

ANCIENT
CIVILIZATIONS

ANCIENT

INDIA



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MARKETS AND MUSIC

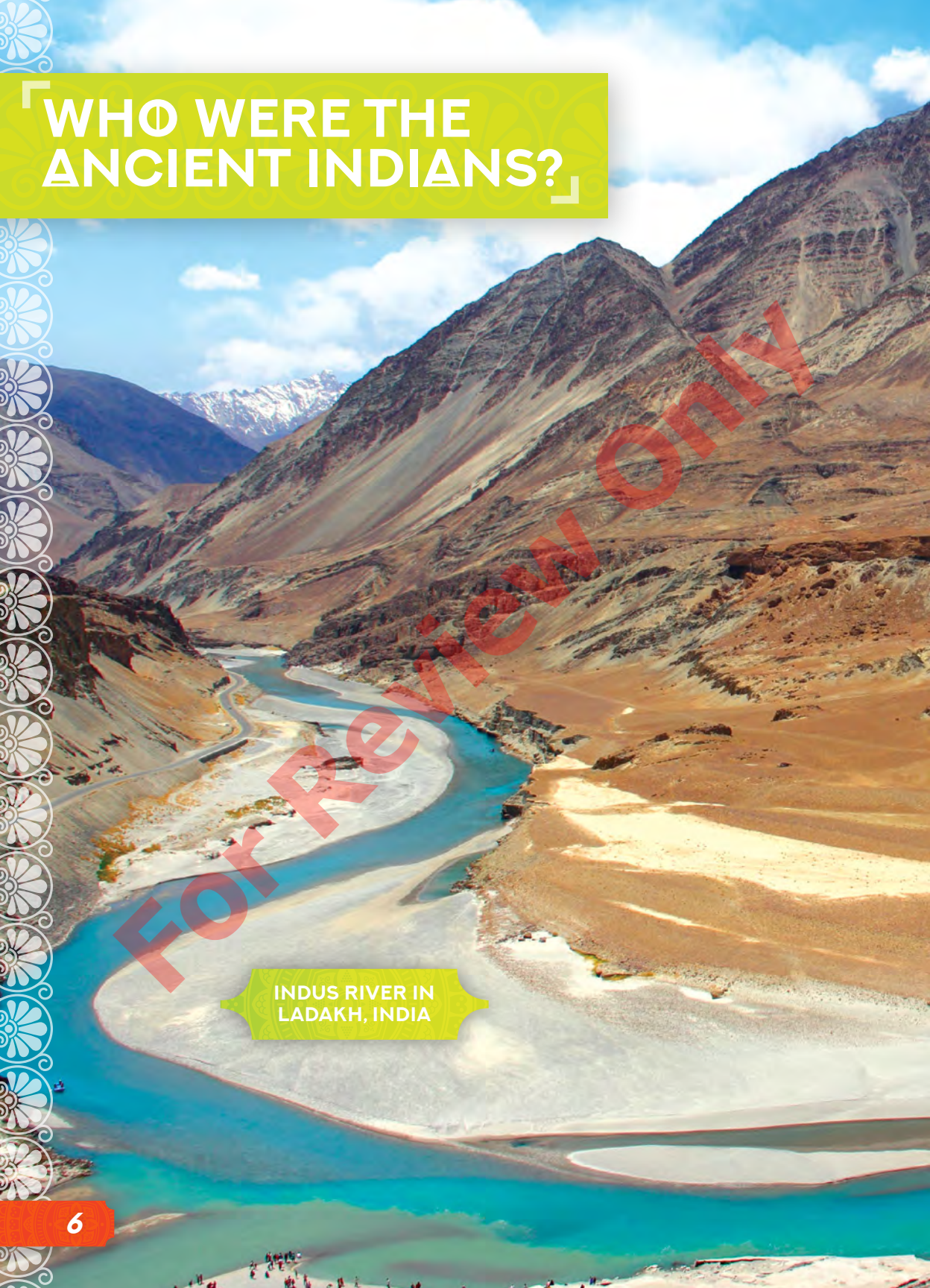
MODERN INDIAN
MARKETPLACE

It is a busy day at the market in ancient India!
A girl and her mother walk through the stalls in the
Gupta city of Mathura. They buy rice, lentils, and grapes.
They skip the meat seller, though. Their Buddhist family
eats a **vegetarian** diet.



For Reading

The girl is especially excited this morning. Later, her family will attend a musical performance. She hopes to hear a musician playing a stringed instrument called a *veena*. It is her favorite!



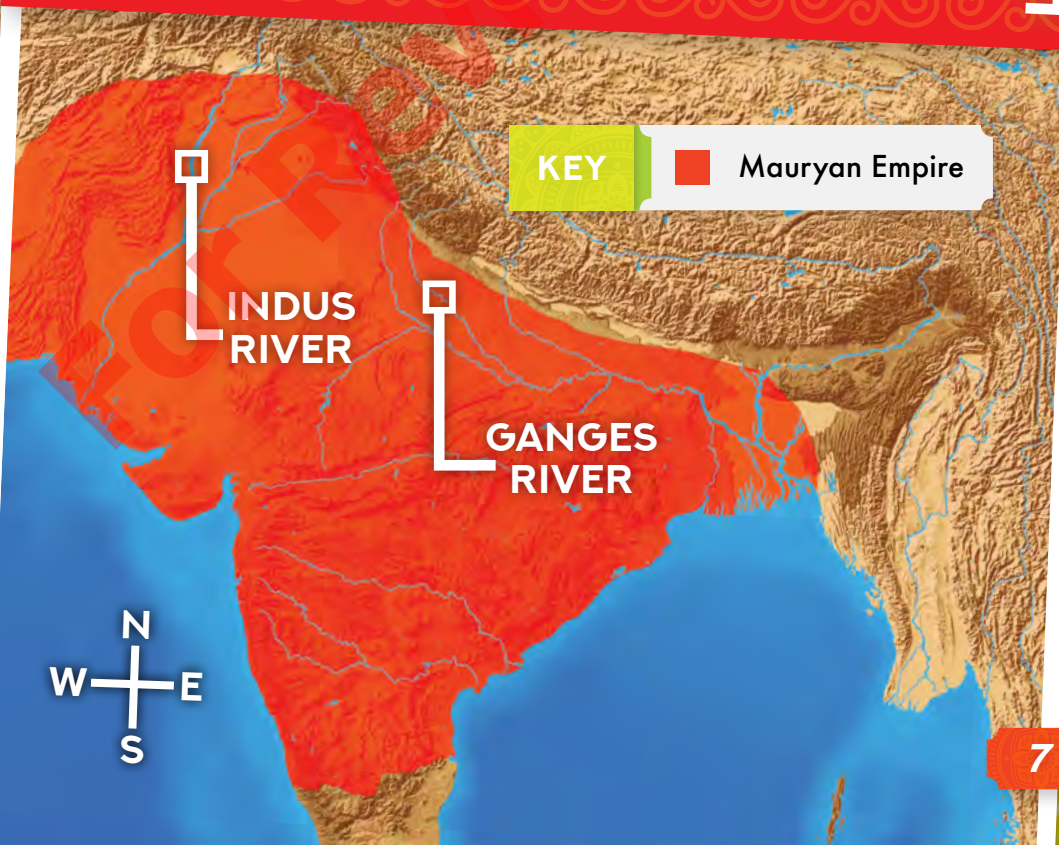
「WHO WERE THE ANCIENT INDIANS?」

INDUS RIVER IN
LADAKH, INDIA

Ancient India was a period that lasted from around 1500 BCE to 550 CE. Several civilizations ruled the region over time. The largest, the Mauryan Empire, extended over what is now India, Pakistan, Nepal, and Bangladesh. Its population may have reached 30 million people.

India's name comes from the Indus River. Early Indian settlers used the word *sindhu* for the waterway. This means "river" in Sanskrit. In the 300s BCE, Greeks began saying Indus instead.

MAURYAN EMPIRE 321-185 BCE



Around 1500 BCE, a group called the Aryans arrived in the Indus Valley. This was the beginning of India's Vedic period. Early Aryans were **nomads** from central Asia. Along the Indus and Ganges Rivers, they became farmers! The area had rich soil to farm. **Natural resources** such as iron helped new villages gain wealth. In time, the villages grew into India's first kingdoms.

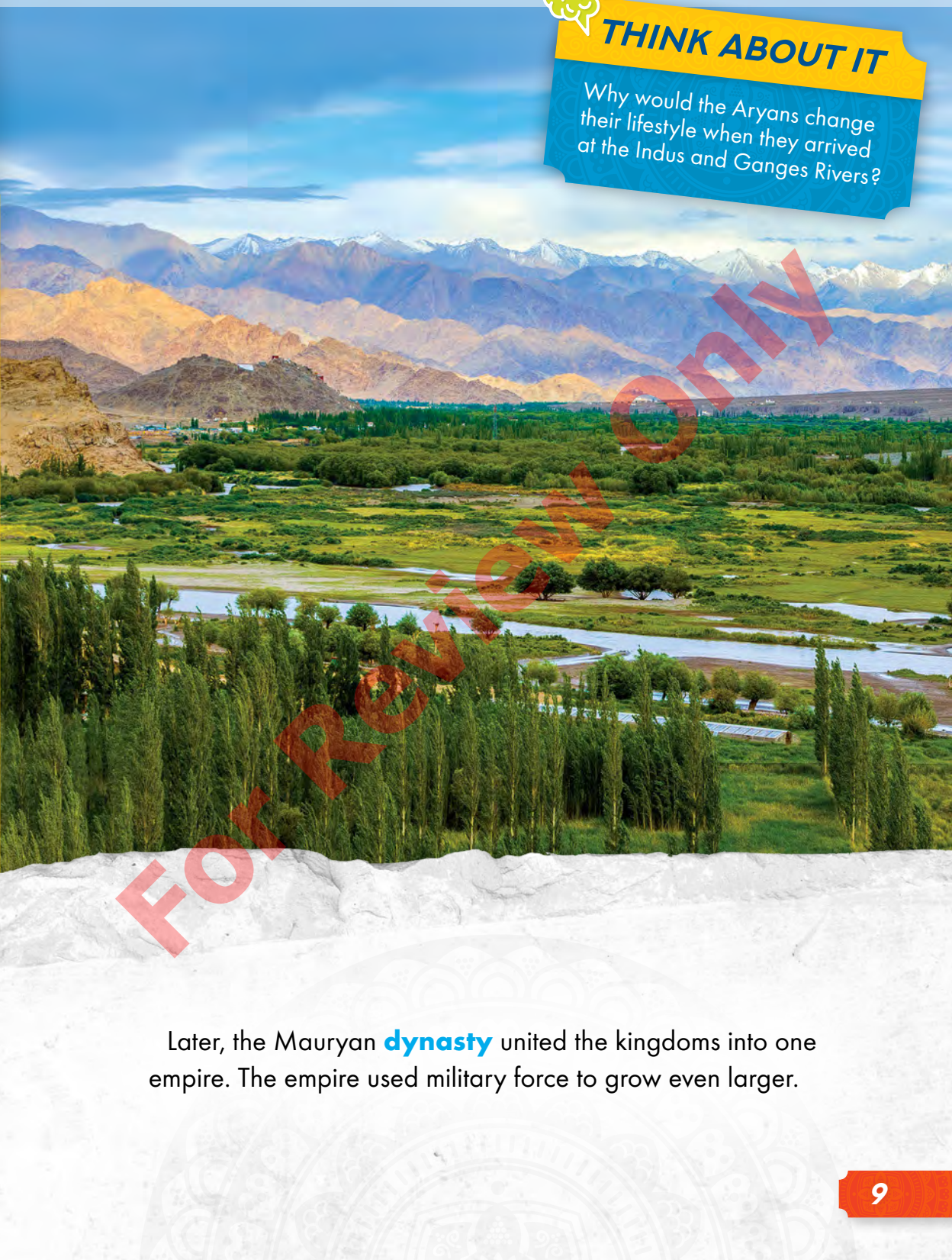
IRON

India's Iron Age began during the Vedic period. The Iron Age brought important changes in farming and warfare. Researchers have uncovered iron pieces in India that date to around 1300 BCE!



HOW IRON HELPED THE ANCIENT INDIAN CIVILIZATION GROW

- ✓ iron tools helped cut down forests quickly for farming
- ✓ iron farm tools allowed farmers to till tougher soil
- ✓ trading iron helped the civilization gain other goods and build wealth
- ✓ iron pillars and other structures lasted centuries
- ✓ iron weapons were stronger and more powerful than bronze or stone



THINK ABOUT IT

Why would the Aryans change their lifestyle when they arrived at the Indus and Ganges Rivers?

Later, the Mauryan **dynasty** united the kingdoms into one empire. The empire used military force to grow even larger.