

Ancient India

(The Indus Valley Civilisation)



KEY DATES:

- c. 4000 BC: farming settlements
- present country - Pakistan
- c. 2500 BC: highest development of the Indus Valley civilization (cities)
- c. 1700 BC: the Aryan invasions

The Indus Valley is in Pakistan

- The Indus Valley is in Pakistan close to the border of India.
- The Indus River flows through the valley, from the Himalayan Mountains down to the Arabian Sea.

Archaeologists have found the remains of five large cities in the Indus Valley.

Two of the biggest are Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.



Most of what we know about the Indus Valley people comes from excavations at Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro.

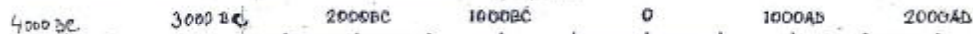
- Archaeologists found thousands of objects.
- All of these objects are important evidence for archaeologists.
- This evidence can show us how the Indus Valley people lived over 4000 years ago.

1. TASKS:

A) Look at the timeline. Mark the establishment of the following civilisations:

- The Indus Valley civilisation
- Egyptian civilisation
- Summerians

B) Try to guess the beginning of the Greek and Roman civilisation



2. VOCABULARY/ GRAMMAR REVISION:

- Find the past simples in the text:
- Find the subjects in the text:
- Find the adjectives in the text:

present and describe :

ARCHITECTURE:

WRITING:

HOUSES:

RELIGION:

SCULPTURE:

SOCIAL SYSTEM:

HAVE YOU EVER HEARD?

We know quite a lot about Mohenjo-Daro

- Mohenjo-Daro was a huge city covering almost 2 km².
- Some archaeologists think that more than 35,000 people lived there.
- The Indus River flooded its banks every year.
- To keep dry, buildings were built on massive brick platforms.
- The bricks were made out of clay from the valley.



clay dice

The Citadel was built on higher ground



board game

The Citadel was a walled area built on higher ground. It had lots of large buildings.

There was a giant granary.
The granary was a storeroom for grain.



There were two large halls with seating along each side.
These may have been assembly halls where people met and talked.

There were giant kilns or ovens to bake the clay bricks.
This made the bricks harder.



The Great Bath

- This was a huge rectangular hole in the ground that filled with water.
- It was 12 metres long and 7 metres wide.
- The builders made it watertight by making the sides and bottom out of close-fitting bricks lined with waterproof tar.



Most people lived in the Lower City

- 1) Most people lived in the Lower City, outside the Citadel.
- 2) The Lower City had neat rows of houses along straight streets.
- 3) The streets were designed on a grid pattern like many modern north American cities, e.g. Toronto.
- 4) This kind of street planning was very unusual at the time.



Houses were made out of mud-brick



- 1) The houses were made from mud-bricks and had flat roofs.
- 2) Many houses were square shaped. Some had an open space or courtyard in the middle.



- 3) Some houses had wells for fresh water.
- 4) Some even had built-in toilets with drains.
- 5) The drains took the waste outside to sewers beneath the streets.

Many statues were found

- 1) Statues were found in many of the houses.
- 2) They give clues about the types of clothes people wore in Mohenjo-Daro.
- 3) The statues also tell us that some people were skilled craftsmen who could make ornate objects out of metal and stone.
- 4) Some figures, such as the 'bearded man', appear again and again. These may be gods and goddesses worshipped by the people of Mohenjo-Daro.



The 'bearded man' statue is often found.

Seals and Symbols

We don't really understand Indus Valley writing...

Seals were used to mark things as yours

- 1) Excavations at Mohenjo-Daro have found thousands of flat, square tablets. These are seals.
- 2) The seals have pictures and writing on them.
- 3) Many of the seals are made out of baked soapstone.
- 4) Soapstone is harder than clay. The seals were pushed into wet clay to make an image.
- 5) Most of the pictures are of animals, especially bulls, antelopes, tigers and water buffalo.
- 6) The seals also have writing on them, but we are not sure what it means.

It's difficult to work out Indus Valley writing

The fish seal appears a lot.



- 1) It could be a pictogram — it's a picture of what it is. It just means 'fish'.
- 2) But some archaeologists have looked at pictures from different ancient civilisations. They found that the word fish was often the same as the word for star. So it could be an ideogram — a picture representing a different idea.
- 3) But stars were often used to identify gods. Stone seals from other ancient cultures show gods with stars on either side. So fish could mean 'god'.

Aryan invaders

Aryans were nomadic tribes from Southern Russia — they arrived about 1700 BC in India

The Aryans brought with them their own language, called Sanskrit and religious and cultural beliefs.

The caste system

One social custom brought to India by the Aryans was the caste system.

This system put every person in society into a certain class from which they could never advance.

The caste system was very effective in keeping social order but it was rigid and strict.

Those in the lowest caste were looked down on by upper caste members and could never change castes.



Picture of KRISHNA

The Aryans and the Indus Valley culture eventually produced what is known today as Hinduism. This religion is polytheistic, which means believing in many gods. We know about this ancient religion because of Aryan books called "Vedas" that record the beliefs of the Aryans.

Ancient India inventions: (complete)

KEY VOCABULARY

Valley - Civilisation - Border - Remains - Ruins - Clay dice - Board game - Evidence - Excavations - Flood - Brick platforms - Clay - Granary - Citadel - Storeroom - Grain - Kilns - Clay bricks - Hall - Assembly - Rectangular hole - Waterlights - Close-fitting bricks - Waterproof tar - Lower city - Neat rows houses - Straight street - Grid pattern - Courtyard - Wells - Drains - Waste - Sewers - Skilled craftsmen - Metal - Bearded man - Seals - Symbol - Flat squared tablets - Soapstone - Image - Pictogram - Ideogram

HOMEWORK: Find out the present situation in India: !!!

- A) Population:
- B) Problems:
- C) Capital city:
- b) Poverty: