

Table of Contents

A Long History	4–5
Early Invasions.....	6–7
The Aryans	8–9
More Invasions.....	10–11
The Mauryan Empire.....	12–13
Ashoka’s Rule.....	14–15
The Gupta Empire	16–17
Chandragupta II.....	18–19
The Mughal Empire	20–21
Great Britain Takes Control.....	22–23
Indians Rise Up	24–25
Independence.....	26–27
Moving Into the Modern World	28–29
Glossary	30
Index.....	31
Image Credits.....	32

A Long History

India has a special history. Its history is very closely tied to its location. India is between the East and the West. This location has made it a natural place for **invaders** (in-VADE-uhz). Each group that invaded the country changed it in some way.

India fought in many wars. Different families have ruled over the land. It seems that India is too big and complex for any one group to rule it for long.

People have lived in India for thousands of years. Every group has brought its own **traditions** to the country. These very different traditions have all become part of Indian culture. They have helped to create a very rich society.

Elephants are important for traditional religious ceremonies.



▼ This map of India is from the 1700s.



Old World

India is the oldest living culture in the world. It is at least 10,000 years old.

What's in a Name?

The name *India* came from the Indus River. The valleys around the Indus River were the homes of the early settlers of India.

The Indus River Valley

