Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

River Valleys –Indus River Valley Mrs. Valdes

India’s first civilization developed in the Indus River Valley. This river begins in the Himalayas. The river floods when the snows melt. Later, the water retreats and leaves silt or fertile soil behind. The first Indian civilization began with two cities – Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. Both Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro looked like modern, planned cities. Their streets were wide and straight. The people built with clay bricks. Each brick was exactly the same size. This kind of careful planning of cities is referred to as urban planning. The cities of the Indus River Valley exhibit or show evidence of urban planning.

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| India’s First Civilization |
| **Location:**  **Developed along the Indus River in western India** |
| **Two Cities:**  **The two major cities are Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro** |
| **Design of the Cities:**  **Both Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro looked like modern, planned cities. Their streets were wide and straight and laid out in a grid-like pattern.** |
| **Urban Planning:**  **Urban planning refers to the careful planning of a city.** |

Harappan civilization had many accomplishments. Some homes even had indoor bathrooms and toilets. Dirty water drained away through clay pipes. A great wall surrounded each city and protected it. In addition, archaeologists have discovered many clay tablets with writing on them. Archaeologists are still trying to decipher the writing of the Indus River Valley civilization. Around 1500 B.C., this civilization ended. Perhaps the monsoon failed or disease or a flood struck. Maybe invaders attacked.

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| Accomplishments of Harappan Civilization |
| * **Some homes has indoor bathrooms and toilets.** |
| * **A sewer system where dirty water was drained away through clay pipes.** |
| * **A writing system that archaeologists/historians cannot decipher or read.** |
| * **Cities had walls built around them for protection** |
| * **Urban planning** |

1- How do we know that the people of the Indus River Valley must have had a strong government? (Think of the design of the cities.)

**The Indus River Valley must have had a strong government because there is evidence of urban planning which means that there were regulations on how to build the cities of Harappa and Mohenjen-Daro.**

2- Did the people of the Indus River Valley have writing?

**Yes, the people of the Indus River Valley had writing.**

3- Describe the writing system:

**The writing of the Indus River Valley cannot be deciphered or read at this point in time.**

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| List four possible causes of the collapse of Harappan Civilization: |
| * **Drought** |
| * **Flooding** |
| * **Disease** |
| * **Invasion** |

By 2500 B.C. cities that rivaled the great urban centers of Mesopotamia were developing along the Indus River and its tributaries. The most important of these cities were **Mohenjo-Daro**, on the lower Indus River, and **Harappa,** on the Ravi River near the upper end of the Indus Valley.

**Both cities were built on a similar plan, with a grid work of streets**, housing for the common people and larger homes for the elite, as well as a **sanitation system** that included bathrooms linked to sewers—an important contribution to public health in cities that contained as many as 40,000 people.

**Bricks used for construction were all of the same mold, and the public buildings included granaries filled with surpluses**. **Trade** was the glue of the Harappa civilization, binding one city to another and the region as a whole to Mesopotamia and other distant lands. Among the goods exported were **cotton, spices, ivory, and handcrafts such as jewelry.**

Like other river valleys that fostered ancient civilizations, the Indus region was subject to **seasonal flooding** that helped nourish the fields but was sometimes catastrophic. The city of Mohenjo-Daro had to be rebuilt at least nine times. Ruinous floods may have contributed to the decline of Harappan civilization after 2000 B.C.

Reflections:

**The Indus River Valley was a very advanced and complex civilization. Very little is known about it because scientists cannot read their writing. However, we do know that the two major cities of Harappa and Mohenjen-Daro were built the same way: had grid like street design; a sanitation system linked to indoor bathrooms and sewer systems. They traded cotton, spices, ivory and jewelry. The Indus river flooded and maybe the flooding contributed to the decline of the Indus River Valley.**



