

MAKE A TIMELINE: KEY EVENTS IN HISTORY OF AFGHANISTAN

1. Beginning with the year 8000 BCE, mark the centuries on your paper, using the scale: 1 cm = 100 years. Put a mark at each century, and write the year on every 5 centuries.
2. Show the span from 8000 BCE to 2009 CE.
3. Fill in the following information on the appropriate spaces on your timeline:

Key Events in History of Afghanistan

7000 BCE	Farmers and herders settle in plains around Hindu Kush mountains; mud-brick houses; clay pottery
Approx. 4500 BCE	Agricultural settlements (the earliest forms of towns) appear in these plains and foothills
Approx. 4000 BCE	Lapis lazuli, gold, and tin begin to be exported to India, Mesopotamia (ancient Iraq), and the Mediterranean world
Approx. 2200 BCE	The Bronze Age begins in northern Afghanistan
Approx. 2000 BCE	Tepe Fullol (N. Afghanistan): Walled, symmetrically planned cities, elaborate burials, similarities to the Indus civilization; economic prosperity, administrative organization, artistically designed gold bowls similar to Mesopotamian wares
Approx. 522 BCE	Zoroastrianism spreads throughout the Persian Achaemenid Empire
519 BCE	Cyrus the Great conquers Afghanistan, which becomes part of the Persian Empire. An inscription recording Cyrus' conquests is the first known use of the name Bactria.
334–323 BCE	Alexander the Great conquers the Persian Empire. He reaches and takes control of Afghanistan around 328 BCE.
Approx. 300 BCE	Greco-Bactrian city of Ai Khanum founded by followers of Alexander: palace treasury, temple sanctuary, administrative quarters, gymnasium, theater, cemetery, Greek language
Approx. 145 BCE	Nomads from the northern steppes overrun Ai Khanum, bringing with them portable art often decorated with real and imaginary animals.

Between 100 BCE and 100 CE	Nomadic chieftain and five women buried with gold ornaments at Tillya Tepe
50	Begram: Important transit and trading city on Silk Road; artisan workshops producing luxury goods. Trading city for Roman and Egyptian glass and alabaster, bronze, Indian-style decorative and sculptural items in ivory and bone, Chinese lacquer bowls, ivory decorated furniture
375	Monumental Buddhist sculptures begin to be carved at Bamiyan
850	Arrival of Islam
1220	Genghis Khan destroys the Bactrian city of Balkh
1271–1295	Marco Polo travels throughout Asia
Approx. 1370	At the former city of Balkh, Tamerlane (Timur-i-Leng) proclaims himself emperor of the region.
1504	Babur assumes power in Kabul
1839	First Afghan War with Britain
1879	Second Afghan War with Britain
1919	Coalition of Warlords form country of Afghanistan The modern nation of Afghanistan achieves independence from Britain
1936–1939	French-led excavation of Begram
1965–1975	French-led excavation of Ai Khanum
1978	Burials at Tillya Tepe begin to be excavated by a Soviet–Afghan team of archeologists
1979	Soviet invasion; end of scientific excavations in Afghanistan
1988	Masterpieces from the Kabul Museum (later the National Museum of Afghanistan, Kabul) hidden in the Central Bank at the presidential palace in Kabul

1992–95	National Museum looted and destroyed during years of civil war
1998	Taliban take control of Afghanistan
2001	Bamiyan sculptures destroyed by the Taliban who are overthrown months later
2001	American military forces intervene
2004	Crates in the Central Bank vaults opened, revealing the works of art from the National Museum that had survived decades of turmoil
2008	Afghan Treasures exhibited in USA