

Indus Valley

Indus Valley Culture



Introduction to Indus Valley Civilization

Indus Valley Culture

Indus Valley Technology and Trade

Indus Valley Cities

Thematic Icons



Economics



Geography



Historical concepts



Government

Icons



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page

For more instructions, see the *User Guide*.





The Indus Valley Civilization grew for more than 800 years and within it an **Indus culture** flourished.

Before 1920, the Indus Valley Civilization was long lost and forgotten to the world.



However, since the finding of the Indus cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro in 1922 and 1924, the civilization and its culture have been largely **rediscovered**.

The reasons behind this rediscovery are the unique Indus **artifacts** found and studied by archaeologists.





The importance of artifacts



Artifacts are objects created by human beings in the near or far past. These objects, often found by **archaeological excavation**, offer unique insights into the history or culture of human civilizations.

Types of artifact can range from statues, texts, pottery and cookware to weapons and armor.

Within both Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, thousands of Indus artifacts have been found. Once an artifact is found it is **classified** and **categorized** with other artifacts that share similar characteristics.

The artifacts recovered in the Indus Valley help us understand how the ancient civilization dressed, worked and lived.





Archaeological digs in the Indus Valley have produced many discoveries about Indus people and their culture:

- skeletons have revealed the average age of an Indus person was only 30 years old
- people were usually buried with various items from their life
- seals help us understand the **economy** in the valley
- pottery and jewelry show that Indus society was highly developed.





The people of the Indus Valley

Artifacts are useful **sources** for understanding how the people of the Indus Valley lived. **Terracotta statues**, like the one pictured below, have been found in the Indus Valley.

The majority of these statues have been discovered within the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.

What are your initial thoughts of me?
Who do you think I am or represent?





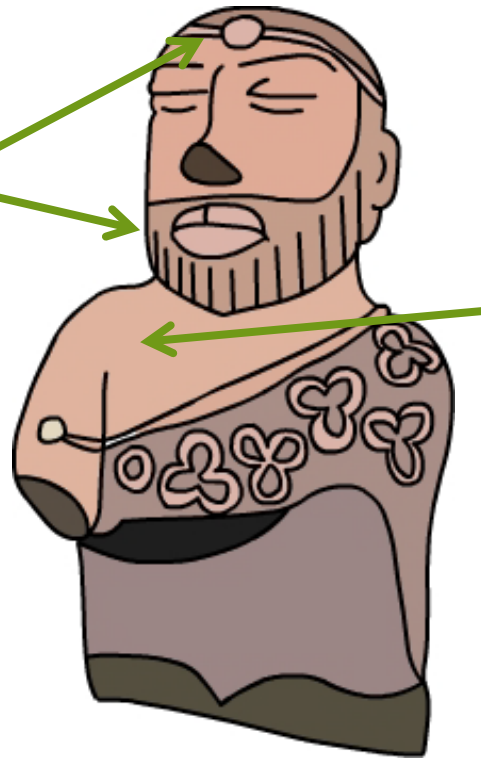
The Priest-King

This terracotta statue is named the “**Priest-King**” and is one of the most famous artifacts discovered in the Indus Valley.

Although the statue’s true identity is unknown, it was given its name by archaeologists studying its clothing and presentation.

He has a neatly trimmed beard, a head-dress and the appearance of an older man.

This may indicate that the figure was a leader, perhaps a respected **elder** or **king**?



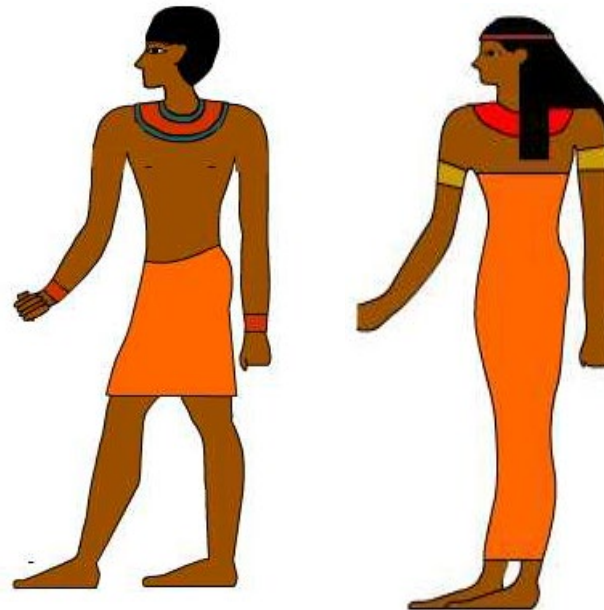
His robe is highly **decorated** and one shoulder is left bare, which may be a sign that he is a religious man or **priest**.



The basic dress for an ordinary Indus man was a length of **cloth** worn around the waist paired with colorful jewelry.

Women's clothing was also made of cloth, which covered both the chest and waist. Jewelry was also worn.

For both men and women, clothing styles were generally similar and very **colorful**.



Clothing was made from local **resources**, usually **cotton** or **wool** from both sheep and goats. Silk was not introduced until after the fall of the Indus Civilization.





Indus Script

Within the discoveries at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, thousands of artifacts have been found that are inscribed with various **symbols**.

These symbols, most commonly found on stone trading seals, are known as the **Indus Script**.



Over 600 distinct symbols have been identified as part of the written script.

What do you think these symbols mean or represent?

The Indus Script is one of the world's oldest languages but unfortunately has not been translated yet!



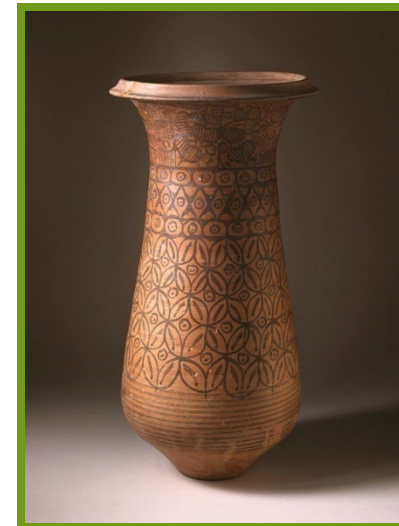


The Indus Valley was home to many **sophisticated** and excellent craftspeople and **artisans**.

These craftspeople, who usually lived in the large Indus cities, were highly skilled at **weaving**, **pottery** and metalwork.



The art created within the Indus Valley was mainly pottery-based, with items such as **decorated** bowls and pots being found in a great quantity.



Very few weapons and no evidence of an army have been found in the Indus Valley, which suggests that the civilization was very peaceful.

Instead, archaeologists have found lots of **evidence** to suggest that **jewelry** was very common and worn by both men and women in the Indus Valley.

Popular items of jewellery were:

- necklaces
- bangles and brooches
- stone beads, **red carnelian** being one of the most used.



Other than jewelry, the people of the Indus Valley also developed toys and games.

Much like the crafting of goods, Indus toys and games were also expertly **hand-crafted**.

Examples of toys and games found include:

- toy carts and animals made from baked clay
- six-sided dice and **carved stone** board games
- rattles and bird whistles.



Unfortunately, even with the vast amount of artifacts discovered in the Indus Valley, not everything is known or understood about the Indus Valley Civilization.

The civilization's religion, much like its language, is another great **mystery** to archaeologists.

Unlike other early ancient civilizations, the people of the Indus Valley did not build great **monuments** or **temples**, so it is difficult to work out what their religious beliefs were.

Instead, most of what is known has been speculated by archaeologists and is therefore open for **interpretation** and **debate**.

What do you think the Indus people's religious beliefs might have been?



Keywords



