

Year 3 History Knowledge Organiser - Indus Valley

The Indus Valley

- The dancing girl was found in **Mohenjo-Daro**, which is near the **River Indus**. The statue is four thousand years old!
- The people of the **Indus Valley** farmed the fertile land around the River Indus. They then started to grow extra food that they could sell.
- The dancing girl was made by a skilled craftsman and may have been sold or bought by **merchants** in a **market**.
- Archaeologists have found over 400 symbols that might be writing which are on **seals**.
- Small pieces of pottery called **potsherds** have been found by archaeologists.
- Walls surround the **citadel** at the heart of **Mohenjo-Daro**. The bricks are made of mud. They've lasted so long because they were fired in a **kiln**.
- Harappa** was a city that was part of the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- The **remains** of bathrooms, wells and sewages have been found in the **Indus Valley**.
- Archaeologists are sure that the Indus Civilisation was very organised and led by a person or a group, even though there is no evidence of a King, Queen or government.
- Seals** have given archaeologists evidence that the Indus people believe in **gods**.

Mohenjo-Daro (Today's remains)



Jewellery and Ornaments

- Indus people were artists.
- Oxen were very important to Indus people (they ate the meat, used the skins and they also pulled carts and ploughs) and can be seen on a lot of seals.
- Seals** were solid tags that could be attached to items: they were made from a piece of stone and had carvings in them.
- Pots were made from clay on a wheel. A pot would be shaped by a potter using a spinning potter's wheel. It was then baked hard in a **kiln**.
- Terracotta was a red clay potters used to make bowls, dishes, cups and vases.
- Many necklaces have been found and a stone called carnelian was used to make them. Necklaces, bracelets and bangles were worn as ornaments.

Sources found by historians



Timeline

3300 BC	Farmers came to the Indus Valley and 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.

Trade and Transport

- The Indus Civilisation did not have coins, so they used to **barter** instead of buying and selling goods.
- Cubed weights of different sizes have been found all over the Indus Valley. Weights were used to check the amount of goods that they were buying. Scales were used to weigh the goods which helped to make trading fair.
- Archaeologists have found a clay model showing a cart which they think tells us how Indus people transported goods. Traders would have loaded their carts with goods (e.g. grain, vegetables, fruit, beads or pots).
- Indus people used boats to carry goods down the River Indus.
- Indus goods have been found in Mesopotamia, so archaeologists are certain that the Indus people travelled here using a trade route.

Vocabulary

1. Mohenjo-Daro	A large city near the River Indus.
2. Merchants	A person involved in trade.
3. Market	A regular gathering of people for purchasing and selling.
4. Civilisation	A human society made up of different cities and cultures.
5. Monuments	A statue or building of importance.
6. Seals	Carved pieces of stone.
7. Harappa	A large city in the Indus Valley Civilisation.
8. Potsherds	A broken piece of pot (ceramic).
9. Threshed	Separating grain.
10. Kiln	An oven use for burning, baking and drying.
11. Terracotta	A type of clay that is a brownish-red colour.
12. Barter	Swapping goods for other goods.
13. Citadel	A fortress.
14. Urban	Highly populated areas (towns and cities).