

Indus River Valley



Archaeological Excavation

What can archaeology tell us about the Indus River Valley (IRV) civilizations?



If you were an archaeologist excavating in the IRV, what three kinds of artifacts or structures would be helpful to find?

Explain what they might tell you about the civilization.

How many of the “8 characteristics of a civilization” can you recall?



- Cities/settled population
- Government
- Complex religion
- Job specialization
- Class structure/social classes
- Writing system
- Art/architecture
- Public works/infrastructure

Indus River Valley Civilizations



- ❖ Two major cities:
 - Mohenjo Daro
 - Harappa
 - People called “Dravidians”
- ❖ Present-day Pakistan / India
- ❖ Emerged around 2500 BC
- ❖ ... and then mysteriously faded away 1000 years later when a people called the “Aryans” moved in!



We still don't know about...

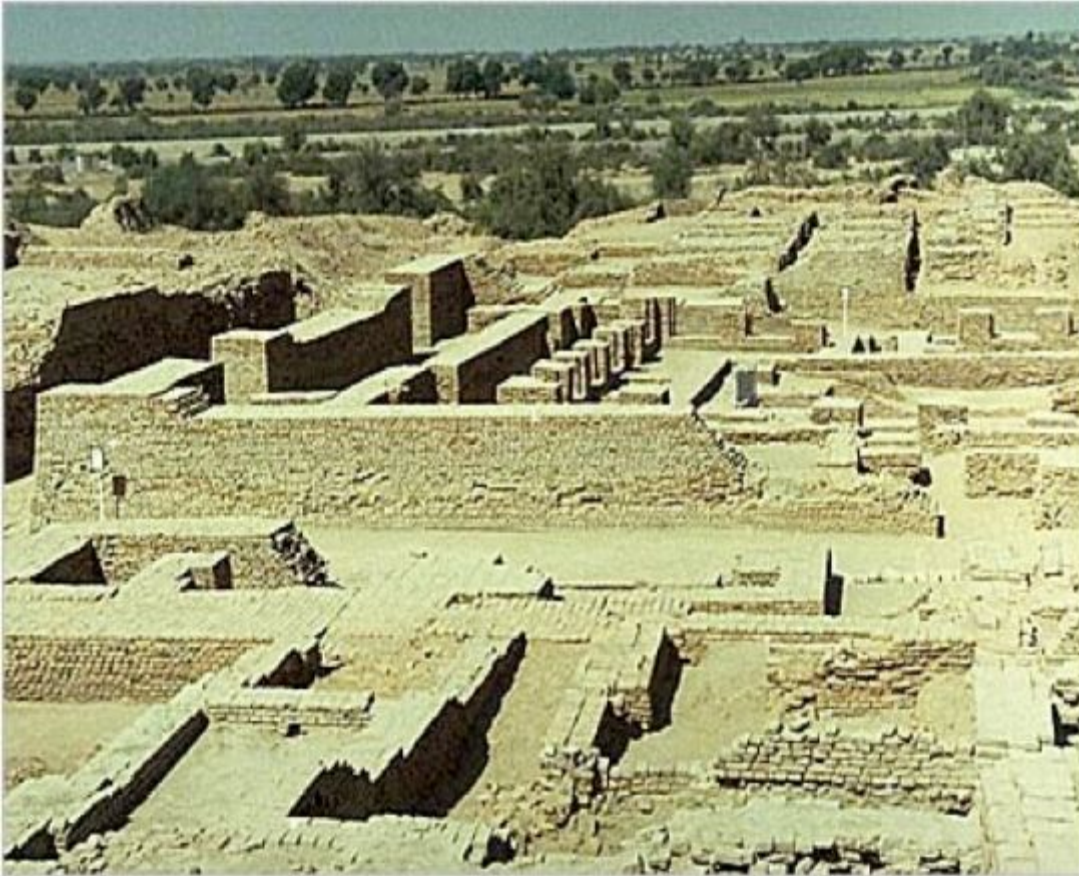


- ❖ The form of writing
- ❖ Do not know or understand
 - Names of leaders
 - Tax records
 - Literature
 - Accounts of victories

What DO we know about the IRV from archaeology??



1. Use each image from the Mohenjo Daro/Harappa site excavations to fill out your chart.
2. Examine the image.
 - Identify what the artifact might be
 - Describe it with details
 - What types of conclusions can you make about this society from the artifact?
 - Based on the artifact/image, does Mohenjo Daro/Harappa classify as a civilization? **Why or why not?** (Think 8 features)



Well-organized cities

- Grid layout
- Intersections: north/south/east/west

The Great Bath



The Granary

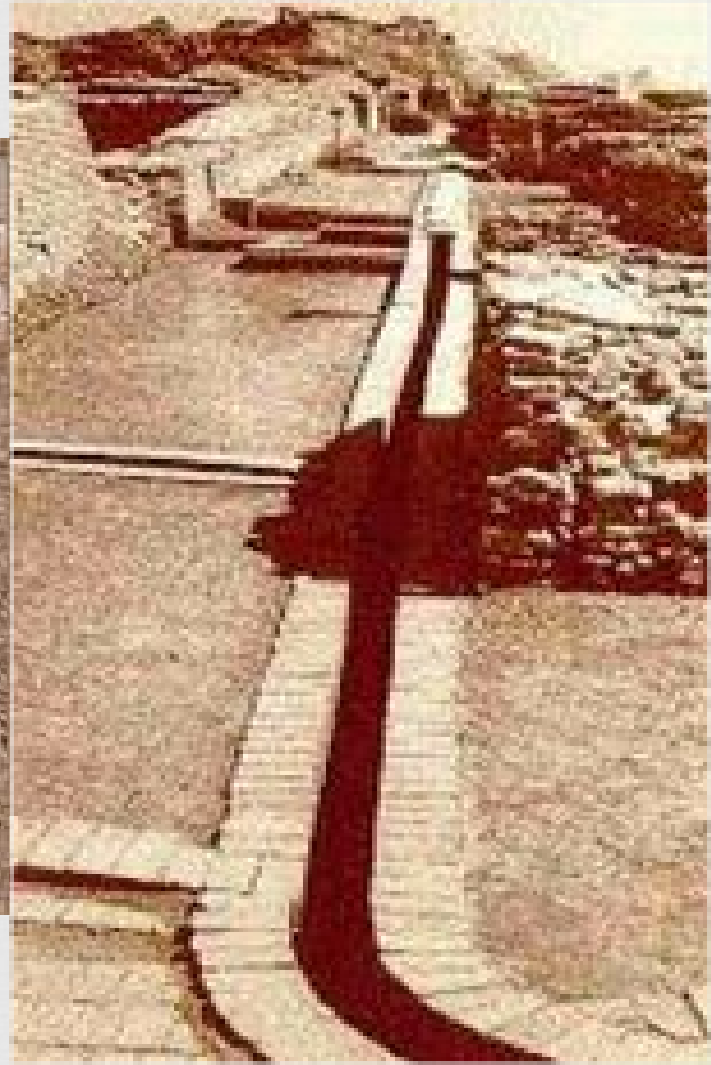
Storage house for grain



Housing



Drains/Sewers



Stamps/Jewelry



Religious Life??



The Citadel



Trade networks

(with Mesopotamia)



Ceramics or the clay tags
labeling trade items



Standardized
weights and scale

Raw Materials and Trade Networks

Key

- Tin
- Copper
- Gold
- Lead/Silver
- Lapis lazuli
- Sodalite (often confused for Lapis lazuli)
- Shell
- Agate, Banded Agate, Jasper
- Agate (High Quality Carnelian)
- Steatite
- Chert



Summary



Read “Did Democracy Begin in the Indus Valley?” and answer the following question:

How do both perspectives support the idea that IRV cities did contain aspects of a civilization? What archaeological evidence do they cite?