



The Mahabharata

Name: _____

Class: _____

Introducing the Mahabharata

Use the following sites:

<http://www.balibeyond.com/story.html> and

<http://www.baliartsandcrafts.com/story.html#chap5>

to complete the following passage.

The Mahabharata is the longest story ever written. It was written more than 2,000 years ago in _____. Traders and religious scholars brought the story to Indonesia where it became popular, especially on the islands of _____ and _____.

The story tells of jealousy and power struggles between two sets of cousins who both want to rule their kingdom. It ends with a great war in which the main characters use supernatural powers. The two sets of cousins are the _____ (representing the forces of good) and the _____ (representing the forces of evil). There are _____ Pandawa brothers: _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____. There are _____ Kurawa brothers and one sister. The two main Kurawa characters are _____ and _____ (who is actually the Pandawas' secret half-brother).

The Pandawas rule the kingdom at first, but lose the throne to the Kurawas when the wicked eldest Kurawa brother, _____, cheats Yudistira (also known as Dharmawangsa) at a game of _____. The Pandawas are exiled to the _____ for 12 years.

The Kurawas refuse to hand back the throne to the Pandawas after the agreed period of exile. Because they are _____, Hindu warriors, the Pandawas know they have no choice but to declare war on their cheating cousins. With Krishna, the God-Man, on their side and because of the strength of their supernatural powers, the Pandawas, of course, _____ the 'Great War' – the Mahabharata.





The who's who and what's what of the Mahabharata

Below is a list of key characters and key places in the Mahabharata story and brief descriptions of each.

Match the characters and places with the correct description as you read through <http://www.joglosemar.co.id/mahabharata.html>

Name	Description
Destarata	Uncle of the Pandawas and Kurawas
Bima	Father of the five Pandawa brothers; a gentle, handsome Ksatria warrior
Sangkuni	Oldest brother of King Pandu; blind; father of the 100 Kurawa brothers; a weak personality
Duryudana (Duryodana)	Mother of Yudistira, Bima and Arjuna; married to Pandu
Yudistira (Punta Dewa/ Dharmawangsa)	Mother of twins Nakula and Sadewa; married to Pandu
King Pandu Dewanata	Illegitimate son of Kunti and the Sun God, Surya; raised by a coach driver; faithful warrior of evil Kurawas
Arjuna	The <i>mahaguru</i> – great teacher – to both the Kurawas and Pandawas
Karna	Eldest Kurawa brother; jealous of Arjuna
Madrim	Scheming, ugly friend of the Kurawas
Mt Indrakila	Third Pandawa brother; son of Indra, the War God; skilled archer; hero of the Mahabharata
Dewi Kunti	Eldest Pandawa brother; ruler of Hastinapura after King Pandu; son of the God of Dharma; truthful, patient, wise and never angry
Durna	Second Pandawa brother; son of the Wind God; very strong; a giant
Hastinapura	Arjuna's wife; a skilled archer
Srikandi	Younger sister of Srikandi; marries Yudistira after an archery competition between the Pandawas and the Kurawas
Amarta	Original home of the Pandawas and Kurawas
Bisma	New kingdom for the Pandawas
Drupadi	The place where Arjuna meditates before the 'Great War' and where he receives his magic bow and arrow

