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