

Key facts

The Indus Valley is a fertile area around the river basin which spreads cross Pakistan, and into modern-day India and Afghanistan..

About eight thousand years ago, the people of the Indus Valley began to farm the fertile land around the River Indus. As they got better at growing food, they could grow extra food to sell. Some left farming to make things or become **merchants**. They sold their produce in markets. By 3000 BCE, cities had begun to grow around the markets. We call these cities, the **Indus Valley civilisation**.

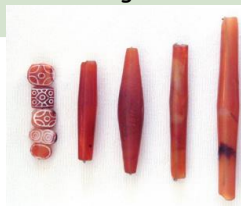
Archaeologists have used a wide range of sources to find out how the Indus Valley people lived. Seals show animals that were important to Indus people. Other **sources** such as **whistles** and **statues** show that people in the Indus Valley liked music and dancing.

Historians everywhere are amazed by the technology of the Indus people! They had well-built cities and ways of moving water and sewage. Some even had bathrooms in their houses. Wells were used to obtain clean water.

Indus people were artists. Through their art, we can learn about what the Indus people thought was important and how they lived. They made seals, pottery and jewellery.

The Indus Civilisation did not have coins. They used to **barter**. Archaeologists think that Indus merchants must have traded large amounts of goods. They also travelled long distances by boat on the river and on the sea.

In the Indus Valley, archaeologists have no idea who was in charge! There is no evidence of kings, queens, nor any other government. Another puzzle is religion.



Carnelian beads

Indus Valley Timeline

3300 BC
Farmers started small farming settlements.

3000 BC
Cities had begun to grow around the markets. This is what we call the Indus Valley Civilisation.

2600 BC
Archaeologists think Mohenjo-Daro was built.

2500 BC
Seals started to be used by traders.

2400 BC
The Indus Valley was at its peak.

1800 BC
The cities were not run as well, they became dirtier, trade stopped and buildings started to crumble.

1500 BC
The Indus Civilisation comes to an end.

Indus Valley

Vocabulary

Barter	Swapping goods for other goods
Carnelian	A type of stone
Citadel	A safe, strong part of an ancient city.
Harappa	A large city in the Indus Valley Civilisation.
Market	A regular gathering of people for purchasing and selling.
Merchants	A person involved in trade.
Mohenjo-Daro	A large city near the River Indus.
Kiln	An oven
Potsherds	A broken piece of pot (ceramic).
Seal	A carved pieces of stone.
Source	Anything that people from the past left behind.
threshing	Separating the grain from the stalk. The grains can then be ground into flour.
Oxen	A cow or bull
Terracotta	a brownish-red clay that has been baked and is used for making things
Prow	Front of a boat
Trade Route	A trade route is the route that traders take when they carry their goods to other places.



The dancing girl



A seal



A clay whistle

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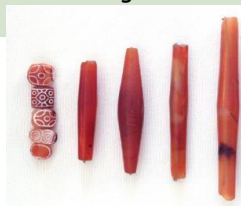
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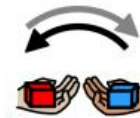
The dancing girl



A seal



A clay whistle



barter



carnelian



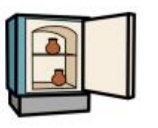
potsherds



market



merchant



kiln



seal



source



threshing



oxen



terracotta



trade route

Rights and Global Goals

Rights

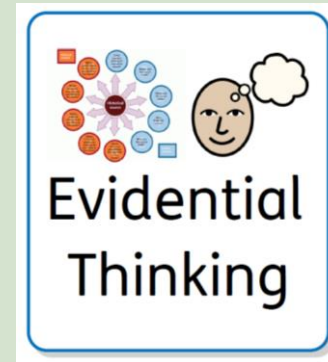


Global Goals

11 - Sustainable Cities and Communities

Big Ideas

Evidential thinking



National Treasures

The Dancing Girl

The Old city of Harappa

Prior Learning

Ancient Egypt (Year 3)

Cradles of Civilisation (Year 3)

Rivers - River Indus (Year 3 Geography)

Communication - Hieroglyphics and Cuneiform (Year 1)

