c. 2600 BCE – 550 CE

Put the Events in Order

Name _____ Date _____

These 11 events from the Ancient India timeline are out of order. Write a number from 1 to 11 in each box, from the earliest event (1) to the latest (11).

☐ **Vedic Period Begins**

Pastoral peoples enter northwestern India, bringing the Sanskrit language and composing the Vedas — the oldest sacred texts of what would become Hinduism — which are transmitted orally for centuries before being written down.

☐ **Maurya Empire Founded**

Chandragupta Maurya, a young general, overthrows the Nanda Dynasty and founds the Maurya Empire — the first to unify most of the Indian subcontinent under a single government.

☐ **Gupta Empire Founded**

Chandragupta I founds the Gupta Empire in the Ganges plain, with its heartland in Magadha, the same region the Mauryas had ruled from. His son Samudragupta and grandson Chandragupta II expand it across most of northern India.

☐ **Alexander the Great Reaches the Indus**

Alexander the Great of Macedonia crosses the Hindu Kush and the Indus River and defeats King Porus at the Battle of the Hydaspes, but his exhausted army refuses to march farther east, and he turns back.

☐ **Birth of Buddhism and Jainism**

Siddhartha Gautama (the Buddha) and Mahavira preach new philosophies of liberation and non-violence in the Ganges plain — teachings that challenge the existing religious hierarchy and spread rapidly across the subcontinent.

☐ **Ashoka the Great**

After winning a brutal war that kills hundreds of thousands, Emperor Ashoka converts to Buddhism, renounces further conquest, sends missionaries across Asia, carves his edicts on pillars and rocks throughout the empire, and promotes welfare, non-violence, and religious tolerance.

☐ **Treaty with Seleucus**

Chandragupta defeats the Macedonian Seleucid king who controls much of Persia and Afghanistan, winning the northwestern territories and establishing the Maurya Empire as a major power recognized by the Greek world.

☐ **Aryabhata Writes the Aryabhatiya**

The mathematician and astronomer Aryabhata completes his book the Aryabhatiya. He uses a place-value number system, gives a very close value for pi, and explains that the Earth spins on its axis, making the stars appear to move.

☐ **Indus Valley Decline**

The great Indus Valley cities are gradually abandoned — the reasons remain debated, with possible causes including climate change, shifting rivers, and disease; people migrate eastward toward the Ganges plain.

☐ **The Gupta Empire Breaks Apart**

Weakened by invasions of the Huna (Huns) from Central Asia and by governors breaking away, the Gupta Empire shrinks and breaks into smaller kingdoms by the middle of the 500s.

☐ **Indus Valley Civilization Flourishes**

The cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro — each home to tens of thousands of people — are built with sophisticated grid-planned streets, advanced drainage and sewage systems, and standardized weights and measures used for long-distance trade.

c. 2600 BCE – 550 CE

Put the Events in Order: Answer Key

c. 2600 BCE	1.	Indus Valley Civilization Flourishes
c. 1900 BCE	2.	Indus Valley Decline
c. 1500 BCE	3.	Vedic Period Begins
c. 600–500 BCE	4.	Birth of Buddhism and Jainism
326 BCE	5.	Alexander the Great Reaches the Indus
321 BCE	6.	Maurya Empire Founded
305 BCE	7.	Treaty with Seleucus
269–232 BCE	8.	Ashoka the Great
320 CE	9.	Gupta Empire Founded
c. 499 CE	10.	Aryabhata Writes the Aryabhatiya
c. 550 CE	11.	The Gupta Empire Breaks Apart