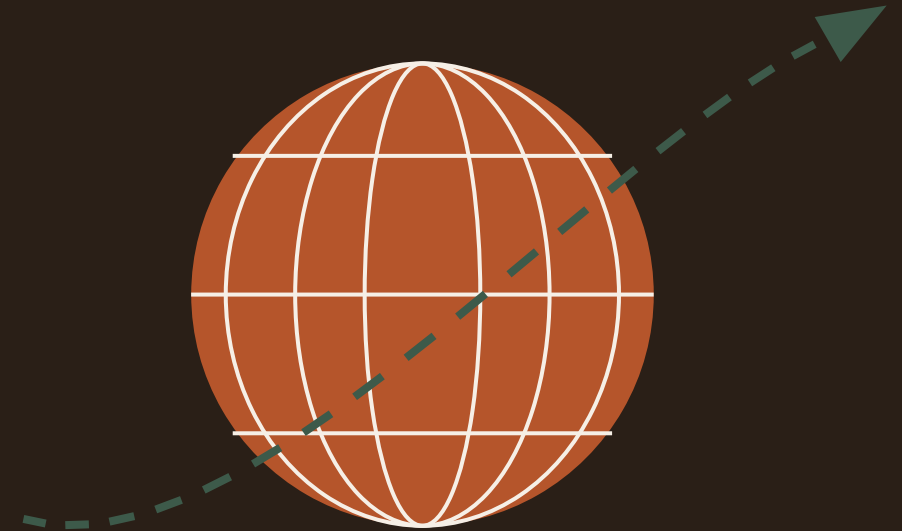


HISTORY UNIT

Turning Points in History



A complete history unit for classroom teaching

Presenter Name · 6 · 2026

Chapters

- 01** The Maurya Empire
- 02** The Indian Freedom Struggle
- 03** The Mughal Empire
- 04** The Vijayanagara Empire
- 05** World War II
- 06** The Indus Valley Civilisation



01

THE MAURYA
EMPIRE



Chandragupta, Ashoka and India's first great empire

Chapter 1 · The Maurya Empire

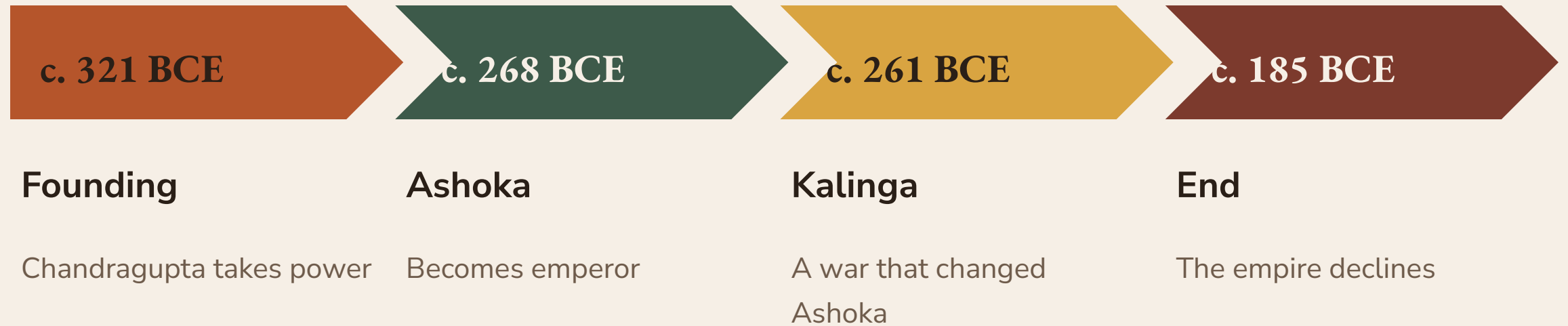
Overview

- Founded by Chandragupta Maurya around 321 BCE
- Capital at Pataliputra (modern Patna)
- Ashoka spread a message of dhamma
- A strong administration and road network

REMEMBER

Much of what we know comes from inscriptions and visitors' accounts.

Key dates



The empire

From Afghanistan to Bengal and the Deccan.

Royal roads linked Pataliputra to distant provinces. Ashoka's edicts were carved on rocks and pillars across the land.



Map / illustration

Causes and conditions



Strong army

Infantry, cavalry and elephants.



Wise counsel

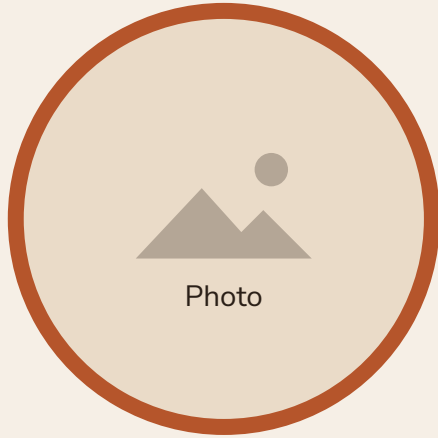
Advisers and planning.



Rich land

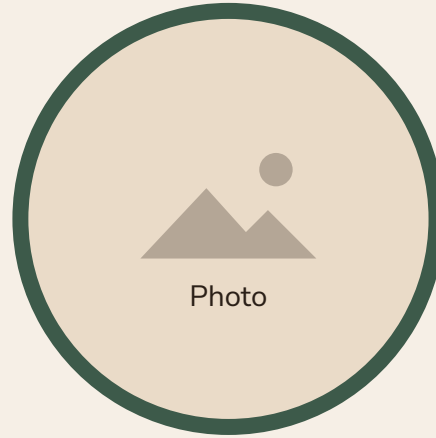
Fertile Ganga plains.

Who was involved



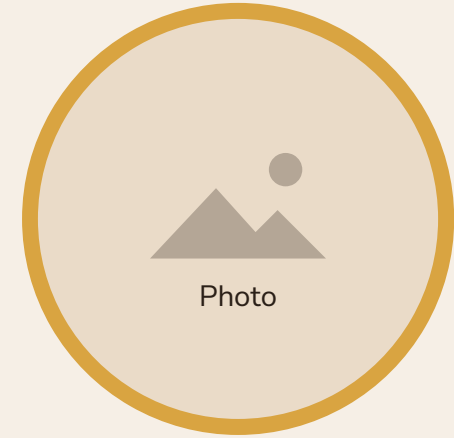
Chandragupta
FOUNDER

Built the empire through conquest.



Ashoka
EMPEROR

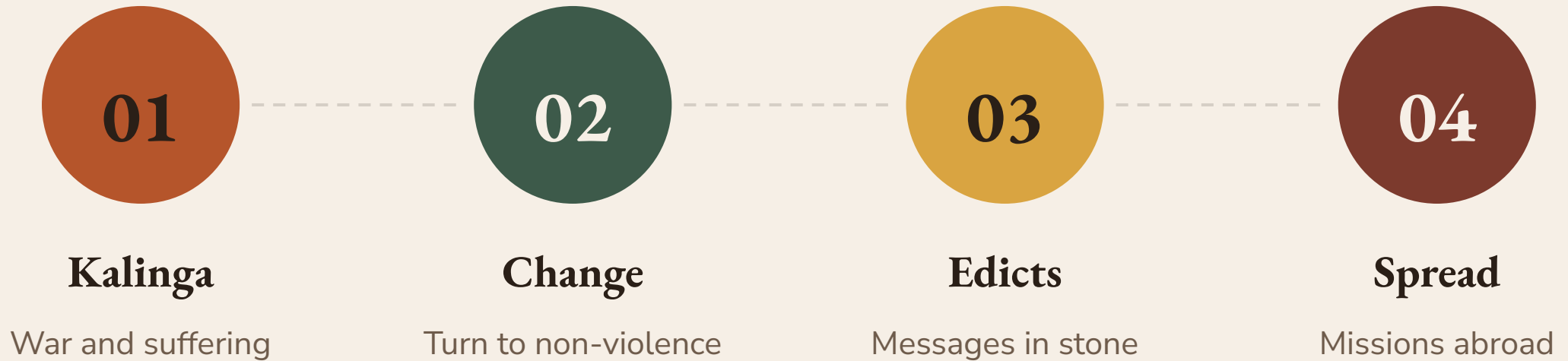
Turned to peace after Kalinga.



Officials
ADMINISTRATORS

Ran provinces and taxes.

Ashoka's dhamma





All people are my children.

— From an edict attributed to Ashoka

At a glance

Item	Detail
Capital	Pataliputra
Script of edicts	Mostly Brahmi
Symbol today	Lion Capital of Sarnath

Dates are approximate where historians differ.

Before and after

Before

- ✓ Rival kingdoms
- ✓ Local rules
- ✓ Frequent wars

After

- One large empire
- Common administration
- A message of peace

Legacy



National emblem

Lion Capital of Sarnath.



Ashoka Chakra

On our national flag.



Governance

Ideas of welfare and order.

Discussion questions

- Why did Kalinga change Ashoka?
- How did edicts spread messages?
- What made the administration strong?
- Why is the Lion Capital our emblem?

02

THE INDIAN
FREEDOM STRUGGLE



From 1857 to Independence in 1947

Chapter 2 · The Indian Freedom Struggle

Overview

- A long movement against colonial rule
- Moderates, revolutionaries and mass movements
- Non-violence became its most powerful tool
- Independence came on 15 August 1947

REMEMBER

Many movements ran side by side, in every region.

Key dates



A nationwide movement



Map / illustration

From cities to villages, every region took part.

Protests, boycotts and marches spread through newspapers, songs and meetings in many languages.

Causes and conditions



Economic drain

Wealth flowed out of India.



Unfair laws

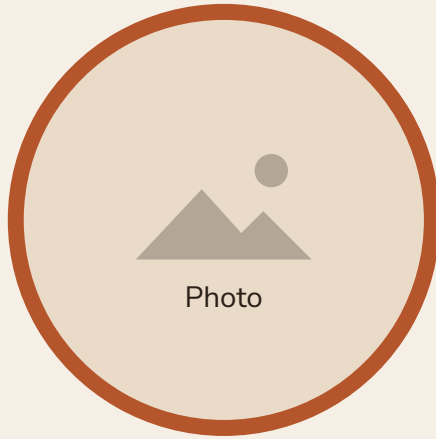
Heavy taxes and restrictions.



National awakening

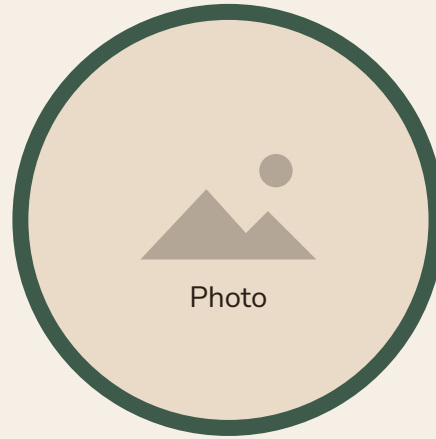
Education and reform movements.

Who was involved



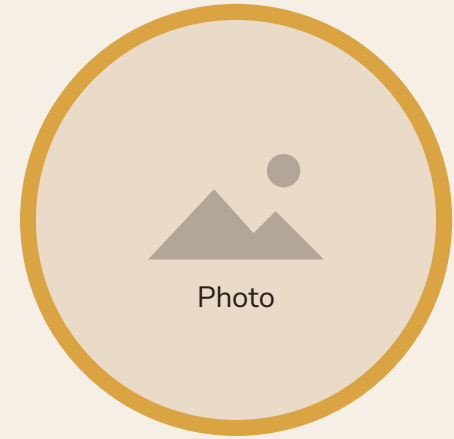
Leaders ORGANISERS

Led movements and inspired millions.



Students YOUTH

Joined boycotts and protests.



Women PARTICIPANTS

Marched, picketed and organised.

Major movements



Swadeshi

Boycott foreign goods



Non-Cooperation

Mass refusal to cooperate



Civil Disobedience

Breaking unjust laws



Quit India

Final call for freedom



*At the stroke of the midnight hour,
when the world sleeps, India will awake
to life and freedom.*

— From the speech on the eve of Independence, 1947

At a glance

Year	Event	Significance
1919	Jallianwala Bagh	Turned opinion against rule
1930	Salt March	Mass civil disobedience
1942	Quit India	Final mass movement

Dates are approximate where historians differ.

Before and after

Before

- ✓ Colonial rule
- ✓ No vote for most people
- ✓ Economic exploitation

After

- Sovereign nation
- Universal adult franchise
- Own Constitution

Legacy



Democracy

The world's largest.



Non-violence

Inspired movements worldwide.



Unity

Diversity as strength.

Discussion questions

- Why did non-violence work?
- What role did ordinary people play?
- How did newspapers help?
- What does freedom mean to you today?

03

THE MUGHAL
EMPIRE



Rulers, art and administration (1526–1857)

Chapter 3 · The Mughal Empire

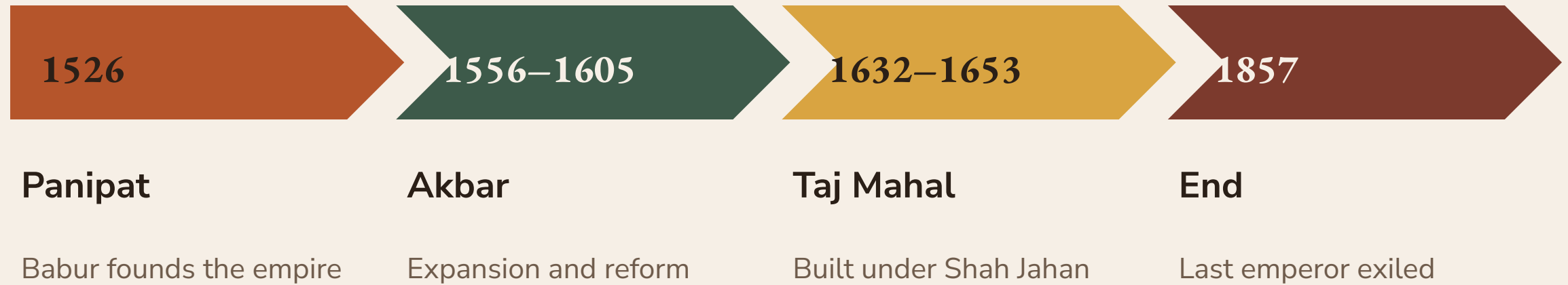
Overview

- Founded by Babur after the First Battle of Panipat
- Height under Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan
- Strong administration and grand monuments
- Declined after the 18th century

REMEMBER

Akbar's mansabdari system organised nobles by rank.

Key dates



The empire at its height

From Kabul to Bengal and the Deccan.

Capitals moved between Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Lahore and Delhi. Roads and sarais linked the provinces.



Map / illustration

Causes and conditions



Military strength

Cavalry and gunpowder.



Administration

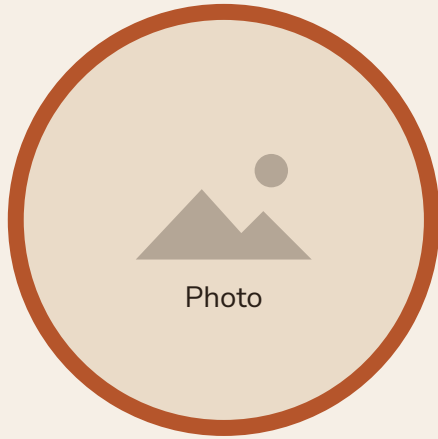
Provinces, revenue and ranks.



Alliances

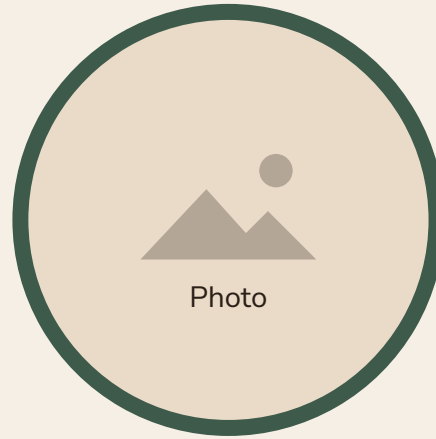
Treaties with local rulers.

Who was involved



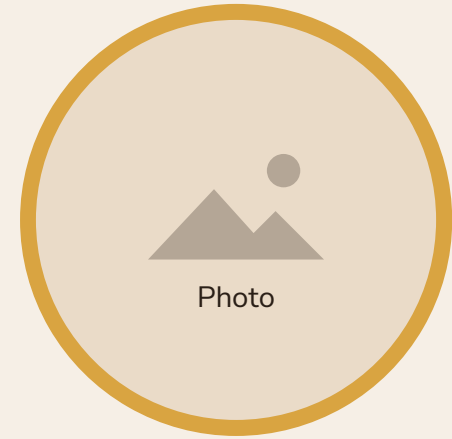
Babur
FOUNDER

First emperor, wrote the Baburnama.



Akbar
REFORMER

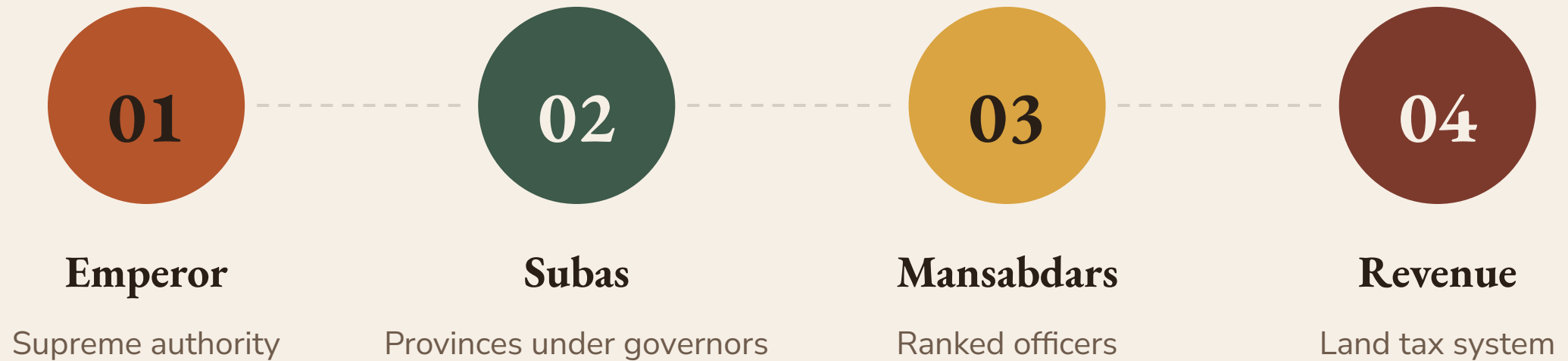
Known for policies of tolerance.



Shah Jahan
BUILDER

Commissioned the Taj Mahal.

How the empire was run





*Mughal art blended Persian, Central
Asian and Indian traditions into
something new.*

— A common summary by historians

At a glance

Ruler	Reign	Known for
Babur	1526–1530	Founding
Akbar	1556–1605	Administration
Shah Jahan	1628–1658	Architecture

Dates are approximate where historians differ.

Before and after

Before

- ✓ Many small kingdoms
- ✓ Varied tax systems
- ✓ Regional styles

After

- Unified administration
- Standard revenue system
- Indo-Islamic architecture

Legacy



Architecture

Taj Mahal, Red Fort, gardens.



Cuisine

Biryani, kebabs, kormas.



Language

Growth of Urdu.

Discussion questions

- What made Akbar's rule distinctive?
- Why did the empire decline?
- How do Mughal buildings mix cultures?
- Which legacy do you see today?

04

THE VIJAYANAGARA EMPIRE



Hampi and the glory of the Deccan (1336–1646)

Chapter 4 · The Vijayanagara Empire

Overview

- Founded in 1336 by Harihara and Bukka
- Capital at Hampi on the Tungabhadra
- Famous for temples, markets and irrigation
- Peak under Krishnadevaraya

REMEMBER

Travellers described markets of gems and spices.

Key dates



Hampi



Map / illustration

A fortified city among granite hills.

Temples, bazaars, tanks and royal enclosures spread across the landscape, now a World Heritage Site.

Causes and conditions



Trade

Ports and spice routes.



Irrigation

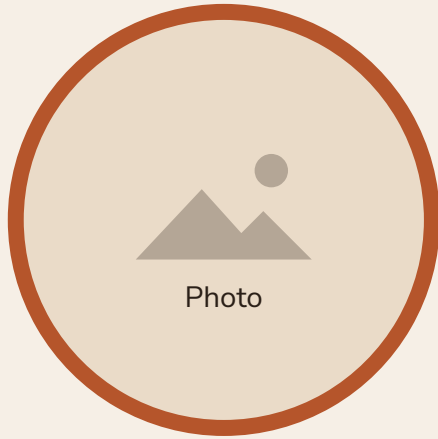
Tanks and canals for farming.



Defence

Strong forts and army.

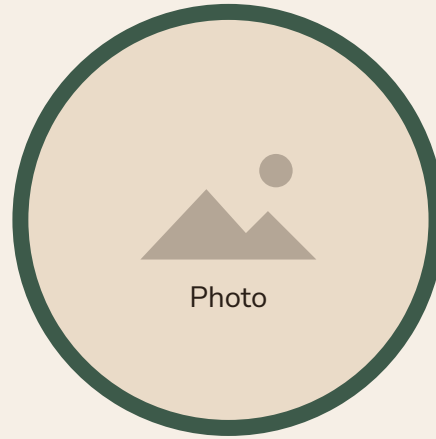
Who was involved



Founders

HARIHARA AND BUKKA

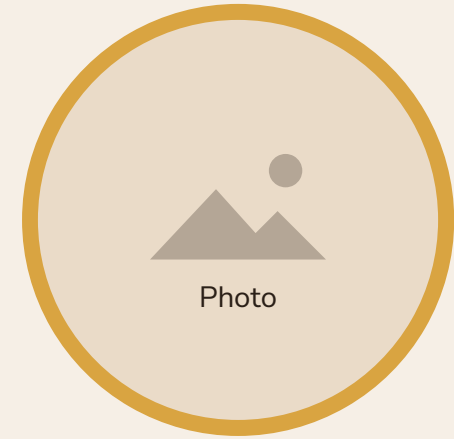
Established the kingdom.



Krishnadevaraya

EMPEROR

Patron of arts and literature.



Merchants

TRADERS

Spices, gems and horses.

City life



Temples

Art and festivals



Bazaars

Gems and cloth



Tanks

Stepwells and reservoirs



Palaces

Royal enclosures



*The city is as large as Rome, and very
beautiful to the sight.*

— Paraphrase of a traveller's account

At a glance

Feature	Example
Temple	Virupaksha, Vittala
Art	Stone chariot
Water	Stepped tanks

Dates are approximate where historians differ.

Before and after

Before

- ✓ Scattered Deccan kingdoms
- ✓ Frequent raids
- ✓ Local markets

After

- A strong southern empire
- Rich trade network
- Grand temple architecture

Legacy



Architecture

Hampi's temples.



Literature

Telugu and Kannada works.



Water systems

Tanks still in use.

Discussion questions

- Why was Hampi so wealthy?
- What happened after Talikota?
- How did geography help defence?
- What can we learn from its water systems?

05

WORLD WAR II



Causes, major events and consequences (1939–1945)

Chapter 5 · World War II

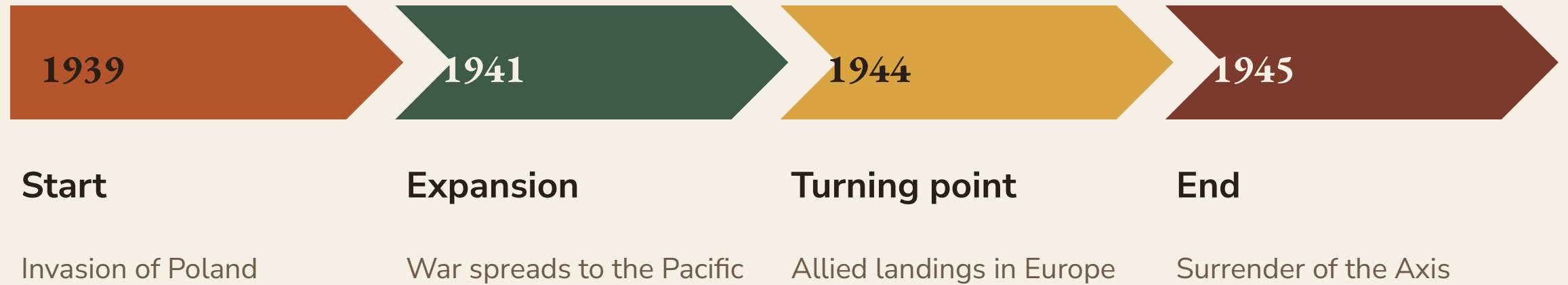
Overview

- Fought between the Allies and the Axis powers
- Began in 1939 and ended in 1945
- Tens of millions of lives were lost
- Led to the United Nations and decolonisation

REMEMBER

Over two million Indian soldiers served in the war.

Key dates



A global war

Fought in Europe, Africa, Asia and at sea.

Battles stretched from the Atlantic to the Pacific.
Civilians suffered bombing, famine and displacement.



Map / illustration

Causes and conditions



Unfair treaty

Anger over the post-WWI settlement.



Aggression

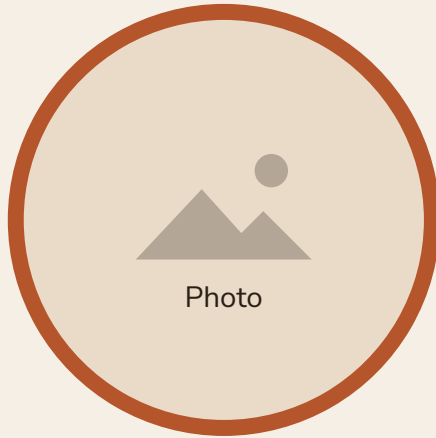
Expansionist regimes.



Weak response

Appeasement failed.

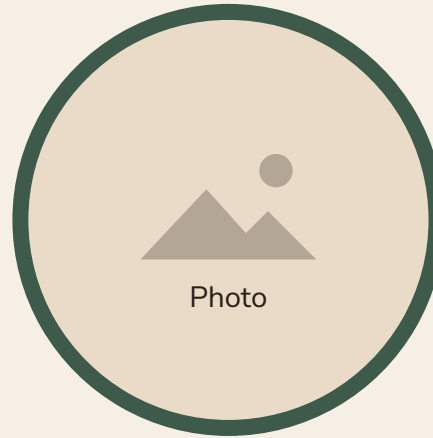
Who was involved



Soldiers

ARMED FORCES

Fought on many fronts.



Civilians

HOME FRONT

Worked in factories and farms.



Leaders

HEADS OF STATE

Directed the war effort.

Key phases



1939–40

Rapid early advances



1941–42

Global expansion



1943–44

Allies gain ground



1945

End of the war



*Never again — the lesson the world
tried to write into its new institutions.*

— A common post-war theme

At a glance

Year	Event	Effect
1939	War begins	Europe at war
1945	War ends	UN founded
1947	Aftermath	Wave of independence

Dates are approximate where historians differ.

Before and after

Before

- ✓ League of Nations
- ✓ Colonial empires
- ✓ Great powers in Europe

After

- United Nations
- Decolonisation begins
- Two superpowers

Legacy



United Nations

A forum for peace.



Human rights

Universal Declaration, 1948.



Decolonisation

New nations including India.

Discussion questions

- Could the war have been prevented?
- How did the war affect India?
- Why was the UN created?
- What lessons matter today?

06

THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILISATION



Cities, trade and daily life 4,500 years ago

Chapter 6 · The Indus Valley Civilisation

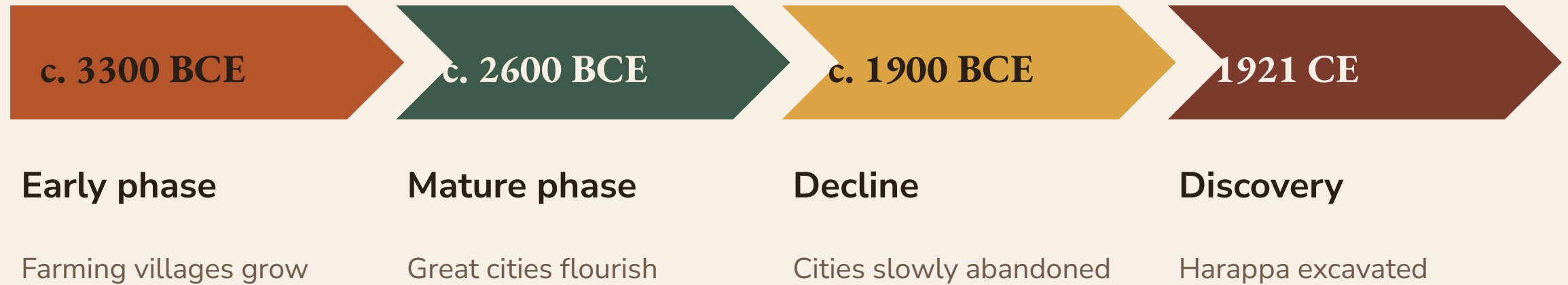
Overview

- One of the world's earliest urban civilisations
- Flourished along the Indus and Ghaggar-Hakra rivers
- Known for town planning, trade and crafts
- Its script is still not deciphered

REMEMBER

Also called the Harappan Civilisation, after its first excavated site.

Key dates



Where it flourished



Map / illustration

Across present-day Pakistan and north-west India.

Major sites include Harappa, Mohenjo-daro, Lothal, Dholavira and Kalibangan. Rivers gave fertile soil for farming and routes for trade.

Causes and conditions



Fertile rivers

Floods left rich soil for crops.



Trade routes

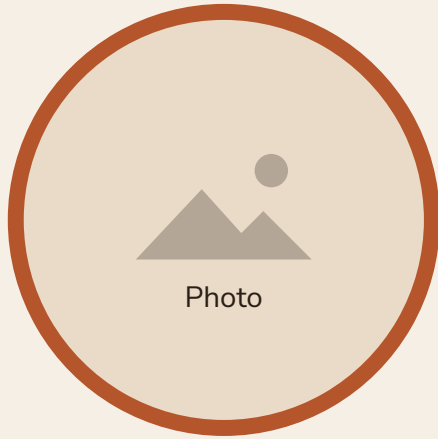
Links with Mesopotamia by sea.



Skilled crafts

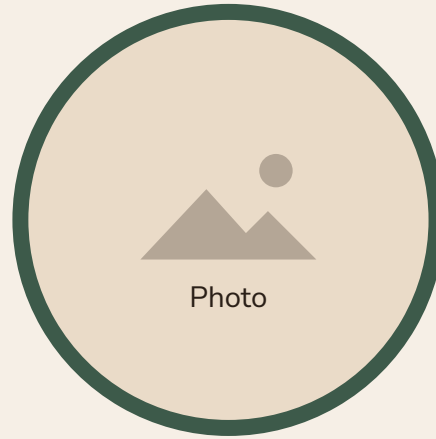
Beads, pottery and metalwork.

Who was involved



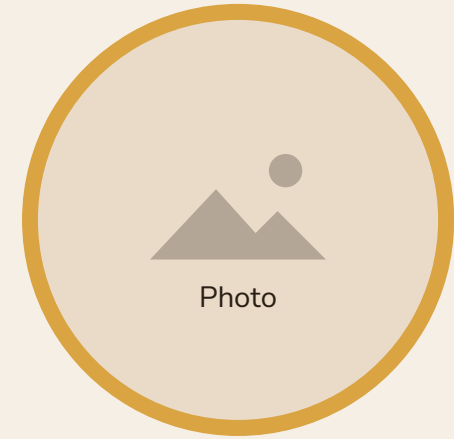
Farmers CULTIVATORS

Grew wheat, barley and cotton.



Artisans CRAFTSPEOPLE

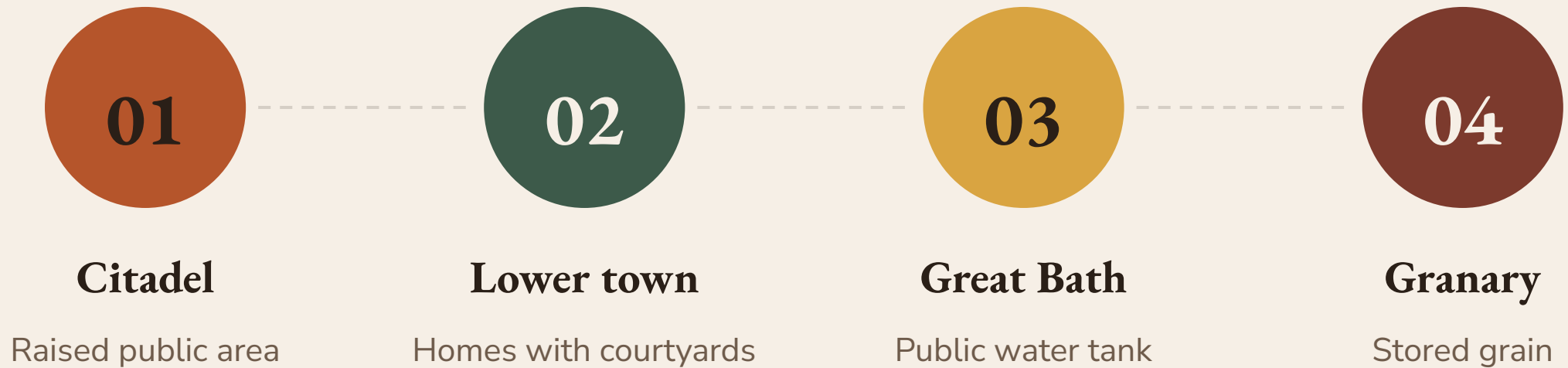
Made seals, beads and pottery.



Traders MERCHANTS

Exchanged goods over land and sea.

Life in a Harappan city





*The drainage of Mohenjo-daro is
among the most advanced of the
ancient world.*

— A widely shared archaeological view

At a glance

Feature	Detail
Script	About 400 signs, undeciphered
Crops	Wheat, barley, cotton
Metals	Copper, bronze, gold

Dates are approximate where historians differ.

Before and after

Before

- ✓ Small farming villages
- ✓ Local exchange only
- ✓ Mud huts

After

- Planned cities with drains
- Long-distance trade
- Standard baked bricks

Legacy



Town planning

Grid streets and drainage.



Weights

Standard measures for trade.



Crafts

Bead and pottery traditions.

Discussion questions

- Why might the cities have declined?
- What does town planning tell us about rulers?
- How could the script be deciphered?
- Compare a Harappan home with yours

Thank you

Questions and discussion.

Presenter Name

hello@yourdomain.in

