

The Indus Valley Civilization

The Indus valley civilization is one of the world's oldest urban civilizations. It emerged around 3300 BC. It emerged in the area of modern-day north-west India and Pakistan. It was a bronze age civilization and lasted up to 1300 BC. The remnants of this civilization can be found in Afghanistan, Iran, India and Pakistan. Some of the archaeological sites such as Mohenjo=Daro and Harappa are in present-day Pakistan.

Urban Infrastructure and Architecture:

By 2600 BC, small early Harapan communities had developed into large urban centers. These cities included Harappa, Ganeri Wala, and Mohenjo Daro in modern day Pakistan and Dhola Vira, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Rupar and Lothal in modern day India.

In total more than 1052 cities and settlements have been found, mainly in the general region of the Indus River and its tributaries.

- **Mohenjo Daro**

Mohenjo Daro is thought to be built in 2500 to 2600 BC, It became not only the largest city of Indus Valley Civilization but one of the world's earliest major urban centers. Located west of the Indus River in the Larkana District. Mohenjo Daro was one of the most sophisticated cities of the period with advanced engineering and urban planning.

- **Harappa**

Harappa was fortified city in modern day Pakistan that is believed to have been home to as many as 23500 residents living in sculpted houses with flat roofs made of red sand and clay. The city spread over 370 acres and had fortified administrative and religious centers of the same type used in Mohenjo Daro.

Both cities had similar organization and featured citadels, central areas in a city that were heavily fortified, protected with defensive military structure. Additionally, both cities were situated along the Indus River. This structure would have allowed these at the higher level of the buildings in either city to look down the river and see into the distance.

The remains of Indus valley civilization cities indicate remarkable organization; there were well ordered waste water drainage and trash collection systems and possibly even public baths and granaries which are storehouses for grains. Most city dwellers were artisan and merchants grouped together in distinct neighborhood. The quality of urban planning suggests efficient municipal governments that placed a high priority on hygiene or religious rituals.

Harappans demonstrated advanced architectures with dockyards, granaries, warehouses, brick platforms, and protective walls. The massive walls likely protected the Harappans from floods and may have deterred military conflicts. Unlike Mesopotamia and Ancient Egypt, the inhabitants of Indus Valley Civilization did not build large monumental structures. There is no conclusive evidence of Palaces or temples or even king's army or priests and the largest structure may be granaries. The city of Mohenjo Daro contains the great Bath which may have been a large public bathing and social area.

Innovation and Exchange:

The people of this civilization achieved many noticeable advances in technology including great accuracy in their systems and tools for measuring length and mass. Uniformly sized bricks were used everywhere.

Harappans are known for seal carving, the cutting of patterns into bottom of a seal. The Harappan civilization may have been the first to use wheeled transportation

Decline:

The Indus Valley Civilization decline around 1800 BC and scholars' debate which factors resulted in civilization demise.

One theory suggests that Aryans invaded them. Many scholars believe that the collapse was due to the climate change. Some believe that the drying of Saraswati river was the main cause while some conclude that a great flood struck the area. Various elements of the civilization are found in later cultures suggested that they did not disappear suddenly due to an invasion.