**Ancient India – Glossary**

agriculture also known as farming. Growing plants and keeping animals to produce food products.

brahman the infinite soul.

Decipher analysing an unknown language to determine its meaning.

desert a landscape which receives very little rain, and supports the growth of few plants.

dharma law in some Indian religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism.

domesticate where humans breed plants and animals to produce other plants or animals with features that are favourable.

dynasty a succession of rulers from the same family or hereditary line

empire a group of states or countries under a single authority.

karma an action or deed thought to cause a cycle of cause and effect.

moksha release from the cycle of birth and death.

monsoon a climate pattern associated with a rainy season.

monument a statue, building or structure built to commemorate a notable person or event.

philosophy theories about the nature of knowledge, reality and existence.

plain an area of land that is relatively flat or has a gentle slope

plateau also know as a tableland. A mountain with a flat area on top.

precept a general rule

samsara the cycle of birth, death, rebirth or reincarnation within some Indian religions such as Buddhism and Hinduism.

stupa dome-shaped buildings which contain the relics of the Buddha

Vedas sacred texts in Hinduism. Parts of the Vedas date back to approx. 1500-1000BCE.

wetland an area that is permanently or regularly covered with water.