

# Welton Primary School—History Knowledge Organiser



Year: 5

Indus Valley

## Timeline

5000 B.C.	3200 B.C.	3000 B.C.	2600 B.C.	2300 B.C.	1800 B.C.	1700 B.C.	1500 B.C.
First evidence of religious practice in Indus Valley area	Evidence of script signs date from this period	Small towns and settlements develop in the Indus Valley	Urbanization of the flood plains and evidence of ploughs	Indus Valley traders travel with seals to Mesopotamia for trade	Beginning of the decline of the civilization and abandonment of cities	Indus Valley cities are in ruins	End of the Indus Valley civilization

## Vocabulary

argument	Reasons why you believe something
interpretation	Explaining what something might mean and why
flood plain	A nearly flat plain that floods easily
barter	An exchange of goods without money
Sanskrit	An ancient Indo-European language of India
Brahman	A member of the highest Hindu caste
Ganges	An Asian river sacred to Hindus
Mauryan	An inhabitant of the Maurya dynasty
Buddhism	An Indian religion based on the teachings of Gautama Buddha
Dharma	An aspect of truth or reality; a key concept in several Indian religions
Stupa	A dome-shaped Buddhist shrine
Citadel	A fortress, typically on high ground
Harappans	Inhabitants of an ancient city in the Punjab
Aryans	People who spoke an ancient Indo-European language
Nomadic	People that move location in search of food
Vedas	A large body of religious texts from India
Gana	A Sanskrit word meaning flock, tripe or class
Raja	An Indian king or prince
caste system	A social hierarchy that separates people based on their job and religion
Guru	A Hindu spiritual teacher
Dhoti	An attack or assault
monsoon	Season of windy weather that often brings rain
Mohenjodaro	A main site where evidence has been found



## Archaeologists

Archaeologists study remains and artefacts that have been found and try to decide what they might tell us. They build on their knowledge from other societies and different cultures to understand what life was like. They don't know for certain that their ideas are correct; often, new evidence will be found that causes them to change their opinion.



The people used a standardized system of weights and measures. Even the bricks they used were manufactured to a standard ratio.



The Indus people lived along the banks of the Indus river. As it moved downstream, it carved out a valley where people settled. Farmers used the fertile soil near the river to grow crops, and towns and cities developed here.

Cities were carefully planned with high city walls that crisscrossed straight roads that formed a pattern of blocks. Although walls were built, there is no evidence to suggest that they were victims of attacks or war and it is thought to have been a peaceful civilization.

Most children worked hard learning to farm or hunt, although many homes had outside courtyards so they could play with games, toys and pets. Crafts men and women would make beads, fishing nets, pots and baskets whilst others would make and build using clay bricks. Farmers prepared big fields using wooden ploughs and oxen, whilst traders brought materials and food and took finished goods to other cities. There is evidence that some traders set sail to trade with other lands.



Indus Valley Civilisation  
3200-1500

Indus Valley Civilisation  
began before the Stone  
Age in British History

Stone Age  
3000-2100

Bronze Age  
2100-750

Iron Age  
750BC—43AD

Little is known about specific people of this period. However, square stone seals were important symbols of power and city rulers carried seals with animal symbols and writing. They also wore ornaments of rare material.	Zebu Bull Seal	Elephant seal	Male Water Buffalo Seal	Tiger Seal	Unicorn Seal
	Symbolised the leader of the herd. Probably representing the most powerful clan with script representing royalty.	Seals used by administrative officers probably attached to goods to be traded.	Could represent defence, protecting the herd and females. Also used by administrative officers.	Found in larger cities and also used by administrative officers.	Used by the elite as well as traders and found as far as Mesopotamia: used by governors, merchants, and the powerful aristocracy.