

# Key World Events (5th Century to 15th Century)

8.4.1  
c

476	End of the western Roman Empire
527	Justinian I becomes emperor of the Byzantine Empire
600	End of the Golden Age of the Gupta Empire in India
630	Mohammed establishes the city of Mecca as the centre of Islam
711	Arab Muslims (followers of Islam) conquer Spain
750	Abbasids become rulers of Arab Empire with Baghdad as centre
c. 800 - 1100	Arabs establish regular trade caravans across northern Africa; they gradually extend routes across the Sahara desert into the west African kingdoms of Mali and Ghana for the gold and salt trade
800	Frankish leader Charlemagne takes the title of emperor of Rome
c. 850	Mayan cities in central America abandoned for unknown reasons
c. 850	Beginning of feudal system in Europe
885 - 886	Vikings attack Paris; gain control of part of England
986	Vikings establish a colony in Greenland
c. 992	Vikings land in Newfoundland ( <i>l'Anse aux Meadows</i> )
c. 1000	Beginning of Japanese feudal age under samurai
1066	William the Conqueror of Normandy conquers England
1096	Crusades (wars between Christians and Muslims in Europe and the Middle East) begin
c. 1100	Beginnings of Incan Empire in Peru, South America
c. 1150	First universities appear in Europe
1203 - 1206	Genghis Khan defeats and unites the Mongol tribes and calls himself King of Kings
1207 - 1233	Genghis Khan conquers areas of eastern Europe, China, and present-day Russia as territories of the Mongol Empire
1215	The <i>Magna Carta</i> or Great Charter is signed by King John I of England
1258	Mongols attack and sack Baghdad
1267	Kublai Khan establishes a unified Mongol empire centred in China
1271	Marco Polo leaves Italy to travel to China
1290	The Ottoman dynasty is founded in Asia Minor (Turkey)
1291	End of Crusades—Muslims defeat Christians and remain in Holy Lands
1325	Tenochtitlàn (today Mexico City) established by the Aztecs in Mexico
1337	Beginning of the Hundred Years' War between France and England
1347	First waves of the plague (Black Death) spread in Europe
c. 1450?	Fortress city Machu Picchu is built in the Andes of Peru by the Incans
1453	Ottoman Turks conquer Constantinople: end of the Byzantine Empire
1492	Christopher Columbus reaches the West Indies: believes it is India
1532	Incan Empire destroyed by Spaniards seeking treasure in Peru

