

Follow-up Activities

- India's most ancient civilization is known as the Indus and dates back to 3000 BCE. In the 1920s, archaeologists discovered two well-developed cities: Harappa on the Ravi river, and Mohenjodaro on the Indus. These towns contained as many as 30,000 residents, with granaries, citadels and even household toilets. At its height, the Indus civilization extended over half a million square miles across the Indus river valley. To provide students with an understanding of the ancient history of India, encourage your class to collect and share information about archaeological work being conducted in Harappa and Mohenjodaro. Great illustrations and links to a wealth of information about the Harappan or Indus civilization may be found at these web sites:
www.harappa.com/har/har0.html
www.mnsu.edu/emuseum/prehistory/india/index.shtml
- Babar, Humayun, Akbar the Great, Jahangir, Shah Jahan and Aurangzeb were all leaders associated with the Mughal Empire. Ask groups of students to research these famous names and present detailed biographical sketches to the class. More information on the Mughal emperors may be found at the following web site:
www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/MUGHAL/THREE.HTM
- Ever since their independence from Great Britain in 1947, India and Pakistan have been feuding over boundaries, with Kashmir being the most prominent dispute. There has been massive international pressure on both countries to resolve the crisis, with calls for restraint from both the United States and the E.U. However, there are still fears that even a small incident could trigger a war between the two nuclear powers. Ask groups of students to research the issues and role-play Indian and Pakistani negotiators trying to reach a settlement. Background information may be found at the following web site:
www.alertnet.org/thenews/emergency/KA_DIS.htm
- Deteriorating urban air quality due to vehicle and factory emissions is one of the most serious environmental issues facing Pakistan today, threatening human health and damaging cultural and natural wonders. Ask groups of students to research environmental issues in Pakistan and to develop action plans to achieve the ideal of sustainable development by balancing economic growth and environmental needs. The Energy Information Agency of the U.S. Department of Energy provides a wealth of information on environmental issues in Pakistan at the following web site: www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/cabs/pakenv.html

Suggested Internet Resources

Periodically, Internet Resources are updated on our web site at www.LibraryVideo.com

- www.sscnet.ucla.edu/southasia/History/Mughals/mughals.html
UCLA provides an extensive written analysis of the Mughal Empire and the history of India.
- <http://www.wsu.edu:8080/~dee/MUGHAL/FATEHPUR.HTM>
Washington State University has a number of photographs of the city of Fatehpur Sikri, along with descriptions of the sites.
- www.fordham.edu/halsall/india/1707aurangzeb.html
Fordham's "Indian History Sourcebook" provides Emperor Aurangzeb's 1707 farewell address.

Suggested Print Resources

- Eraly, Abraham. *The Mughal Throne: The Saga of India's Great Emperors*. Weidenfeld and Nicholson, London; 2005.
- Shors, John. *Beneath a Marble Sky*. McPherson & Co., Kingston, NY; 2004. A historical novel about the building of the Taj Mahal.
- Stronge, Susan. *Painting for the Mughal Emperor: The Art of the Book 1560-1660*. Henry N. Adams, Inc. Publishers, New York, NY; 2002.
- Weatherly, Myra. *The Taj Mahal*. Lucent Books, San Diego, CA; 2003.

TEACHER'S GUIDE

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Wonders of the ANCIENT WORLD™

ANCIENT INDIA

Grades 7 & up

Wonders of the Ancient World transports viewers to ancient civilizations of the Americas, Asia, Africa and Europe and provides a firsthand look at the magnificent achievements and contributions of a wide range of cultures. Through the study of ancient peoples, students will understand the diversity of the human experience—the contrasts between settled and nomadic lifestyles, the characteristics of different religions and belief systems and the development of large cities and powerful empires—which provides a solid basis for the understanding of civilization today.



Program Overview

India has an incredibly diverse culture featuring many religions, races and languages, and throughout its long history has served as a meeting ground between East and West. Over the centuries, India was ruled by a series of empire builders, culminating with the Muslim Mughals in the 16th and 17th centuries, who controlled the mostly Hindu country for more than 200 years. The Mughal Empire was founded when Babar the conqueror defeated the sultan of Delhi in 1526. The Mughals were characterized by their reformist political policies, religious tolerance and strong architectural and artistic sensibilities. Emperor Akbar the Great is recognized as the greatest contributor to Mughal India's political and cultural development. Although early Mughal emperors sought to unite their subjects, the last Mughal emperors were intolerant of Hindus, resulting in many rebellions and leading to the empire's end following the arrival of British colonialists.

Episode 1: Taj Mahal

In 1612, Shah Jahan, the Muslim ruler of India's Mughal Empire, married Mumtaz Mahal, or the "pearl of the palace." After her death during childbirth in 1631, Shah Jahan's tremendous grief led him to call for the building of a magnificent mausoleum known as the Taj Mahal, which later served as his own final resting place. Construction of the Taj Mahal required a workforce of thousands to transport, cut and carve the monument's costly marble façade, while its elaborate ornamentation made the city of Agra India's major center for craftsmen specializing in precious stones. Completed in 1654 after 22 years, the Taj Mahal with its perfect symmetry and harmony is considered an aesthetic masterpiece.

Vocabulary

Mughal — A Muslim empire, and the last of the great Indian empires, which ruled India from 1526 to 1857.

Genghis Khan — The founder of the Mongol Empire in 1206. He is recognized as one of the most powerful and significant leaders in world history.

Akbar the Great — The leader who fortified the foundations of the Mughal Empire in India, and is known as a great conqueror, administrator and patron of arts and architecture.

bazaar — A market consisting of street vendors, shops and stalls that is a prominent part of life in the Middle East.

Shah Jahan — The Mughal emperor (and grandson of Akbar the Great) noted for the building of the Taj Mahal.

sarcophagi — Stone containers inscribed with symbols and inscriptions that hold coffins and mummified remains.

Koran — The holy writings of Islam.

Islam — A religion practiced by more than one billion Muslims, "Islam" comes from the Arabic word for surrender.

Episode 2: Agra Fort

Near the gardens of the Taj Mahal stands the Mughal monument known as the Red Fort of Agra. The fort, with its high protective walls, was built in 1565 by Emperor Akbar the Great, who no longer felt safe in Delhi after an attempt on his life. This powerful fortress of red sandstone encompasses the imperial city of the Mughal rulers, which features many wonderful palaces, audience halls and two beautiful mosques. To the northwest, at Sikandra, is the tomb of Akbar the Great. Today, Agra is a major road and rail junction and a major economic, cultural and educational center.

Vocabulary

Jesuit — A Roman Catholic religious order founded in 1534 by Ignatius of Loyola.

Taoism — The main philosophy and system of religion of China. Tao means "the way" in Chinese and is considered the source for all things in existence. It is a model for human action and behavior.

Confucius — A Chinese philosopher and scholar born in 551 BCE who taught respect for others and the importance of good citizenship.

Buddhism — A religion based on the life and teachings of Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha. This religion is practiced by more than 350 million Buddhists worldwide.

Sufi — A Muslim mystic.

Zoroastrian — A follower of the religious faith of Zoroastrianism, based on a polytheistic tradition espoused by Zarathustra in ancient Persia. Small communities still practice the faith in Iran and India.

Jahangir — Son of Akbar the Great and ruler of the Mughal Empire from 1605 to 1627.

Aurangzeb — Son of Shah Jahan and ruler of the Mughal Empire. He is considered the last of the great Mughal emperors.

Episode 3: Lahore

Lahore, located in a fertile region of the upper Indus River plain, is the second largest city in Pakistan, which was partitioned from India in 1947. The city of Lahore was the capital of the Punjab for more than 900 years and was often the place of royal residence. Lahore is most often associated with the most famous Mughal ruler, Akbar the Great, who forged the Mughal Empire in the 16th century and ruled it for nearly 50 years. Akbar restored the famous fortress in Lahore, which contains marble palaces and mosques decorated with mosaics and is surrounded by mighty walls of red sandstone. Another main focus of Lahore is the unequalled elegance of the terraced Shalamar Gardens developed by Emperor Shah Jahan, which features lodges, waterfalls and large ornamental ponds. Today, although Lahore is crowded, and its old city is at the mercy of pollution, it remains an important educational, economic and religious center.

Vocabulary

heretic — A person who holds controversial opinions, especially one who publicly disagrees with aspects of the Roman Catholic faith.

Hindu — One who practices Hinduism, one of the world's oldest religions, which has countless sects and practices but no identified founder and no specific formal doctrine.

Aleppo — The second largest city in Syria, considered one of the longest continually-inhabited cities in the world.

Episode 4: Fatehpur Sikri

Mughal Emperor Akbar the Great built the city of Fatehpur Sikri during the second half of the 16th century near the home of a Muslim hermit who had correctly prophesied that Akbar would father three sons. Called the City of Victory, Fatehpur Sikri was the capital of the Mughal Empire for approximately ten years, features a complex of monuments and temples—all in a uniform architectural style—and includes one of the largest mosques in India. The Mosque's southern entrance, the colossal gateway (Victory Gate), is constructed out of red sandstone and is one of India's greatest architectural works. Because of a lack of water in Fatehpur Sikri, the Mughal capital was moved to Delhi in the 16th century. While the city is now deserted, it retains its status as an historic site and its architectural grandeur is still remarkably well-preserved.

Vocabulary

Rajasthan — A large state in northern India whose principal features are the Thar Desert and the "pink city" of Jaipur.

Follow-up Discussion Questions

- Describe the unique architectural features used in the construction of the Taj Mahal. Evaluate the statement that the Taj Mahal is the most beautiful building in the world.
- Who was Shah Jahan? Why is he considered the most diligent builder of all of the Mughal rulers?
- Why is Jahangir considered to be ironically named? Discuss the characteristics of his leadership style.
- How did Akbar the Great interpret pure Islamic doctrine? Summarize Akbar's views on religion.
- Evaluate the role of women in Mughal society.