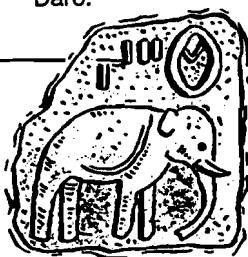


TIMELINE

THE DEVELOPMENT OF HINDUISM

<p>c. 2500BC</p> <p>The Indus Valley Civilization is at the height of its power. Its two centers are the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo Daro.</p>	<p>c. 1500BC</p> <p>The Aryan people begin to invade India from the north-west. Their Vedic religion mixes with Indus Valley beliefs to form the basis of Hinduism.</p>	<p>c. 1500–1000BC</p> <p>The <i>Rig Veda</i> and the other three Vedas are used by the Aryan priests in their rituals. The caste system develops.</p>	<p>c. 800BC</p> <p>The <i>Upanishads</i> are composed, although they are not written down for several hundred more years.</p>	<p>c. 500BC</p> <p>The Buddha spreads his teachings all over India, laying the foundations of Buddhism. The Jain religion is founded by Mahavira.</p>	<p>400BC–AD400</p> <p>Large parts of the two epic poems, the <i>Mahabharata</i> and the <i>Ramayana</i>, are composed.</p>
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Indus Valley Civilization seal

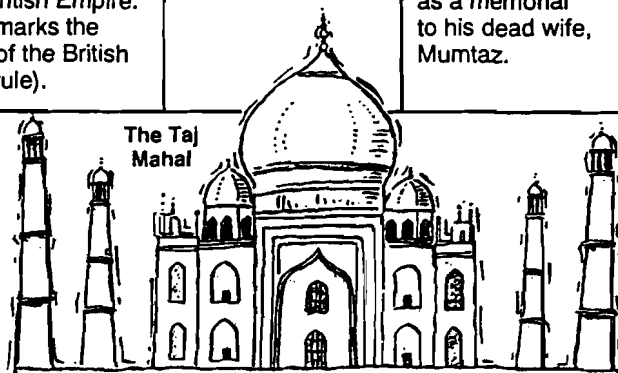


Buddha

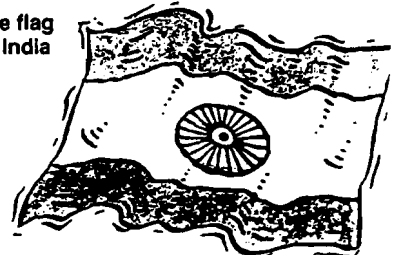
<p>AD1828</p> <p>Ram Mohan Roy founds the Brahmo Samaj (Society of God), which seeks to reform Hinduism.</p>	<p>AD1784</p> <p>Under the India Act, the British gain political control of India and it becomes part of the British Empire. This marks the start of the British Raj (rule).</p>	<p>1600s–1700s AD</p> <p>The British, French, Dutch and Portuguese bring Christianity to India.</p>	<p>AD1632</p> <p>The Mughal emperor Shah Jehan begins building the Taj Mahal in Agra, as a memorial to his dead wife, Mumtaz.</p>	<p>1570s AD</p> <p>The poet Tulsid Das writes his great work, the <i>Ram Charit Manas</i>, based on the <i>Ramayana</i>.</p>	<p>AD1556–1605</p> <p>Reign of the Mughal emperor Akbar the Great. He forms his own new religion, which mixes Muslim, Hindu and Christian beliefs.</p>
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AD1857

The first Indian War of Independence against the British.




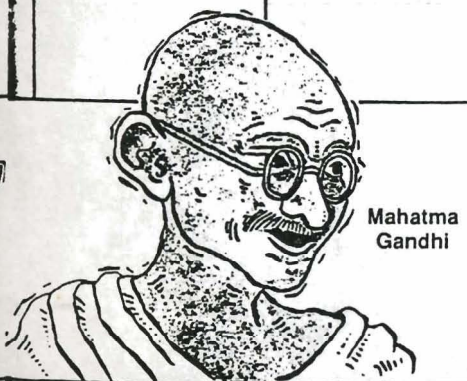
The Taj Mahal



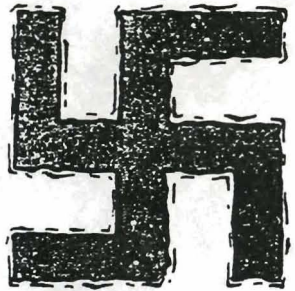
The flag of India

<p>AD1869</p> <p>Birth of Mahatma Gandhi, one of the leaders of India's struggle for freedom from the British.</p>	<p>AD1875</p> <p>The Arya Samaj, another Hindu movement, is formed.</p>	<p>AD1876</p> <p>Queen Victoria is proclaimed Empress of India. She never visits India.</p>	<p>AD1897</p> <p>Swami Vivekananda establishes the Ramakrishna Mission in India. Its headquarters are in Calcutta.</p>	<p>AD1910</p> <p>Sri Aurobindo, a holy man and former revolutionary, starts a religious center in Pondicherry, India.</p>	<p>AD1947</p> <p>India gains independence from the British but is partitioned into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan.</p>
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<p>AD320-550</p> <p>India is ruled by the Gupta kings and enjoys the 'golden age' of Hinduism.</p>	<p>c. AD700-800</p> <p>The Hindu Mataram kingdom is established in Java, Indonesia.</p>	<p>c. AD800</p> <p>The great Hindu philosopher Shankaracharya writes and teaches about the <i>Upanishads</i>.</p>	<p>c. AD900</p> <p>The Chola kings rule over South India. Many beautiful temples are built.</p>
<p>Gupta coin</p> 			<p>AD1001</p> <p>The Muslims begin to invade India from the north-west and to spread their religion of Islam.</p>
<p>AD1526</p> <p>The Muslim Mughal Empire is founded in India.</p>	<p>AD1469</p> <p>The birth of Guru Nanak, founder of the Sikh religion.</p>	<p>AD1336-1555</p> <p>The Hindu kingdom of Vijayanagar thrives in South India, despite the arrival of the Muslims in the north.</p>	<p>c. AD1050</p> <p>Ramanuja, the Hindu philosopher, teaches in South India.</p>




PARTITION OF INDIA
 India gained independence from British rule on 15 August 1947. But there was a high price to pay for its freedom. The Muslim League, which spoke up for the rights of Muslims living in India, had campaigned for a separate country for India's Muslims. So India was divided into mainly Hindu India and mainly Muslim Pakistan. The newly created country of Pakistan was itself divided, for most of the Muslims lived in the western state of Punjab (West Pakistan) and in the eastern state of Bengal (East Pakistan), on opposite sides of India. The partition of India caused terrible suffering. Millions of people were killed in violence between Hindus and Muslims and millions were left homeless. In 1971, East Pakistan became the independent, mainly Muslim country of Bangladesh.



Swastika

SIGN OF PEACE
 The swastika is an ancient Hindu symbol of peace. It is often drawn on cards and invitations and woven into textiles to bring good luck. In the 20th century, the German Nazis took the swastika symbol, reversed it and turned it into a symbol of evil. To Hindus, however, it has exactly the opposite meaning.

<p>AD1948</p> <p>Mahatma Gandhi is assassinated on his way to a prayer meeting. His final words are 'He Ram' ('Oh God').</p>	<p>1950s-1960s AD</p> <p>Many Hindus leave India to live in Britain, Canada and the USA.</p>	<p>1990s AD</p> <p>Fighting breaks out between Muslims and Hindus in Ayodhya, the birthplace of Rama. The Bharatiya Janata Party, a Hindu political party, grows in power.</p> 
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