

The legacy of the Indus Valley

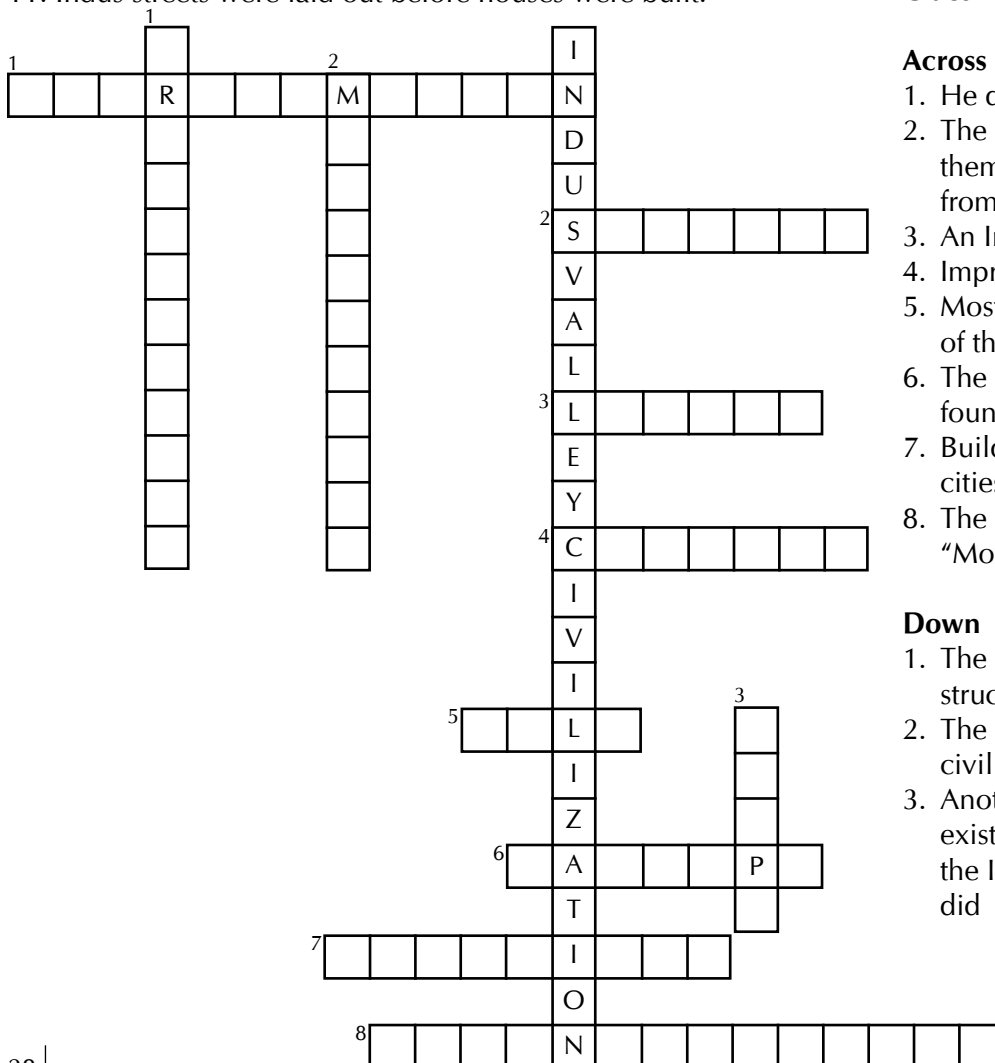


Activity 1

Facts to help you solve the crossword.

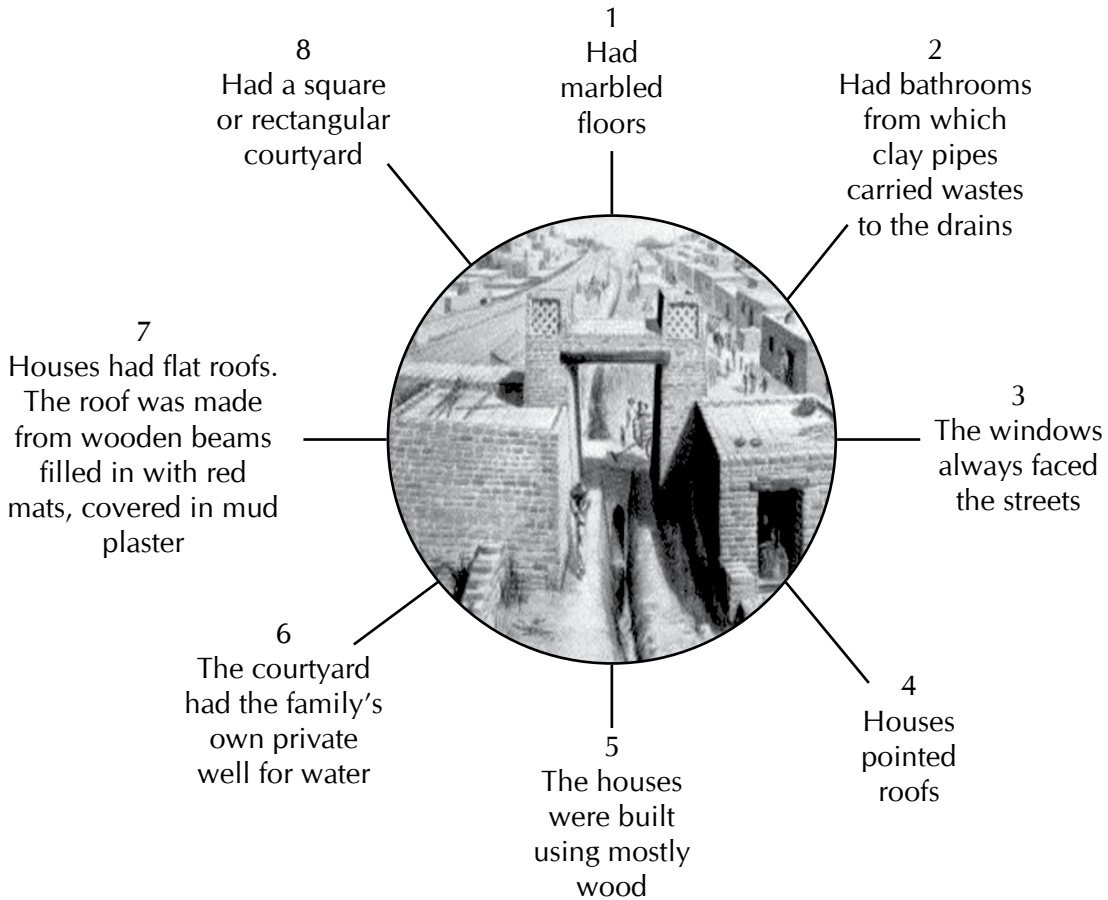
Did you know?

1. The Indus Valley Civilization was bigger than ancient Egypt!
2. Indus cities were already a throbbing metropolis when the Great Pyramids of Giza were being built!
3. In 1862, a British deserter Charles Masson came across many mysterious brick mounds. These were the sites of Mohenjodaro and Harappa.
4. Mohenjodaro is the biggest Indus city. Mohenjodaro means the mound of the dead. But so far no cemetery has been found there.
5. In Harappa, archeologists found the ruins of a big building they called the Great Granary. Even though it looks like a granary, no grains have been found there.
6. In Mohenjodaro, one in three houses had their own private wells.
7. The Indus valley civilization was bigger than modern Pakistan. Some of the other cities are found in Lothal, Kalibangan and Banawali.
8. Indus city streets are always in the direction of North- South and East-West.
9. Indus cities were made of mud bricks all of the same ratio – 1:2:4. The bricks were laid out using wet mud as cement.
10. Cat paw prints have been found on the bricks.
11. Indus streets were laid out before houses were built.



Activity 2

What did a Harappan house look like? Strike out the incorrect facts.



Activity 3

How many words can you find here related to the Indus Valley Civilization.

m	u	d	b	r	i	c	k	s	g
e	m	a	s	s	o	n	q	w	r
l	a	s	d	f	g	h	j	k	e
u	s	e	a	l	s	v	c	e	a
h	a	r	a	p	p	a	x	e	t
a	b	s	i	n	d	h	u	r	b
q	n	m	i	n	d	u	s	r	a
w	c	i	t	a	d	e	l	t	t
g	r	a	n	a	r	y	r	y	h

Activity 4

Complete and colour using these clues. Colour suggestions are given in brackets.

1. The 3 leaved symbol on the priest King's robes were also found in Mesopotamia (green)
2. Some bracelets looked like doughnuts painted grey and black (brown)
3. Carts were pulled by oxen (brown)
4. Dye from the Madder plant turned clothes red (red)
5. Sea shells were made into necklaces and were traded from over 800 km away (grey)
6. Traders carried monkeys to trade as pets (brown)
7. We know from the seeds that the archeologists found, that the Indus people ate melons and grapes (orange)



Activity 5



Over 3500 seals have been found in the Indus Valley sites. They are mostly square or rectangular made from steatite and usually baked hard. Each seal has a picture and writing carved on it. Pressed into clay a seal left an impression.

Carefully examine the seals in the pictures and answer the following questions.

1. How many different kinds of animals can you spot on the seals? Which animal of burden and also of war is conspicuous by its absence?

2. Some Indus seals have been found in ancient Mesopotamia. How do you think they got there and why?

3. The Indus script which has so far not been deciphered has more than 400 symbols. They have been found on ceramic pots, seals and what looked like a sign board found in Dholavira.

How many different symbols can you see in these seals? Do you think they ran from left to right or right to left? Count and copy.

4. The tree represented in seal # 11 is a Peepal tree. Where else in Indian history did the Peepal tree come in focus?

5. What does seal # 5 show? What does it tell us about travel and trade in the Indus Valley Civilization.

6. Check out seal # 6. Historians think that the figure represented in the seal bears resemblance to a Hindu deity. Which one and why?

7. Design a seal for yourself. Remember it is your own personal tag. It should represent something you care about, so anybody looking at it knows that it belongs to you.



Activity 6

Find suitable questions to these answers

1) Meluha

2) The Indus Valley Civilization was very large , but we do not know if it had kings. What looked like crowns were found at a site called Kunal. A small stone statue found at Mohenjodaro shows the bust of a man with a beard and a headband. He wears a robe with a three leaved pattern on it. He looks important and people have called him the 'Priest King'.

3) The Indus people ate a healthy diet. Most people ate more fruit and vegetables than meat. The Indus people kept cattle, pigs, sheep and goat for food. Farmers grew crops like wheat and peas.

4) Red beads were made by heating Carnelian stones in an oven. After it cooled, the stone was clipped to make the beads. A hole was then drilled into it. It was then polished, ready to be used in jewellery.

5) At home the Indus people probably used utensils made of terracotta. They also had metal dishes made from copper, silver and bronze.

Activity 7



Fill in the blanks with the picture clues given below:

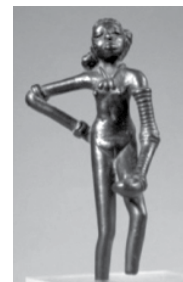
Bronze, Copper, Warehouse, Stone weights, Swastika, Maze puzzles,
Clay pots, Cart, Harbor, Wooden shafts, Dice, Great bath



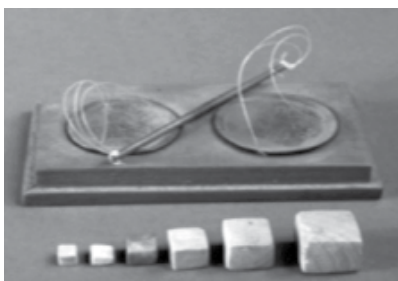
1. People in the Indus Valley buried dead people with some everyday objects like _____.



2. This is what the city of Lothal may have looked like. It had a _____ for ships and a large _____ for goods.



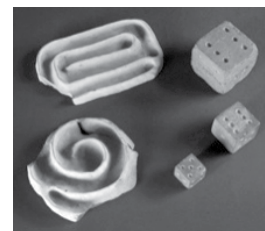
3. The most visible object from Indus Valley civilization, the dancing girl was made of _____.



4. Indus traders weighed their goods with scales, using _____.
The scale pans were made of _____.



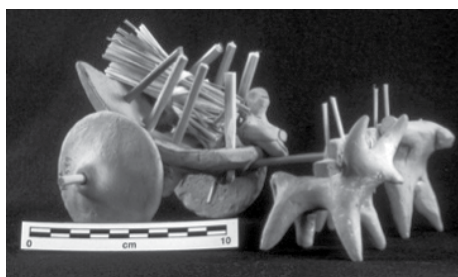
5. Copper was used to make weapons such as these. The metal blades were fitted into _____.



6. _____ and _____ were some of the games played by the Indus people.



7. The _____ at Mohenjodaro.



8. A clay model of a _____.
This was probably a toy.



9. The _____ is a cross with its arms bent at right angles either to the left or to the right. In Sanskrit it literally means "good to be". These seals were found in Mesopotamia.

The end of the cities

Was there an invasion from the north? Some historians think that the Rig Veda describes invaders conquering Indus Valley cities. Was there an environmental disaster? Perhaps a river changed course, causing floods in some areas and drought in others. Did this lead to crop failure, starvation and disease? Was there an earthquake permanently damaging the cities? Or perhaps the city leaders lost control and lawlessness spread, trade stopped, workshops closed and drains, streets and houses crumbled.....

This image shows a single page of white paper with horizontal blue ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Worksheet answers

Activity 1

Across

1. Charles Masson.
2. streets.
3. Lotha.
4. cat paws.
5. wells.
6. Harrapa.
7. mud bricks.
8. mound of the dead

Down

1. great granary.
2. Mohenjodaro.
3. Egypt

Activity 2

1,3,5 are incorrect

Activity 3

The word are – Meluha, mudbricks, Masson, seal, granary, Great Bath, Harrapa, Sindhu, Indus, citadel

Activity 5

(possible answers)

1. 9, The horse.
2. People travelled to Mesopotamia most possibly for trade.
3. (Open to interpretation).
4. Gautam Buddha gained enlightenment under a Peepal tree.
5. Shows a ship with oars carrying cargo. It tells us that the Indus people travelled by sea for trade.
6. Shiva.

Activity 6

Possible Answers-

1. What did the Indus people call their land?
2. Did the Indus people have a king?
3. What did the Indus people eat?
4. How were red beads made/
5. What did the Indus people make their utensils from?

Activity 7

1. clay pots
2. harbor, warehouse
3. bronze
4. stone weights, copper
5. wooden shafts
6. maze puzzles, dice
7. Great Bath
8. cart
9. swastika