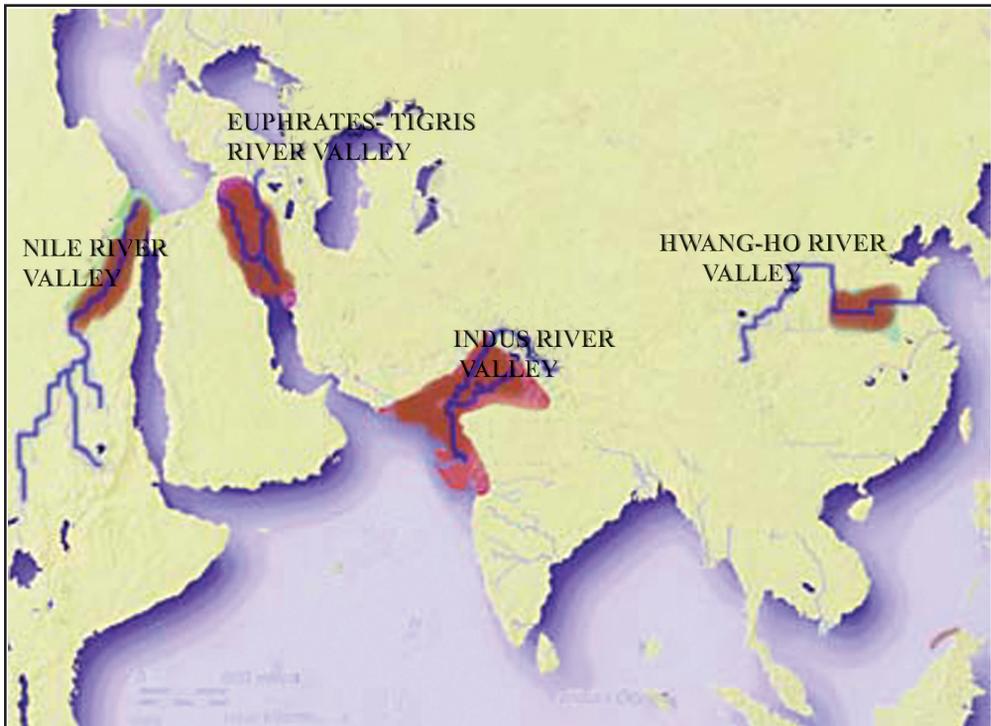


# ANCIENT RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATIONS

1



1.1 Map Showing the Location of Four River Valley Civilizations

Study the above map. This map highlights four rivers and the valleys surrounding them.

You have learnt that man is an animal who went through the process of evolution. Human civilization can be referred to as one stage of this process of evolution. Civilization means becoming cultured and displaying good conduct. It also means overcoming of uncivilized behaviour. The special features associated with civilization are cultivation, trade, setting up of cities and living in permanent dwellings. Aesthetic appreciation and entertainment are also evidence of civilized life.

Given below are the four civilizations, period they existed and the present names of the countries where they were.

Name of the Civilization	The Present country in which the civilization existed	The duration of the civilization
Euphrates-Tigris Valley	Iraq	3500 BC - 1500 BC
Nile Valley	Egypt	3100 BC - 1070 BC
Indus Valley	Pakistan	2500 BC - 1750 BC
Hwang - Ho	China	1700 BC - 1000 BC

These civilizations were contemporary to a great extent. It is evident that these four civilizations also developed around river valleys.

### **Reasons for the emergence of civilizations around Rivers**

There should be special reasons for civilizations to emerge near the rivers. Think of these special reasons and note them down. Compare your answers with the information given below.

## **Water**

Humans and other animals can live only for a few days without food. However, they cannot live for long without water. If you live by a river you will not face such a predicament. Water is necessary to grow food crops. Satisfying these needs is not a problem for those who live by rivers.

## **Fertile soil**

Water and fertile soil are two essential factors in the cultivation of food crops. When rivers are flooded during heavy rains which come once a year alluvial soil is deposited on either side of the river banks. This is a natural phenomenon that makes the land fertile.

Rearing of animals is also a livelihood which goes hand in hand with agriculture. Fertile soil helps the growth of grasslands. Lush green pastures are the feeding grounds of cattle, sheep and goats. Animals breed faster when there is water and food. It helps provide meats and milk that is essential for the humans. This also creates an opportunity to make use of animals for agriculture.

## **Travel and transport facilities**

Rivers can be made use of as a means of transport. Sometimes transport by water is more profitable than travel and transport by land. In the past when there were no aeroplanes, relationships with other civilizations were maintained by routes which fell across waterways. The mouths of rivers were the ports where ships from foreign countries arrived. These relationships were mainly commercial. Commercial relations were a special feature of urban civilizations.

People from other areas too were drawn to these regions when they learned about the facilities that were available there. The population in these regions began to grow rapidly. Then various

needs arose. When steps were taken to solve these problems , civilizations developed.

Dwellings, jobs, shops, markets as well as health, transport and entertainment facilities had to be provided. With the increase in avenues of income, the quality of life improved. Attention was paid to clothing, ornaments and fashion . Education had to be provided. Customs and language use were paid more attention. There was more focus on literature and the arts, Science, technology and philosophy were also important field of study.

One individual or family could not co-ordinate or administer these complex needs. An administrative system had to be set up for it. In this way civilizations developed little by little.

Let us now study how these complex activities took place in the river valley civilizations we noted on the map.

## THE EUPHRATES - TIGRIS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Television programmers and other media which report information about the Middle East often mention Iraq. You would be surprised to hear that this country which has at present fallen in to political and economic chaos was known as the ‘Cradle of Civilization’ and the ‘Fertile Crescent.’

Let us now study about Mesopotamia which we called Iraq today.



1.1 Aurnasirpal  
A Mesopotamian King.  
A carving done while he was  
alive.



### Student Activity

Name 3 factors that led to the development of the Mesopotamian Civilization between the rivers Tigris and Euphrates.

## Location and Expansion

Earlier it was mentioned that this civilization was spread mostly in the land area belonging to present day Iraq. That is the area between the Euphrates and Tigris rivers that flow into the Persian Gulf. This area was called Mesopotamia. The meaning of this word is “between two rivers.”

## Administrative System

Eridu, Nippur, Uruk and Ur were the cities that existed in Mesopotamia. These cities became larger cities and gradually developed into a state. This civilization was under a monarchical system and the head of state was the king. It was believed that god had given him the right to rule. A carving found in Sumeria depicts king Hamurabi being presented with a ring and sceptre by the sun god Shamash. This symbolises the empowering of the king by god, to rule and mete out justice.



1.2 - It is said that the part shown above the Code of Law proclaimed by King Hamurabi is the manner in which king Hamurabi is receiving administrative authority from god.

There is another carving which shows a king making an offering to the moon god. This too depicts the belief that the king had a close relationship with the gods.

(See photograph 1.3)

The revenue necessary to carry on the administration was collected through taxation. Mesopotamia had a regular system of taxation. Maps showing how taxes should be collected had also been prepared.

Hamurabi who was an Arcadian king was a war hero, a good administrator and an expert on law. The legal decrees compiled by him on various fields are known as the Hamurabi Code of Law. One decree in it states thus;

“If someone were to make another person blind, offender too should be made blind.”



### Student Activity

What can you say about the administration of the day, in considering the judicial system that existed at the time?

## Economic Affairs

The basis of the economic system was agriculture and the rearing of animals. Internal trade as well as trade between civilizations were important aspects of the economy.

Do you know that it was the Mesopotamian civilization that first used money? There is evidence to show that there existed in Mesopotamia a system of transaction more advance than the other civilizations at the time.



1.3 A king making an offering to the moon god.

## Religious Rituals and Beliefs

Throughout the history of human civilization religious rituals and beliefs have been closely associated with human life. In the past man had the tendency to vest with higher powers any force that he could not understand or control. Such powers were considered divine.



1.4The ruin of Mesopotamian city

In Mesopotamia too belief in gods and making offerings to them was one of the main rituals.

The popular gods of the day were Maduk, Eaa, Sin and Schamash. The sun god and moon god were carved as wise men with long beards. There were gods who were the guardians of the sun, sky, earth, heaven, sea and the wind. A goddess named Ishtar too was venerated.

Each individual also had a god who was personal to him. His salvation depended on this god. There were priests who maintained relations between men and the gods. It was believed by many that the Ziggurat building at Ur was the main religious edifice.

## The Art of Writing

It is believed that like many other forms of art, the art of writing too originated in Mesopotamia.

At first, writing was done on wet clay slabs. The letters were wedge-shaped. They can also be called pictorial letters. A symbol stood for a particular word. The star stood for god, while the foot print indicated walking. In this pictographic script there are about 600 symbols.

After several centuries, with the introduction of papyrus leaves writing on clay tablets became obsolete.

In a shrine at Nippur, a large number of clay slabs were collected. This can be considered as the first library in the world.

## Science and Technology

The Figure 1.5 shows a geometrical drawing on a Mesopotamian tablet.

The numbering system from 1 to 10 which we use today was used upto 60 at the time. Mathematics was so advanced that they used to calculate the extent of an area.

The calendar was also invented in Mesopotamia. It was used to find out the time suitable for cultivation.

The first maps in the world were also drawn in Mesopotamia. These maps on clay tablets may have been used for the collection of taxes.



1.5 A geometrical drawing

The wheel too was invented in Mesopotamia. This wheel appears to have been used to construct carriages for war and carts for drawing loads. Manufacture of a carriage with two wheels also took place in Mesopotamia at this time. A plan of a shrine drawn on a stone by a construction engineer could be the first building plan in the world.



1.6 A model of a carriage

## Medical Science

In Mesopotamia medical science existed side by side with the beliefs in gods, devils and spirits.

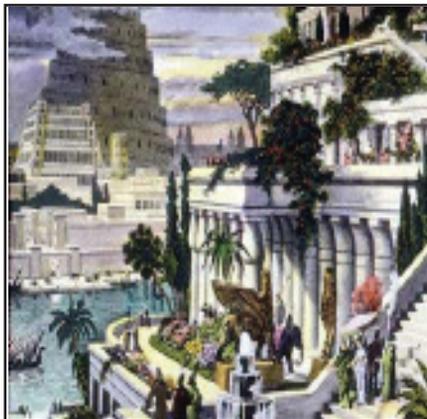
The custom of analysing dreams too existed. There was a belief that diseases could be healed through super natural powers. More than 600 different types of medicine are also mentioned. These medicines were made of various types of plants, trees, roots, seeds and metals. Soft lotions have been used for burns.

## Culture

Let's discuss a few aspects of arts and crafts such as buildings, statues and carvings here.

You may have heard of seven wonders of the ancient world one of which is Hanging Gardens. Below is a drawing of that wonder. This was situated in Babylon, which was part of the Mesopotamian Civilization. This is seven storied architectural complex consisting of a number of palaces.

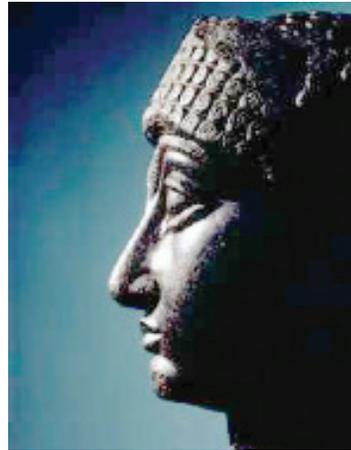
When we speak of architecture in Mesopotamia we always speak of the Ziggurat building.



1.7 An imaginary drawing of the hanging gardens.

## Statues

The statue of king Gaudia has been carved of hard granite. Observe how lively its facial features are. You will notice how the majestic look of the face is exquisitely carved.



1.8 The majestic look of King Gaudia

## Carvings

There are tablets which are elaborately carved. The artist has been able to depict the physical features of the men and women carved on them in a realistic manner.



### Student Activity

Collect photographs, maps, pictures related to the Mesopotamian Civilization, paste them in a scrap book and write short introductions to them.



## THE NILE VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Of the river valley civilizations, it was the Nile Valley Civilization that existed for the longest period. This civilization lasted from about 3100BC to 1070BC. Ruins found in the Nile Valley and its delta are sufficient to gather information about the administrative, economic, social and cultural aspects of the people

who lived in that area. Let us now study this glorious civilization with the help of these ruins.

## Location

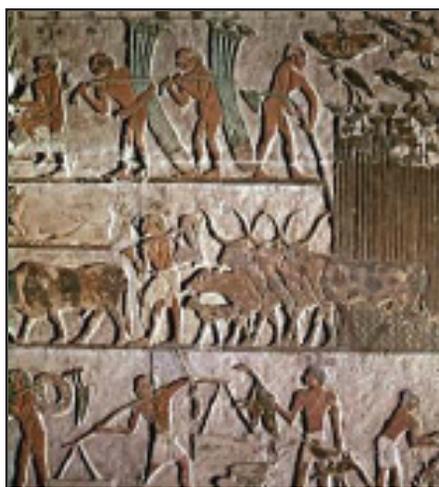
The Egyptian civilization developed around the River Nile in Egypt in the continent of Africa. Hence this civilization is known as the Egyptian civilization. The river Nile begins in the hilly region of Central Africa and flows into the Mediterranean Sea from the east coast.

## Economic Conditions

The fertile land on the banks of the river Nile was suitable for cultivation of cereals such as barley, wheat and millet. Dwellers in this region were able to produce these cereals in excess of their needs. There is evidence to prove that, as in Mesopotamia the inhabitants of this region too knew the system of water supply through irrigation technology.

The Nile Valley was more important than Mesopotamia as centre of trade. The river Nile flows into the Mediterranean Sea. From ancient times the Mediterranean Sea was important for trade.

The eastern boundary of Egypt was the Red Sea. From ancient times most of the merchandise carried by Roman traders from countries such as India, China and Sri Lanka were supplied to Europe through the Red Sea. A substantial amount of tax revenue was collected through this trade. Egypt collected substantial amount of tax revenue through this trade.



1.9 A plaque depicting agricultural activities in Egyptian Civilization



### Student Activity

Describe how location of the Nile Valley led to the emergence of a civilization there. Limit your answer to one paragraph.

## Administration

It is evident that there were kings in this civilization even as early as 3000 BC. Two parts of Egypt that were once known as Upper Egypt and Lower Egypt, have been subsequently unified as one state. By about 2600 BC, the Nile Valley Civilization had reached the position of a state with a full fledged administrative set up.

King Tuthmos III shown in the figure 1.10 is a ruler who belonged to the new regime.



Figure 1.10 King Tuthmos III

Ramses is a king belonging to the twentieth dynasty. He was the last great king of this dynasty. The pinnacle of power in this administrative system was the king. It was believed that he was given this power to rule, by god. The rulers were known as Pharaohs.

The king was the secular leader as well as the supreme religious leader.

There were ministers and other officials under the king. Next in importance to the king were the clergy.

The king was regarded as a god, and even after his death, funeral rites that would help him to exist as a god were performed. When the king was alive he was considered Horus and after death he was known as Osiris. Osiris was considered the god of death. During the later period of the civilization the king who was alive was considered Rey (Sun god). Osiris was believed to be the god of dead and punishment.

## Religious Rituals and Beliefs

The best written source on the religious rituals and beliefs that existed in the Nile Valley is the book entitled “The Book of the Dead.” This consists of a number of written papyrus sheets. This states that the good and bad deeds done in this world would affect the next birth.

This book further contains the capabilities of gods and demons, how relationships could be maintained with them, funeral rites and hymns chanted at funerals.



1.11 An extract from ‘The Book of the Dead’ depicting the soul leaving the body

## Life after Death

The Nile Valley civilization was the first civilization that developed a belief in life after death or the existence of a soul. It is clear from the tombs constructed for royalty as well as ordinary people, that there existed a belief in a world after death. The number of pyramids exceeding 90, is proof of the belief in life after death. The



1.12 A god wearing the mask of a jackal performing funeral rites.

dead bodies placed in the pyramids were immersed in medicine so as to prevent them from decaying. Funeral rites were performed in a most systematic and traditional manner. Ways and means of making life after death fortunate were carved On the inner walls of pyramids.

What the dead desired when they were living were deposited with the dead bodies to gratify them further. Among the items

deposited were things used by them, ornaments and food and drink. It was believed at the time that with sunrise the soul would leave the body and move with the sun across the sky and would return at sunset. All the pyramids were built on the west bank of the Nile in order to make it easy for the soul to return to the pyramid and enter the body.

## Culture

Architecture, arts and crafts are important aspects of Egyptian culture. What do you think is the purpose of artistic creations? Why do you observe them? You will probably say it is for appreciation or entertainment.

Most of the Egyptian artistic creations were housed in shrines, palaces and tombs. Ordinary people had no opportunity of seeing them. Think of this. Most of the Sri Lankan Buddhist artistic creations are found outside. They were created for the common man.



### Student Activity

Draw a picture of a pyramid. Write a short note on what a pyramid is.

Construction of pyramid is the most significant feature of the Egyptian architecture. The pyramid built by king Khufu at Giza in Egypt around 2700 BC is considered one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. The most attractive pyramid situated close to the Giza pyramids is 136m(446ft) high.

The number of pyramids constructed in Egypt during the period 2630-1530 BC were



1.13 The famous pyramid at Giza

constructed as tombs of kings and queens. After the death of the king or queen the body was treated with medicine for preservation, and deposited safely in the tombs after religious rites. In the internal walls of the pyramids which were colossal structures, there were carvings, statues and paintings all of which were exquisitely and subtly arranged. There was a large building complex around the pyramid. This complex consisted of several structures such as smaller pyramids, large halls, walls, ramparts, carvings, sculptures and drawings.



1.14 An inscription in the tomb of a queen.

Do you know that each pyramid has been used only once? Imagine what the occasion associated with this would have been.

## The Art of Writing

Observe the hieroglyphics in the figure 1.14

There is a controversy as to which of the two scripts, Mesopotamian or Egyptian originated first. However the inscriptions found in both these places are at least 3000 years old. In Egypt the early inscriptions were written either on walls or wooden plaques. Important documents were polished with gold or silver. Writing was done from right to left and sometimes from top to bottom. There were no punctuation marks. Words were not separated. In Egypt there were 700-800 such inscriptions.



### Student Activity

Make a list of the pictures you can identify from the inscription in figure 1.14 Infer what those symbols would have meant.

It was discovered that the leaves of the papyrus plant that grew in the Nile Valley, when seasoned, could be used for very fine writing. The beginning of writing on papyrus leaves was a great stride in the art of writing.



1.15 The papyrus leaves used for writing

## Science and Technology

The people of the Nile Valley civilization knew the use of fractions in Mathematics. In this era it appears that mathematical concepts have been used to measure cereals and beer. Mathematical concepts had been used in calculating the space in granaries, estimating taxes and reckoning the number of bricks necessary to construct certain types of buildings. Similarly Mathematics had been used to find out the dates of festivals and days when floods would occur. Time had been reckoned by dividing the Egyptian calendar into months and days.

If the mathematical knowledge of the Egyptians had not been so advanced, we would not have had the fortune to see such creations like the pyramids.

## Medical Science

Medical practices in Egypt were mingled with superstitious beliefs. In healing sickness, methods which common intelligence could not grasp were used. Diseases were diagnosed by clergymen-physicians who had mystic powers. They treated patients by getting possessed by devils and gods.

So far we have described the Nile Valley civilization through the archaeological remains excavated up to date. In the region where this civilization existed archaeological finds are being unearthed

constantly. Remember that with new evidence the information given above can change.



1.16 Archaeologists still excavating ruins in Egypt



### Student Activity

Paste pictures and photographs of the Egyptian civilization that you can find and write interesting captions.

## THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

A special feature of an urban civilization was the concept of the city. You are aware that city means ‘town.’ There are several factors which indicate that the civilization which originated in the Indus Valley, gradually turned into an urban civilization. There were walls, wayside drainage systems, grid like highways, storeyed buildings on either side of the road and toilet facilities for every dwelling.

### Location

The region covered by this civilization belongs to Pakistan today. Until Pakistan was separated from India in 1947, this region too was a part of India. Now evidence is available to confirm that this civilization spread for a long expanse along the river Indus. Accordingly, the Indus Valley Civilization can be regarded as the ancient civilization that covered the largest extent of land.



### Student Activity

1. Study the area covered by the Indus Valley civilization in the map.
2. Then refer to an atlas and identify the boundaries of this region and name them.

Now let us study the different aspects of this civilization. In this study you will learn that, there are several features in this civilization which are common to both the Mesopotamian and Nile Valley civilizations.

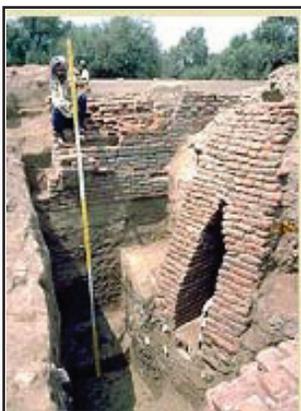
## Administrative System

It appears that the Indus Valley Civilization centred round two main cities. These cities were Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa. The meaning of Mohenjo-Daro is 'mound of the dead.' Though not as large as these two cities, there were a few other main cities belonging to this civilization. They are Chanhudaro, Lothal, Kalibangan, Alamghir and Rugar.

The plans of both cities were similar. Both had an inner city. There was a stage, 10-15 yards high, with



1.17 'Mound of the Dead'



1.18 The drainage system of the city

an area of about 400x200 yards. These may have been administrative centres. A special feature of these cities was that they remained unchanged over a long period of time. These facts reveal that the system of administration that existed at the time was a very rigid one. It appears to have been a system dominated by the clergy rather than authority of the king.

## Economic Conditions

What were the main factors on which the economy of the Indus Valley Civilization depended?

1. Agriculture
2. Trade

It has been found that the cereals grown in the agricultural lands of the Indus Valley Civilization were wheat, barley and maize. It is clear that they knew about cattle. These animals would have been used to prepare the soil for cultivation. Apart from rain water and water from rivers, there is no evidence to prove that water was obtained for cultivation through irrigation schemes as in the case in Mesopotamia and the Nile Valley.

The tall building constructed on a high land area in the city is believed to be a granary. This can be regarded as a symbol of its economic condition.

We are aware how trade thrives around rivers. Lothal which is situated at the mouth of river Indus is believed to be a harbour of that civilization. It is the view of the historians that foreign trade relations existed. If it is true, what do you think are the two countries with which such relationships were maintained? They could be Mesopotamia and Egypt where there were contemporary civilizations.

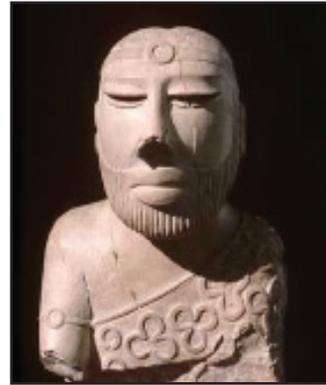


1.19A seal which would have been used for trade or administrative activities. Note the script on it.

## Social Conditions

Which civilization do you think reveals urban characteristics most out of the river valley civilizations? As revealed by the systematic city plan and housing facilities, well - aligned streets and dwelling areas, drainage systems on either side of the road, multi storeyed dwellings by the streets, common bath, row of similar design, toilet facilities for every house, it appears that the most urban

civilization is the Indus Valley Civilization. There is evidence to show that there were rulers, clergy and traders in this society. However, there is no information as to whether these categories were organized as classes. It is believed that the dwellings in the city had a prominence which was not prevalent in other cultures.



1.20 A statue of the bust of a Priest

## Dietary Pattern

Cereals were the main food of the people in this civilization too. Barley, millet, wheat and soya were the types of grains that grew here. The animals that were reared at the time were cattle, goats and pigs. They would have taken the flesh of their animals for food.

## Recreation

Dice of different sizes have been found among the ruins. It is clear from these that the people at that time were engaged in games such as dice, during their leisure. These games of recreation show the features of a society which enjoyed a high standard of living.

## Religious Rituals and Beliefs

The most popular form of worship was the worship of the Mother Goddess. Several clay statues of the Mother Goddess have been found among the ruins of this civilization. Tree worship and worshipping was another form of worship.

It is believed that there were priests who performed religious rites. It is believed that the statue of a beast wearing a garment

covering one shoulder, bearded and with a head band is one depicting such a priest.



### Student Activity

Study the figure 1.19

What can you say about the Indus Valley Civilization by studying the seal in this photograph ?



1.21 A terracota female statue believed to be of the Mother Goddess.

## Culture

The architectural skills of the people that belonged to this civilization were very advanced. The architects were able to design structures such as small dwellings, storeyed buildings, large granaries and swimming pools, which were strong and solid. However these designs were not aesthetically pleasing. They were strong structured constructed for other purposes.

As examples of sculpture, figures, such as head of a male, headless bust and bust with head can be pointed out. None of them were artistic creations. Even the statue of a female dancer does not have artistic appeal.

There are no drawings or carvings of this period. Though there are some geometrical designs on broken pots, they can be considered as not possessing much artistic value.

## The Art of Writing

We saw that there were similarities between the art of writing in the Mesopotamian and Nile Valley Civilizations. However, there does not seem to be any connection between the art of writing in the Indus Valley and the two civilizations mentioned earlier. Due to this difference it has not yet been possible to decipher the letters of the Indus Valley. The only evidence for the art of writing in the Indus Valley are the few letters found on some seals. Although there is

some archaeological evidence of the existence of writing records scholars have so far not been able to read them. Professor Senarth Paranavithana made an attempt to decipher these letters at that time, but it does not appear to have been successful.

## Science and Technological Knowledge

Toy carts found among the ruins were those fixed with wheels. They show that the people knew about the use of the wheel for purposes of transport. They also knew how to make ornaments. There is also evidence that they had a knowledge of metal casting. The finish of the seals used here, shows that they were more advanced than other forms of art.

It can be admitted that the craftsmen of this civilization had an excellent knowledge of architecture.

The other said engineering skill of the Indus Valley was that of town planning.

Moreover, an area that can be described as an industrial estate was situated at one end of the city. A large amount of industrial scrap has been found here. It is evident from these scraps that necklaces with ornamental stones, ornaments using raw materials such as turtle shells, glazed crockery as well as gold jewellery were made here.

The modern civilization that has sprung up from the 'mound of the dead' has erased the old civilization to a great extent. One Major challenge to the reconstruction of the history of the old civilization is the fact that the 'mound of the dead' has become a private property.

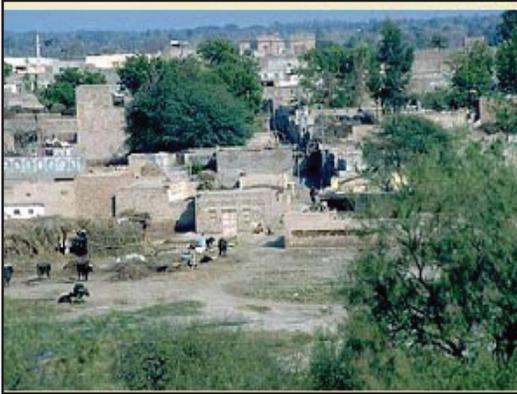


1.22 Toy Carts

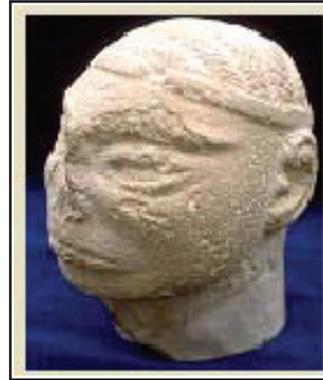


### Student Activity

Write short notes on 2 of the scientific and technological creations of the Indus Valley .



1.24 The area where industrial scrap was found



1.23 A head of a man wearing a hair band

## THE HWANG- HO RIVER VALLEY CIVILIZATION

The meaning of the name Hwang-Ho is ‘China’s sorrow.’ Hwang-Ho is the second largest river in China. It is 5464 km. long. This river finds its sources in the springs and lakes in North Central China and it flows towards the east through the mountains and desert lands. The alluvial soil and the sand bars that flow along with the vast expanse of water are deposited on the river banks. The river water becomes yellow in colour due to the washing down of the fertile soil. Floods occur constantly. Finally it flows into the sea, at the Bay of Bohai .

## Location and the Period

An ancient civilization existed in the modern Northern Henan region which is in the lower reaches of River Hwang-Ho. This civilization was contemporaneous with the Euphrates- Tigris River Valley, Nile River Valley and Indus Valley Civilizations which we have already studied. It belongs to the period 1700-1100 BC. This was the period of the Shang dynasty in China.

## Economic Pattern

You have so far completed the study of three ancient civilizations. You have seen that all those civilizations had common features. There are similar features between the Hwang - Ho civilization and afore mentioned civilizations. What are the common features of the economic pattern? Think of them.

1. Agricultural economic pattern
2. Trade

During the period of the Hwang-Ho Valley Civilization too the main cereal grown was paddy. Barley and wheat were the other common grains. Under livestock farming the animals reared were cattle, goats and sheep.

## Administration

The king was the head of the political sphere as well as the religious sphere. The king ruled according to the old traditions. At times he had to fight against neighbouring tribes. As a result of these conflicts the administrative centre had to be shifted from time to time. It was the duty of the king to muster soldiers for war. Furthermore, the king was in charge of the task of directing labourers in building protective walls and constructing the mausolea of kings.

The king showed a great interest in making offerings to the deceased ancestors. It was believed that through this they would exert a great influence on governance.

## Religious Rituals and Beliefs

Among the people of Hwang-Ho civilization, there was a belief in a life after death. It was commonly believed that the dead relatives of a person would exert influence on him, and on that account, the life of the living can become fortunate or unfortunate according to their influence. Tombs were erected for the dead. The kings spent a great deal of money on these.

There was a belief about the existence of super gods. Natural phenomena and forces such as the sun, moon, sunlight and rain were deified.



1.25 A bronze utensil used at funerals

## The Art of Writing

At that time, writing was done on shells such as tortoise shells and on the wide bones of animals. The script used in this civilization was not as advanced as in Mesopotamia or Egypt. Each concept is represented by a pictograph. It is very difficult to study these scripts.

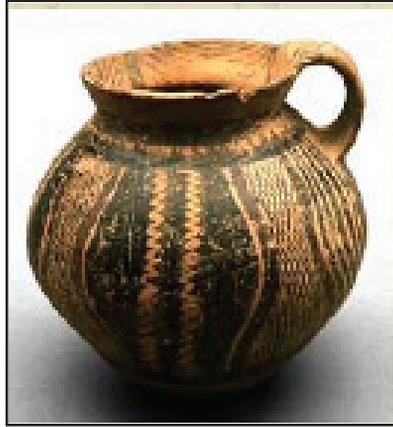


1.26 An inscription on a tortoise shell. A very complex script.

## Science and Technology

This civilization is famous for bronze-craft. These bronze creations were mostly used at functions and festivals. From the time of the Hwang - Ho civilization China has been famous for the

manufacture of ceramic-ware and clay utensils. Decorated items made in the Hwang-Ho Valley Civilization have been found.



1.27 A decorated clay vessel used at functions and festivals

## Medical Science

It appears that the people of Hwang-Ho Valley had reached an advanced stage in medical science. A mummy found among the ruins has a skull which has been pierced and closed again. It is believed that this is a sign of a surgical operation performed at that time. This mummy too has been preserved without decay, like the mummies found in the Nile Valley Civilization.



1.28 A mummy with a skull opened for a surgery



### Student Activity

Imagine you were the chief minister who worked under the Shang dynasty. You have been given the responsibility of organizing the funeral of the emperor who passed away unexpectedly. Prepare the agenda of the funeral.

### Assignment

Divide your class into four groups according to the civilizations you have studied. Present facts to support the view that the civilization assigned to each group was more advanced than the others. (For this assignment obtain guidance of your subject teacher).

### Summary

Emergence of river valley civilizations was a landmark in the history of human evolution. Almost all the civilizations that sprang up in several geographical regions of the world were associated with rivers. A special feature of these civilizations is that they were contemporaneous and originated in the Asian region. Moreover, if one ignores the minute differences among them, he could notice that they displayed close similarity. Further, these original civilizations were of an urban character stages while people in most of the countries were still in the nomadic and stone ages. These civilizations lasted for 2000-4000 years. It is astonishing that these civilizations were of such an advanced state. The scientific and technological discoveries which formed the basis of the human civilizations that sprang up subsequently originated in the lands of the early civilizations which we have discussed above.