

CHAPTER 2 Section 3 (pages 82–87)

The Mughal Empire in India

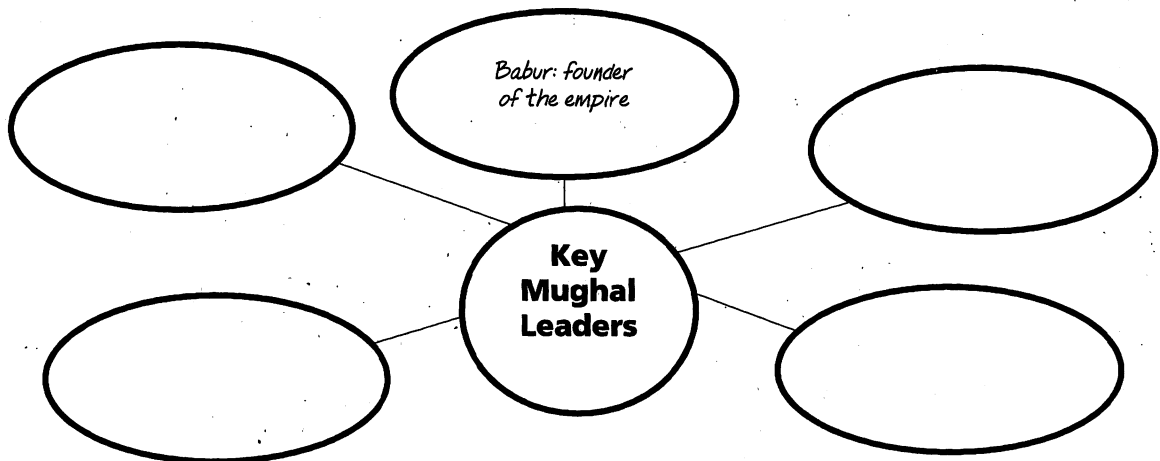
BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learn about how the Safavids established an empire in what is present-day Iran.

In this section, you will learn about the establishment of the Mughal Empire in what is now India.

AS YOU READ

Use the web diagram below to take notes. In each circle, write the name of one important Mughal ruler. Also write two or three words that identify each person or name a major accomplishment or problem of his rule.



TERMS AND NAMES

Babur Founder of the Mughal Empire

Mughal One of the nomads who invaded the Indian subcontinent and established a powerful empire there

Akbar Mughal ruler with a genius for cultural blending, military conquest, and art

Sikh Nonviolent religious group that became the enemy of the Mughals

Shah Jahan Mughal ruler who built Taj Mahal

Taj Mahal Tomb built by Shah Jahan for his wife

Aurangzeb Last important Mughal ruler

Early History of the Mughal Empire (page 82)

How did the Mughal Empire begin?

Starting in the 600s, India went through a long, unsettled period. Nomads from central Asia invaded the area and created many small kingdoms. In the 700s, Muslims arrived on the scene. This began a long history of fighting with the *Hindus* who had lived in India for centuries.

After about 300 years, a group of Muslim Turks conquered a region around the city of Delhi. They

set up a new empire there. They treated the Hindus in their area as conquered peoples. Their rule was brought to an end in 1398.

A little over a hundred years later, a new leader named **Babur** raised an army and began to win large parts of India. He had many talents. He was a lover of poetry and gardens. He was also an excellent general. His empire was called the **Mughal Empire** because he and his families were related to the Mongols.

1. Who was Babur?

The Golden Age of Akbar

(pages 83–84)

Who was Akbar?

Babur's grandson was **Akbar**. His name means "Greatest One." He ruled with great wisdom and fairness for almost 40 years.

Akbar was a Muslim. However, he believed strongly that people should be allowed to follow the religion they choose. Both Hindus and Muslims worked in the government. He hired people in his government based on their ability and not their religion.

Akbar ruled fairly. He ended the tax that Hindu pilgrims had to pay. He also ended the tax that all non-Muslims had to pay. To raise money, he taxed people on a percentage of the food they grew. This made it easier for peasants to pay the tax. His land policy was less wise. He gave much land to government officials. However, when they died he took it back. As a result, workers did not see any point in caring for the land.

He had a strong, well-equipped army that helped him win and keep control of more lands. His empire held about 100 million people—more than lived in all of Europe at the time.

During Akbar's reign, his policy of blending different cultures produced two new languages. The languages were blends of several languages. One was *Hindi*, which is widely spoken in India today. The other was *Urdu*. It is now the official language of Pakistan. The empire became famous for its art, literature, and architecture. The best example of this art was small, highly detailed, colorful pictures called miniatures. He also sponsored the building of a new capital city.

2. What are some examples of Akbar's policy of fair rule?

Akbar's Successors (pages 84–87)

Who ruled after Akbar?

After Akbar's death in 1605, his son Jahangir, took control of the empire. During his reign, the real

power was his wife, Nur Jahan. She plotted with one son to overthrow another son. She had a bitter political battle with the **Sikhs**, members of a separate, nonviolent religion. That group became the target of attacks by the government.

The next ruler was **Shah Jahan**. He too chose not to follow Akbar's policy of religious toleration. Shah Jahan was a great *patron* of the arts and built many beautiful buildings. One was the famous **Taj Mahal**, a tomb for his wife. His ambitious building plans required high taxes, though. People suffered under his rule.

His son **Aurangzeb** ruled for almost 50 years. He made the empire grow once again with new conquests. His rule also brought new problems. He was a *devout* Muslim, and he punished Hindus and destroyed their temples. This led to a rebellion that took part of his empire. At the same time, the Sikhs won control of another part of the empire.

3. How did Aurangzeb deal with Hindus?

The Empire's Decline and Decay (page 87)

How did the Mughal Empire lose its power?

Aurangzeb used up the empire's resources. People did not feel loyalty to him. As the power of the state weakened, the power of local lords grew. Soon there was only a patchwork of independent states. There continued to be a Mughal emperor, but he was only a *figurehead*, not a ruler with any real power. As the Mughal empire was rising and falling, Western traders were building power. They arrived in India just before Babur did. Shah Jahan let the English build a trading fort in Madras. Aurangzeb handed them the port of Bombay. This gave India's next conquerors a foothold in India.

4. How did the Mughal Empire change after Akbar?

CHAPTER
2

GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION
Europe Discovers the Riches of India

Section 3

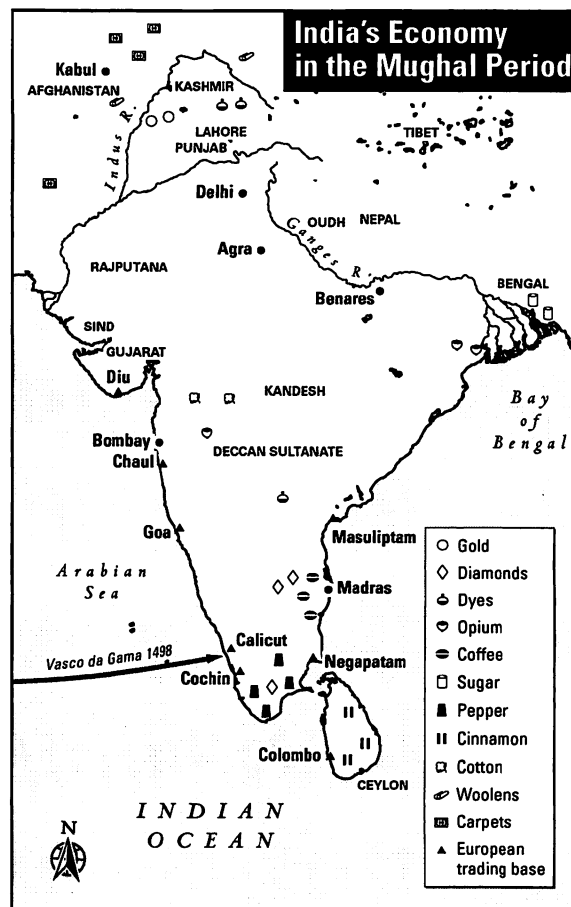
Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

In 1498 the Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama was the first European to reach India by sea. In contrast to most outsiders reaching India, he was interested only in the country's natural resources, not in conquering territory. Da Gama landed at Calicut, the richest of several Indian port cities. He was totally unprepared, however, to encounter shops and warehouses stocked with such items as cotton textiles and diamonds. Europeans had underrated India's sophistication. Da Gama had brought as gifts to his Indian hosts only striped cloths, hats, strips of coral, sugar, oil, and honey. These items had impressed the African kings he had met but now were considered an insult to the lord of Calicut. The gifts were refused. Da Gama was told that his presents should have been made of gold.

The failure of the Portuguese to offer the proper respect angered the Mughals, and so da Gama returned home only with stories of what he'd seen—and some spices he had bought himself. The spices, however, were sold in Europe at 27 times their cost, and the scramble for Indian products was under way. Pepper became the most desired of India's spices. Indian dyes were sought everywhere. Most popular of all were textiles—especially rugs—as weaving had been done in India for centuries.

During the 1500s Portuguese traders controlled sea routes to India and seized several trading forts along the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal. However, the Portuguese traders eventually lost their Indian strongholds to the Dutch, who took over trading posts in Colombo in 1641, Negapatam in 1658, and Cochin in 1663. Soon thereafter French and English traders took over Dutch trading claims. Mughal

rulers were still relatively strong during these years, and they never permitted Europeans to capture anything more than an economic foothold on the subcontinent. That power ended when Aurangzeb's death broke up the Mughals' central state.



Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. On which coast of India were most of the European trading posts located? _____
2. What were the main products of the Bengal region of India at this time? _____
3. What is the only product found in both the northern and southern regions? _____
4. What was the sole major product of Ceylon, which is modern Sri Lanka? _____
5. From which country did Vasco da Gama come and where in India did he land? _____
6. Look at the product symbols for the Afghanistan and Kashmir regions of India. What was the main economic activity in those regions? _____
7. What was Europe's most desired Indian spice and where did it come from? _____
8. Explain why the export of carpets, woolens, most dyes, and gold from India to Europe was probably more difficult than that of the other products found on the map. _____

