

CHAPTER 2 Section 3 (pages 44–49)

Planned Cities on the Indus

TERMS AND NAMES

subcontinent Land mass that is a distinct part of a continent

monsoon Seasonal wind

Harappan civilization Ancient settlements in the Indus River Valley

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you read about the development of culture along the Nile.

In this section, you will learn about the first civilization in India.

AS YOU READ

Use the chart below to take notes on the civilization of the Indus.

INDUS CIVILIZATION	NOTES
geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • subcontinent separate from other areas • rich soil from flooding of rivers • problems: unpredictable river, winds

The Geography of the Indian Subcontinent (pages 44–45)

What is a subcontinent?

South Asia—modern India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh—is a **subcontinent**. It is separated from the rest of Asia by tall mountains. Just below the mountains are two large plains that hold the Ganges and Indus rivers. The high mountains gave the people safety from invaders. Because they lived close to the sea, the people could travel over the water to trade with other peoples.

The people along the Indus River faced many of the same challenges that the people in

Mesopotamia did. Their river flooded each year and left soil good for farming. But the floods did not occur at the same time each year. Also, the river sometimes changed course. The region's weather caused problems, too. Each winter, strong winds blew dry air across the area. Each spring, the winds brought heavy rains. These seasonal winds are called **monsoons**.

1. What challenges did the people along the Indus River face?

Civilization Emerges on the Indus; Harappan Culture (pages 46–48)

What were cities like on the Indus?

Historians cannot understand the writings of the people who settled in the Indus Valley. So, they have not learned much about these people. They do know that they were farming along the river by about 3200 B.C. The culture is called **Harappan civilization** because many discoveries were made near the city of Harappa. They also know that the culture of these people covered an area larger than either Mesopotamia or Egypt.

About 2500 B.C., these people began building their first cities. In Mesopotamia, cities were a jumble of winding streets. In the Indus Valley, however, the builders carefully planned their cities. They made a *grid* of streets. They built an area called a *citadel* that was easy to defend. All the important buildings were here. They also had systems for carrying water and sewage.

Because the houses were mostly alike, scholars think that the Indus culture did not have big differences between social classes.

These early people left an important mark on the region. Some religious objects include symbols that became part of later Indian culture. Historians

also think that the people of the area had extensive trade with people in the region and with the people of Mesopotamia.

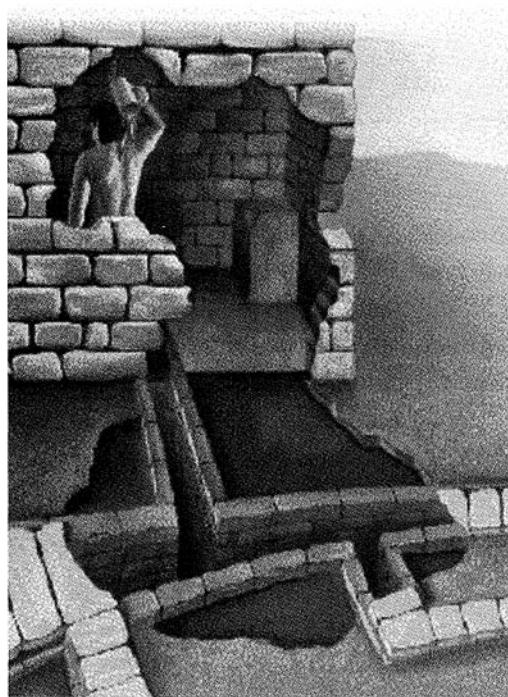
2. Name two conclusions that have been drawn about Harappan civilization.

Mysterious End to Indus Valley Culture (page 49)

How did Indus Valley culture end?

Around 1750 B.C., the cities began to show signs of decline. The Indus Valley civilization collapsed around 1500 B.C. Satellite images suggest a shift in the earth's crust that caused earthquakes. Because of the quakes the Indus River may have changed its course. This would stop the good effects of the yearly floods. The people may have overworked the land. This would have left the soil too poor to produce crops.

3. Name two reasons why Indus Valley civilization may have ended.



In their private baths, people took showers by pouring pitchers of water over their head.

Wastes drained through clay pipes into brick sewers running below the streets.

Skillbuilder

Use the illustration to answer the questions.

1. Drawing Conclusions

What advance in technology is shown in this illustration?

2. Clarifying

What happened to the wastewater?
