

Key Events	
3300 BC	Farmers start small settlements in the Indus Valley, in what is now south-east Afghanistan, Pakistan and north-west India.
3200 BC	An early form of the Indus script begins to be used.
2650 BC	The cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa flourish, with living conditions comparable to Sumer and better than those in Egypt.
2600 BC	A variety of evidence shows that ploughs and Indus script are being widely used.
2500 BC	Soft clay seals are being used by traders to mark their goods .
2400 BC	The Indus Valley civilisation is at its peak, with a possible estimated population of over 5 million people.
2000 BC	The Indus people are referred to in Sumerian writings, recording the connections between the two cultures.
1800 BC	The Indus civilisation begins to decline after 800 years of wealth.
1500 BC	The Indus civilisation comes to an end.

Timeline

5000 BC AD 1

Ancient Sumer

Ancient Egypt

Indus Valley

Shang Dynasty

Afghanistan Pakistan

Harappa •

Mohenjo-Daro •

India

Decline

The Ghaggar-Hakra river now only flows during the monsoon rain season. It is thought that it dried up around 2000 BC and that this led to the decline of the Indus civilisation.

Discovery


The ruined cities lay undiscovered until 1826 when **Charles Masson** noted mounds of bricks, which were actually buildings from Harappa. In 1856, workers building the Great Indian Railway found and used old bricks which were also from buildings in Harappa.

Artefacts

This **soapstone** statue was found at Mohenjo-Daro. He wears a headband with a jewel and his shawl has a pattern linked with religion, leading to him being called the 'Priest-King'.

Thousands of **soapstone seals** were found across the Indus Valley. People may have used them to stamp on clay to label their **goods**. They showed animals, symbols, people and gods.

Key Vocabulary	
soapstone	A soft rock that can be carved easily.
seal	A small stamp with an individual design, used for pressing into a soft material like clay to show who made or sent an item. 'Seal' can also refer to the stamped clay.
goods	Items for sale or things that have been bought.
loincloth	A piece of cloth wrapped around the hips, similar to a skirt but generally worn by men.
citadel	An area on a mound of land, higher than the rest of a city. Sometimes citadels have walls to separate them from the rest of the city.
bitumen tar	A semi-solid, sticky, black substance.
Charles Masson	Charles Masson had been in the British army in India. Other people who contributed to the discovery and excavations of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro include Sir John Marshall, Rai Bahadur Daya Ram Sahni, RD Banerji and Sir Alexander Cunningham.

Clothes	Jewellery
<p>By looking at images from seals and other artefacts, historians can tell what types of clothes and jewellery were probably worn in the Indus Valley. Clothing was likely made from cotton and dyed a variety of colours. Men wore tunics or a simple loincloth. Women wore long dresses but sometimes just skirts.</p>	<p>The Indus people were among the first to make jewellery, which was worn by both men and women. Beads were initially made from clay and painted, but later they were made from precious stones like agate and jasper.</p> 
Cities	Houses
<p>Although lots of farmers, fishermen and traders lived in small villages, it is thought that up to 80,000 people lived in Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, the biggest of many cities. A huge amount of planning went into the cities before they were built. Water was very important and cities had complex drainage systems. Reservoirs were built for storing water.</p>	<p>It is thought that the most important buildings were located in a city's citadel and that the rulers of the city lived there. Buildings were made from mud bricks and bitumen tar was used to make them waterproof. Houses had thick walls to keep them cool inside. Flat roofs created an outdoor space where people could cool off, socialise or store goods.</p>