

## India— Early Civilizations: A Timeline of Four Millennia

On the timeline, graph this list of events. Use the excerpts from a textbook to determine the start and end years. If there is not start and/or end date, write "N/A" in the box.

	Event Name	Start Year	End Year	Textbook excerpt
1	First Indian settlements			Farming settlements sprang up in the Indus-Sarasvati region as early as 6500 BCE. By 5000 BCE, people had also settled near the Ganges River." (HA, p 131)
2	Walled towns			"The first walled towns appeared on the Indian subcontinent in about 2500 BCE. Over the next 2,000 years, a unique civilization developed in India." (HA, p 123)
3	Harappan Civilization or Indus-Sarasvati Civilization			"These settlements became known as the Indus-Sarasvati civilization...The civilization flourished for 800 years, from about 2700 BCE to 1900 BCE." p 133 "...After about 1900 BCE, the great cities of the Indus River valley disappeared." (HA, p 134)
4	Indus Valley Civilization			". . .other archeologists explored Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro . . . This civilization became known as the Indus Valley civilization. It thrived for approximately 1,000 years from about 2500 to 1500 B.C." (MAD, p 222)
5	Mohenjodaro			"[The city of Mohenjodaro developed an extensive sewer system] ... 2000 years would pass before the world would see another system like it, in ancient Rome." (HA, p 138)
6	Origins of Hinduism			"Hinduism is a very old religion, so old that it began before recorded history. No single person founded it. It developed slowly over a long period of time... Around 1500 BCE, invaders called Aryans conquered northern India. Some historians credit the Aryans with bringing Hinduism to India... Most likely, Hinduism is a blend of Aryan beliefs and the beliefs of the people they conquered." (HA, p 144)
7	Founding of Buddhism			"Buddhism is based on the teachings of the Buddha, which means 'Awakened One.' The Buddha was a man who lived in India from about 563 to 483 BCE. Before earning the title of Buddha, he was a young prince named Siddhartha Gautama." (HA, p 153)
8	Mauryan Empire			"They [the Maurya family] united India for the first time under the Mauryan Empire, which flourished from about 322 to 187 BCE." p 161 "Chandragupta's rule kept his empire strong by using force whenever necessary." (HA, p 162)
9	King Ashoka			"The Mauryan Empire reached its height during the reign of King Ashoka. He ruled the empire from about 269 to 232 BCE." p 163 "King Ashoka used Buddhist values to unify India... He spread Buddhist beliefs through edicts." (HA, p 161)
10	Gupta Empire			"The Gupta's were a line of rulers who ruled much of India from 320 to 550 CE. Many historians have called this period a golden age, a time of great prosperity and achievement." (HA, p 167)

Quotes taken from *History Alive! The Ancient World*, TCI, 2004, Chapters 13–18 and *A Message of Ancient Days*, Houghton Mifflin, 1999, Unit 3

## India— Early Civilizations

The following quotes imply worlds listed on the Five Worlds chart. As you read and research about different societies, you can identify or infer important concepts connected to these worlds even when the actual terms or labels are never used.

There are no right or wrong answers to this exercise (though some answers are better than others); the process of analyzing and developing reasons behind your thinking and of seeing how these five worlds overlap are what is important.

	Highlight key words or phrases in each quote that indicated the factor	Label the world the quote <u>best</u> describes and identify your reasons.
a	“The people of the Indus Valley were the first people to raise chickens for food . . . By 2000 B.C., the Indus people had begun to spin and weave cotton cloth.” <u>MAD</u> , p 228	world: reason:
b	“One theory is that Aryan culture grew out of the Indus Valley civilization . . . Other historians believe that Aryans migrated to India over a long period of time and developed alongside the Indus Valley civilization. They believe that the Aryans and the Indus Valley people are two separate groups because their languages were so different.” <u>MAD</u> , p 229	world: reason:
c	“By around 1500 B.C., the first Aryans found their way through the difficult high passes in the Hindu Kush, the mountains along the northwestern edge of the Indian subcontinent. One route was through the Khyber Pass. The passes would serve as highways for other migrating and invading people for the next 3,000 years.” <u>MAD</u> , p 230	world: reason:
d	“India’s early townspeople lived along the Indus River and the ancient Sarasvati River. The Sarasvati used to run through what is now the Thar Desert. Scientists believe the river dried up around 1900 BCE. Over time, the area became a desert.” <u>HA</u> , p 131	world: reason:
e	“The Vedas describe the universe as divided into three regions – earth, atmosphere, and sky. Aryans worshipped divine beings, or gods, who occupied these regions and had a power over the forces of nature.” <u>MAD</u> , p 232	world: reason:
f	“When the Aryans first came to India, their social system had three social classes – the ruler, or raja, and his warriors; the priests, and the commoners. Eventually, a new four-class system emerged.” <u>MAD</u> , p 233	world: reason:
g	“The [Deccan] plateau is fairly dry. There are few rivers, but the monsoon rains provide most of the water. The soil on the plateau is black, yellow, or red. The black soil is rich in iron and good for growing cotton. The yellow and red soils are missing important minerals. Farmers have a hard time growing plants in them.” <u>HA</u> , p 125	world: reason:
h	“Following his days of meditation beneath the sacred tree, the Buddha set forth his Four Noble Truths. These teachings give the Buddhist view of why people suffer and how suffering can be avoided.” <u>MAD</u> , p 237	world: reason:
i	“Asoka belonged to a line of conquering kings known as the Mauryas, who ruled from about 324 to 183 B.C. The Mauryas built the first great Indian empire.” <u>MAD</u> , p 239	world: reason:
j	“Some historians credit the Aryans with elements of what later became Hinduism to India. Others believe that traces of Hinduism can be found in ancient artifacts left by India’s original settlers.” <u>HA</u> , p 144	world: reason:
k	“The Guptas offered luxury exports – gems; pearls; perfumes; pepper, ginger, cinnamon, and other spices; finely woven cotton cloth; red dye; and timber such as teak and ebony. Goods flowing into the Gupta empire included gold from Rome, silk from China, and horses from Saudi Arabia and Central Asia.” <u>MAD</u> , p 249	world: reason:

