

Cities of the Indus Valley

I. Geography of Indian Subcontinent (large land mass that just out from a continent)

A. 3 Regions

1. Northern Plain (Very fertile, water from melting snow)
2. Deccan Plateau (dry & unpopulated) (no water)
3. Coastal Plain (Fertile land)

B. Monsoons (seasonal wind)

C. Cultural Diversity (size of continent and different languages made it hard to unite)

II. Indus Valley Civilization (No names of kings or queens, No tax records, No literature known)

A. Cities

1. Harappa & Mohenjo-Daro (dominated by a hill-top fortress, large warehouses to store grain, laid out in a grid pattern, same brick size and building pattern)
2. Well organized gov't (powerful leaders in charge of 10,000 city-dwellers & grain supply)

B. Farming and Trade

1. Most people were farmers (grew wheat, barley, melons)
2. 1st to cultivate cotton and weave fibers to cloth
3. Traded w/ Sumer (Went up the coast to the Persian Gulf)

C. Religious Beliefs

1. Polytheistic
2. May have worshipped sacred animals (especially the bull)

a. veneration: special regard for cattle

III. Decline and disappearance

A. Evidence of decline by 1750 B.C.

1. Cities no longer organized and taken care of
2. Pottery became more simple

B. Explanation for Decline

1. Environmental Damage
2. Volcano or earthquake

C. Arrival of Aryans