

Teachers notes for the Premium TimeMaps Unit

# Medieval India

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## Introduction

This Premium TimeMaps unit is a sequence of maps which follows the history of Medieval India from mid-6th century CE to the mid-15th century.

The unit's aim is to quickly and clearly show the main episodes in Medieval Indian history. Apart from the rise and fall of the many kingdoms which feature in this period, it follows the longer term changes which shaped the subcontinent's civilization.

Teachers of AP World History, who have a huge amount of ground to cover, may not wish to spend too much time on this period. You can use this TimeMap to skate through India's medieval history, picking out points you wish to draw your students' attention to. The bullet points in the Presentation notes below will help you do this.

For those who have the opportunity to go into more depth, the teaching notes provide comprehensive coverage of all the thinking skills, themes and key concepts relevant to this Period 3 topic.

### How to use this unit

The unit can be used in two ways:

(1) Whole-class presentation

or

(2) Student-based enquiry work

Teachers may wish to use both approaches, perhaps using (1) as a quick introduction, and then (2) for students to carry out a more in-depth enquiry using the student-based questions; or (if you feel your students can manage this) starting them off with (2), to allow them to find out for themselves what happened at this period, before using (1) as a reinforcement exercise.

### How does this unit fit in with other Premium TimeMaps units?

This unit follows on from the Premium Unit **Classical India** for Period 2, and is followed by the Premium Unit on the **Mughal Empire** for Period 4.

## Section 1: Whole-class presentation

Using a big screen, show the map sequence to your class, talking through each map. To help you do this, we have prepared accompanying Presentation Notes, which are set out below. You can use these either as a script or *aide-memoire*.

This activity can be used as a wrap up / reinforcement exercise, or as a stand-alone unit.

For each map, these notes mostly follow the same formula:

### 1. Date and introduction

The date to which the map refers, followed by a small introductory paragraph which seeks to encapsulate in a sentence or two what's going on in the map. These are in **bold**.

### 2. Bullet points

One or more bullet points cover different points of interest in the map, or in the period it covers.

If you are not wanting to spend much time on the topic, these bullet points will be all you need to give your students a clear overview.

### 3. Additional Notes

The premium map sequence offers a superb framework on which to hang a large amount of information. This more in-depth information is offered in additional notes. If the aim is to give a brief overview of the topic, then skip them.

If you wish to use these Additional Notes, we suggest that, prior to showing the Presentation to your class, you read them through and highlight sections you want to draw on.

These notes cover the vast majority of, if not all, the points referred to in the AP World History course document (these are covered in even more depth in the TimeMaps articles listed at the end of this guidance.)

Some key words or phrases are in **bold**; they are also there to help you see at a glance the key points in a paragraph.

## Presentation Notes

*If using these in class it might be helpful to print these notes out.*

### 565 CE

**By the mid-6th century the Gupta empire, the last of the great states of ancient India, had vanished.**

- The whole of the Indian subcontinent was now covered by **numerous kingdoms** (note 1).
- By this time, an early form of the **Hindu** belief-system had emerged (note 2).
- India was well integrated into the **international trade networks** of the day (note 3).

### Additional notes

#### **1. The end of the last great empire of Ancient India**

The early 6th century saw the rapid decline of the **Gupta empire**.

The power of the Gupta emperors was weakened by devastating raids by the **Huns** from central Asia, and the subordinate kings and princes of the empire took the opportunity to break away from Gupta overlordship. By the time that the Hun attacks waned, by c. 565, Gupta power had vanished, and the whole of the Indian subcontinent was fragmented into numerous **smaller kingdoms**.

As the power of the Gupta kings waned, so their magnificent capital city, **Pataliputra**, shrank in size and wealth. Within a hundred years it had sunk into ruins.

In ancient times, some states seem to have been ruled by oligarchies of nobles. These have been termed “republics” by some modern historians. Whatever they were, such states were no longer heard of after the Gupta period.

The map shows labels for some of the leading kingdoms throughout India at this time, but there were many more. We know very little about the majority of them, and for the ones we do know about we often only have a hazy idea of where their borders were. In fact, most of the larger kingdoms were not centrally organized states, but more like feudal confederations, with power devolving from over-kings to under-kings, and then down to subordinate princes and nobles.

## 2. Hinduism

By this time, the ancient tribal religion of the Vedic period had been transformed. In response to the challenge of **Buddhism** and **Jainism**, it had absorbed local cults and new ways of worship to become more personal and emotional in its practices. It had evolved into a religious tradition which we would recognize as an early form of **Hinduism**.

## 3. India's economy

As with all pre-modern societies, the great majority of people were engaged in agriculture. They farmed small plots of land, the surplus going to landowners.

The ordinary farmers mostly lived in small villages and bought the wares of craftsmen in local markets, but the landowners and other wealthy people purchased luxury goods from long distances away.

For centuries the subcontinent's economy had been integrated through north-south and east-west **trade routes**. Long-distance trade was carried out by means of coastal sea transport, river traffic or, where coasts and rivers were not to be found, by large **caravans** of pack-animals.

### Indian Ocean trade

The past few centuries have seen the rise of maritime trade in the **Indian Ocean**. Initially, with the **Roman Empire** at the height of its prosperity, this had predominantly been with the west; Indian products such as **cotton textiles**, **spices** and **gems** had been exchanged for **silver**.

With the rise of states in **South East Asia** and the expansion of **China's** economy under the Tang dynasty, however, the Indian Ocean trade was pivoting more to the east. In this, Indian products were traded for spices from the East Indies and **silks** from China.

The seaborne trade of the Indian Ocean was aided by the development of a type of ship superbly adapted to the **Monsoon** climate of the region. This was the **dhow**. Its origins are shrouded in mystery, but Indian woods are well suited to dhow construction and dhow design may well have had an Indian origin.

International seaborne commerce entered India through a chain of **ports** along the subcontinent's coasts, where they connected to the internal trade of the region.

Long-distance trade routes also reached overland, westward into Afghanistan and Iran and northwards to connect with the **Silk Road** in central Asia. This trade had led to the rise of communities of **Jews** and **Parsees** (Persians) appearing in Indian cities and handling much of this international commerce.

## 647 CE

**In the first half of the 7th century much of India came under the domination of two powerful states, Harsha's empire and the kingdom of the Chalukyas.**

- The warrior-emperor **Harsha Vardhana** conquered the whole of northern India (note 1).
- At the same time, a vigorous ruler called Pulakeshin II built up the large **Chalukya** kingdom in the Deccan region of central India (note 2).
- At this time a Chinese monk called **Xuanzang** visited India and left an account of his travels (note 3).

Additional notes:

### 1. Harsha Vardhana

Harsha launched a series of campaigns from his capital, **Kanauj**, and brought the whole of northern India under his control. He did not create a centralized state, but in traditional Indian practice he made conquered kings pay him homage as their overlord.

His long reign lasted from 606 to 647.

#### Xuanzang

It was during Harsha's reign that a Buddhist monk, Xuanzang, travelled to northern India from **China** to seek out religious texts whose teachings could purify and strengthen **Buddhism** in his Chinese homeland.

Xuanzang left a useful account of his travels, as a result of which we know more about northern India at this time than in many other eras. He found Buddhism in decline in some areas, but still thriving in others. He studied for two years or more at the great Buddhist university at **Nalanda**, in northeast India. When he returned to China he took many Buddhist texts, plus some relics, and was to have an important role in reforming Buddhist teaching there.

### 2. The Chalukyas

While Harsha was carving out his empire in the north, a vigorous ruler called **Pulakeshin II Chalukya** was building up a large kingdom in the Deccan.

He successfully repulsed Harsha's attacks on his realm. He conquered the entire middle band of the Indian peninsula, from the west to east coasts.

Pulakeshin was however unable to overcome the **Pallava** kingdom, the leading kingdom in the south. Indeed, the Pallavas went on the attack against Pulakeshin, who was killed in the fighting, though his son was able to force the Pallavas back to their own borders.

## 675 CE

**At Harsha's death his empire at once fell apart, but the Chalukya kingdom continued.**

- Again northern India was divided amongst **numerous kingdoms** - but the situation was not quite the same as before (note 1).
- The kingdom of the **Chalukyas** endured for more than a century after Pulakeshin's death (note 2).

### Additional notes

#### **1: Northern India**

Harsha's empire fragmented as the vassal rulers asserted their independence. Once again northern India was divided amongst numerous kingdoms.

Harsha's former capital city of **Kanauj**, however, retained a certain aura of imperial glory about it; in the coming centuries different kings would fight to possess, and thus to lay claim to Harsha's mantle.

#### **2. Central and southern India**

Although the Chalukya kings continued to dominate central India, their power gradually weakened. Shortly after Pulakeshin's death a Chalukyan prince set up an independent kingdom and founded **Eastern Chalukya** dynasty.

On the Chalukya's southern border was their greatest foe, the **Pallavas**. This kingdom dominated the south. It maintained its pre-eminence there through a system of alliances with its neighbors, the **Cera, Pandyas** and **Cholas**.



**757 CE**

**By this date Islam has established a firm foothold in the subcontinent.**

- The **Islamic Caliphate** has occupied a large chunk of modern-day Pakistan (note 1).
- Three ambitious kingdoms struggled with one another for dominance in **northern India** (note 2).
- In the Deccan, the **Rashtrakutas** dynasty has replaced the Chalukya; they try to expand their territory into both northern and southern India (note 3).

### Additional notes

#### **1. Islam in India**

The first major incursion of Islam into the Indian subcontinent was when the armies of the Muslim caliph, who is based in Baghdad, far to the west of India in Iraq, occupy a large chunk of **what is now Pakistan** (in around 711 CE).

Islam have thus established a firm foothold in South Asia, but strong Indian kingdoms fend off further Muslim advances.

#### **2. Northern India**

Three ambitious kingdoms struggle with one another for dominance in northern India. They were each intent on capturing and holding **Kanauj**, Harsha's imperial capital.

In the west is the kingdom of **Gurjara-Pratihara**. The rulers of this state have risen to prominence as the defenders of India against the encroachments of the Muslims.

In the east, in Bengal, the **Pala** dynasty has recently founded a powerful kingdom. The Palas are notable as the last major **Buddhist** dynasty in India, under whom the great university of **Nalanda** reaches its peak of influence. They maintain strong religious and diplomatic ties with Buddhist states in **South East Asia**.

The third kingdom in this struggle is the Deccan kingdom of the Rashtrakutas (see next note).

#### **3. Central and southern India**

The kingdom of the **Rashtrakutas** also contests control in northern India.

The Rashtrakutas dynasty has recently taken over from the Chalukya dynasty in the Deccan (in 753).

As well as struggling with the powerful kingdoms of northern India, the Rashtrakutas involve themselves in the affairs of southern India.

Here their main foes, as with their Chalukya predecessors, are the **Pallavas**, who continued to be a leading power in this part of the subcontinent. However, the **Pandyas** in the far south have by now renounced their alliance with the Pallavas and are expanding their own territory.

## 850 CE

**The history of northern India from the 8th to 10th centuries continues to be dominated by the struggles between three powerful kingdoms.**

- The rivalry between the three kingdoms of the Gurjara-Pratiharas, the Palas and the Rashtrakutas continues to dominate the history of **northern India** (note 1).
- The Rashtrakutas of the **Deccan** briefly succeed in dominating the entire subcontinent (note 2).
- Throughout the subcontinent, **Buddhism** is losing ground to **Hinduism** (note 3).

### Additional notes

#### 1. Northern India

The rivalry between the three kingdoms of the **Gurjara-Pratiharas**, the **Palas** and the **Rashtrakutas** continues to dominate the history of northern India. Their main objective is to hold the imperial city of **Kanauj**.

At the end of the 8th century and in the early 9th century, Gurjara-Pratihara expanded to cover all northern India except the east. The Palas contested control of Kanauj with the Gurjara-Pratiharas during the 9th century, and although they never seem to have covered as much territory as their opponents, they certainly succeeded in taking Kanauj on at least one occasion.

#### The Muslim states

In the west of the subcontinent, the Muslim rulers of **Sind** and **Multan** have become effectively independent from their theoretical master, the caliph in Baghdad. This is part of a process, which began at the end of the 8th century, by which the huge Muslim caliphate has been breaking up.

Nevertheless, these regions are being increasingly drawn into the world of Islam, as **missionaries** and merchants (in an Islamic setting, often one and the same) spread their faith amongst the population.

But the traffic in ideas is not one way: Indian **mathematical** and **scientific** knowledge has passed westward and been taken up by scholars based in Baghdad. Important elements of this are the **decimal system** and the concept of **zero**. From Baghdad these will spread around the Muslim world and thence to Europe.

## 2. Central and southern India

The **Rashtrakutas** are much more expansionist than the Chalukyas had been, especially under great warrior-kings such as Govinda III, Indra III and Krishna III. They have been able to dominate the subcontinent, albeit briefly, on more than one occasion, including taking control of the city of Kanauj. They also brought the kings of southern India to recognize their overlordship.

In the south, the **Pandyas** replaced the Pallavas as the strongest kingdom.

## 3. Buddhism and Hinduism

The **Hindu** cults have responded to the challenge of **Buddhism** and **Jainism**, in the process becoming more personal and emotional in their practices. As a result, the two other belief-systems are in retreat. This is especially true of south India, which has never been as welcoming to Buddhism and Jainism as the north.

This seems to have been a very gradual process. Rulers in central India are continuing to patronize cave-temples, Buddhist and Jain as well as Hindu.

## 4. The Indian Ocean trade

The trade with the west had long been weaker than that with the east, with western markets for Indian goods being increasingly **disrupted** with the decline of the Roman empire and major wars between the Byzantines (successors to the Romans), Persians and Arabs.

Now, however, it is reviving. The main reason for this is that the peace which the **Islamic Caliphate** had brought to the region has revived the economy of the Middle East. Furthermore, the establishment of **Baghdad** as its capital, and the consequent shift of the Caliphate's economic centre of gravity eastwards, favors commerce with India.

**Arabs** play a dominant role in this revived trade, and Arab trading communities had appeared in many Indian ports. The one they most favored seems to be **Calicut**, where one of the larger Arab communities has settled. This city may well have been an almost autonomous **city-state** under its own local king, which will have allowed it to enact policies which encouraged Arab merchants to base themselves there.

## 1030 CE

**Northern India has been suffering at the hands of Muslim raiders, while in the south the Chola kingdom has become the dominant power.**

- A fearsome Turkish leader, **Mahmud of Ghazni**, has been launching a succession of devastating raids into northern India (note 1).
- In the Deccan, the **Rashtrakutas** have fallen, and the **Chalukyas** have regained power, at least in the Western Deccan (note 2).
- In the south, the **Chola** kingdom now dominates, and is now a major maritime power (note 3).

### Additional notes

#### **1. Northern India**

Mahmud of Ghazni, a Turkish warrior-leader, established a militaristic kingdom in present-day **Afghanistan**, in the late 10th century, and soon after began launching a succession of devastating raids into northern India.

Wherever Mahmud's forces went they defeated local Indian rulers, destroyed Hindu temples, killed as many Hindus as they could get hold of, and carried off vast hoards of treasure. The magnificent city of **Kanauj** was sacked at this time, and would never again reach its former glory.

#### The Rajputs

These attacks destroyed the power of the **Gurjara-Pratiharas**. In their place rival kingdoms struggled for power in western India, notably the **Paramaras** and **Chauhanas**.

The ruling classes of these states identified themselves as members of a warrior aristocracy called **Rajputs**. Many Rajput states rose and fell thereafter, and would remain a force to be reckoned with right up to the 19th century.

#### **2. Central India**

The Rashtrakutas were unable to turn their military successes into an enduring empire beyond their **Deccan** homeland. They fell from power in 973 when a member of the old royal power, the Chalukyas, seized control. He established another formidable kingdom in the Western Deccan.

### 3. The Chola empire

The Chola kingdom began to expand strongly in the 10th century, helped by the growing weakness of both the **Pandyas** and the **Pallavas**. In 949 however they received a major check when they were soundly defeated by the Rashtrakutas.

The Cholas recovered their power in the late 10th century, and in the early 11th century they launched overseas expeditions to **Sri Lanka** and even, apparently, **South East Asia**. The Chola kingdom has emerged as a major maritime power in the Indian Ocean.

#### Indian overseas merchants

Communities of Indian **merchants** have long been settled on the coasts of South East Asia, and had played an extremely important part in developing states and civilization in that region. Under Chola protection, Indian commercial activity probably reaches its height at about this time, before sinking into relative decline in the face of competition from **Muslim Arab** seamen and traders.

1186 CE

**Muslim rulers are beginning to get more ambitious, and are looking not just to raid but to conquer territories in northern India.**

- Another Muslim warrior-leader based in **Afghanistan** begins conquering a large territory in the subcontinent (note 1).
- In the **Deccan** and **the South**, now covered by a number of smaller kingdoms, some of India's most magnificent **Hindu temples** are being erected in this period (note 2).
- By this time, **Buddhism** is in steep decline in India (note 3).

Additional notes

### 1. Muhammed of Ghur

What **Mahmud of Gazni** had not done was occupy new territory in India. Nevertheless his campaigns had shown how disunited northern India had become, fragmented amongst numerous small kingdoms. Mahmud's raids had shown how easily they could be picked off one by one.

Unsurprisingly, other Muslim leaders decided to take advantage of this situation, and at the end of the 12th century **Muhammed of Ghur** (whose family had usurped that of Mahmud of Ghazni), is now looking to occupy territory in the subcontinent.

### 2. Central and southern India

In the Deccan, the **Chalukya** have declined in power, as have the **Chola** of southern India. The latter have been driven out of Sri Lanka, and have lost their maritime pre-eminence.

This has allowed the rise of a number of smaller kingdoms, including the **Yadava**, the **Kakatiya** and the **Hoysala**. These are home to a flowering of Hindu art, architecture and literature, with some of India's most magnificent temples being erected in this period.

### 3. The decline of Buddhism and Jainism

In northern India the Muslim invasions seem to have been rallying the majority of the population behind **Hinduism**, with **Buddhism** and **Jainism** (never a widely practiced faith), already in decline, being squeezed further as a result.

Southern India has never been as welcoming to Buddhism and Jainism, and Hinduism seems to be completely triumphant here. Buddhism is heading towards virtual extinction in the land of its birth.

One result of the long decline of Buddhism, with its forthright teaching that all are equal, is the triumph of the Hindu doctrine of **caste**. It seems that caste divisions began to grow harder during these centuries, and would remain almost unbridgeable until modern times.



**1226 CE**

**The first great Muslim state in India has emerged.**

- **Muhammed of Ghur's** armies conquered a large part of northern India, but on his death these territories broke away to form the independent **Sultanate of Delhi** (note 1).
- The expansion of Muslim rule in the subcontinent would lead to the emergence of a new language in India, **Urdu** (note 2).

Additional note

### **1. The Sultanate of Delhi**

Muhammed of Ghur's armies had conquered a large part of northern India by the time of his death in 1206. These armies were commanded by **slave generals**, and when Muhammed dies, one of these asserted his independence. He chose the city of Delhi as his capital, and took the title of sultan (which means an independent Muslim ruler).

He and his successors have expanded their territory in all directions, despite meeting with stiff resistance from Indian princes (especially the **Rajputs**) and having to deal with several internal rebellions. They are creating the first major Muslim state in the Indian subcontinent.

### **2. Urdu**

The word Urdu means the language of the Camp, or the soldier's language.

Muslim armies were made up predominantly of soldiers from Afghanistan and central Asia. Over the previous centuries, the peoples of these regions had adopted the Persian language and culture as their own, and brought these with them into the subcontinent.

**Persian** was the language of Muslim courts, but the rank and file came to speak a language in which Persian, plus some elements of Arabic and Turkish, mingle with the native Indian **Hindi** to give rise to this new tongue.

The loyalty of these foreign adventurers to the Sultanate was not deep - their ambitions were more personal than patriotic. They fought bravely for their new masters, and more bravely for themselves: revolts against the sultans were frequent.

**1316 CE**

**The Sultanate has expanded to cover the whole of northern India.**

- The **Delhi sultanate** experienced considerable political instability, but was still able to conquer more and more territory (note 1).

Additional note

### **1. The Delhi Sultanate**

On several occasions the Delhi sultanate lost newly won areas, which had to be reconquered. At the same time it suffered from the ambitions of its local governors, who had a tendency to rebel. Renewed incursions from central Asia added to their challenges, this time in the shape of the **Mongols**.

Finally, the Delhi sultanate suffered from bouts of political instability, with usurpations bringing new dynasties to the throne every few decades. Despite all these difficulties, however, the sultanate was able to gradually push out its borders.

Two factors helped: first, the Hindu states never combined to resist the newcomers, and second, the violent struggles for power within the sultanate produced some extraordinarily vigorous rulers, such as **Iltutmish** (reigned 1211-36), **Balban** (1266-86) and **Alauddin Khalji** (1296-1316).

By the end of Alauddin's reign the Delhi sultanate covered all of northern India.

**1335 CE**

**The Sultanate has grown to cover nearly the whole of the Indian subcontinent**

...

- Under the sultan **Muhammad Tughluq** (1325-51), the **Delhi sultanate** reached the height of its power. It covered all but the southernmost parts of the subcontinent (note 1).
- It was at this time that the famous traveller, **Ibn Battuta**, visited India (note 2).

Additional notes

### **1. Muhammad Tughluq**

Muhammed Tughluq was the son of a military commander of central Asian origin - quite possibly a slave - who had seized power from the reigning sultan. Such a coup was a far from uncommon event in the history of the Delhi sultanate. Muhammad himself is said to have faced more than 20 **rebellions**: instability was one of the main hallmarks of the sultanate's politics.

Unsurprisingly in these circumstances, Muhammad was a **ruthless** and paranoid ruler; but he was also, again like many of the other sultans, **cultured** and learned. He could speak several languages, and had a keen interest in science and medicine.

Muhammad was, like other sultans, **tolerant** in matters of religion. He had married a **Rajput** princess, and he allowed **Hindu** temples to be built and repaired. He was assisted in government by Hindu advisors. However, throughout the time of the Delhi sultanate the tax on non-Muslims remained in place.

### **2. Ibn Battuta**

Ibn Battuta was a native of North Africa who had arrived from the Middle East. He lived at the court of Muhammad Tughluq for several years, and later wrote about his experiences - which is why we know more about this ruler than any other of the Delhi sultans.

Ibn Battuta admired Muhammad, but feared him. On more than one occasion he aroused Muhammed's suspicions and was in danger of his life.

**1348 CE**

**...but only for a few brief years.**

- Great **rebellions** very soon snatched the southern half of the empire from its control. The Sultanate was again confined to the northern half of the subcontinent (note 1).

Additional note

### **1. Two new state in the south**

As noted above, the **Delhi sultanate** was constantly wracked by rebellions, and even such a forceful ruler as **Muhammad Tughluq** was unable to held on to his conquests.

His plans to put down these rebellions was undermined by a famine and plague (probably the **Black Death**) which swept through his army.

The rebellion had created two powerful new states: the Muslim sultanate of **Bahmani** in the Deccan, and, in the far south, the powerful Hindu kingdom of **Vijayanagara**.

**1450 CE**

**The Delhi sultanate has continued its decline until it has lost most of its territory.**

- The sultanate's territories have dwindled so that they now include only the city of **Delhi** itself and some surrounding areas (note 1).
- The decline of the **Delhi sultanate** has left India divided into many states, most of them Muslim sultanates (note 2).
- The Delhi sultanate has also left a legacy of cultural **fusion** as Islamic and Indian elements mingle (note 3)

Additional notes

### **1. The further decline of the Delhi Sultanate**

In 1398 another central Asian invader, **Timur the Lame**, attacked deep into northern India, as far as Delhi. He sacked the city before retreating, striking an enormous blow to the Sultanate's prestige.

In the wake of this catastrophe the sultanate's territories have quickly dwindled until, by the mid-15th century, they include only the city of Delhi itself and some surrounding areas.

### **2. A legacy of Muslim rule**

The receding frontiers of the Sultanate have left in their train a hotchpotch of states. In the northern half of the subcontinent, these include a group of **Rajput** kingdoms, which had never really been incorporated into the Sultanate's territory.

All the other states are ruled by Muslim **sultans**. The Delhi Sultanate may have declined, but it has left a legacy of **Islamic rule** throughout most of India.

### **3. A legacy of cultural fusion**

Under the Delhi sultanate, Islamic elements in **art and architecture** began to mingle with native Indian styles to produce a rich **fusion** which would, in due course, produce some of the most striking monuments in the world.

The most sublime example must surely be the **Taj Mahal**, which would be designed and constructed in the Mughal era, about two hundred years after this date; but

already some of the motifs which went into it are visible in the buildings and decorations of the Sultanate.

## After the Presentation:

Here is a quick **Quiz** you might like to use to make sure your students haven't gone to sleep.

The answers are given (*in Italics*).

1. Which empire was in decline in the 6th century CE? (*The Gupta empire*)
2. What was the name of the great conqueror of northern India in the early 7th century CE? (*Harsha Vardhana - just Harsha will do nicely*)
3. What is the great plain which covers much of central and southern India called? (*The Deccan*)
4. Which powerful kingdom arose in the Deccan in the 7th century CE? (*The Chalukya kingdom*)
5. What great city in northern India was fought over by three kingdoms? (*Kanauj*)
6. Which great religion was losing ground by the mid-9th century? (*Buddhism*) ...
7. ... and which great religion was gaining ground at its expense (*Hinduism*)
8. What was the name of the great Muslim raider in the late 10th and early 11th centuries? (*Mahmud of Ghazni*)
9. What was the southern Indian kingdom which rose to become a maritime power in the 11th century? (*The Chola*)
10. What was the designation given to a group of Hindu warrior-rulers who ruled some states in northwest India from at least the 11th century onwards (*The Rajputs*)
11. What was the great Muslim sultanate whose rise and fall dominated the history of India from the 13th through the 15th centuries? (*The Delhi sultanate*)
12. Under whose reign did this state reach the height of its power? (*Muhammad Tughluq*)
13. What was the name of the Muslim traveller who wrote a description of life at this sultan's court in the early-mid 14th century? (*Ibn Battuta*)
14. Name one of the powerful states that were founded in central and southern India in the 14th century? (*The Bahami sultanate or the Vijayanagara kingdom*)
15. What was the name of the conqueror from central Asia who sacked Delhi at the end of the 14th century? (*Timur, or Timur the Lame*)

## Section 2: Student-based enquiry work

The students can tackle these tasks either as individuals or in small groups. They will obviously need to have access to this Premium TimeMap unit.

They can present their answers in essay form or as presentations.

The questions are designed to stimulate enquiry, thought and discussion. We have offered suggested points that students might cover in their answers. These are given in *italics* just below the questions.

### Task 1

Medieval India saw the rise and fall of numerous kingdoms and empires, but through it all what long-lasting trends can be discerned in this period?

*(My answers would be the rise of Hinduism at the expense of Buddhism, and the rise of Muslim rule over much of the subcontinent.)*

### Task 2

The medieval period of India saw many kingdoms and empires rise and fall; which was the most important of these, do you think? - Why?

*(I would say the Delhi sultanate, because it was a watershed in Indian history: before it, only a small part of the subcontinent was under Muslim rulers, after it only a small part was under Hindu rulers.)*

### Task 3

Why was the Delhi sultanate successful in conquering much of India - and why then did it decline?

*(Reasons for its rise: vigorous rulers, no powerful Hindu enemies to stop its advance, tolerance shown towards Hindus; reasons for decline - endemic political instability resulting in regular rebellions and secessions of territories under former generals and governors asserting their independence).*



## APPENDICES

### Appendix 1: TimeMaps articles for further reading

A list of all TimeMaps articles for Period 3 can be found on the Encyclopedia home page. Here is a selected list of the key articles which students should find most helpful.

Medieval India

The Deccan empires

Rajput India

The Delhi Sultanate

and for background, Ancient India

## Appendix 2: Using the Medieval India unit with AP World History

Period 3: Regional and Transregional Interactions, c. 600 C.E. to c. 1450

Key Concept 3.1. Expansion and Intensification of Communication and Exchange Networks

I. Transportation and expanding trade networks.

- The Indian Ocean basins; Calicut (1. A)
- Trade Caravans; cotton textiles; spices; gems (I.C)

II. The movement of peoples: environmental and linguistic effects.

- The Dhou (II.A)
- Persian, Urdu (II.C)

III. Cross-cultural exchanges fostered by trade and communication.

- Mahmud of Ghazni, the Delhi sultanate (III.A)
- Muslim merchant communities in the Indian Ocean region, Indian merchant communities in Southeast Asia, Jewish and Parsee communities in India (III. B)
- Ibn Battuta, Xuanzang (III. C)
- The influence of Islamic art and architecture in India (III.C)
- The spread of printing and gunpowder technologies from East Asia into the Islamic empires (III.E)

IV. Diffusion of crops and pathogens along the trade routes.

- The spread of epidemic diseases, including the Black Death (IV. B)

Key Concept 3.2. Continuity and Innovation of State Forms and Their Interactions

I. Empires and state

- Muslim sultanates (I. B)
- Persian traditions that influenced Islamic states in India (II. C)

Key Concept 3.3. Increased Economic Productive Capacity and Its Consequences

II. Cities

- sack of Delhi by Timur (II. A)
- Palitpura, Kannauj (II.C)

III. Social structures

- Decline of Buddhism and revival of Hinduism leading to harder caste divisions (III.B)