

Indus River Valley – Mohenjo Daro

Topic	Indus River Valley: Mohenjo-Daro
Political	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not clear how the people of Mohenjo-Daro ruled themselves. • Masks, like those often worn by kings in ancient times, were found, but the role and extent of the leader’s authority is unclear. • One thing is for sure, a sophisticated system of government was necessary to allow a town with a population of 30,000 to survive and build the organized infrastructure seen in Mohenjo-Daro. • In contrast to other civilizations, burials found from these cities are not significant; they are more simplistic and contain few material goods.
Economic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mohenjo-Daro civilization mostly used trade. • Trading involved series of goods. For instance, food involved wheat, barley, pulses, oilseeds, cotton and numerous other plant products. • Domesticated animals such as the chicken, sheep, and cattle were often traded for profit. Also silks, cotton and cloth material were traded. • The common form of exchange was a highly sophisticated barter system that was developed in the civilization. • The government established gold, silver, and copper as the civilization’s currency. • Economically, Mohenjo- Daro was thriving due to their coastal geography and growing agriculture.
Religious	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeologist found Indus River Valley seals that had an ithyphallic figure that was in the middle of a mass of animals. • The seal is used in religions today such as Buddhism and Hinduism. • Hinduism has been traced back to the time of the Indus River Valley therefore it is believed that the people of Mohenjo-Daro’s religion was the start of Hinduism. • Other seal and artifacts were found that looked like what could be a god. • A Mother Goddess was found and archeologist think that the people of Mohenjo-Daro believed that this idol supplied fertility and health to plants, animals, and people.

Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The social environment in Mohenjo-Daro was unlike most ancient river valley civilizations of its time. • Mohenjo-Daro had no social classes. • No tombs or palaces were found in Mohenjo-Daro. • Evidence of military activity was not found • People of Mohenjo-Daro appeared to be peaceful. • People created art and sculpted figures. • The people of the Mohenjo-Daro did not write things down.
Intellectual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Mohenjo-Daro civilization was the first to develop a system of measuring. The measurements were uniformed. They also developed to first measurements of weight. • Sanitation was a very important and advanced in the world. Hygiene and waste was taken to consideration in the civilization's development. • Art was a very important aspect in the civilization's development. Bronze human statues were one of the new art styles that the Mohenjo-Daro civilization developed.
Artistic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seals were stone carvings • A 10.8 centimeter dancing girl was found and it was about 4,500 year old. • A stone figure name "the priest king" was found, it has a circular hole on the top of its head. • A gold disk was found that fit in the hole perfectly. • It is the earliest recorded artistic expression. • Steatite seals were printed with images of animals. • Earthenware jars painted with pictures of birds were also found in the ruins.
Technological Advances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The people of the Indus River Valley developed a new way of writing. • Even today archeologist are not able to decipher what the writings mean. • In Mohenjo-Daro, they had the most elaborate plumbing system. • Almost every house had plumbing. • Unlike any other city, the Indus River people carefully planned out the city on a grid.
Decline of Mohenjo Daro	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is a mystery of how Mohenjo-Daro declined. • We do know that they declined around 1700 B.C. • Ruins were found in layers which lead us to think city was built and rebuilt many times. • One possible reason for decline is that the people were driven out by another group of people called Aryons. • People may have chosen to leave because of so much flooding.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Many people think the Mohenjo-Daro people fled when they had agricultural problem.• A shift of the river could have resulted in too little rainfall or massive flooding.
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