

# British Museum Ancient India Webquest

Geography: [http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/geography/home\\_set.html](http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/geography/home_set.html)

1. Fill in the blanks:

The people of ancient India lived in a \_\_\_\_\_ extremes. The terrain was varied and often presented great challenges. Occasional extremes of weather such as \_\_\_\_\_ and monsoons were also part of life in this land. However, great \_\_\_\_\_ developed and flourished amidst the \_\_\_\_\_, mountains, plains and deserts of the subcontinent.

2. **Story:** Read the animated story and answer the questions below.

- Who was Vritra and what did he wish to steal? \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_
- What happened to the people without the cloud-cattle? \_\_\_\_\_
- Which god heard their cries for help? \_\_\_\_\_
- What weapons were used against Vritra? \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Explore:** Indus Valley

- Use the SCALE to measure the approximate distance from Mohenjo-daro to Harappa.

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_ kms.

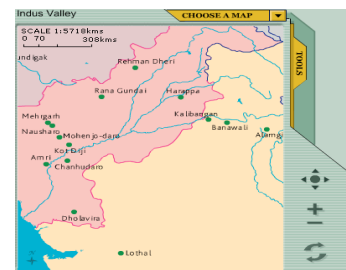
- List three natural resources found in the Indus valley

ANSWER: 1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

- Describe the TERRAIN in the Indus Valley?

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

4. In the box below, draw a **simple sketch** of the Indus Valley: Label the cities of Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa, the Indian Ocean and the Indus River.



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**Early Hinduism:** [http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/hinduism/home\\_set.html](http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/hinduism/home_set.html)

It is unclear if the residents of Mohenjo-Dara and Harappa practiced modern Hindu beliefs. However, we will learn more about the early Hindu myths, which may have been apart of the religious beliefs in the ancient Indus Valley

1. **Story:** Read the animated story and answer the questions below.

- a. Who is Narayana and what did he create? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. What did Narayana create from his body? Fill in the table.

Mouth	Mind	Tongue	Nose	Pupils	Ears	Hair	Beard	Nails	Bones

2. **Explore:** Choose one Early Hindu God. Describe the god and explain WHY this god is your favorite?

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3. **Challenge:** Learn more about Vishnu and his incarnations in this activity. Be ready to share your answers in class.

**Vishnu Dashavatara**

The fifth incarnation of Vishnu was a dwarf, he was born as the son of a rishi named Kashyapa.








attach



**Ramachandra**

I am a prince who kills a ten-headed demon with a special weapon.



The British Museum V. 32.7

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**Indus Valley:** [http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/indus/home\\_set.html](http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/indus/home_set.html)

1. Fill in the blanks:

Around \_\_\_\_\_ years ago, an important civilization developed on the Indus River \_\_\_\_\_. From about 2600 B.C. to 1700 B.C. a vast number of \_\_\_\_\_ were built on the banks of the \_\_\_\_\_ and surrounding areas. These settlements cover a remarkable region, almost 1.25 million kilometres of land which is today part of Afghanistan, \_\_\_\_\_ and north-western India.

2. Answer the following questions:

a. What were these early cities built of? \_\_\_\_\_

b. What was “*sophisticated*” about this early civilization?

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Why do we not know much about the lives of the people who lived in the Indus Valley?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Story:** Read the fictional story about a boy living in about 2100 B.C. It was written based on the artifacts and remains found at an Indus Valley archeological site. Write a short 50 word SUMMARY of the story.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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3. **Explore:** Click on the Lower Town plan to explore these areas. Identify the following objects found in different areas of Mohenjo-daro and describe their use/purpose.



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4. Learn about the Lower Town

[http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/indus/explore/exp\\_set.html](http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/indus/explore/exp_set.html)

a. How was the lower town organized?

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b. What were most of the homes made of?

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c. Describe a typical home in Mohenjo-daro.

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d. What evidence tells us that the people of Mohenjo-daro had access to clean water?

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5. **Challenge:** You are a young archaeologist working at a site which was once an Indus Valley city. Every day you are given boxes of pot sherds to sort through. Look through your pile of sherds and try to match them with known pottery types by reading the clues and looking at the profiles of the pots and sherds. BE PREPARED TO SHARE YPOUR RESULTS WITH THE CLASS.

### The Indus Challenge



Knowing the type of pot that a sherd was once part of can tell us a great deal about the site being excavated. Archaeologists compare known types of pottery from different sites in order to work out their chronological and cultural relationships.

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**Time:** [http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/time/home\\_set.html](http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/time/home_set.html)

1. Fill in the blanks

People have been living in the \_\_\_\_\_ subcontinent for thousands of years, building some of the greatest civilizations in the world. Writing and \_\_\_\_\_ systems as well as \_\_\_\_\_ developed, some of which survive in one form or another to this day. Additionally, great works of art, architecture and \_\_\_\_\_ demonstrate the richness of the enduring culture of this land.

2. **Explore:** Choose the Indus AND Writing timelines from the dropdown menu. In the time line below create your own an **illustrated timeline** of the period from 3100 BCE to 1700BCE.

3100BCE



1700BCE

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Writing: [http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/writing/home\\_set.html](http://www.ancientindia.co.uk/writing/home_set.html)

## 1. Fill in the blanks

The first Indian \_\_\_\_\_, developed in the Indus Valley around \_\_\_\_\_ B.C. is still \_\_\_\_\_. Thus, it is still not possible to fully \_\_\_\_\_ this civilization, as we have no \_\_\_\_\_ of their beliefs, history, rulers or literature.

## 2. Explore the desk of this epigrapher who studies scripts used in ancient India. Answer the following questions.



- a. How many examples of Indus Valley script have been discovered? \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Where did Indus valley inscriptions appear? \_\_\_\_\_
- c. In what direction was the Indus script written? \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Why is it difficult or impossible to work out the structure and meaning of these Indus scripts?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- e. What types of materials have Indus script been found on?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

- f. Describe what you see on the **SEAL**. How were these seals made?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



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g. Complete the chart:

Table of Indian scripts used between 2600 B.C. and A.D. 400

Dates used	Script	Language/s	Direction of writing	Deciphered?
2600-1700 B.C.		Unknown		
	Brahmi		Left to right	Yes
4th century B.C. to 3rd century A.D.		Sanskrit, Gandhari	Right to left	

6. **Challenge:** You are a young epigrapher studying the Indus script. The scholar you work with has gone away and left you with a partially completed sign list. Your job is to look at a fresh batch of Indus seals and add the signs on the seals to your list. You will need to decide whether each sign you 'take off' a seal is a new sign, or is the same as one which is already on the list. **BE PREPARED TO SHARE YOUR RESULTS WITH THE CLASS. ENJOY!**

