

Muslim Empires

*The Emergence of the First
Global Age (1450–1750)*



The Ottoman Empire

The Safavid Empire

The Mughal Empire

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about the rise and decline of the Mughal Empire, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- Who were the key leaders of the Mughal Empire and what did they accomplish?
- How did the Mughal Empire change during this time?
- Why did the Mughal Empire decline?





The Delhi Sultanate in India was fractured and ravaged by religious strife between the Muslim rulers and the conquered Hindus.

In 1526, a brilliant Muslim general named **Babur** led an army of 12,000 against the Sultan of Delhi's 100,000 troops. He conquered the Sultanate and founded the **Mughal Empire**.

After Babur's death, his son Humayun lost most of the land he had gained. It was not until Babur's 13-year-old grandson, **Akbar**, came to power in 1556 that the Empire expanded again.





Akbar reigned from 1556 to 1605. As his empire grew, he came to rule over 100 million people.

Akbar appointed officials based on merit, rather than religion. He repealed taxes on non-Muslims and married Hindu women without forcing them to convert.

Akbar's religious tolerance stimulated the blending of culture and ideas, which allowed literature, the arts and architecture to flourish. His advisors developed a graduated income tax that allowed more people to prosper.





Akbar's grandson, **Shah Jahan**, ruled from 1628 to 1658. His two passions were architecture and his wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

When Mumtaz Mahal died in 1631, Shah Jahan commissioned the construction of a monument "as beautiful as she was beautiful." The result was the Taj Mahal, which remains one of the greatest feats of architecture to this day.



Shah Jahan massively increased taxes to fund his wars and opulent buildings. In the meantime, he ignored the famines that starved his people.



In 1657, Shah Jahan's son **Aurangzeb** seized power and threw his father in prison.

Aurangzeb ruled until his death in 1707. During this time, he greatly expanded the Empire.

Aurangzeb reintroduced taxation on non-Muslims, ejected them from office, and destroyed Hindu monuments. When Hindu sects rebelled against him, Aurangzeb raised taxes to finance his wars, draining the Empire's resources.

After Aurangzeb's death, the Empire fractured into a patchwork of states, with the ruler a mere figurehead.



Different Mughal rulers had different ideas about how the Empire should be run. Drag each statement into the correct box depending on whether it describes Akbar, Shah Jahan or Aurangzeb.

Press **start** to begin.

start





This map shows the extent of the Mughal Empire in 1707, as well as the lines of modern-day countries. Drag the name of each modern country to the correct place on the map.

Press **start** to begin.

start





The Ottoman, Safavid and Mughal Empires were Islamic kingdoms that spanned enormous areas.

As these empires grew, their populations became increasingly diverse in terms of culture, language and religion.

Can you match each empire to its method of governing different religious groups?

Press **start** to begin.

start



Which method results in the most successful empire?



Test your knowledge of the Muslim empires with this quiz.
Choose the correct answer to each question to see how much you can remember.
Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your understanding of the Muslim empires by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary. Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.

Press **start** to begin.

start

