

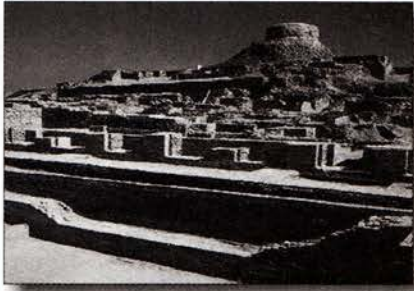
The Indus Valley

The Harappan or Indus Civilization

The fertility of the **Indus Valley** lured farmers to the river's banks in about 2500 B.C. The people who lived along the Indus River developed one of the world's first great urban civilizations. Archaeologists call this civilization the **Harappan Culture** or **Indus Valley Civilization**. This civilization originated in what is today Pakistan and western India and developed at about the same time as the early city-states of Egypt and Mesopotamia. Unlike those other civilizations, very little was known about the Indus Valley Civilization until recently. In 1921, an Indian archaeologist discovered remnants of a large city named Harappa.

Harappa and Mohenjo-daro

Harappa was one of the centers of the Indus Valley Civilization. The other, located about 350 miles away, was **Mohenjo-daro**. These two large cities were the homes of merchants and craftsmen. Ruins from these cities indicate the people of this culture planned their cities carefully before they built them. The buildings and streets were neatly arranged according to a grid system. Each city had a large **granary** and water tank as well as homes made of bricks and plaster. The houses were large with several rooms that led into a courtyard. Some of the homes had wells for drinking water and bathing, bathrooms with toilets, and a system for drainage. In fact, the builders of Mohenjo-daro designed and built one of the world's first drainage and sewage systems for a city.



Mohenjo-daro today

Farming

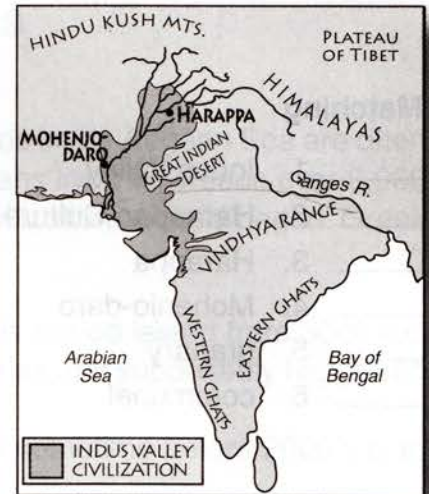
The people of the Indus Valley Civilization built a complex system of canals and dams for irrigation and flood management. They practiced **communal** farming. On these large farms, they grew barley, rice, wheat, dates, and cotton. They were one of the first civilizations known to have domesticated animals. They raised cattle, chickens, and buffalo. The farmers used wheeled carts drawn by oxen to take their grain to the cities where it was stored in large granaries.

Trading

Those who did not farm or hunt were either traders or craftsmen. They bought gold from southern India, turquoise from Iran, silver and copper from Afghanistan, and jade from India. With these goods, craftsmen were able to make pottery, jewelry, sculptures, spears, and knives.

The Civilization Declines

About 1750 B.C. the civilization began to decline. Earthquakes and floods destroyed the irrigation system, and many buildings were also destroyed. For some reason, the people did not rebuild. Invaders caused many to abandon the Indus Valley. Although nomads lived in this region for a while, hundreds of years would pass before new cities were built.



INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION AT A GLANCE

WHERE: Western part of South Asia in what is now Pakistan and western India

WHEN: 2500 B.C.–1750 B.C.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Built dams and canals for irrigation
- Well-planned cities
- One of the world's first drainage and sewer systems for a city
- Among the first people to cultivate cotton
- Among the first people to domesticate animals

Name: _____ Date: _____

Knowledge Check

Matching

- | | |
|---------------------------|---|
| _____ 1. Indus Valley | a. a place to store grain |
| _____ 2. Harappan Culture | b. one of the centers of the Indus Valley Civilization; rediscovered in 1921 |
| _____ 3. Harappa | c. region in what is now Pakistan and western India, along the Indus River |
| _____ 4. Mohenjo-daro | d. another name for the Indus Valley Civilization |
| _____ 5. granary | e. shared or used in common by a group or members of a community |
| _____ 6. communal | f. one of the centers of the Indus Valley Civilization; home to merchants and craftsmen |

Multiple Choice

7. Mohenjo-daro is known for having one of the first

a. city wells.	b. city walls.
c. city sewage systems.	d. city banks.
8. How was grain moved from the fields into the cities?

a. on men's backs	b. in wheeled carts pulled by oxen
c. on llamas	d. on sleds pulled by men
9. What destroyed the Indus Valleys' irrigation system?

a. earthquakes and floods	b. a volcano
c. hurricanes	d. invaders
10. Where would Indus Valley traders get turquoise?

a. India	b. Afghanistan
c. China	d. Iran

Constructed Response

11. What evidence is there that the Indus Valley cities were well planned? Use details from the reading selection to help support your answer.
