The grid plan, grid street plan or gridiron plan is a type of [city](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/City) plan in which [streets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Street) run at [right angles](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Angle#Types_of_angles) to each other, forming a [grid](https://en.wiktionary.org/wiki/grid). In the context of the culture of [ancient Rome](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Rome), the grid plan method of land measurement was called

The grid plan dates from antiquity and originated in multiple cultures; some of the earliest planned cities were built using grid plans.

By 2600 BC, [Mohenjo-Daro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mohenjo-daro) and [Harappa](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harappa), major cities of the [Indus Valley Civilization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indus_Valley_Civilization) (in what is now Pakistan and Northwestern India), were built with blocks divided by a grid of straight streets, running north-south and east-west. Each block was subdivided by small lanes. The cities and monasteries of [Gandhara](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gandhara) (e.g. [Sirkap](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirkap" \o "Sirkap) and [Taxila](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Taxila" \o "Taxila)), dating from the 1st millennium BC to the 11th century AD, also had grid-based designs. [Islamabad](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Islamabad), the capital of Pakistan since 1959, was also founded on the grid-plan of the nearby ruined city of Sirkap.

A workers' village (2570-2500 BC) at [Giza](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Giza), [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt), housed a rotating labor force and was laid out in blocks of long galleries separated by streets in a formal grid. Many pyramid-cult cities used a common orientation: a north-south axis from the royal palace and an east-west axis from the temple, meeting at a central plaza where King and God merged and crossed.

[Hammurabi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hammurabi) (17th century BC) was a king of the [Babylonian Empire](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylonia) who made [Babylon](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Babylon) one of the greatest cities in [antiquity](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_history). He rebuilt Babylon, building and restoring temples, city walls and public buildings, and building canals for irrigation. The streets of Babylon were wide and straight, intersected approximately at right angles, and were paved with bricks and [bitumen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bitumen).

The tradition of grid plans is continuous in [China](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/China) from the 15th century BC onward in the [traditional urban planning](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ancient_Chinese_urban_planning) of various ancient Chinese states. Guidelines put into written form in the [Kaogongji](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kaogongji" \o "Kaogongji) during the [Spring and Autumn Period](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Spring_and_Autumn_Period) (770-476 BC) stated: "a capital city should be square on plan. Three gates on each side of the perimeter lead into the nine main streets that crisscross the city and define its grid-pattern. And for its layout the city should have the Royal Court situated in the south, the Marketplace in the north, the Imperial Ancestral Temple in the east and the Altar to the Gods of Land and Grain in the west."

[Teotihuacan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Teotihuacan), near modern-day [Mexico City](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mexico_City), is the largest ancient grid-plan site in the [Americas](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Americas). The city's grid covered eight square miles.

Perhaps the most well-known grid system is that spread through the colonies of the Roman Empire. The archetypal [Roman Grid](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_centuriation) was introduced to Italy first by the Greeks, with such information transferred by way of trade and conquest.