

Use the information to prepare for your upcoming Indus Valley Quiz (don't forget your Dump and Clump words as well!).

GRAPES	Info and Notes from Indus Valley
<p><b>Geography</b></p>	<p><u>Rivers:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Indus River--1st cities (Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro) developed on this river; it is in present-day Pakistan</li> <li>b) Ganges River</li> <li>c) Both rivers flooded and left silt/fertile soil for farming</li> <li>d) Irrigation channels and ditches were built to move the water during dry seasons</li> </ul> <p><u>Mountain Ranges:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Hindu Kush mountain range in the northwest</li> <li>b) Himalayan mountain range in the northeast</li> </ul> <p><u>Monsoons</u> (seasonal winds that bring very rainy or very dry weather) impact India each year by bringing flooding (summer monsoon) or droughts (winter monsoon)</p> <p>India is a <u>subcontinent</u> and is a peninsula; it is part of the continent of Asia</p>
<p><b>Religion</b></p>	<p><u>Hinduism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) World's oldest religion; there is no founder</li> <li>a) Teaches that there is one universal spirit called Brahman--Brahman has three separate forms (Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva)</li> <li>b) Believe in karma and reincarnation (know what both of these are)</li> <li>c) Use meditation</li> <li>d) Goal of Hinduism = escape the cycle of rebirth by reaching nirvana</li> <li>e) Most Hindus are vegetarians (tied to belief that all living things have souls)</li> <li>f) Cows are particularly sacred (associated with Brahma)</li> <li>g) Ganges River is holiest site to Hindus</li> <li>h) Vedas is a collection of sacred hymns that were passed down through oral tradition until they were written down; most of what we know about life here comes from Vedas</li> </ul> <p><u>Buddhism</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Founder is Siddhartha Gautama, who was a rich Hindu prince before seeking enlightenment and becoming Buddha</li> <li>b) Also accepted belief in karma</li> <li>c) Enlightenment = state of perfect wisdom, new life free from suffering</li> <li>d) Buddhists believe in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) The Four Noble Truths (all of life involves suffering; wanting things for yourself causes suffering; people can end their suffering; the way to overcome selfish desires is to follow the Eight-Fold Path)</li> <li>ii) The Eight-Fold Path = people could end their desires and suffering; the goal of this path is to reach Nirvana (a state of blissful peace without desire or suffering)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<p><b>Achievements</b></p>	<p>Cities built in grid-like patterns; developed sewer systems</p> <p>Math--discovered numerals 0 to 9 and the decimal system; weights and measurements</p> <p>Science--discovered the Earth rotates; created medicines to treat sickness; developed surgeries</p> <p>Had amazing metal-working skills and created clay seals</p>
<p><b>Political Structures</b></p>	<p>Probably not ruled by king because there has been no evidence of statues or royal tombs found within the archaeological sites of the Indus Valley</p> <p>Two primary empires in early Indus Valley history:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Mauryan</li> <li>b) Gupta</li> </ul>
<p><b>Economics</b></p>	<p>Traded jewels, teak (wood), cotton woven cloths</p> <p>Probably traded with Sumer in Mesopotamia</p>
<p><b>Social Structures</b></p>	<p><u>Three theories about why Aryans came to Indus Valley</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) They were warrior-invaders who took over Indus Valley</li> <li>b) They were the original inhabitants of the Indus Valley</li> <li>c) They were nomads and herders who made their way across India over time</li> </ul> <p><u>Caste System:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Caste = fixed social class into which a person is born; they stayed in that caste for their entire lives</li> <li>b) Allegedly came from the Aryans but historians dispute this</li> <li>c) One could only enter caste by birth</li> <li>d) It was a very strict social structure</li> <li>e) One could not associate with people in a different caste</li> <li>f) Dalits, lowest caste, developed at a later time than original Varnas</li> <li>g) Today, caste discrimination is forbidden by law</li> </ul> <p><u>Order of the Varnas (caste grouping based on religious status):</u></p> <p>Brahmins--top of caste system--priests and teachers</p> <p>Kshatriyas--2nd from top--warriors and rulers</p> <p>Vaishyas--middle--farmers, traders, merchants</p> <p>Shudras--laborers</p> <p>Dalits--outcasts--"untouchables"--street sweepers, latrine/sewer cleaners</p>