

Unit 3

Indus Civilisation

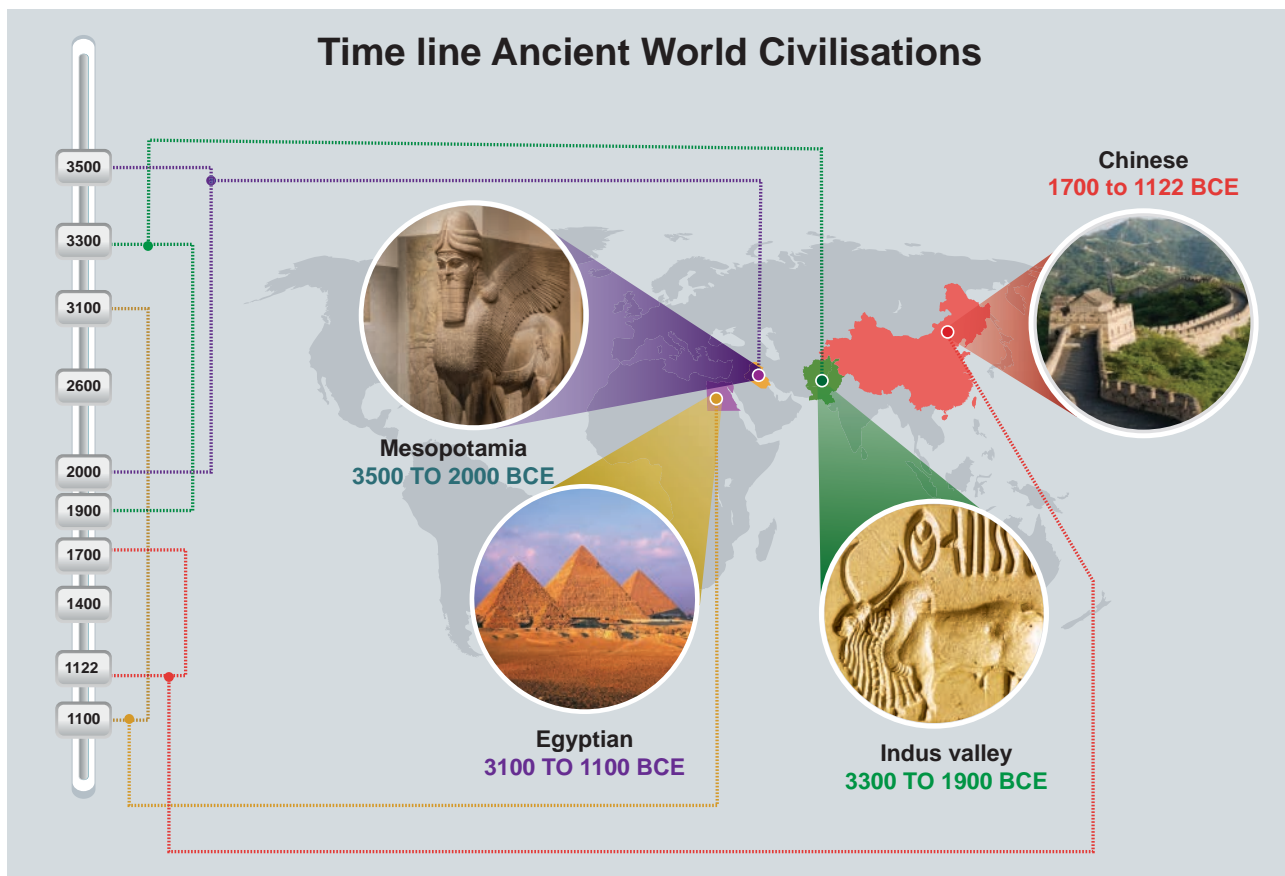


Learning Objectives

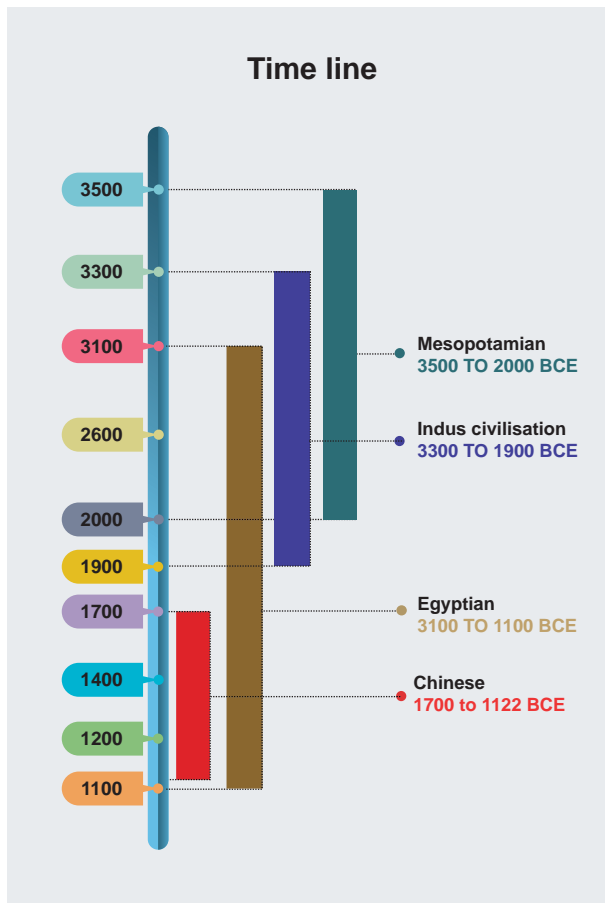
- To learn how Indus Civilisation is related to other contemporary civilisations.
- To understand the urban nature of the Indus Civilisation.
- To know the lifestyle of the people of this civilisation.
- To identify and study the major sites of Indus Civilisation.
- To mark their geographical location in maps.



Time line Ancient World Civilisations



All these civilisations were established only in places near the rivers, most commonly along their banks.



Initially, people lived in groups. Then they formed communities out of these groups. Then evolved the societies which in due course become civilisations.

Why did people settle near rivers?

People preferred to settle near the rivers for the reasons given below.

- The soil is fertile.
- Fresh water is available for drinking, watering livestock and irrigation.
- Easy movement of people and goods is possible.

Discovery of a lost city – Harappa

The ruins of Harappa were first described by the British East India Company soldier and explorer Charles Masson in his book. When he visited the North-West Frontier Province which is now in Pakistan, he came

across some mysterious brick mounds. He wrote that he saw a “ruined brick castle with very high walls and towers built on a hill”. This was the earliest historical record of the existence of Harappa.

In 1856 when engineers laid a railway line connecting Lahore to Karachi, they discovered more burnt bricks. Without understanding their significance, they used the bricks for laying the rail road.



Sir John Marshall

In the 1920s archaeologists began to excavate the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. They unearthed the remains of these long-forgotten cities. In 1924 the Director General of ASI, Sir John Marshall, found many common features between Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. He concluded that they were part of a large civilisation.

Some slight differences are found in the earthenwares of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. This made the researchers conclude that Harappa was older than Mohenjo-Daro.



The **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** was started in 1861 with Alexander Cunningham as Surveyor. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.

How do archaeologists explore a lost city?

- ✓ Archaeologists study the physical objects such as bricks, stones or bits of broken pottery (sherds) to ascertain the location of the city and time that it belong to.
- ✓ They search the ancient literary sources for references about the place.
- ✓ They look at aerial photographs of the excavation sites or cities to understand the topography.
- ✓ To see under the ground, they may use a magnetic scanner
- ✓ The presence and absence of archeological remains can be detected by RADAR and Remote Sensing Methods.



Sites in Indian borders

Archaeologists found major Harappan sites within Indian borders.

