



# History

## TERMS & NAMES

Mughal Empire

Indian National Congress

Muslim League

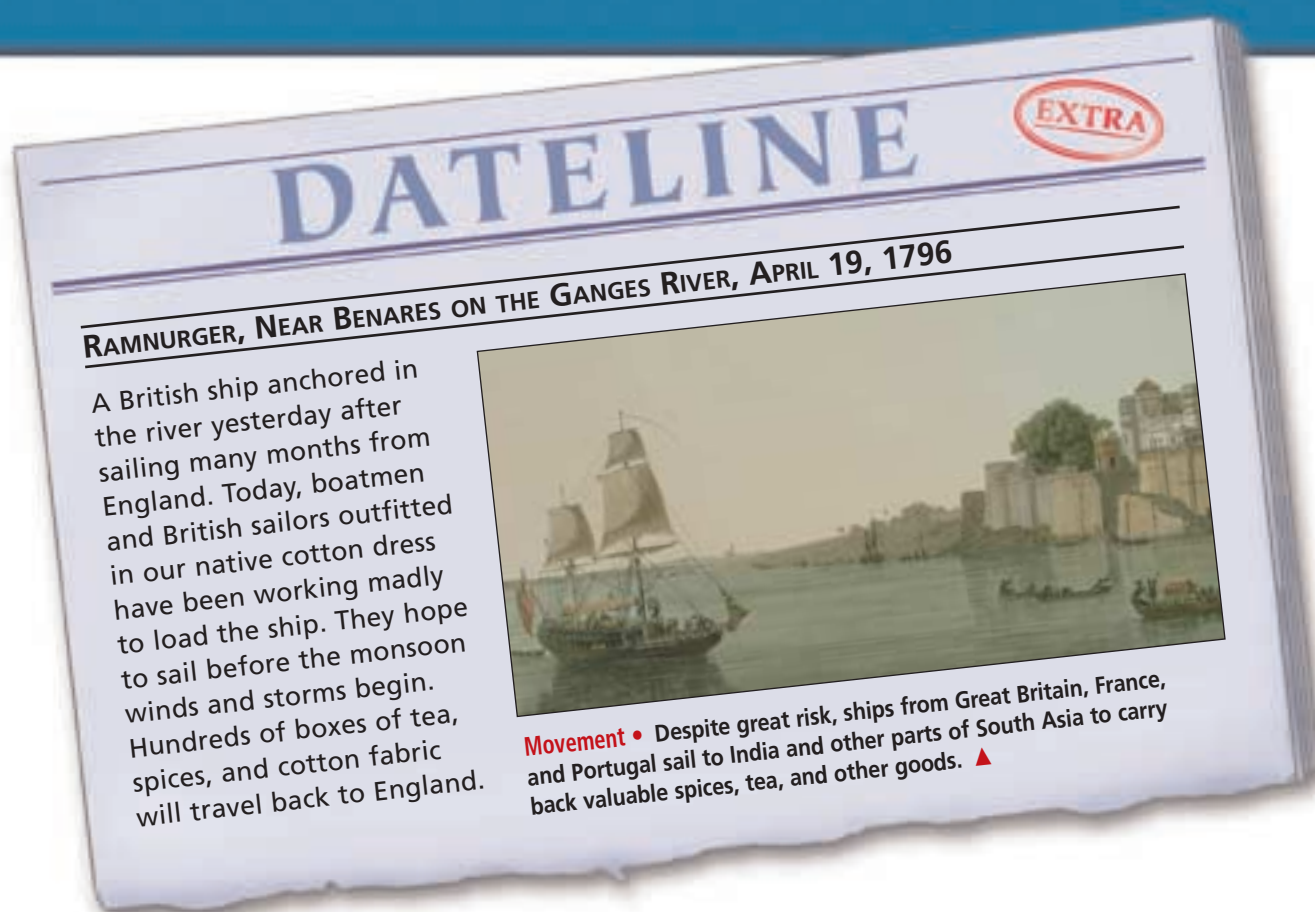
Mohandas Gandhi

## MAIN IDEA

The movements of people and ideas through the nations of South Asia have produced a varied and exciting history.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

Similarities and differences among these nations have led to both development and conflict.



## Islam Comes to India

The coast of India has been a site of trade for centuries. Arabs were trading along the coast of India a thousand years before the British arrived. Early in the eighth century A.D., Muslims from Arabia conquered northwest India. They converted many of the people of this region to their religion, Islam. Even today, the people of this region (what is now Afghanistan and Pakistan) are Muslim.



**Location •**  
The Hindu Kush  
Mountains in  
northern  
Pakistan helped  
to keep out  
invaders. ▲

**Turks and Mongols** Beginning in the 11th century A.D., Turkish Muslims from what is now Afghanistan attacked north-west India, replacing the Arabs. By 1206, the Turkish kingdom stretched south to the Deccan Plateau. The region was ruled from the city of Delhi by a sultan. During this time, Mongols from Central Asia began spreading west and south. Because

of the mountains in the northeastern part of South Asia, the Mongols never invaded the region. Many people who were threatened by the Mongols fled across the mountains into South Asia. These artists, teachers, government officials, and religious leaders brought with them their culture and learning.

### Vocabulary

**sultan:**  
emperor

**Culture •** Akbar, shown here crossing the Ganges, had his life story told in words and pictures in the *Akbarnama*, or *The Memoirs of Akbar*. ▼

## The Mughal Empire

In the year 1526, Babur (BAH•buhr), a Mughal (moo•GUL) ruler and a Muslim, invaded southward with his army. Eventually, his kingdom included northern India and land west into Afghanistan. Babur involved local leaders in his government and built trade routes, strengthening his rule. Babur's reign was the beginning of the great **Mughal Empire**.

### Vocabulary

**Mughal:**  
Muslim Turks  
from what is  
now Turkistan

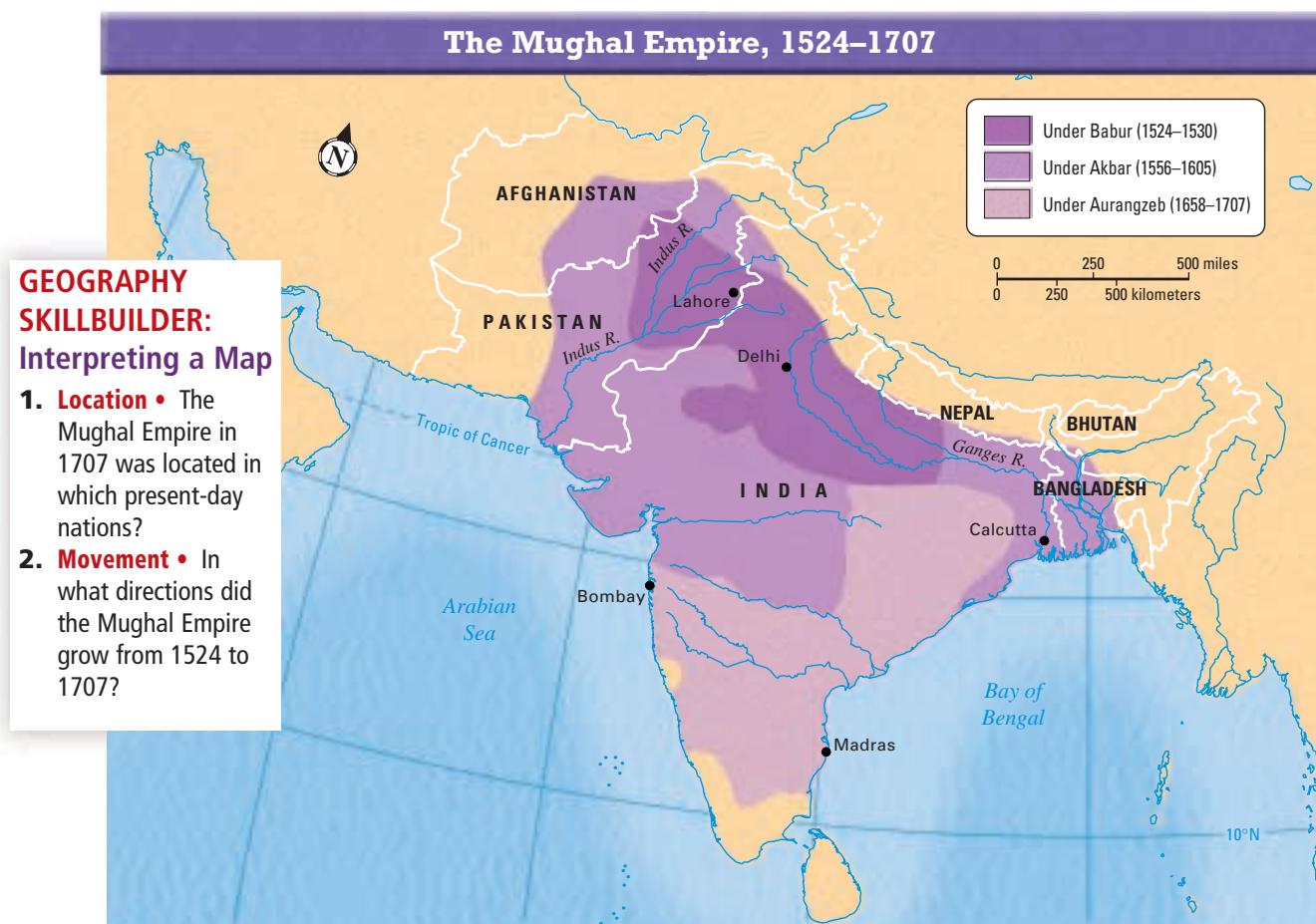
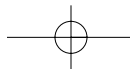


**Akbar, Mughal Emperor** The third Mughal emperor, Akbar, was a strong and intelligent leader who was careful to include both Hindus and Muslims in his government. His policies made India a place where both Hindus and Muslims could live in peace. He taxed people according to the size and value of their land, which meant that poor farmers were not taxed as heavily as they had been before. Akbar was a strong supporter of the arts. He provided studios for painters and gave awards to the best among them. He also created a position for the official Hindu poet of the nation.

**End of the Empire** During the period of the Mughal Empire, many new trade routes over land and water were established, making travel between regions easier. The trade routes also connected the empire with other parts of the world. In this way new ideas and inventions made their way into South Asia. Then, in the year 1707, with the death of the last Mughal emperor, the empire eventually collapsed.

### Reading Social Studies

**A. Drawing Conclusions** How would trade routes help to strengthen an empire?



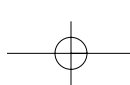
## Arrival of the British

In 1600, Queen Elizabeth I of England gave trade rights to the East India Company, an organization of English merchants, to trade in India and East and Southeast Asia. The Mughals agreed to let the British set up factories and trading centers. The East India Company shipped spices, tea, cotton, silk, indigo (used for dyeing), sugar, and saltpeter (used for gunpowder) to England. Gradually, the British increased their power. By 1818, after the Rajputs and other groups agreed to be ruled by the British, Great Britain's strength in the region was undeniable.

**Movement •** The British brought railroads to India, such as this steam train in Darjeeling, shown in 1930. ▼







**India's Neighbors and Great Britain** In 1796, Great Britain took possession of the island nation of Sri Lanka, then called Ceylon, and the island nation of the Maldives. The nations of Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan never became colonies of Great Britain, though the British tried to colonize Afghanistan. Nepal and Bhutan depended on their mountainous frontiers to keep out foreigners.

**Making India British** The British army and navy, merchants, and Christian missionaries came to India, bringing new technology for railroads, the telegraph, steamships, and new methods of irrigation. They also introduced the British legal system, with new laws regarding landownership, and made English the official language.

Indians responded to the British in different ways. Some chose to live just as they had before the British arrived. Others chose to interact economically with the British by working for and with them while maintaining their traditions. Still others studied the British traditions and adopted what seemed useful while keeping their own traditions. Among the higher castes, parents sent their children to British schools so that they could learn English and become successful.

### Reading Social Studies

**B. Comparing**  
Which changes brought by the British were cultural and which were technological?

## Independence

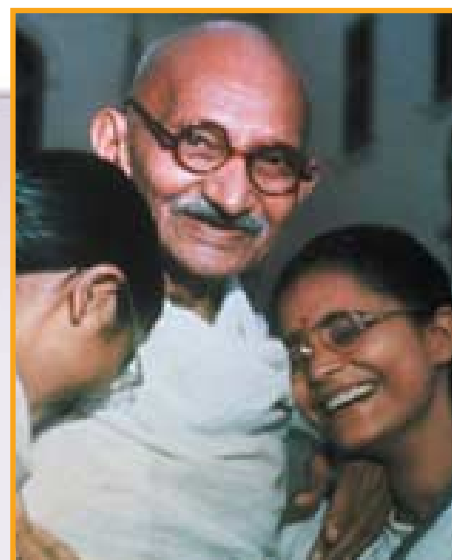
In 1885, the **Indian National Congress** was formed to provide a forum where Indians could discuss their problems. Muslims formed the **Muslim League** in 1906. After World War I, Indians began to think of independence. They had a great leader in **Mohandas Gandhi**.

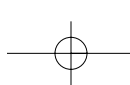


**Mohandas Gandhi** (GAHN•dee) Gandhi was born in India in 1869. He learned about discrimination when, as a young boy, he saw that no matter how wealthy and well educated Indians were, they were treated as second-class citizens by the British. Gandhi studied law in England and then spent the rest of his life working for justice for the Indian people.

He encouraged his followers to use nonviolence to resist the British and bring about social change. Gandhi believed that the forces of goodness and truth had powerful effects on people. As part of this belief, he went on hunger strikes and organized labor strikes and marches to force the British to grant India its independence.

The Indian people call Gandhi the *Mahatma*, which means "Great Soul." They honor him as the father of their nation. His ideas have influenced many people who have worked for justice around the world.





Gandhi used nonviolence to impress upon the British the need for independence. He also wanted all Indians to be treated equally. He wanted women to have the same freedoms as men. He encouraged Hindus and Muslims to find peaceful ways to solve their problems. For example, to protest the British monopoly of salt, Gandhi led a 240-mile walk to the coast to gather sea salt.

### Vocabulary

**monopoly:**  
The sale of a good by only one company

### BACKGROUND

On the Unit Atlas Map on page 368, find India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. Before independence, this entire region was India.

Eventually, Great Britain realized that it would have to leave India, but the Indian National Congress and the Muslim League disagreed about how the new government would be formed. Muslims were afraid of losing power because Hindus were the majority in India. The solution was to divide India into two separate countries, India for the Hindus and Pakistan for the Muslims. The two countries were formed and granted independence in 1947. Sri Lanka became independent in 1948, and the Maldives in 1965.



**Movement •**  
Gandhi led his countrymen to the coast at Dandi to protest the British sale of salt. ▲

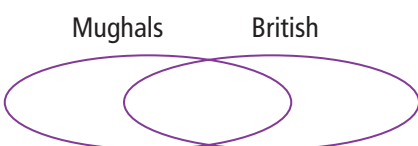
## SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

### Terms & Names

1. Identify: (a) Mughal Empire (b) Indian National Congress  
(c) Muslim League (d) Mohandas Gandhi

### Taking Notes

2. Use a Venn diagram like the one below to compare and contrast the rule of the Mughals and the British in India.



### Main Ideas

3. (a) How did Islam reach India?  
(b) Name three achievements of the Mughal emperors.  
(c) Why did the British colonize India?

### Critical Thinking

#### 4. Making Inferences

Do you think it was easier for rich Indians or poor Indians to live under British rule? Explain.

#### Think About

- ♦ how Indians responded to British rule
- ♦ the opportunities for Indians of different castes

### ACTIVITY -OPTION-

Imagine being a reporter for an Indian newspaper and attending a speech given by Gandhi. Write a **short article** reporting on the speech and giving your reaction to it.