

OCL History – Year 8

Autumn 1 Anthology



Emerging Empires: What really mattered to the Mughals?



Your name: _____

Your teacher: _____

Emerging Empires – What really mattered to the Mughals?

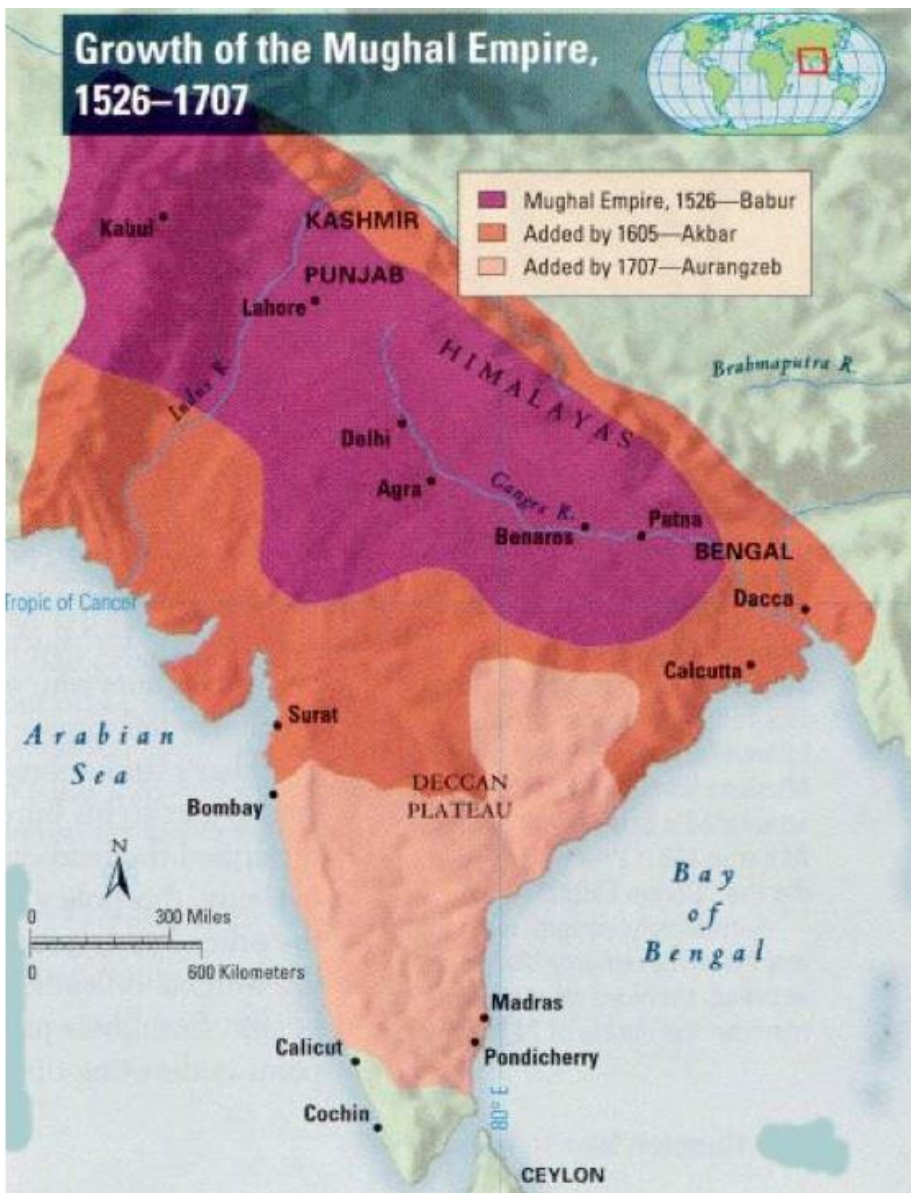
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Mapping the Mughal Empire

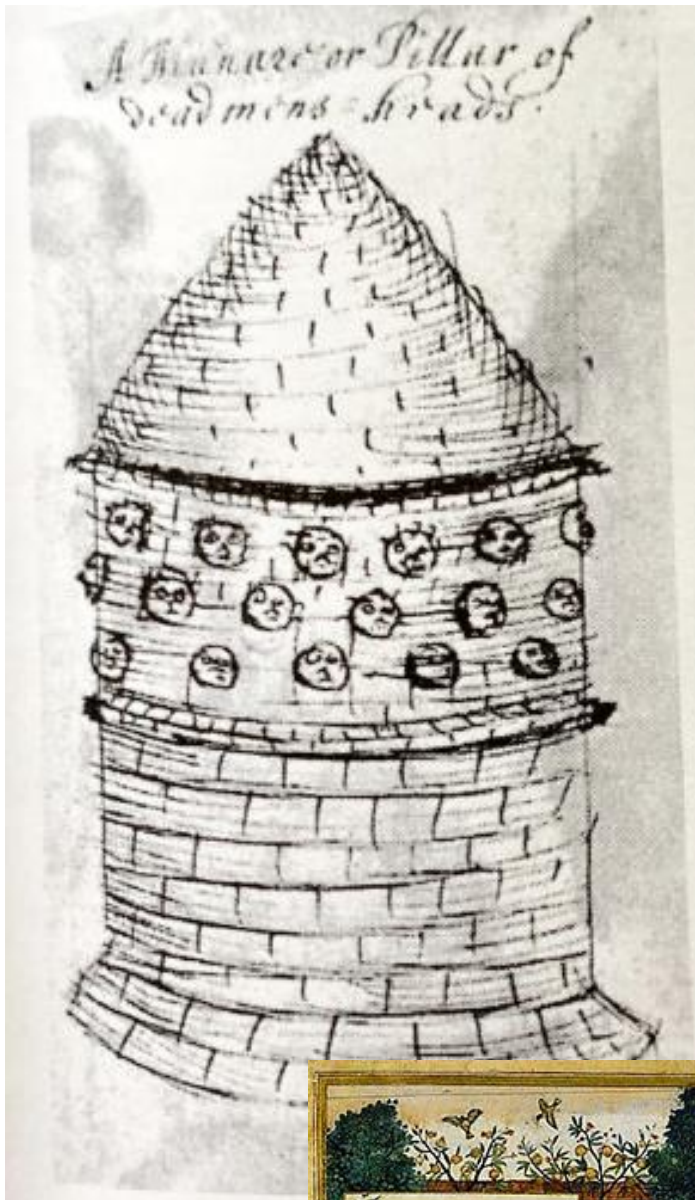


This map shows the three of the most powerful Asian empires of the 16th-18th centuries, The Ottoman Empire, the Safavid Empire, and the Mughal Empire.



The map on the left shows the three key stages of expansion of the Mughal Empire under the great Mughals. The initial empire was founded by Babur, the first of the Great Mughals, it was then expanded by his grandson, Akbar, with the final phase of expansion under the last of the Great Mughals, Aurangzeb

Lesson 1: What mattered to the Mughals?



Left - **Source 1:** A drawing by Peter Mundy, an Englishman who travelled in India in the 17th century (1600-1700).

It was accompanied by the following description '**heads mortared and plaistered in, leaveinge out nothing but their very face**'

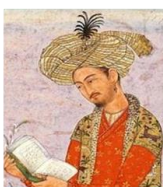
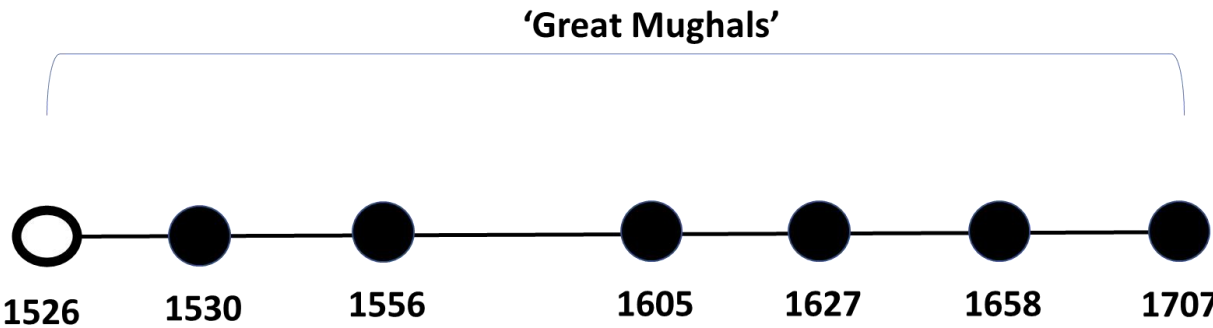
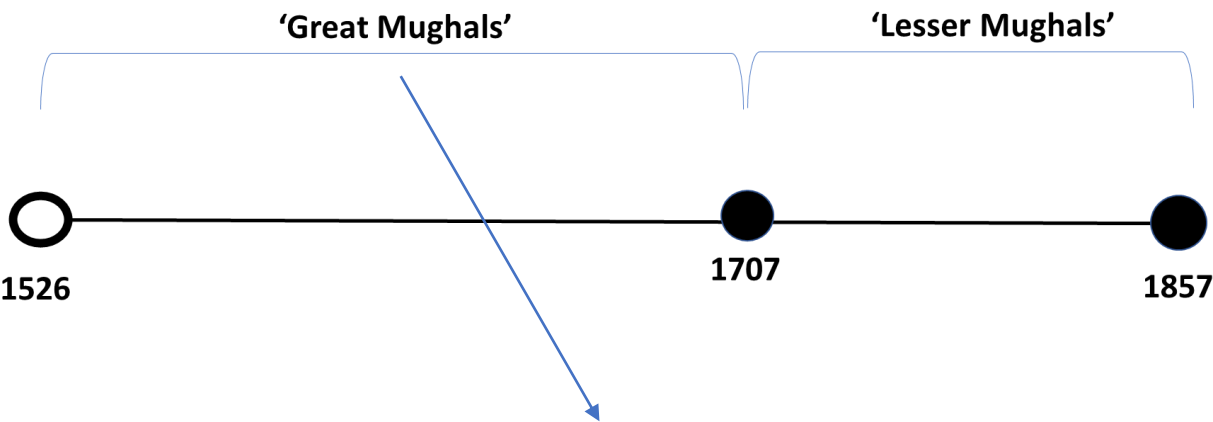
Below: **Source 2:** Paintings of the Bagh-i Wafa (Garden of fidelity), outside of the city of Kabul, which Babur, the first Mughal Emperor constructed



Map of the Mughal Empire at its peak – Whilst the Mughal Emperors were Muslims, most people living in the empire were Hindus. Northern India was known as Hindustan as a result of this.



Timelines of the Mughal Dynasty :



Babur



Humayun



Akbar



Jahangir
(Salim)

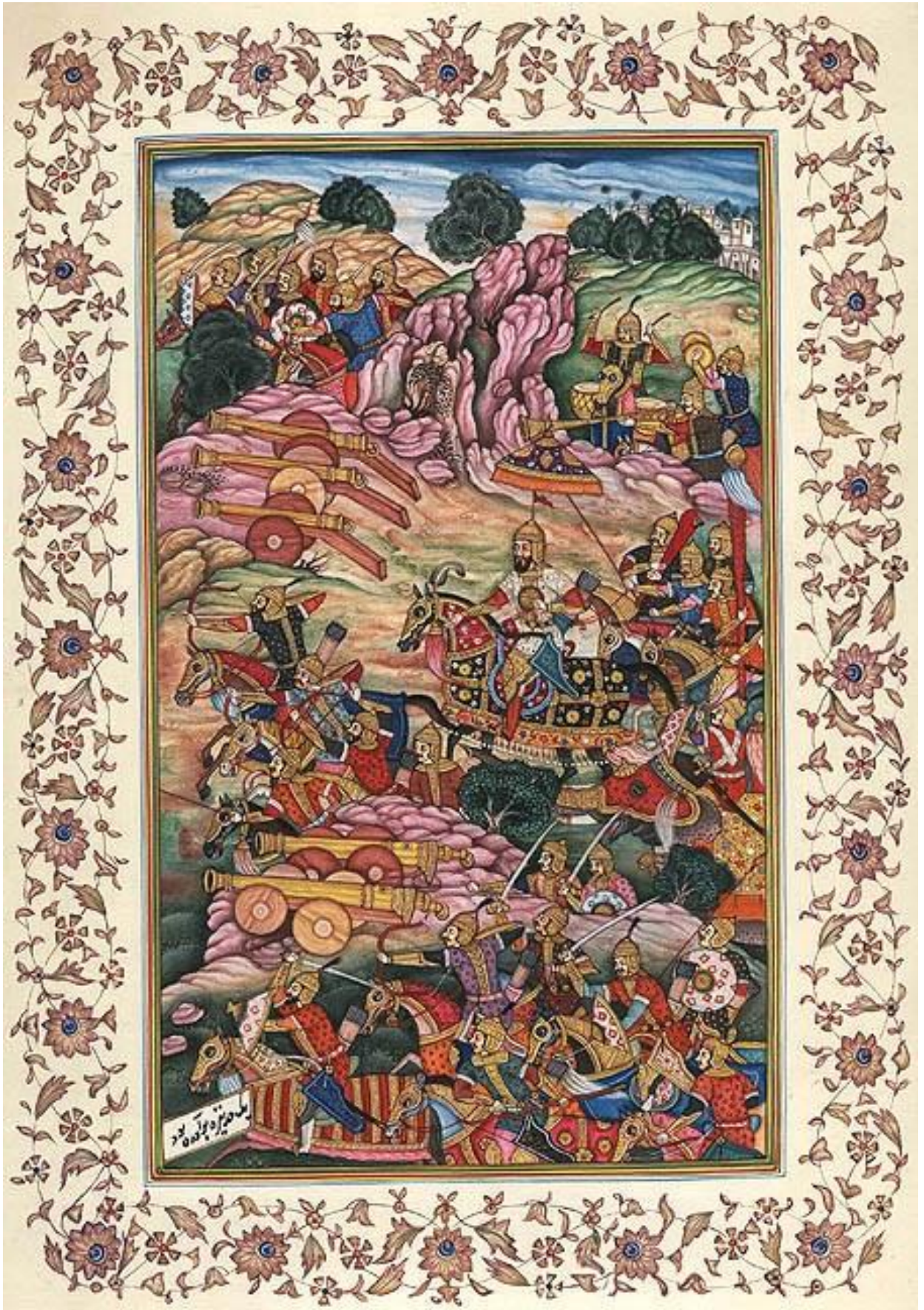


Shah Jahan
(Khurram)



Aurangzeb

Lesson 2: What mattered to Babur?



Source 3 – A painting of Babur and his army at the first battle of Panipat in April 1526. Babur is in the centre, riding a horse underneath what looks like an umbrella. The painting was part of Babur's own memoirs, the Baburnama., in which Babur wrote about his own life.

1 He has become better known to history under the name given to him as a result of his success
2 as a military commander, Babur (meaning “tiger”).
3

4 His pedigree was certainly notable: he was the eldest son of King Umar Sheikh Mirza, ruler of the
5 Fergana Valley, and he was a direct descendant on his father's side of the Great Timur. On his
6 mother's side, he was a direct descendant of another great Mongol leader, Genghis Khan.
7 Given that, perhaps it is no surprise that Babur became one of the most ruthlessly efficient
8 Mongol Warlords ever...
9

10 ...During the rule of Timur, Mongol power had extended south into parts of the Punjab, to the
11 area known as Hindustan. This was a wealthy area, rich in natural resources ruled not by a
12 single entity but by a network of bickering mahajanapada families. If Babur could extend his
13 power into this area, he might be able to build the foundations of a new empire...
14

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
1. Babur's family mattered to him because he was descended from...	2. Babur was known for...
A. A king	A. Being a weak leader
B. A line of powerful rulers	B. Owning tigers
C. A family with no pedigree	C. Being a strong leader

22 In April 1526, Babur met the armies of Sultan Ibrahim at Panipat, 50 miles North of the
23 strategically important city of Delhi. This was the largest and most important battle in which
24 [Babur] the 32 year old Mongol leader had been involved.
25

26 On paper, the Mongols [led by Babur] stood little chance. Babur's army numbered less than
27 12,000 men. Facing them was an army of more than 1000,000 including more than 100 war
28 elephants, one of the most fearsome weapons of the period. However, Babur's troops were
29 seasoned veterans, many mounted, all used to battle and to following their talented leader.
30 Babur also had a new and terrifying weapon: artillery provided by the Ottoman Turks. Babur
31 used the mobility of his cavalry supported by artillery to destroy his enemy, including killing
32 Sultan Ibrahim himself. Within three days, Babur had occupied Delhi. By May 4, he had also
33 occupied the city of Agra, more than 100 miles southwest of Delhi...
34

35 ...[However,] The Mongol invaders were surrounded by large and powerful military factions
36 who wanted them removed. The prudent course would have been to retreat, but Babur had
37 no intention of leaving Delhi. In March 1527, the small Mongol army faced a much larger army
38 under the command of Rana Sanga

It has been estimated that Rana Sanga led an army of more than 100,000 men supported by over 5000 war elephants. Once again, Babur used superior tactics (including using his artillery to cause the war elephants to stampede through their own troops) to achieve a complete victory.

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
1. Babur became famous for winning battles where... A. He had larger armies than his enemies B. His enemies used artillery but he did not C. His army was far smaller than his enemies	2. Babur refused to leave Delhi after capturing it, this shows us he... A. Wanted to raid India for treasures and then return home. B. Was scared of the other factions in India. C. He wanted to rule over the places he conquered, starting an empire.

During 1526, Babur led his army into Afghanistan, destroying the power of the warlords who controlled these lands. In May 1529, he led his army to a third victory against a much larger force when he defeated Mahmud Lodi at Ghaghara. This series of victory meant that Babur's position in Delhi was virtually unassailable, but he was given little time to enjoy the reprise from battle. In 1530, Babur's eldest son, Humayun became seriously ill. In response, Babur is said to have pleaded to God to take his life but to spare that of his son. He walked around his son's sickbed seven times to emphasise the solemnity of his vow. Humayun recovered, but Babur almost immediately fell ill. In January 1531, Babur died in the city of Agra at the age of 47. The succession of leadership fell to Humayun. Babur's military genius allowed him to create the foundations of what would become one of the most powerful empires on earth. Yet he is not just remembered as a warlord.

Babur was also a gifted Turki poet and a lover of nature; one of his first acts after the conquest of the city of Agra was to build a great garden there. Despite his preoccupation with military matters, he was also a prolific writer; his memoirs, the Babur-nameh, (also spelled Baburnama), have become renowned not just because of the ability of the author to describe events in a lively and engaging way but also because of his frequent use of wit and irony.

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
1. We know that Babur believed in God because... A. He prayed to God to save his son B. He prayed to God to save his life C. He was known as the 'worshipper'	2. Culture was also important to Babur, we know this because... A. He only enjoyed fighting B. He loved poetry, writing, and nature C. He spent all his time building gardens

Source 4– Quotes from the Baburnama, Babur's own memoirs of his life.

Quote 1:

"Having failed in repeated expeditions against Samarkand and Andejan, I once more returned to Khojend. Khojend is but a small place; and it is difficult for one to support two hundred retainers (soldiers) in it. How, then, could a man [Babur], ambitious of empire, set himself down contentedly in so insignificant a place?"

Quote 2:

I sent a great part of the gold and effects found in the Fort of Milway, to strengthen my interest in Balkh, and to Kabul as presents to my relations and friends, and to my children and dependants.

Quote 3:

Our troops brought down one hundred or two hundred of their men, cut off the heads of the one half, and brought the other half alive to the camp, along with seven or eight elephants.

Several of the prisoners were put to death, to strike terror into the enemy.

Quote 4:

I repeated a prayer, by virtue of which it was that almighty God averted my danger, and removed from me the risk to which I was exposed. It was as follows (in Arabic) "O my God! Thou art my Creator; except Thee there is no God; On Thee di I repose my trust; Thou art the Lord of the mighty throne.

Quote 5:

"Whatever had come into my head, good or bad, I turned in to [poetry] for amusement...." [but then] "from that time forward, I religiously abstained from satirical... poetry". [However, Babur soon returned to writing poetry and doing other things that went against his religious beliefs, such as drinking wine]

Lesson 3: Did the same things matter to Humayun?



Source 5 – An artist's impression of Humayun fighting his brother who had risen in rebellion, painted sometime between 1590-1595.

Extract 2 – Written by Mr Hayes, Teacher at Oasis Silvertown, drawing together information from *The Mughal Empire: A history from beginning to end* and *A short history of the Mughal Empire* by Michael H Fisher

As a dying Babur had decreed, Humayun succeeded him as the next Mughal Emperor. However, Babur had given his other sons, Kamran, Hindal and Askari, specific parts of the empire to rule. During his reign as Emperor, Humayun's brothers would repeatedly try and overthrow him, seeking to become emperor themselves. But, wishing to follow his father's wishes that no harm would come to any of his sons, Humayun repeatedly forgave them, even after Kamran had taken his son, Akbar, hostage (though Humayun did eventually blind Kamran as a consequence of his actions, this was still much more lenient than executing him).

Just like his father, Humayun was keen to conquer new territories and expand the Mughal Empire. He spent vast amounts on artillery and gun-powder, continuing the Mughal's reputation for using advanced weaponry. In the early part of his reign Humayun won a number of battles and conquered new territories, but he tended to lose them just as quickly, moving on with his army to fight another enemy before he had succeeded in establishing full control.

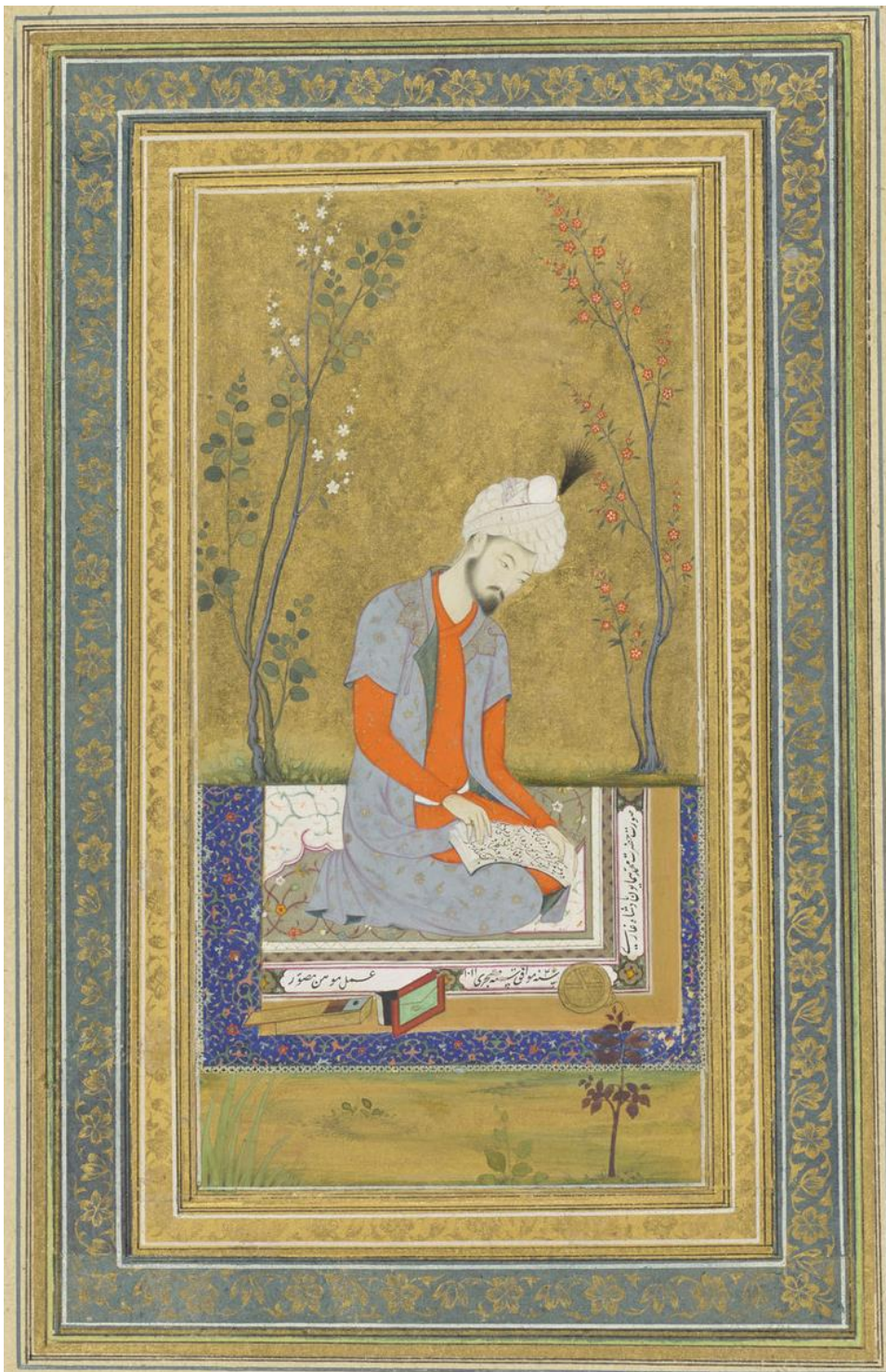
Knowledge Check: MCQs	
<p>1. Family was important to Humayun, we know this because...</p> <p>A. He loved his brothers</p> <p>B. He wanted to respect his father, even though this was difficult at times</p> <p>C. He never punished his brothers for rebelling against him,</p>	<p>2. Empire mattered t to Humayun, this was demonstrated by...</p> <p>A. His desire to increase the size of the empire his father had built</p> <p>B. The time he spent ensuring full control of the areas he conquered</p> <p>C. Him spending money on making sure the people he ruled were happy</p>

Humayun didn't just lose control of new territories though, he ended up losing the entire Mughal Empire.

Whilst Humayun was trying to conquer territories in central India, an Afghan warlord, Sher Khan, rose to prominence in the East. Humayun eventually set out to defeat Sher Khan, but, having taken too long, was unable to beat him in battle. At this point, seeing the lack of victory as a sign of weakness, Humayun's brothers rose up against him, claiming to be the real rulers of the Mughal Empire. To try and restore his reputation and demonstrate his strength, Humayun set out to decisively defeat Sher Khan once and for all in 1539 but was resoundingly defeated and almost drowned trying to escape, only rescued by a poor water carrier called Nizam. Humayun was humiliated again in 1540, when, seeking revenge against Sher Khan, his army was defeated once more, forcing him to flee and effectively ending the Mughal empire just 14 years after it had been founded by his father, Babur. Humayun was left with just 40 men and reduced to eating horsemeat boiled in a helmet to survive.

39 However, Humayun never gave up on his ambition to win his empire back, he travelled to
40 Iran in 1544 and gave all his remaining wealth to Shah Tahmasp and converted to a
41 different type of Islam in return for an army to help win back his throne. Humayun had to wait
42 for an entire decade before the opportunity presented itself, but in February 1555 he
43 recaptured Lahore, and just a few months later, in July, he was able to recapture Delhi, re-
44 establishing the empire he had inherited from his father. He did not have long to enjoy being
45 emperor however, as, in January 1556 he tripped whilst descending the steep stone stair
46 case of his library in Delhi. He had been on the roof consulting his astronomers about the
47 movement of the stars when he had heard the call to prayer and started making his way to
48 Mosque when he caught his robe on a step and smashed his head on the stone stairs. He
49 died three days later.

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
1. Which of the following best describes Humayun and the Mughal Empire?	2. Which of the following demonstrates that culture mattered to Humayun?
A. He didn't care about it, which is why he lost it.	A. He died falling down some stairs
B. It mattered to him a lot, he spent his entire life either trying to expand or restore the empire	B. He enjoyed spending time in his library and discussing astronomy
C. It mattered to him, but wealth and religion mattered more.	C. He won his empire back in 1554



Source 6- Surrounded by an open pen box, manuscript, portfolio and an astrolabe, hinting at his keen interest in astronomy, the second Mughal Emperor Humayun kneels on a felt rug in a paradisiacal garden as he reads a verse from the *Bustan* ('Fragrant Garden') of Sa'di (a book of poetry).

Lesson 4: What mattered to Akbar?



Source 7 – A painting of Emperor Akbar, unknown date and painter. One key detail to focus on is the falcon Akbar is holding. The falcon is wearing a pendant on a string, just like Akbar. The ferocity of the bird is reflected in the curve of its beak and its narrow eyes. In total contrast is the gentle expression of the king's face. The rounded face has gentle eyes, a shapely nose and though the lips are not smiling, they do not look grim either. There is subtle modelling of the features, so essential to the life and character of the person depicted.

Extract 3 - “The Reign of Akbar, Chapter Four, taken from *The Mughal Empire: A history from beginning to end*

1 From the very beginning, Akbar was keen on innovation and reform. The Mughal army
2 had always used firearms, but under the rule of Akbar, it became one of the world's
3 leading exponents of this new weapon technology. New artillery was obtained from the
4 Ottoman Empire and gunpowder experts from as far away as Portugal were brought in to
5 improve the ability of the army to use these weapons. And it wasn't just canons that gave
6 the Mughal army an advantage; under Akbar's rule and due in part to his personal
7 interest matchlock muskets were distributed to large numbers of Mughal soldiers. This
8 became so prevalent that for a time, this empire was referred to as the “Gunpowder
9 Empire”.

11 One of the first challenges to Mughal rule during the reign of Akbar came from Hemu...
12 who had proclaimed himself Hindu emperor and established control over the Indo-
13 Gangetic plains formerly ruled by the Mughals. Akbar's first test as a military leader saw
14 him quickly defeat Hemu and establish Mughal control over the city of Ajmer, the main
15 route to Rajputana, the fertile and wealthy lands of central India. In 1560, Akbar led a
16 Mughal army south into Rajputana and quickly conquered the provinces of Malwa and
17 Garha, a barren and thinly populated area which was of interest to the Mughals mainly
18 because it contained large herds of elephants that would become part of the Mughal
19 army.

21 By 1576, the Mughal armies conquered all of Rajputana, and soon after, they began the
22 annexation of areas of western and eastern India. By 1585, Akbar was leading his troops
23 again, capturing Kashmir in the Upper Indus River valley. Under Akbar's leadership, the
24 areas controlled by the Mughal Empire more than tripled in size.

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
<p>1. Which of the following demonstrate why we know the military mattered to Akbar?</p> <p>A. He was the first Mughal to use gunpowder based weapons.</p> <p>B. He expanded the use and type of gunpowder based weapons used in the Mughal army</p> <p>C. He was the first Mughal to win great victories in India</p>	<p>2. Which of the following best describes Akbar's relationship with his empire?</p> <p>A. It was important to him, He spent many years using his army to expand the Empire.</p> <p>B. It wasn't important to him, he only cared about being known as a great leader</p> <p>C. He was happy to just rule the empire he had inherited from his father, Jahangir</p>

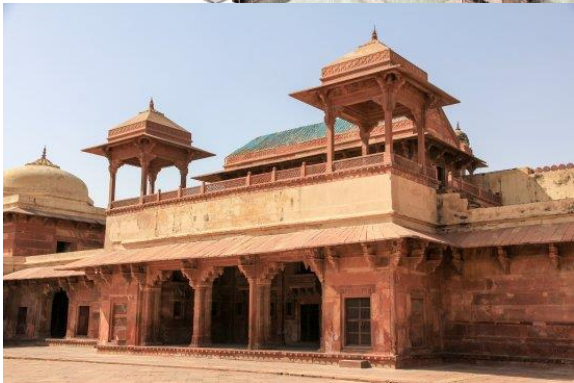
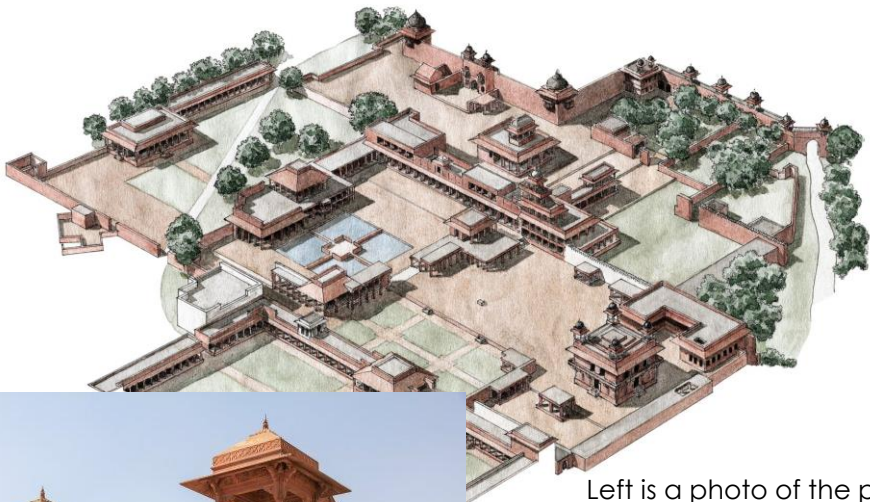
Extract 4 - "The Reign of Akbar, Chapter Four, taken from *The Mughal Empire: A history from beginning to end*

He increased trade with European nations, and the empire quickly developed a strong and stable economy... Akbar created a new system of taxation, the *dahsala* system, to ensure a steady flow of income to support the war effort...

This system was not popular, but it was generally seen as more fair than the previous, *Jizya*, system had taxed non-Muslims more.

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
1. What did Akbar do to help fund his military?	2. Why has Akbar often been seen as treating the people of India better than other Mughals?
A. He increased taxes on non-Muslims	A. Hindus no longer had to pay more in taxes than Muslims.
B. He set up a new tax system	B. Muslims had to pay more in taxes than Hindus
C. He used fewer gun-powder weapons than other Mughals	C. He got rid of all taxes

Source 8 – Images of Fatehpur Sikri (City of Victory) which Akbar had built to celebrate his conquest of Gujarat and made in to capital.



Left is a photo of the palace of Jodha Bai, named after Akbar's Hindu wife. The palace demonstrates a mixture of Islamic and Hindu design in its architecture

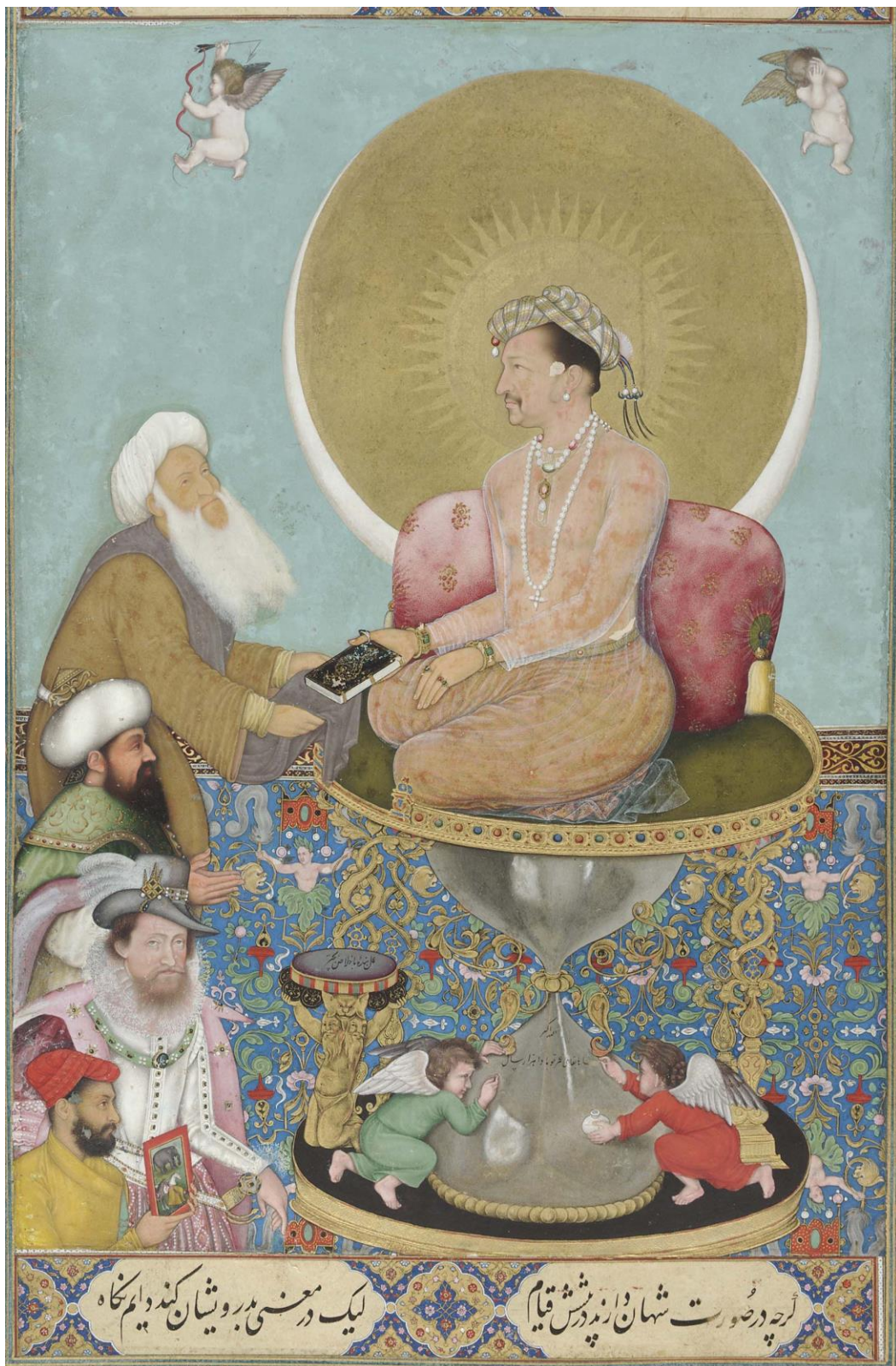
Right is a photo of Jami Masjid Mosque, which, at the time of construction, was the largest mosque in the Mughal empire.





Source 9 – A painting of a religious debate in the House of Worship, which Akbar had built at Fatehpur Sikri, Akbar was keen to learn about many different faiths and this debate includes Muslims, Hindus and Jesuits (Christians) (the two men in the top left)

Lesson 5: Did the same things matter to Jahangir?



Source 10 - This is a painting of Emperor Jahangir, he is shown with a giant halo around his head, discussing religion with a religious leader, whilst other kings and rulers are forced to wait in line.

Lesson 5: Did the same things matter to Jahangir?

Extract 5 – “Consolidation & Glory”, Chapter Five, taken from *The Mughal Empire: A history from beginning to end*

1 Almost as soon as Jahangir ascended the throne in late 1605, he faced a challenge from
2 an unexpected source; his own eldest son, Prince Mirza, who claimed to be the rightful
3 heir to the throne and instigated a revolt against his father. The rebellion was quickly
4 crushed, and Mirza was eventually killed by Jahangir's third son, Prince Khurram.
5
6 Khurram became Jahangir's favourite, and in 1622 was sent to fight an uprising in Mughal
7 lands. However, after his victories, Prince Khurram then led his armies in rebellion against
8 his father. This was defeated and Khurram was imprisoned in Agra.
9
10 Part of the reason for the revolts led by two of his sons was the fact that Jahangir was seen
11 by many people as a weak and inefficient leader and some wanted to see him replaced
12 with someone stronger. Jahangir inherited a strong and thriving economy, and he
13 seemed more content to enjoy the life of an emperor (Later accounts suggest he was
14 addicted to opium and consumed prodigious amounts of wine on a daily basis.) without
15 being too concerned with the running of the empire or expanding it further. He did not
16 lose any of the Empire, however, and kept local rulers loyal by increasing the payments
17 they received.
18
19 What Jahangir did have a fascination with was art and architecture. He amassed a vast
20 collection of art and became the patron of a number of prominent artists, encouraging
21 them to experiment with new styles including adopting features of European art. This is
22 perhaps most prominent in the addition of halos to portraits of the Mughal Emperors.

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
<p>1. Jahangir's relationship with his empire seemed different to the previous Mughals because...</p> <p>A. It didn't matter to him</p> <p>B. He was more interested in living the luxurious life of an emperor rather than expanding the empire.</p> <p>C. He was interested in nothing but his empire</p>	<p>2. Jahangir's fascination with art and architecture demonstrates that which of the following mattered a lot to him?</p> <p>A. Military</p> <p>B. People of India</p> <p>C. Culture</p>



Source 11 –This image shows **Jahangir Visiting the Ascetic Jadrup by artist Govardhan, circa 1616 – 1620**

– Like his father, Jahangir showed respect for both Hindu and Muslim holy men, and between 1616-1620 he made several visits to a Hindu ascetic who lived naked all year round in a cave. This image shows one of these visits.

Source 12 – From the Jahangirnama, Jahangir's own memories of his reign, focusing on his feelings about the Sikh leader, Guru Arjan Dev Ji

1 They called him Guru, and from all sides stupid people crowded to worship and manifest
 2 complete faith in him. For three or four generations (of spiritual successors) they had kept
 3 this shop warm. Many times it occurred to me to put a stop to this vain affair or to bring
 4 him into the assembly of the people of Islam...

5
 6(After Guru Arjan De v Ji had apparently supported Jahangir's rebellious son, Khurram
 7 when he rebelled against him) when this came to my ears...I ordered them to produce
 8 him and handed over his houses, dwelling places, and children to Murtaza Khan, and
 9 having confiscated his property commanded that he should be put to death...

10 (Jahangir then had the Guru tortured for fives days, including being boiled alive in a
 11 cauldron, before he died).



Source 13 – A portrait of Nur Jahan, showing her holding a matchlock rifle, with which she was a crack shot. Nur Jahan was Jahangir's favourite wife and he lavished her with great wealth as well as giving her power as an important political advisor.

Lesson 6: What mattered to Shah Jahan?



Source 14 – A portrait of Shah Jahan sitting on his peacock throne.

The throne was described by the French physician, Francois Bernier as ... supported by six massive feet, said to be of solid gold, sprinkled over with rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. I cannot tell you with accuracy the number or value of this vast collection of precious stones, because no person may approach sufficiently near to reckon them, or judge of their water and clearness; but I can assure you that there is a confusion of diamonds, as well as other jewels, and that the throne, to the best of my recollection, is valued at four crores of Rupees....forty millions of rupees, worth sixty millions of pounds or thereabouts.

On top of this was placed a peacock made of emeralds and rubies; on to its head was attached a diamond the size of a hen's egg, known as the Koh-i-Noor—the Mountain of Light, whose price no one but God Himself could know!

What the imperial Mughal army did in Malwa and Deccan was described by both contemporary Mughal chronicles and foreign travellers. Shah Jahan ordered the Mughal army to “ravage the country from end to end”. They carried out this order so comprehensively that Shahjahan-Nama says after the campaign, “there is scarcely a vestige of cultivation left in this country”. Shahjahan used to follow the insecure Mughal tradition of not leaving their wives alone even during war campaigns. He took Mumtaz Mahal along with him to Burhanpur. It was here that she died giving birth to Shah Jahan's 14th child after a 30 hour prolonged labor! To house her corpse, Shah Jahan decided to build Taj Mahal.

There was a scarcity of rain that year and the devastating Mughal campaign resulted in a total famine. This famine of 1631 was one of the deadliest in world history. It afflicted the Gujarat, Malwa and Deccan regions as it was precisely here that Mughals ran their devastating campaign.

The condition of affected people in the famine was described by Mughal court historian in the following words “Inhabitants were reduced to the direst extremity. Life was offered for a loaf, but none would buy.. Dog's flesh was sold for goat flesh. The pounded bones of dead were mixed in flour and sold. Men began to devour each other and the flesh of a son preferred to his love .The numbers of the dying caused obstructions in the roads. Those lands which had been famous for fertility and plenty of resources retain no traces of production”

Some excerpts from the diary of Peter Mundy, who travelled across this region during that time: “Surat(Gujarat)– Great famine, highways unpassable, infested by thieves looking not for gold but grain; Kirka- Town empty. Half inhabitants fled. Other half dead; Dhaita- Children sold for 6 dams or given for free to any who could take them so they might be kept alive; Nandurbar(Maharashtra)-No space to pitch a tent, dead bodies everywhere. Noisome smell from a neighbouring pit where 40 dead bodies were thrown. Survivors searching for grains in excrement of men and animals. Highway stowed with dead bodies from Surat to Burhanpur”

Knowledge Check: MCQs

1. Whilst Shah Jahan spend vast amounts of money building the Taj Mahal, the people of India...

- A. Starved to death
- B. Excitedly waited to see the great building finished
- C. Willingly gave him their money and resources to help build it

Extract 7 – “Consolidation & Glory”, Chapter Five, taken from *The Mughal Empire: A history from beginning to end*

1 In 1627, after 21 years of rule, Jahangir became ill and quickly died... Although Prince
2 Khurram was still in disgrace (having rebelled against his father), he was thought likely to
3 make the most formidable emperor, and in January 1628, he was placed on the Mughal
4 throne as Shah Jahan.
5
6 Almost immediately, he confirmed just how determined he was by ordering a round of
7 executions of anyone who might also have a legitimate claim to the throne including his
8 brother Sahryayr, his nephews Dawar, and Garshasp and his cousins tahmuras and
9 Hoshang.... these executions ensured that there would be no effective challenge to the
10 rule of the new emperor.

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
1. Shah Jahan was previously known as...	2. What did Shah Jahan do to many of his close relatives?
A. Jahangir	A. Gave them wealth, like Babur had.
B. Akbar	B. Had them executed, so they could not threaten his power.
C. Prince Khurram	C. Sent them in to exile

21 The army of the Mughal Empire expanded to its greatest extent during the rule of Shah
22 Jahan, reaching a total size of almost one million men at arms, making it by far the most
23 powerful military force in the Indian subcontinent and one of the largest in the world.
24
25 The army was used relatively little for conquest or expansion in this period, being used
26 instead as a manes of ensuring the docility of the people ruled in the Mughal lands.
27 Rebellions by the Bundella Rajputs and by Sikhs in Lahore were quickly and effectively
28 crushed.
29
30 Shah Jahan also found himself dealing the first time with European settles. The Portuguese
31 established a settlement at Port Hooghly-Chinsurah in wester Bengal, and the aggressive
32 preaching of their Jesuit priests so infuriated the emperor that he ordered them expelled.

Knowledge Check: MCQs
1. Shah Jahan's army...
A. Was smaller than the previous Great Mughal's armies
B. Was used to maintain his empire, rather than expand it.
C. Was used to expand the empire to three times it's previous size

31 However, not all Shah Jahan's time was spent on military and political matters; he, like his
32 father, was fascinated with architecture and he became one of the most prominent
33 patron of architecture in the empire. When his favourite wife, Mumtaz mahal, died in 1631,
34 the emperor called upon architects from all over India and from as far as Europe to
35 collaborate on the design of a grand mausoleum in her memory. The building was
36 completed in 1643 and cost a staggering sum, approximately equivalent to \$900 million
37 today. It has become one of the most iconic buildings in the world and better known by
38 the name later given to it – the Taj Mahal.

39

40 Expenditure in general was beginning to be a problem during the reign of Shah Jahan.
41 The income needed to support the massive standing army was almost more than the
42 revenue coming in from taxation, and when this was combined with the emperor's lavish
43 spending on artistic and architectural projects, it was clear that an unsustainable situation
44 was developing.

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
1. The Taj Mahal demonstrates that Shah Jahan had a keen interest in... A. Culture & certain members of his family B. Wealth & his military C. The Military and culture	2. During Shah Jahan's reign he spent enormous amounts of money on... A. The Military and culture B. The people of India and culture C. The Military and the people of India

Lesson 7: How different was Aurangzeb to the other Great Mughals?



Source 15 – A PORTRAIT OF THE EMPEROR AURANGZEB (R.1658-1707) MUGHAL INDIA, CIRCA 1700

Extract 8 – “Consolidation & Glory”, Chapter Five, taken from *The Mughal Empire: A history from beginning to end*

1 Shah Jahan became ill in 1658 and this immediately prompted a fight for the succession
2 amongst his sons. Three immediately raised armies and began a brief but bitter civil war.
3 The eventual victor was his third son, Muhi-ud-din Muhammad, known as Aurangzeb. He
4 defeated the other claimants to the throne just as his father became well again.
5 Undaunted Aurangzeb had his father declared incompetent and confined him to a
6 fortress in Agra. All of his brothers were killed or executed in the civil war, and Aurangzeb
7 became the sixth Mughal Emperor in the summer of 1658.

9 Under his rule, the Mughal Empire would expand even more to become a world
10 superpower. Some expansion was achieved by the direct use of the military, but a great
11 deal was achieved by sheer intimidation; no-one could stand up to the might of the
12 Mughal army, and when the emperor suggested that large parts of southern India might
13 perhaps choose to join his empire, there was little active dissent.

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
1. To secure his position as Emperor Aurangzeb...	2. Aurangzeb was able to expand his empire by...
A. Killed or executed his brothers	A. Through conquest and fear
B. Had his father declared incompetent	B. Through conquest alone
C. Killed or executed his brothers and had his father declared incompetent	C. By paying local leaders to join

24 The sheer numbers are daunting. Under the rule of Aurangzeb, the area of the Mughal
25 Empire expanded to cover more than four million square kilometres (1650 times the size of
26 the United Kingdom) and included over one hundred and fifty million subjects. Imperial
27 revenue was more than ten times that of France, the wealthiest European nation at the
28 time. The Mughal empire was the largest source of manufacture in the world, with a GDP
29 exceeding that of all the European powers combined.

31 For all the power and wealth that his rule brought, Aurangzeb is chiefly remembered as a
32 pious leader. He was said to have memorised the complete Koran, and under his rule,
33 expenditure on the ostentatious art and architecture which had so beguiled his
34 predecessors dwindled to almost nothing.

His piety also led to the abandonment of the policy of liberalism which had previously characterized the empire, and he re-introduced the Jizya tax, which specifically targeted non-Muslims. Hindu temples were demolished and activities such as music, gambling, fornication outside marriage, and the consumption of alcohol, which went against his understanding of religious teachings, were prohibited and subject to severe punishments.

Knowledge Check: MCQs

1. Aurangzeb memorising the Koran and punishing Hindus and others who went against his strict Islamic beliefs demonstrate that	2. Aurangzeb's religious beliefs led him to stop spending money on art and architecture, except mosques, this suggests that, for Aurangzeb
A. Islam mattered to him more than previous Mughal Emperors	A. Religion mattered more than culture
B. His religious beliefs were similar to other Great Mughals	B. Culture mattered more than religion
C. He was interested in other people's religious ideas	C. Religion and culture mattered just as much.

The last 20 years of Aurangzeb's reign were spent seeking further expansion of the empire though fighting the Marathas, a group of Jats, Sikhs and Afghans in Western and Southern India. From 1697 to 1707, it has ben estimated that the Mughals lost an average of 100,000 men each year in an unsuccessful attempt to take this inhospitable land. The emperor remained personally involved, and in early 1707, the 88 year old emperor became ill and died at this battle-camp in Bingar, near Ahmednagar.

1 ...few kings had to fight so many royal battles and lordly encounters.. Through God's
2 grace he achieved victory everywhere by dint of his strong arm and sharp sword. But....
3 So great was his humility that he never ascribed these victories to his own powers, but
4 always spoke of them as miracles wrought by God, and ever rendered his tanks to the
5 Creator for this great good fortune by adoration of Allah, the establishment of the Holy
6 Law of the Prophet, and the extinction of all traces of illegal and prohibited practices...
7
8 In strong contrast with his father, Aurangzeb did not build much monumental
9 architecture, although he did build restore or enlarge many Mosques....

Knowledge Check: MCQs	
1. Aurangzeb said that his military victories were as a result of...	2. What was Aurangzeb's relationship with architecture?
A. His great military leadership	A. He was not interested in architecture and never built anything
B. The large army he had built	B. He spent far less on architecture than his predecessors, only really building or restoring Mosques
C. As a result of God's blessing	C. He carried on his father's interest in architecture, building many great buildings



Source 16 – Equestrian portrait of Aurangzeb. Mughal, c. 1660-70. British Library, Johnson Album, 3.4.

During his lifetime, Aurangzeb was often represented in one of two ways: either as a warrior for Islam or as a devout Muslim ruler reading a Qu'ran. As compared to the lavish paintings of Shah Jahan's period, the artistic style radically changed. Artists tended to paint simple individual portrait studies. Aurangzeb's views on Islam are one of the contributing factors that led to a decline in the Mughal painting tradition.

In this equestrian portrait, Aurangzeb is depicted symbolically as an austere ghazi or warrior for Islam. He is dressed in full armour and holds a gold lance. His rearing horse is ready for battle and covered with chain-mail. From his belt hang a quiver of arrows and a push dagger called a katar.