

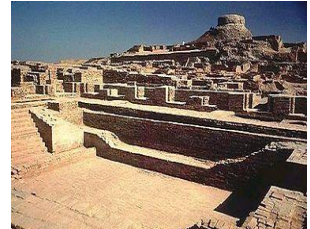
Indus Valley Civilization

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Indus Valley civilization is one of the three oldest civilizations in history.

It emerged in India at about the same time as the first civilizations in Egypt and Mesopotamia.

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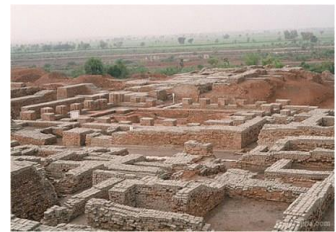
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.4.Determine the meaning of symbols, key terms, and other domain-specific words and phrases as they are used in a specific scientific or technical context relevant to grades 6-8 texts and topics.

Indus Valley Harappans

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The **Harappans** were the earliest **Indus Valley** civilization. The Harappan civilization emerged about 2800 B.C. and began to decline around 1900 B.C.

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Harappan Civilization Discovery

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In the 1920s, scientists discovered remains of the previously unknown Harappan civilization. Since then, archaeologists have unearthed two major Harappan cities and many villages.

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Indus Valley Geographic Location

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The **geographic location** of early **Indus Valley civilization** was the area of northern India, most of modern-day Pakistan, and parts of modern-day Afghanistan and Iran.



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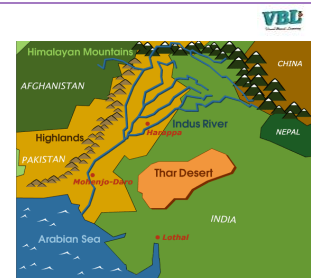
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Indus Valley Geographic Barriers

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Geographic barriers of the Indus Valley:

- Himalayan Mountains to the northeast
- Highlands to the northwest
- Thar Desert to the east and south
- Arabian Sea to the west



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Indus Valley Geographic Features

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Geographic features of the Indus Valley were ideal for civilization to develop. The Indus River system has five major tributaries, and its fertile drainage plains are huge.



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Urban Centers

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Many Harappans lived in **urban centers** with large populations. Major cities that have been excavated include Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. Both are in modern-day Pakistan.



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Urban Life

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The Harappans had a sophisticated **urban life**. Each city had a huge public bathing building and an assembly hall. Harappans played musical instruments, danced, and played indoor games. Chess was invented by the Harappans.



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Architecture Cities

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The **architecture** of entire **cities** was expertly coordinated.

- Each city was surrounded by a thick wall.
- Cities were laid out in perfect grid patterns.
- Streets were wide and straight.



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Architecture Sanitation Systems

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Harappans were the first civilization to build **sanitation systems** into the **architecture** of cities.

- Individual houses had bathrooms and toilets.
- Wastewater from houses flowed into drains connected to sewers that lined the streets.

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Credit: harappa.com

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Architecture Wells and Public Baths

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In cities, individual houses or groups of houses had **wells** containing fresh water. There also were public baths, such as The Great Bath at Mohenjo-Daro.

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Architecture Measurements of Length and Weight

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Architecture shows that the Harappan civilization was first to develop precise **measurements of length and weight**. Materials used in buildings, drainage systems, and layouts of farms and canals were uniform and proportional.

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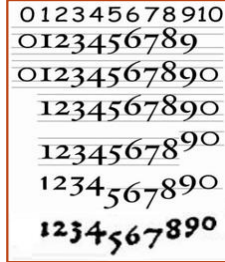
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Mathematics

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The Harappans made important contributions to **mathematics**.

- They created a base-10 number system.
- They were first to develop the concept of zero.



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Writing System

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The Harappan writing system consisted of hundreds of symbols inscribed on seals, small tablets, pottery, and signs. The meanings of these symbols are not clearly known.



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Agriculture

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Agriculture was essential to Harappan urban centers. On small farms outside the cities, farmers grew wheat, dates, grapes, bananas, and peas. They also kept cattle, pigs, sheep, and goats.



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Trade

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Trade was a big part of the Harappan economy. The Harappans developed a trade network that included the coastal areas of Persia, northern and western India, and especially Mesopotamia.



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Social Structure

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The **social structure** of the Harappans was surprisingly equitable. Harappan society was practical, with a division of labor among its diverse members. Urban dwellers were mainly artisans, craftspeople, traders, and priests.



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Rulers

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There is no real evidence that the Harappans had a **single ruler**. It is not certain if there was one ruler over each city, or if everyone in Harappan society had equal status.



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Religion

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Not much is known about the **religion** of the Harappans. Some seals and artworks indicate that they worshipped a mother goddess of fertility, as well as animals and plants.



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Harappans Decline and Fall

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Harappan civilization began to decline in 1900 B.C. and ended around 1800 B.C. The cities were abandoned, most likely because of drought and a resulting decline in trade.



Credit: harappa.com

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Which image represents Harappan religious beliefs?

A.



Credit: harappa.com

B.



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C.



Credit: harappa.com

The correct answer is C.

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- A. This response is incorrect because the image shows toys made by the Harappans.
- B. This response is incorrect because the image shows a dancing girl, and dancing was a Harappan social activity.
- C. Artworks indicate that the Harappans worshipped a mother goddess of fertility.

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This brick shows which Harappan mathematical innovation?

- A. Base-10 number system
- B. A perfect ratio of 4:2:1
- C. Decimals
- D. Measurement of weight



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The correct answer is B.



- A. This response is incorrect because the brick's measurements are not shown.
- B. The brick's 4:2:1 ratio proportion is clearly shown.
- C. This response is incorrect because Harappans used the decimal system to measure weight.
- D. This response is incorrect because the brick's weight is not shown.

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This image represents which of the following?

- A. Bathroom
- B. Sewer system
- C. Water well



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The correct answer is C.



- A. This response is incorrect because bathrooms were located in private rooms of houses.
- B. This response is incorrect because sewer systems were built in a grid pattern along city streets.
- C. Water wells were enclosed by layers of bricks built above ground.

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