WORKSHEET 2

Taxila: Spread Of Buddhism

1. Find the city of Taxila on a map of the Silk Road
   (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxila). This is your current stopping place.
   According to this map, what important structures are very close to Taxila?
   Think back about your studies of Mauyran India. Why are these objects
   important?

2. Now, read the primary document at your station- the Edicts of Asoka (this
   can be found in the book “Readings in World History”). As you learned
   earlier, Asoka was famous for his religious tolerance. What passages
   from the document indicate this belief in religious tolerance? Write at
   least two passages below.

3. Asoka was also famous for his conversion from Hinduism to Buddhism.
   In which edicts do you see evidence of his Buddhist beliefs?

4. In spite of the fact that Asoka’s Edicts were not exclusively Buddhist, in
   what ways did the Edicts help spread Buddhism? Think about the
   location of the various Edicts or Pillars, the leadership of Asoka, etc.

5. Examine the rubbing from the Buddhist Temple and the images you
   have seen of Buddhist art in China. Make a list of the characteristics of
   Buddhist art.

6. One of the characteristics of Buddhism is its ability to adapt to fit with
   value systems of other cultures. How did the Chinese adapt Buddhist art
   to their culture? Use specific examples from works of art.