**The History of Hinduism**

Your task: Read p. 232 to 233 and answer the following questions.

**Introduction**

1. Hinduism is one of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ religions in the world.
2. True or False: The native religion of ancient India was originally known as “Hinduism.”
3. Hinduism can be described as evolving over three historical periods. What are the names of these periods?

**Pre-Vedic Period**

1. An ancient \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thrived in the fertile valley of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ River in the third and second millennium before the birth of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_- about 2500 to 1500 B.C.E.
2. True or False: Most of the people during this period lived in complex cities.
3. What kind of society was this? Explain.
4. Scholars believe that later Hindu deities evolved from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ images of this period.

**Vedic Period**

1. When did the Vedic period begin and end?
2. A) What are the **Vedas**?

B) Why is this period named after the Vedas?

1. What is the language of the Vedas?
2. Rituals during this period focused on prayers, the elements of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and animal \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**The Upanishadic Period**

1. The third and final period in the history of Hinduism began around \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ B.C.E.
2. What happened between 600 to 200 B.C.E.?
3. What are the **Upanishads**?
4. The Upanishads moved Hinduism from a focus on sacrificial practices to a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and meditative way of life – a focus on the inner \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.