Caste System – Notes

Objective: Identify the castes within Hinduism.

1. Hinduism
   1. Began in India over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ years ago.
   2. Hinduism has more than \_\_\_\_\_\_ million followers.
2. Hindu Practices
   1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ stood on the rived banks of the Ganges and sang songs inspired by “the breath of god.”
   2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ - sacred writings.
   3. Fascinated with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   4. Objective – to leave behind this harsh, material world and become united with \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Daily Worship
   1. Every home has an \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   2. Proper to give \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to the gods on a daily basis.
   3. What if you are too poor?
   4. For every act there is a religious \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Death and Rebirth
   1. *Death is but a turning of the endless \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of life.*
   2. Bathing in Ganges River
   3. Hindus practice \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   4. Goal is to achieve *moksha/nirvana* – a new level of existence.
5. Upanishads
   1. What are they?
6. Monotheistic or Polytheistic?
   1. Brahman
      1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Preserver
      2. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the Destroyer
      3. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Goddess
7. The Caste System
   1. Four groups were created from the body of the Hindu god.
      1. Brahmins - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (white)
      2. Kshatriyas - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (red)
      3. Vaishyas - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (gold)
      4. Shudras - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (blue)
      5. Panchamas - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (black)
8. Dharma – Caste Duties
   1. Brahmins – Religious duties such as leading \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ rituals , teaching religion or conduction worship services.
   2. Kshatriyas – Expected to show self –control, strength, gentleness, and freedom from fear and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
   3. Vaishyas and Shudras – Work for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; not personal gain.
   4. Untouchables – Gravediggers and removers of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Stay out of the way!
9. The Caste System
   1. Hereditary system
   2. Based upon ritual purity
   3. Consequences of bad deeds - \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   4. Dharma
   5. Nirvana
   6. Yogis
   7. Gurus