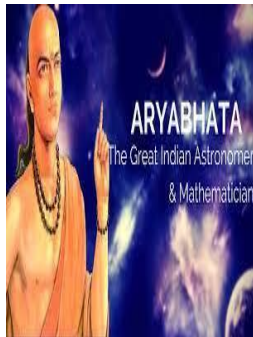
- Krishnadeva Raya ruled in South India about 500 years ago.
- He worked for the good of the people.
- The people were free to follow whatever religion they wanted. He encouraged artists, poets and writers.





## Akbar

- Emperor Akbar ruled in India about 400 years ago. He respected all religions. He art, encouraged music and literature.
- He gave a lot of Emperor Akbar attention to the welfare of the people. He is remembered as a great ruler.



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## Scientists

- Mathematics, astronomy and medicine were well-developed sciences in ancient India.
- The decimal system of numbers, which everyone uses today, was developed in India.
- The Ayurveda system of medicine, which is still popular, was developed in India thousands of years ago.
- Surgery was also performed in ancient India. The study of the stars and the Solar System was also well developed.
- Aryabhata was a great mathematician and astronomer of ancient India.



- Varahamihira, was a well-known astronomer. Charaka was a famous physician, and Sushruta a surgeon.
- Some of the well-known scientists India has produced in the modern world are S Ramanujan, J C Bose, C V Raman, Homi Bhabha, S Chandrashekar and A P J Abdul Kalam, who later became the president Vikram Sarabhai, of India.

**Let's Know More:****I. Fill in the blanks:**

1. The Indian leader who founded Vedanta college at Kolkata was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Ashoka improved communication throughout the empire by \_\_\_\_\_.

**Let's Do:****A. Match the columns.**

- |  |                       |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Battle of Kalinga                   | a. Muslims            |
| 2. Dohas                               | b. Emperor Ashoka     |
| 3. Fought against the practice of sati | c. Parsis             |
| 4. Zend Avesta                         | d. Raja Ram Mohan Roy |
| 5. Quran                               | e. Kabir              |

**B. Name the founders of the following religions.**

1. Jainism:
2. Sikhism:
3. Islam:
4. Christianity:
5. Buddhism:
6. Zoroastrianism:

**C. Understand and Answer:**

1. Name three holy books of the Hindus.
2. Name two religious leaders who helped people understand the Hindu religion.
3. What was the condition in Arabia at the time of Prophet Mohammad? How did he try to improve it?
4. Who founded Christianity? What were his teachings?

5. Who is called a social reformer?
6. What evils of society did Kabir fight against?
7. Why did Emperor Ashoka give up wars?
8. Why is Akbar remembered as a great ruler?
9. Give examples to prove that mathematics, astronomy and medicine were well-developed sciences in ancient India.

**D. Multiple choice questions.**

1. Who among these was a spiritual teacher?

- a. Gautama Buddha      b. Raja Ram Mohan Roy      c. J C Bose      d. Aryabhata

2. Which of these is a holy book?

- a. Zend Avesta      b. Gita      c. Quran      d. all of these

3. A social reformer:

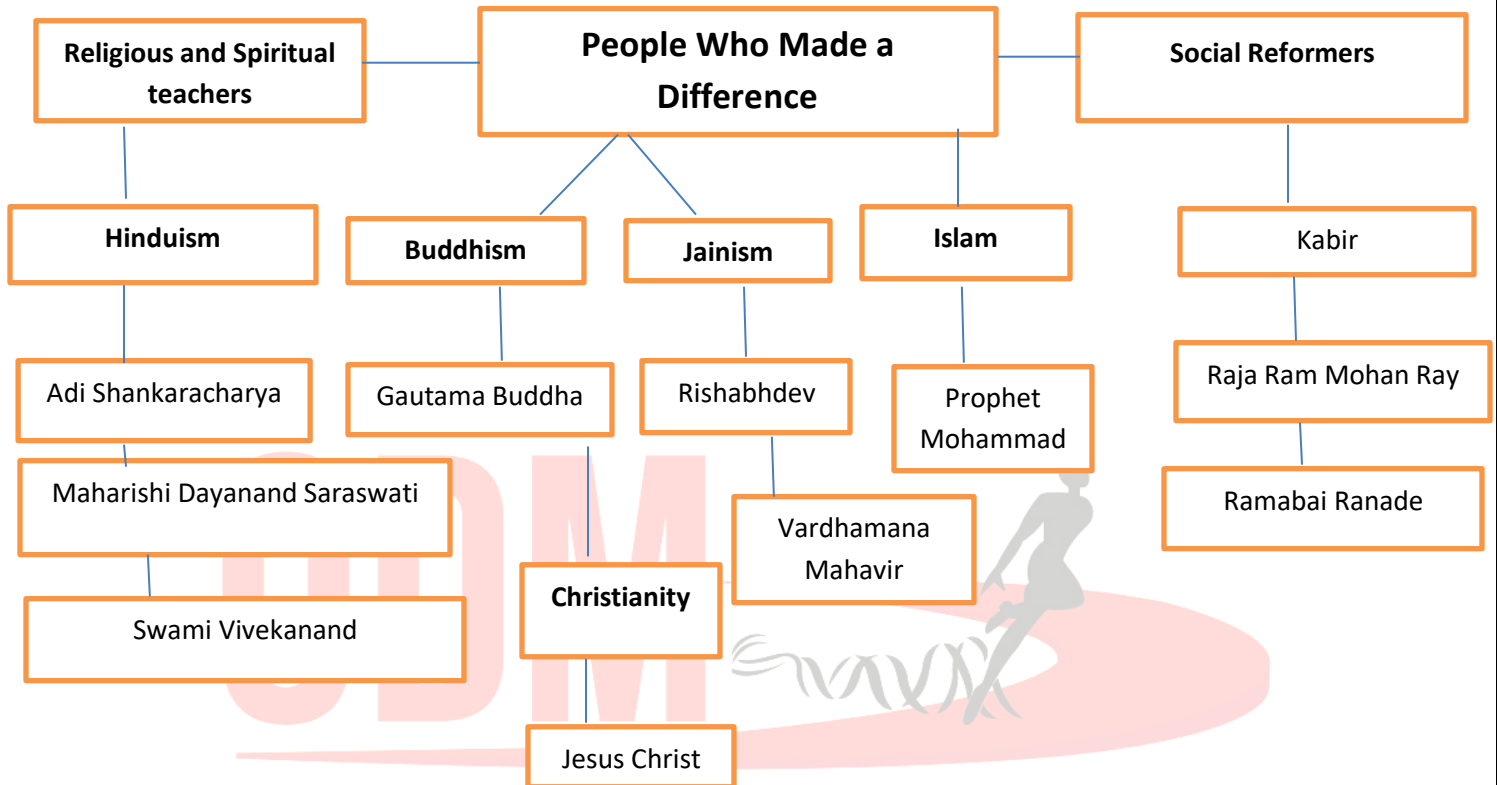
- a. teaches about a religion      b. works for the growth of arts and science  
c. works to change the evils in society      d. works for peace

4. Which social reformer gave his messages on the dohas?

- a. Raja Ram Mohan Roy      b. Kabir      c. Ramabai Ranade      d. all of these

6. Which famous king gave up war and became a follower of Buddha?

- a. Ashoka      b. Akbar      c. Krishnadeva Raya      d. Raja Ram Mohan Roy

**Memory Map:****Teacher's Note:**

- Write down the main teachings of the following religions in one sentence each.  
a. Buddhism    b. Jainism    c. Christianity

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- Christianity was first introduced in India at Malabar Coast.
- The largest Buddhist Monastery in India is located at Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.

**Answer Key****I. Fill in the blanks:**

1. Raja Ram Mohan Roy.
2. Constructing roads and rest houses

**A. Fill in the blanks.**

1. b
2. e
3. d
4. c
5. a

**B. Name the founders of the following religions.**

1. Rishabhdev
2. Guru Nanak Dev
3. Prophet Mohammad
4. Jesus Christ
5. Gautama Buddha
6. Zoroaster

**C. Understand and Answer:**

1. The three books of Hindus are the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and the Bhagawad Gita.

2. Two religious leaders who helped people understand the Hindu religion are Adi Shankaracharya, Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati.

3.

At the time of prophet Mohammad, the people were fighting with each other.

He improved the condition by giving the message of love, peace and brotherhood to the Arabs.

4. Jesus Christ founded Christianity. He taught people to love God and all other people and emphasised the importance of forgiveness.

5. Brave people who have fought against such practices and helped to improve society. Such people are called social reformers.



6. Kabir fought against social evils such as caste system and the importance given to rituals by Hindu and Muslim priests.

7. After winning the famous battle of Kalinga, he was very sad to see thousands of dead and injured soldiers, he gave up war and became a follower of Gautama Buddha.

8. Akbar was remembered as a great ruler because:

- a. He respected all religions.
- b. He encouraged art, music and literature.
- c. He gave a lot of attention to the welfare of the people.

9. Mathematics:

The decimal system of numbers, which everyone uses today.

Astronomy:

The study of stars and the Solar system was well developed.

Medicine:

Ayurveda system of medicine, which is still popular, was developed in India thousands of years ago.

Surgery was also performed in ancient India.

#### D. Multiple choice questions.

1. Who among these was a spiritual teacher?

- a. Gautama Buddha

2. Which of these is a holy book?

- d. all of these

3. A social reformer:

- b. works for the growth of arts and science

4. Which social reformer gave his messages on the dohas?

- b. Kabir

7. Which famous king gave up war and became a follower of Buddha?

- b. Ashoka