

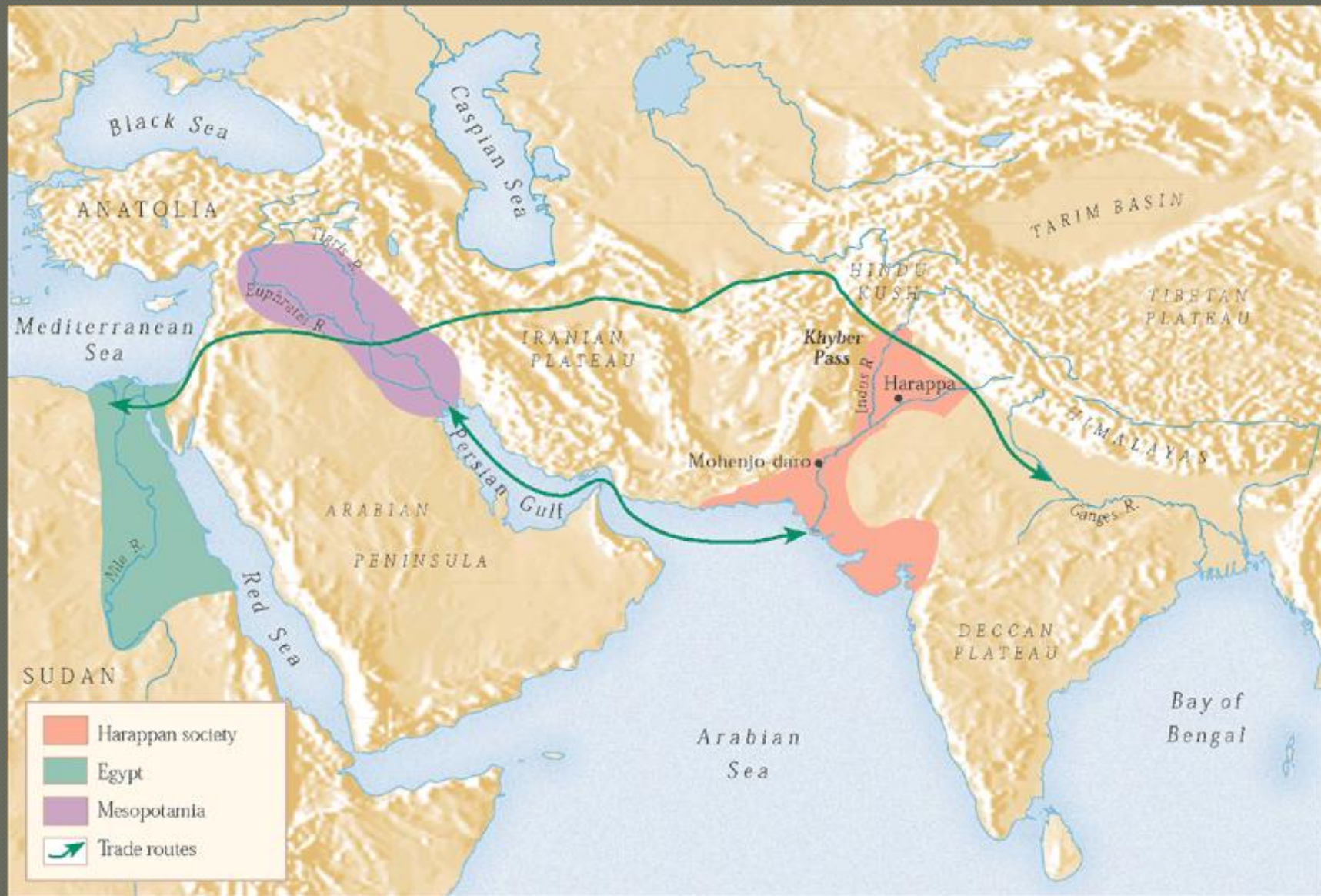
Indus Valley Civilization

2500 B.C.E.

Roots of Indus Valley Civilization

- Earliest civilizations in Indus Valley was discovered in 1856 by a railroad crew.
 - Harappa
 - Mohenjo-Dara or “Hill of the Dead”
 - Both cities shared urban design and architectural features.
 - 3 miles in circumference with populations of 40,000





Roots of Indus Valley Civilization

- Roots of Indus Valley began as early as 7000 B.C.E.
 - Possibly began as herders who moved into the river valley during colder months.
 - Over time, they may have decided to farm – river-watered lands of the valley.
 - They began trading by boat along the Indus down into the Arabian Sea, into the Persian Gulf, and up the Tigris and Euphrates into Mesopotamia.



The Artifacts: Crafts and the Arts

- Crafts of the Indus valley included pottery making, dyeing, metal working in bronze, and bead making.
 - Bead materials included:
 - *jade from the Himalayas,*
 - *lapis lazuli from Afghanistan,*
 - *turquoise from Persia,*
 - *amethyst from Mewar in India,*
 - *and steatite, which was found locally.*



The Artifacts: Crafts and the Arts

Small sculptures in stone, terra cotta, and bronze appear to represent priestly or governmental officials, dancing girls, and perhaps mother goddesses.

Since there are no surviving texts to explain identities, these can only be guesses.



The Artifacts: Crafts and the Arts

Dice and small sculptures of bullock carts were probably used as toys and games.

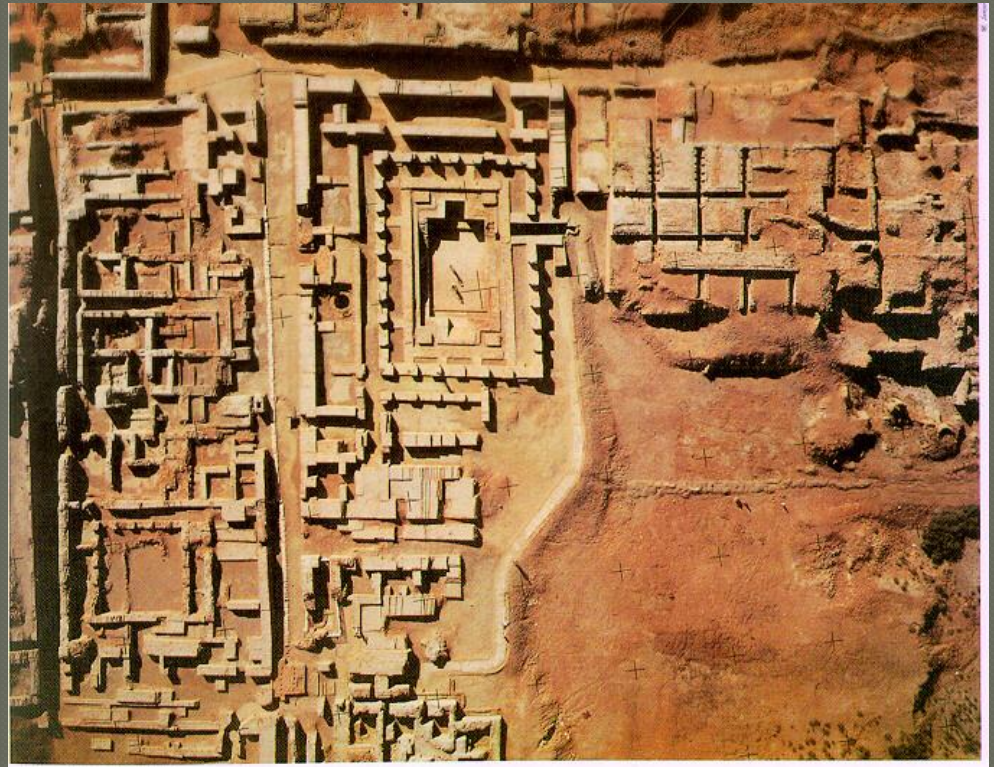
The first known use of cotton as a fiber for weaving textiles occurred in the Indus Valley.



Carefully Planned Cities

Originating around 2500 B.C.E. the thriving civilizations survived for around 500 years.

Both Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro, two of the largest among 500 sites, were three miles in circumference with around 40,000 people.



Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa

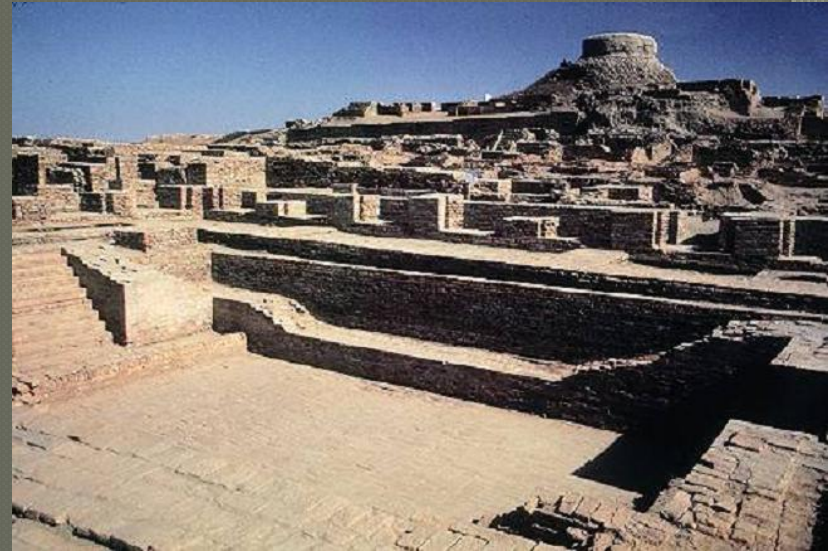
To the north is a citadel or raised area.

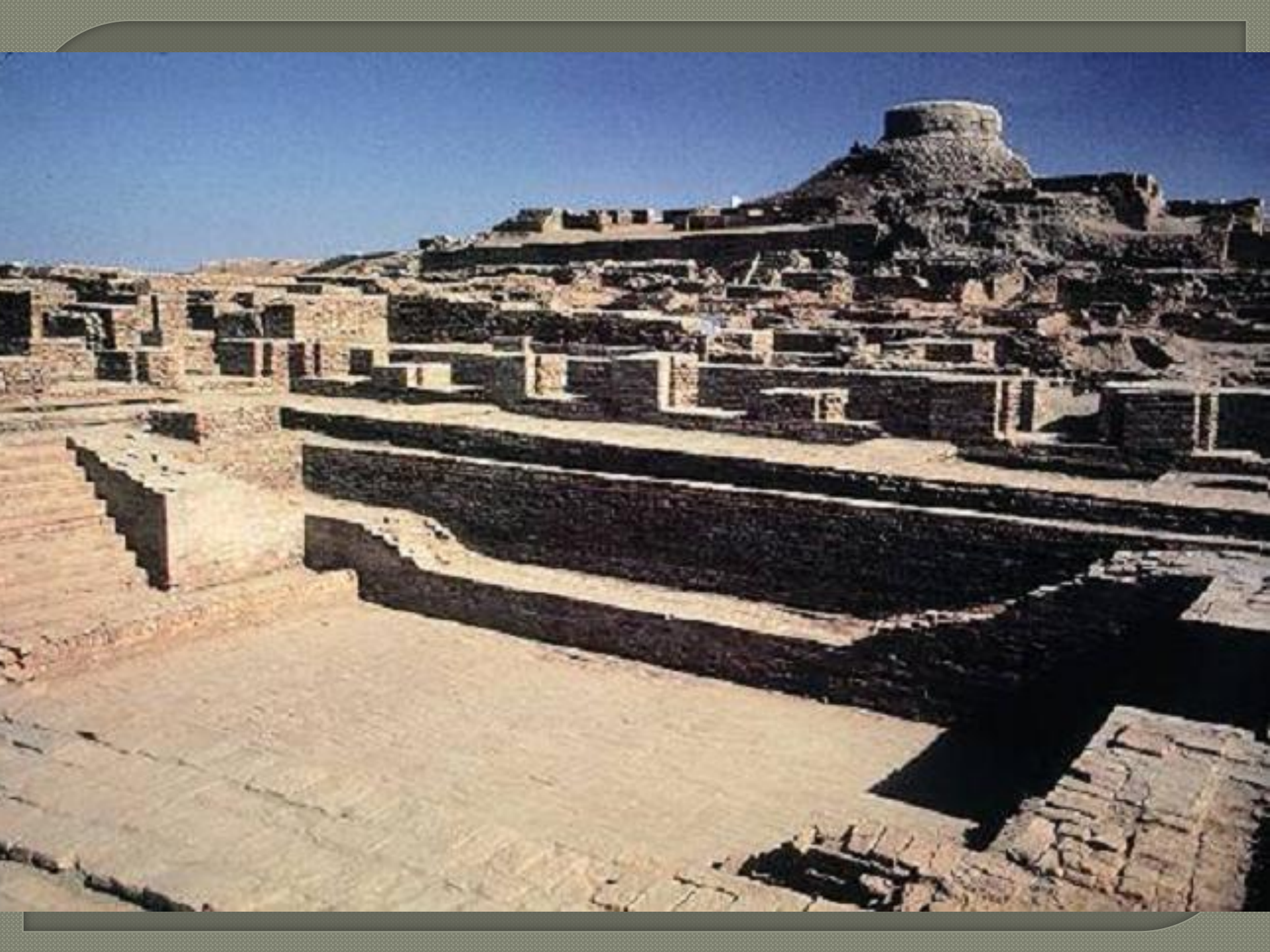
In Mohenjo-Daro, the citadel is built on an architectural platform about 45 feet above the plain.

On the summit was a huge communal bath.

Next to the large bath was a huge open space—a granary where food was stored from possible floods.

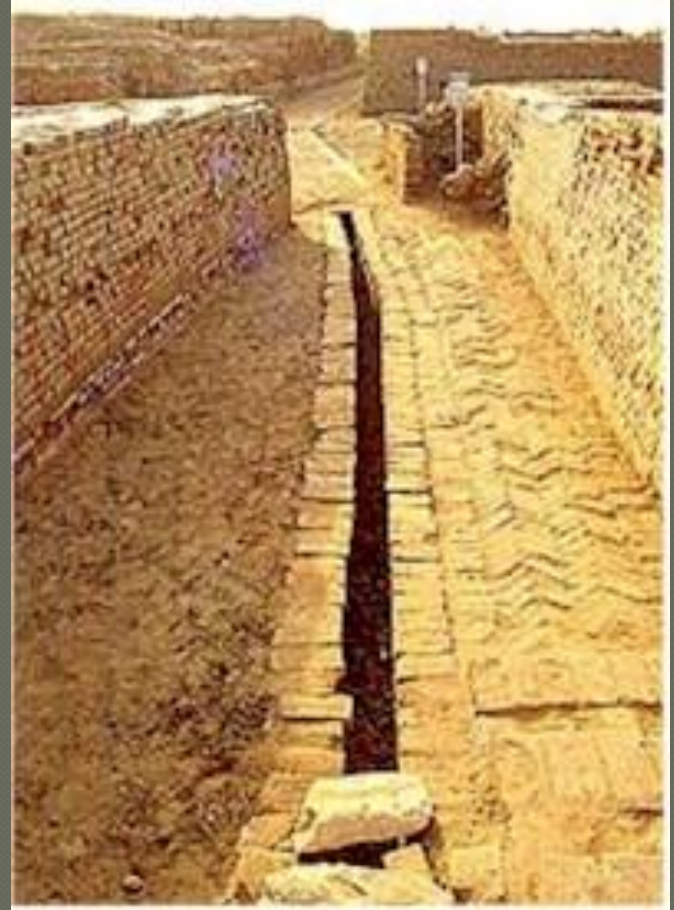
Fortified walls mark the southeast corner.





Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa

- The lower city was laid out in a gridiron with the main streets about 45 feet wide.
- Private houses, almost every one with its own well, bathing space, and toilet consisting of a brick seat over a drainage area.
- Brick-lined drains flushed by water carried liquid and solid waste to sumps, where it was carted away, probably to fertilize nearby fields.



Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa

- The town plan was regular.
- Even fire-baked bricks were uniform in size and shape.
- The regularity of plan and construction suggests a government with organization and bureaucratic capacity.
- No monumental architecture clearly marks the presence of a palace or temple.
- There is little sign of social stratification in the plan or buildings.



Indus Valley Burial Sites



- Heads pointing to the north
- Some grave goods, such as pots of food and water, small amounts of jewelry, simple mirrors, and some cosmetics.
- Not extravagant like royal burials of Egypt or even of Mesopotamia.

Indus Valley Archaeological Finds



Among the 20,000 artifacts uncovered, the extraordinary extremes of wealth and poverty of Egypt and Mesopotamia do not appear.

Why do you think that is the case?

Indus Valley Archaeological Finds



Questions of Interpretation:

Artifacts stress the apparent classlessness of the society.

Until the Harappan language is deciphered, its civilization will remain mysterious.

Summary of Early Civilizations in the Indus River Valley

● 2500 BC until 1500 BC

• Harappan Civilization

- Two important cities: Harappa and Mohenjo Daro
- Both of these cities are large and carefully planned.
 - Wide streets cross at right angles
 - Each city had a water system with public baths and brick sewers
 - Each city had a citadel (strong central fortress) built on a brick platform. They were also used storehouses for grain.
 - Long-range planning → store and distribution of crops may suggest crop-destroying floods or threat of invaders
 - Probably organized around a strong central government

Summary of Early Civilizations in the Indus River Valley(cont.)

- ◎ Rich farmlands surrounded these two cities
 - Grew cotton, wheat, barley, and rice
 - Raised cattle, sheep, pigs, and goats
 - Built canals and ditches to irrigate fields
 - Surplus crops were stored or used for trade
- ◎ Written language → pictographs
 - Scholars today still cannot read these

Summary of Early Civilizations in the Indus River Valley(cont.)

○ Religion →

- Probably worshipped a great god
- Used the bull, buffalo, and tiger in religious rituals
- Mother goddess → fertility
- May have held religious ceremonies in their homes or in outdoor locations like sacred trees.
- We have not been able to find any temples, shrines, or religious writings

Summary of Early Civilizations in the Indus River Valley(cont.)

- Why did this civilization disappear?
 - Evidence → Several unburied skeletons are found along with homes and possessions being abandoned.
 - Do not know for sure however there are some theories:
 - Floods could have destroyed this settlement or made it difficult to grow food.
 - Some evidence suggests possible violence from invading forces
 - Some evidence suggests a major earthquake in 1700 BC