

SAMUDRAGUPTA

1. Samudragupta ruled from about 335 CE (335 AD) until 375 CE. Calculate how many years ago he began ruling. _____

We have come to know many things about Samudragupta from an inscription the poet Harishena made on a pillar that is now in Allahabad. Shown on the right is what some of the inscription looks like.

This inscription is written in Sanskrit, using the **Brahmi** script.

2. Below are a few lines from the Rig Veda, also written in Sanskrit, as we write Sanskrit these days. Is this also written in the Brahmi script?

अग्निं रयिश्चवतपोषमेदा दिवे ।

यशसं वीरवत्तमम् ।

अग्निं यं यज्ञामध्वरं विश्रतः परिभूरसि ।

स इद्वेवेदो इधेवेषू गच्छति ।



This is what the Harishena inscription says:

3. In the Brahmi script the letter क is written: ↑

How many ↑'s can you find in the Harishena inscription? **Circle** each one and count how many there are: _____

4. Locate Arya Varta on Map 1 (next page) and tell what this region is called today.

5. Why do you think this area was called Arya Varta? _____

6. What was the area south of the Narmada River called in the days of Samudragupta?

7. How many kings of Arya Varta did Samudragupta defeat? _____

8. How many kings of Dakshinapatha did Samudragupta defeat? _____

With his unmatched power, Samudragupta destroyed many kings of Arya Varta and incorporated* their kingdoms into his own. These kings were Rudradeva, Matila, Nagadatta, Chandravarman, Ganapatinaga, Nagasena, Achyutanandin and Balvarma.

Samudragupta is not only powerful but also generous. That is why after defeating all the kings of Dakshinapatha, he restored* them to their kingdoms. These kings of Dakshinapatha were Mahendra, the king of Kosala; Vyagharaja, the king of Mahakantara; Manaraja, the king of Kurala; Mahendragiri, the king of Pishtapura; Swamidatta, the king of Kottura; Daman, the king of Erandapalla; Vishnugop, the king of Kanchipuram; Nilaraja, the king of Avamukta; Hastivarman, the king of Vengi; Ugrasena, the king of Palakka; Kubera, the king of Devarashtra and Dhananjaya, the king of Kusthalpura.

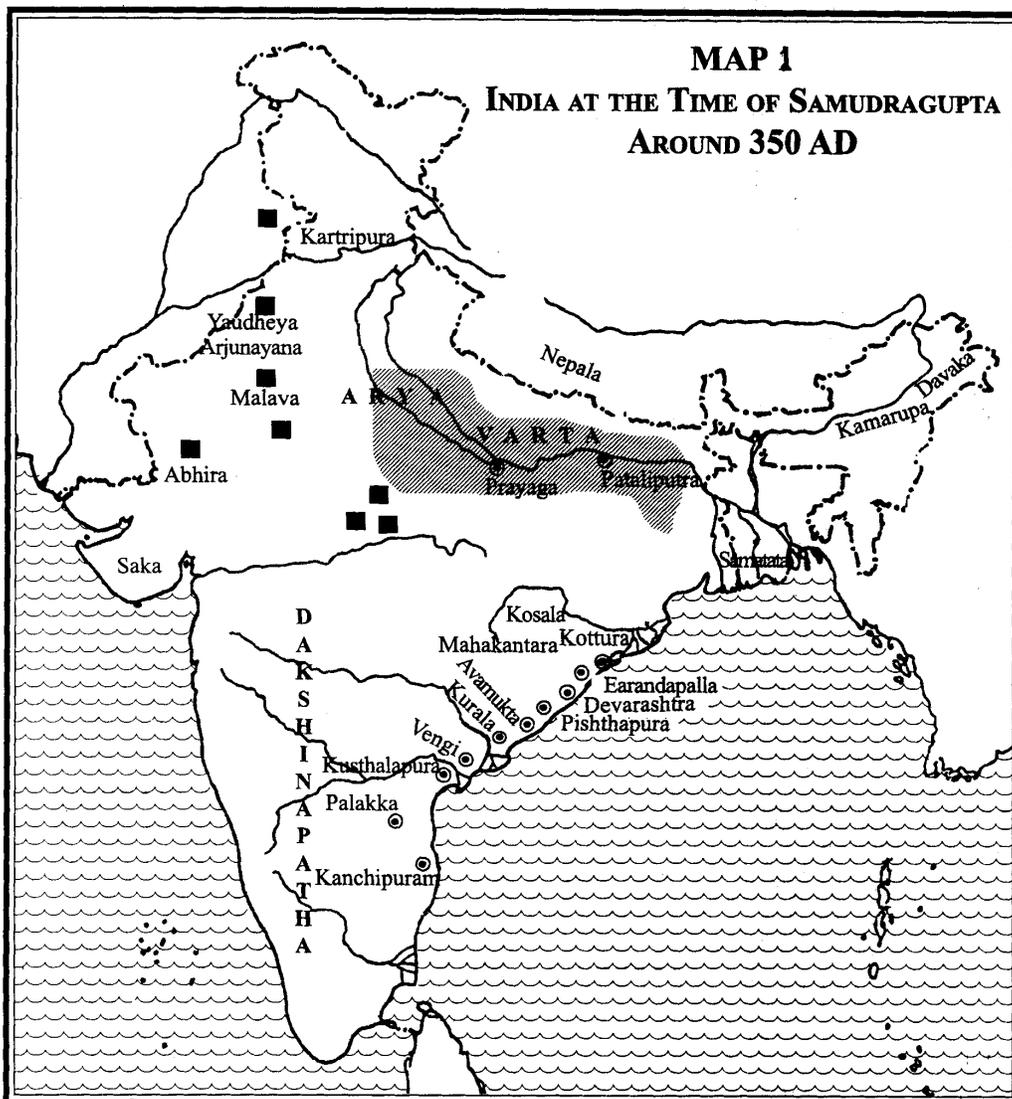
incorporated means added

* **restored** means gave them back their former positions

9. What was the difference in Samudragupta's policy towards the kings of Arya Varta and his policy towards the kings of Dakshinapatha?

10. According to Harishena, why did Samudragupta restore kingdoms to their rulers?

11. Why do **you** think Samudragupta restored kingdoms to their rulers? Do you agree with Harishena, or do you think there might have been some other reason? Explain.



Key

	Samudragupta's empire		Cities
	Ganasanghas		Present external boundary of India