

Indus Valley Civilization

By

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Division of History

1) Pre-History

Stone age- a) Paleolithic

b) Mesolithic

c) Neolithic

2) Proto- History- First Urbanization, Indus Valley Civilization.

3) History

a) Ancient

b) Medieval

c) Modern

What is archaeology?

- Term derived from the Greek word “ Archaios” means ancient
- Logos means ancient or the beginning.
- “ Archaeology is essentially a method of reconstructing the past from the surviving traces of former societies”
- It’s not just about digging!
- **It’s complicated work that demands training, patience and big budgets.**
- **It’s extremely interdisciplinary.**
- **In other words, it’s not what most people think it is.**
- **Visible and Tangible**



The Goals of Archaeology

1. *Discovering the past*

- Excavation & Description

2. *Reconstructing culture history*

- Who, was ,where, when, with, what?

3. *Explaining cultural processes*

- How and why do cultures change or stay the same?

Exploration

- **Chance Finds**

- Some of the accidental and involuntary discoveries are called chance finds, which has been responsible for the discovery of ancient sites, which usually happens by human involvement or natural forces.
- Prospecting and Preliminary Survey

- **1. Literary Research**

- Most of the literary works contributes to the search for sites, mainly topographical and geographical works.

- **2. Maps**

- Ancient and modern maps aids in locating some of the vanished sites and monuments. Ruins are considered very much helpful for locating ancient monuments.

- **3. Place Names**

- Names of places are of great significance for archaeological exploration as they are often helpful in locating ancient sites.

- **Drill Method**

- Here a hole is drilled into a suspected area involving hollow structures and tombs while a miniature camera and flash gun is later introduced into the drill holes for capturing photographs of the interiors.

- **Chemical Surveying**

- Chemical surveying is based on phosphate analysis in soil which can reveal presence of prehistoric habitations.

- **Aerial Photography**

- Aerial photography or aerial survey is considered a very useful method for locating ancient sites as well as monuments.





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- **Methods of Excavation**

- Unearthing the sites which involves planning excavations and layout.
- Techniques of Excavations such as Vertical, Horizontal, tools and equipments.

- Excavation of sites whether they are rock-shelter and prehistoric sites, burials, stupa and mud structures etc.
- Recording excavated remains which involves preparation of sections and plans, stratigraphy, three dimensional recording and site formation process.
- Retrieving botanical and other non-artifact based remains.





Stratigraphy





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Tools and equipments



Which are the streams related to archaeology

- History
- Botany
- Zoology
- Chemistry
- Conservation
- IT
- Ethnography etc

Siddis of Janjira









Pre- History

- No Written Records
- Only Archaeological remains
- Stone tools, fossils etc

Stone Age



a



b



c



d



e



f

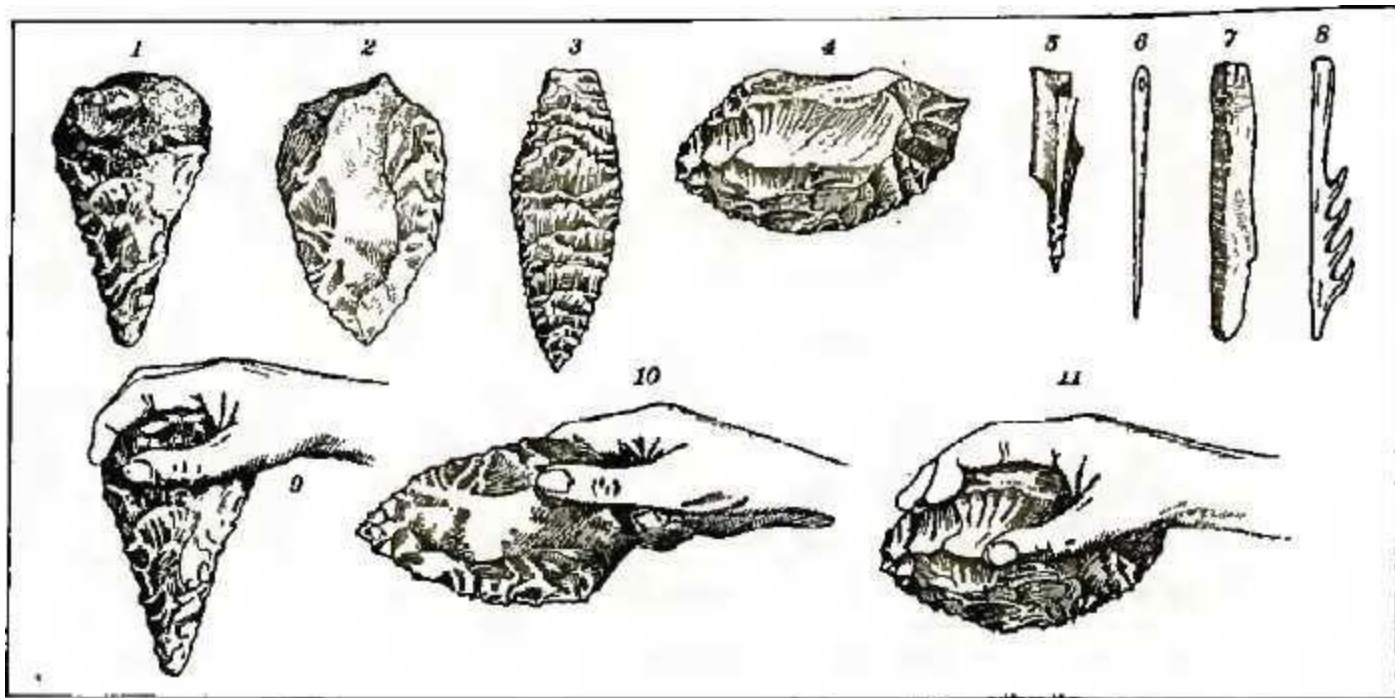


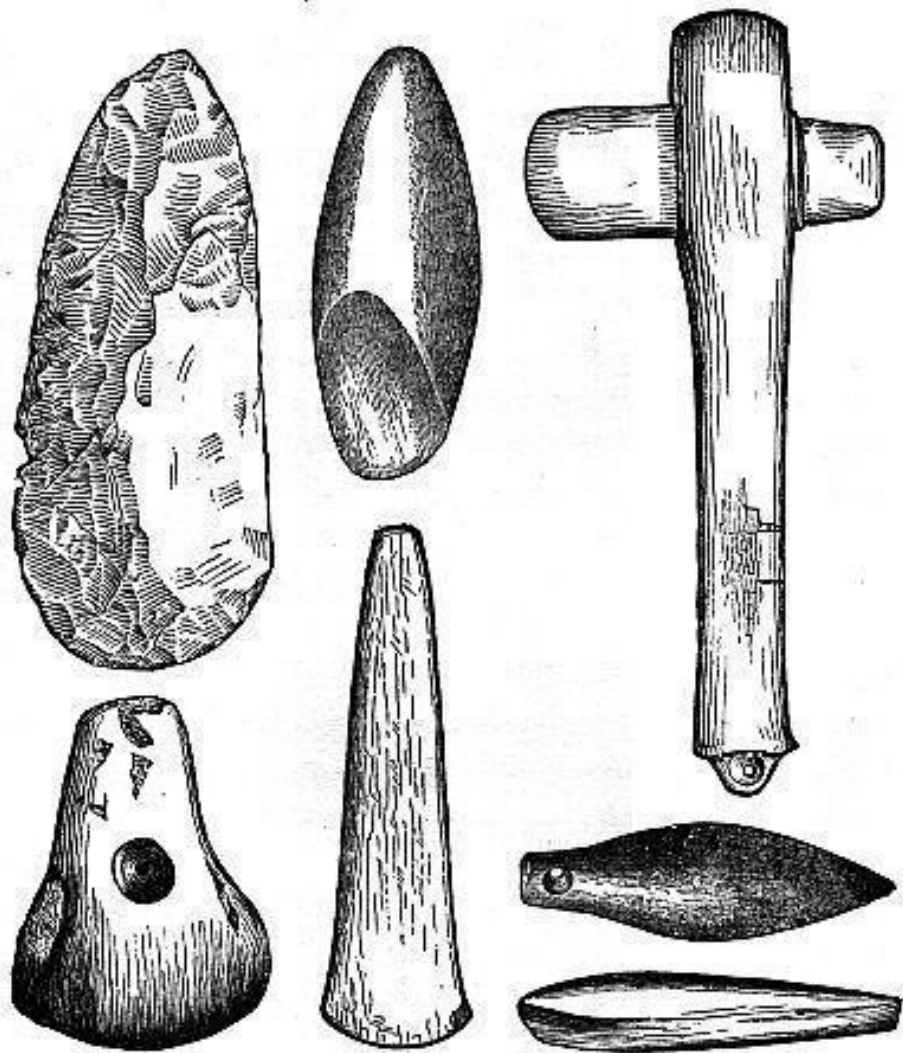
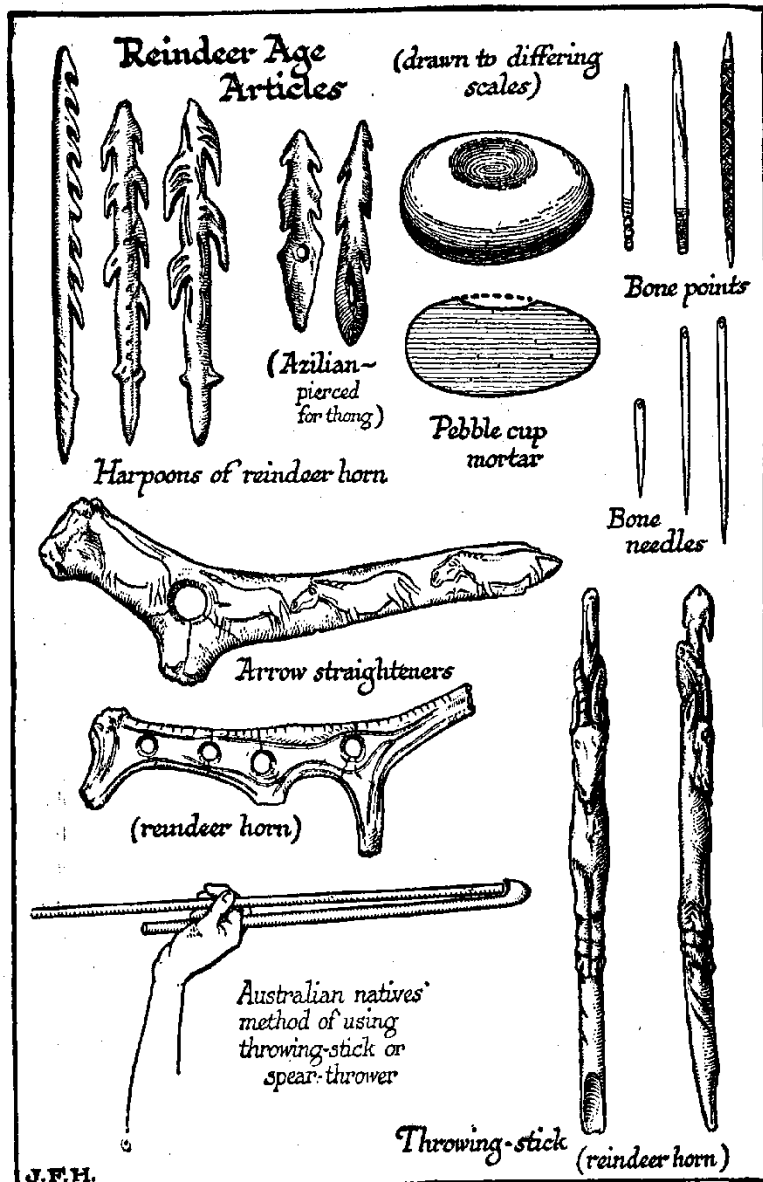
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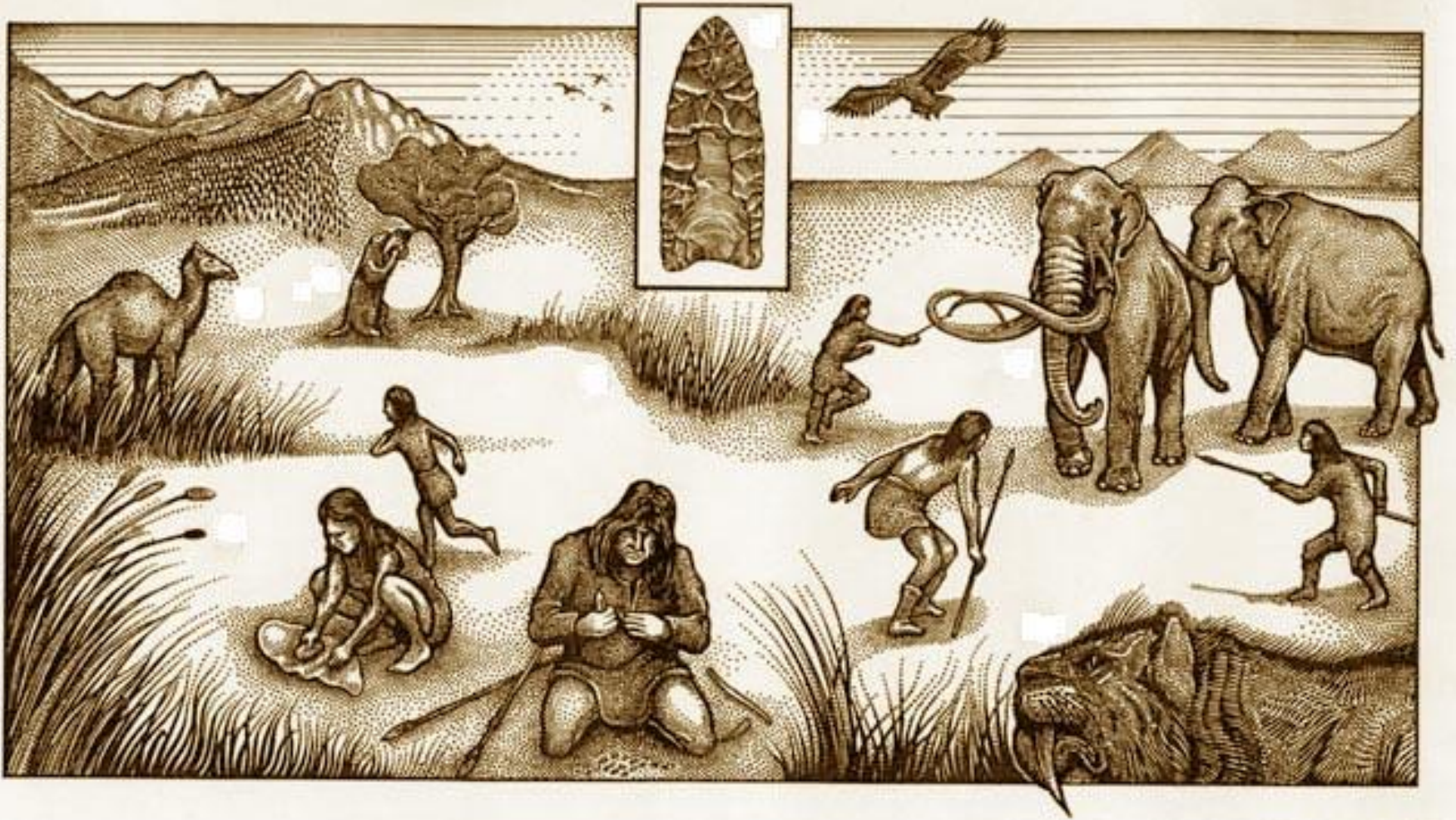
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Weapons of Stone from Tennessee. (Smith. Inst.)







The fossil of the Narmada man's skull found at Hathnora











Mehergarh- Mother Site





Модель жилища туземцев
Этнографический музей
Музей этнографии, СПб.



Proto History

First Urbanization



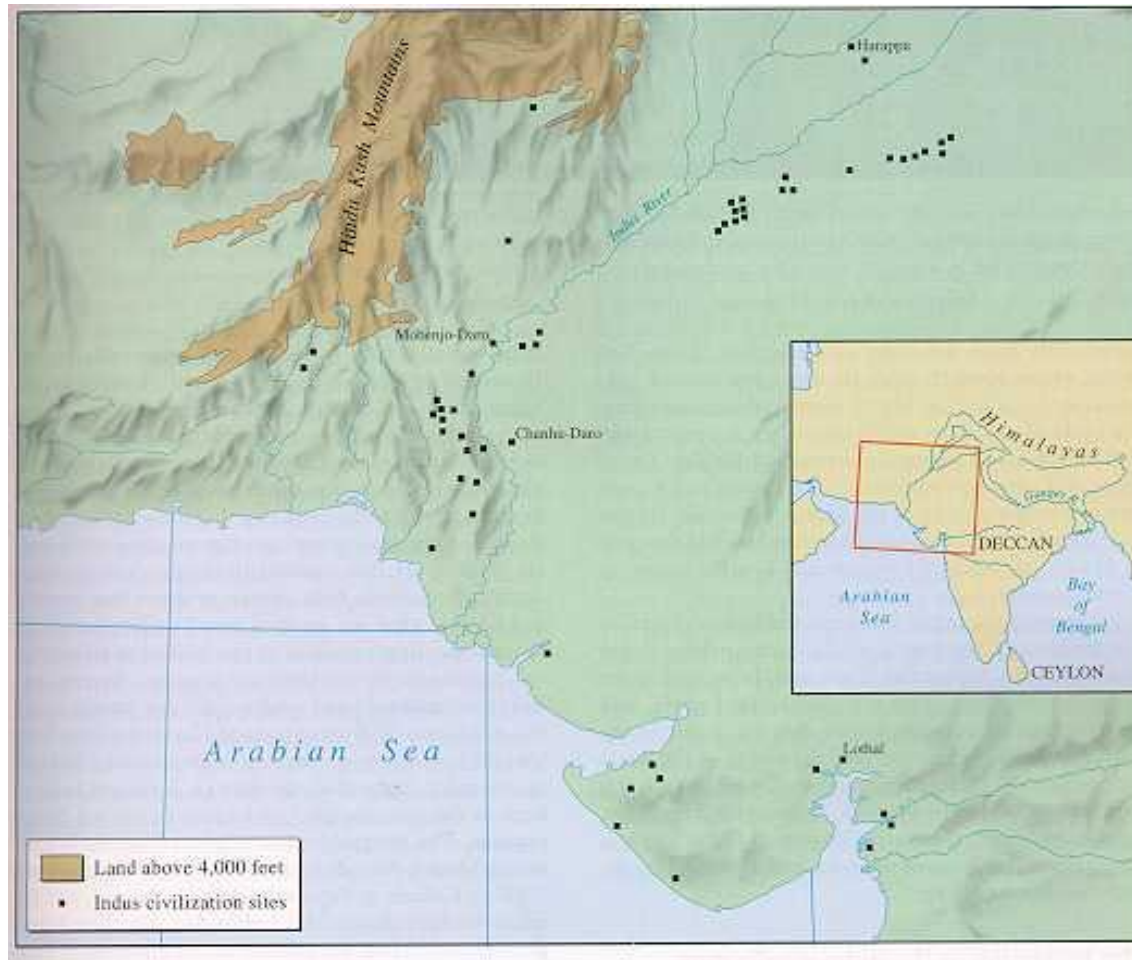
INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

- little or no continuity with the following cultures
- Only archaeological remain
- Written records- not deciphered
- forgotten until the 19th Century
 - rediscovered by the ASI under John Marshall
 - R D. Banerjee
 - Dayaram Sahani

Harappan Culture

- Indus valley
 - not desert
 - well-watered and heavily forested
- Along with the river valley in India and Pakistan
 - 10-20 times larger than Mesopotamia or Egypt

Indus Valley



- **Roughly contemporary with Egypt and Mesopotamia**
- **Early village culture**
- **Changing rapidly to urban civilization**
- **Cities dominated both economic and political activity**
- **Origins of the people are unclear**

Major Cities

- Harappa and Mohenjo-daro
- surrounded by smaller cities, towns, and villages uniform culture over a wide area
- cities built on a common plan
- kiln-dried brick

Monumental architecture

- very-large scale building
- walled cities, with fortified citadels
- always on the same scale
- palaces, temples?

Production of an agricultural surplus to fund government and a differentiated society



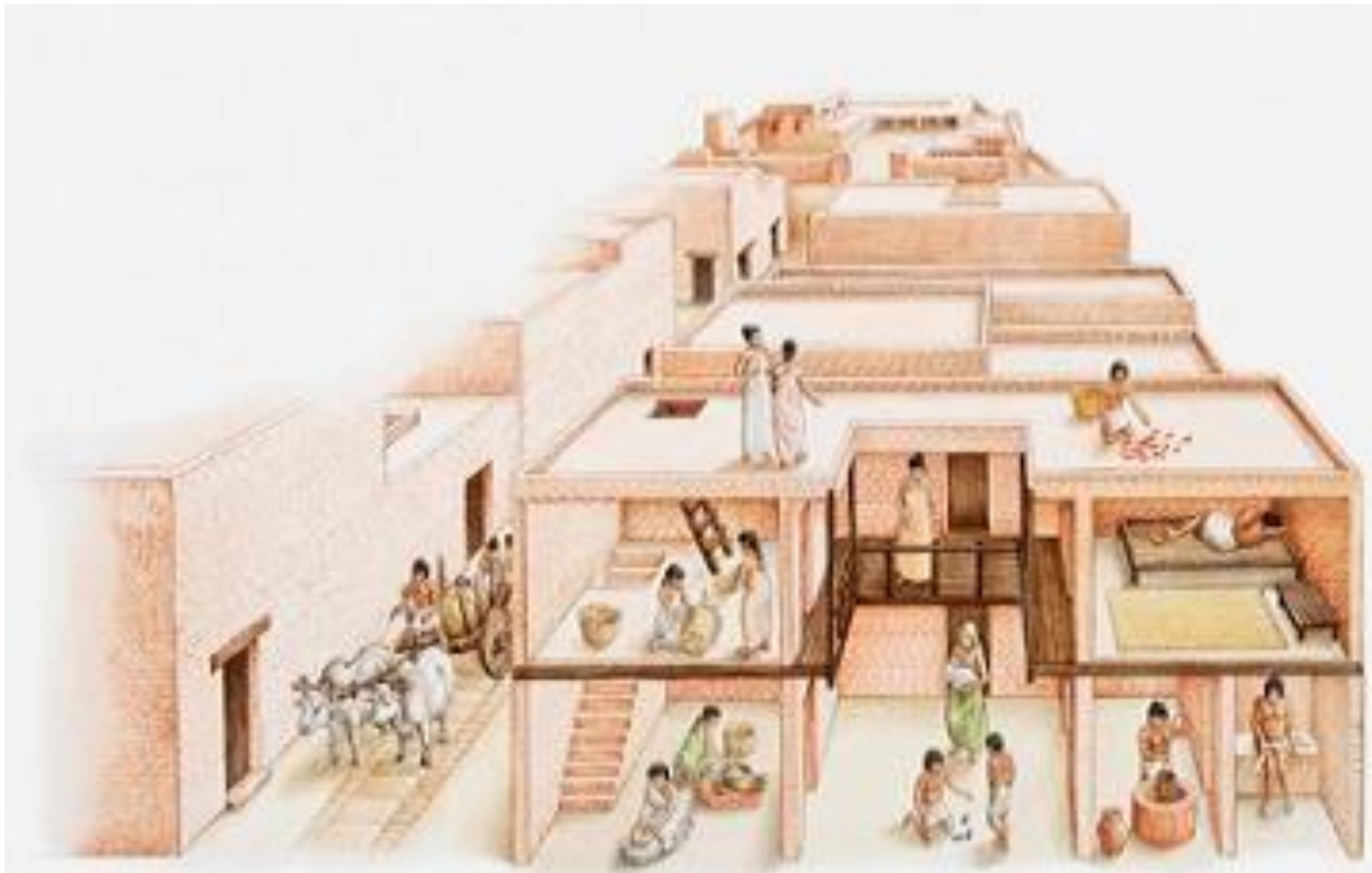
Streets

- At Mohenjo-Daro narrow streets and alleyways are off of the major streets, leading into Production of an agricultural surplus to fund government and a differentiated society more private neighborhoods.
- Many of the brick houses were two stories high, with thick walls and high ceilings to keep the rooms cool in the hot summer months.



Cities

- very densely populated
- houses: two to three stories
- every house is laid out the same



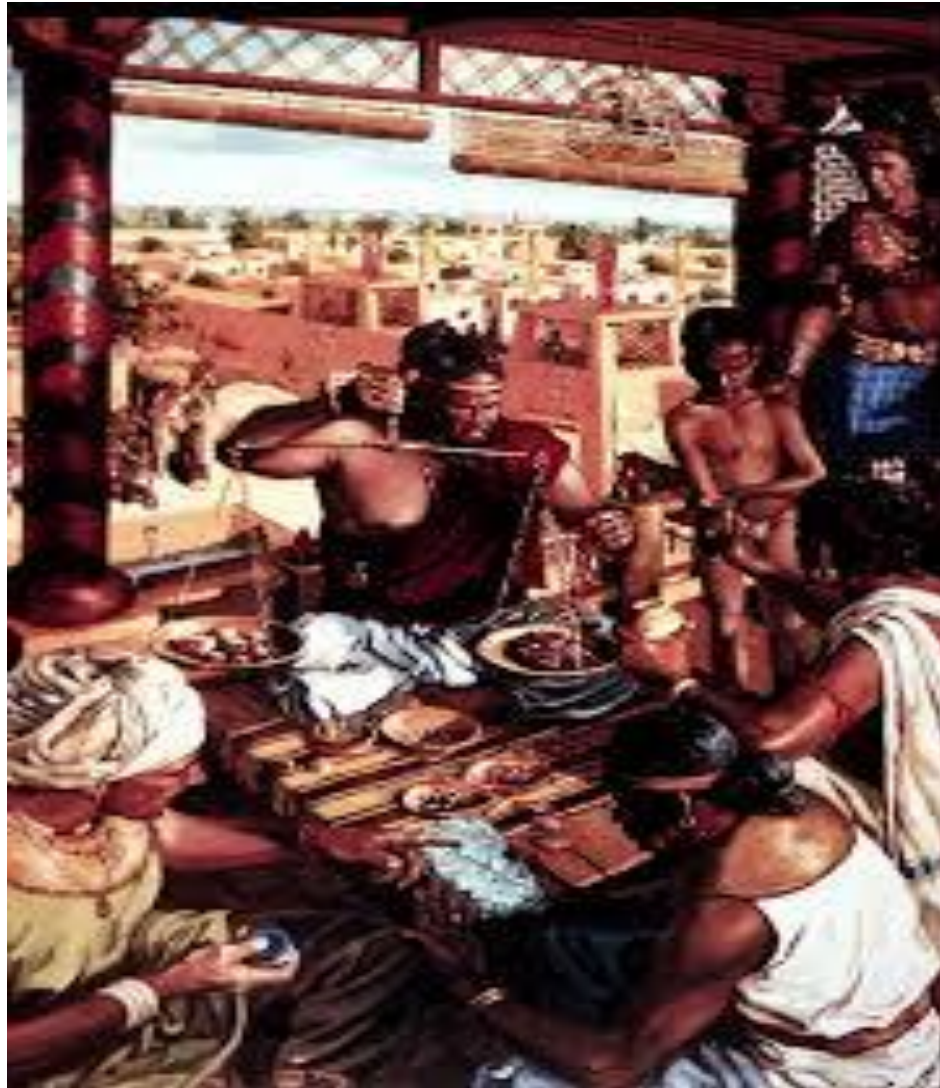
Large Population

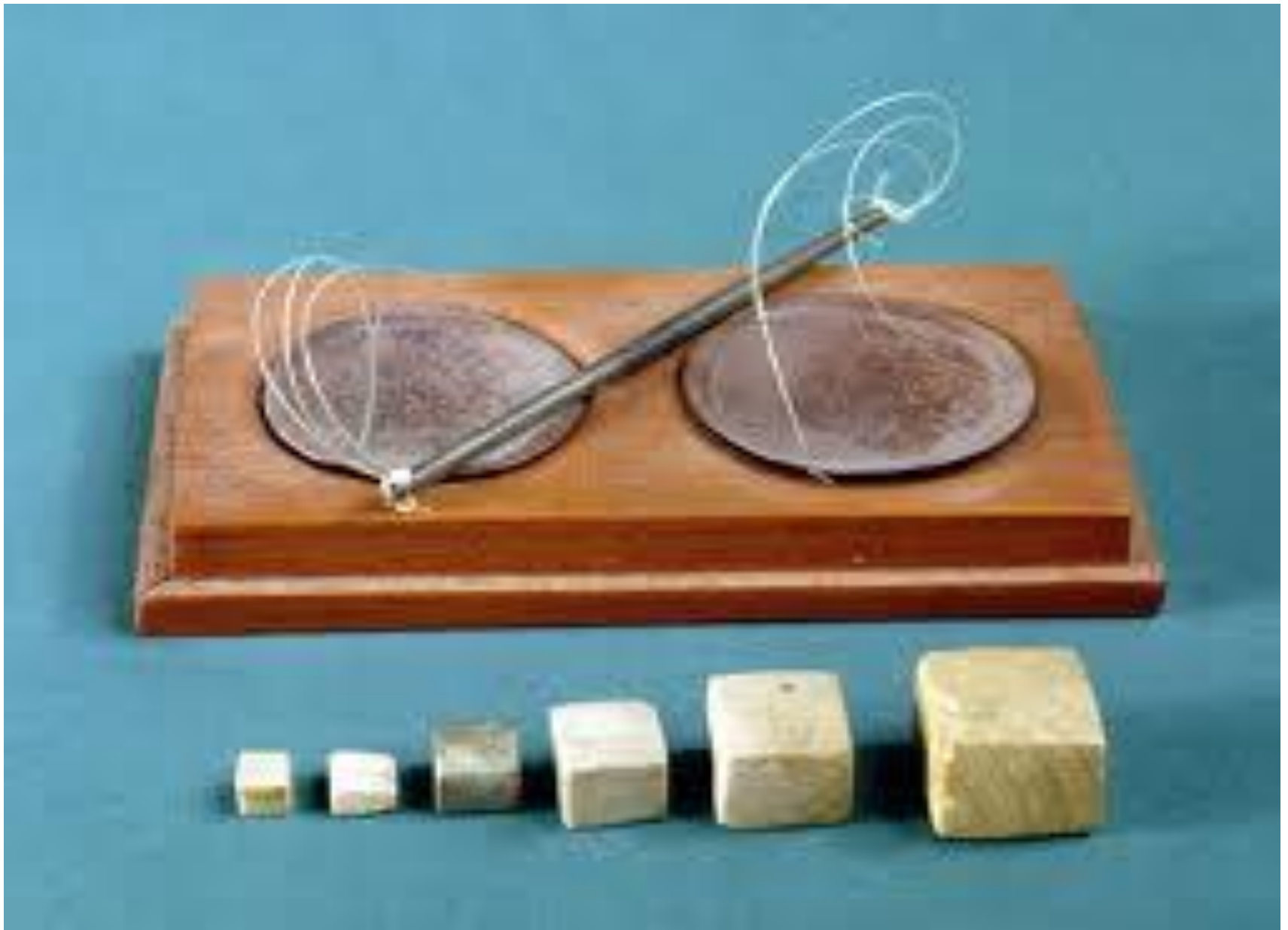






Trade and commerce





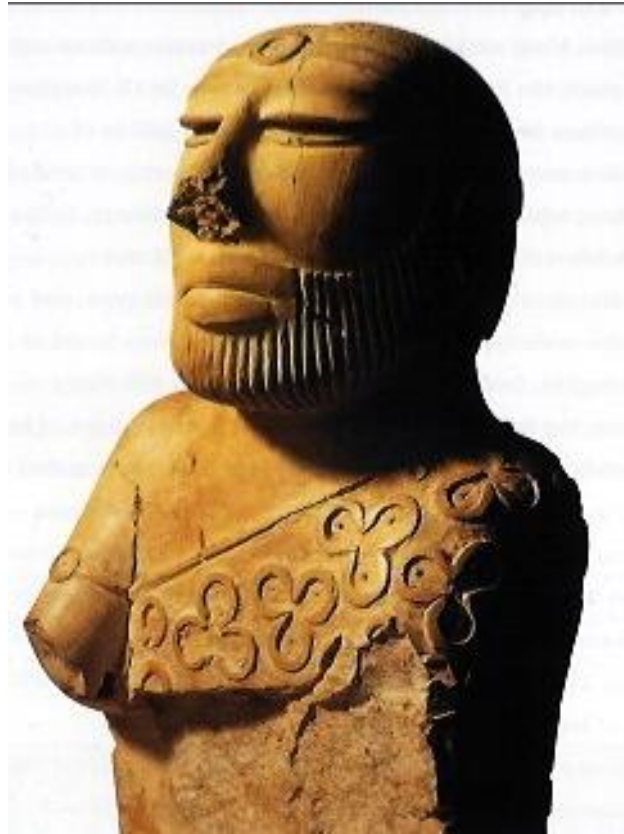
Full time specialization and advanced labor



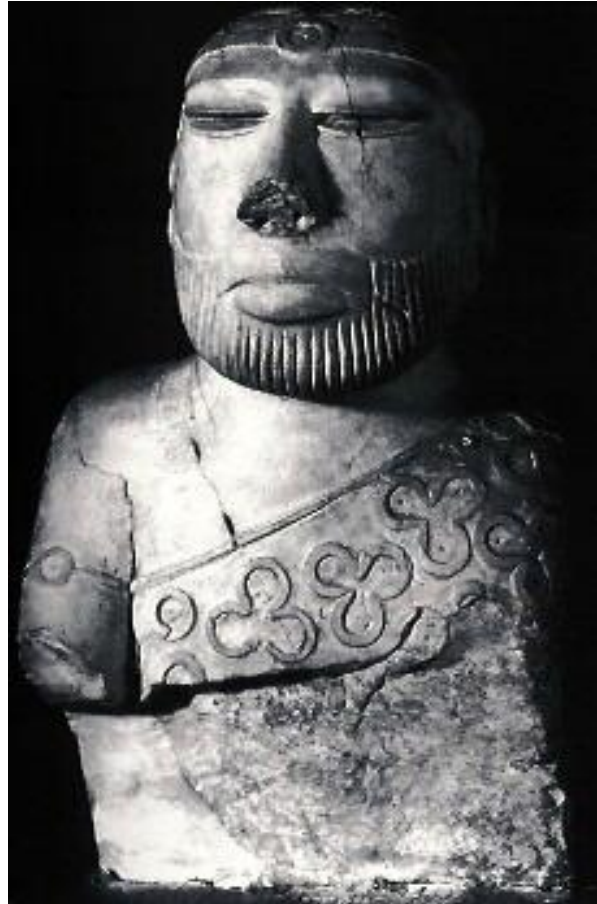


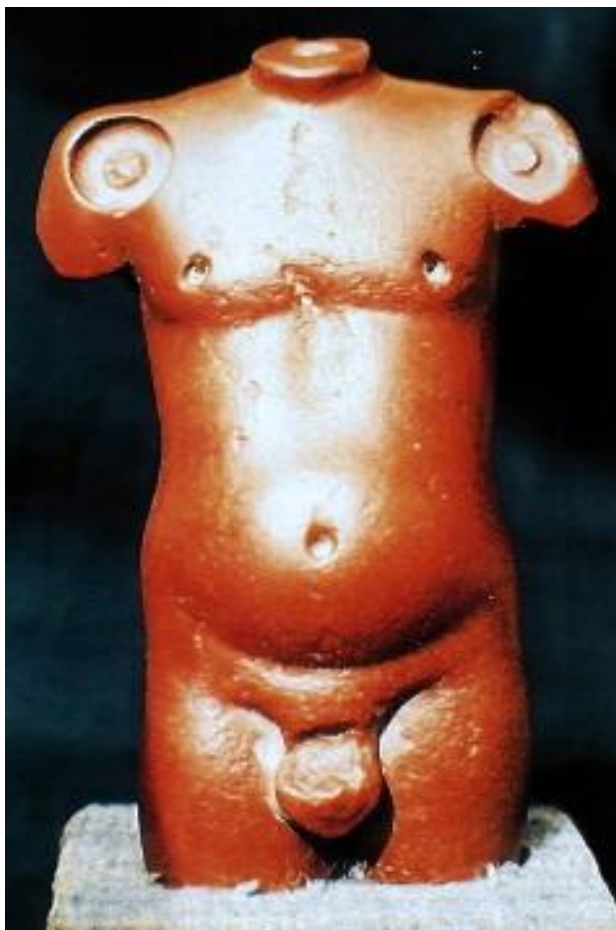
Sculptures

- Made of clay (terracotta, stone, and bronze)
- Male and Female figures may represent religious figures which associated with fertility.



Bust of the “priest-king”









Figurine of “Dancing Girl,” bronze



Terracotta figurine: Mothergoddess



Toy animals made of terracotta

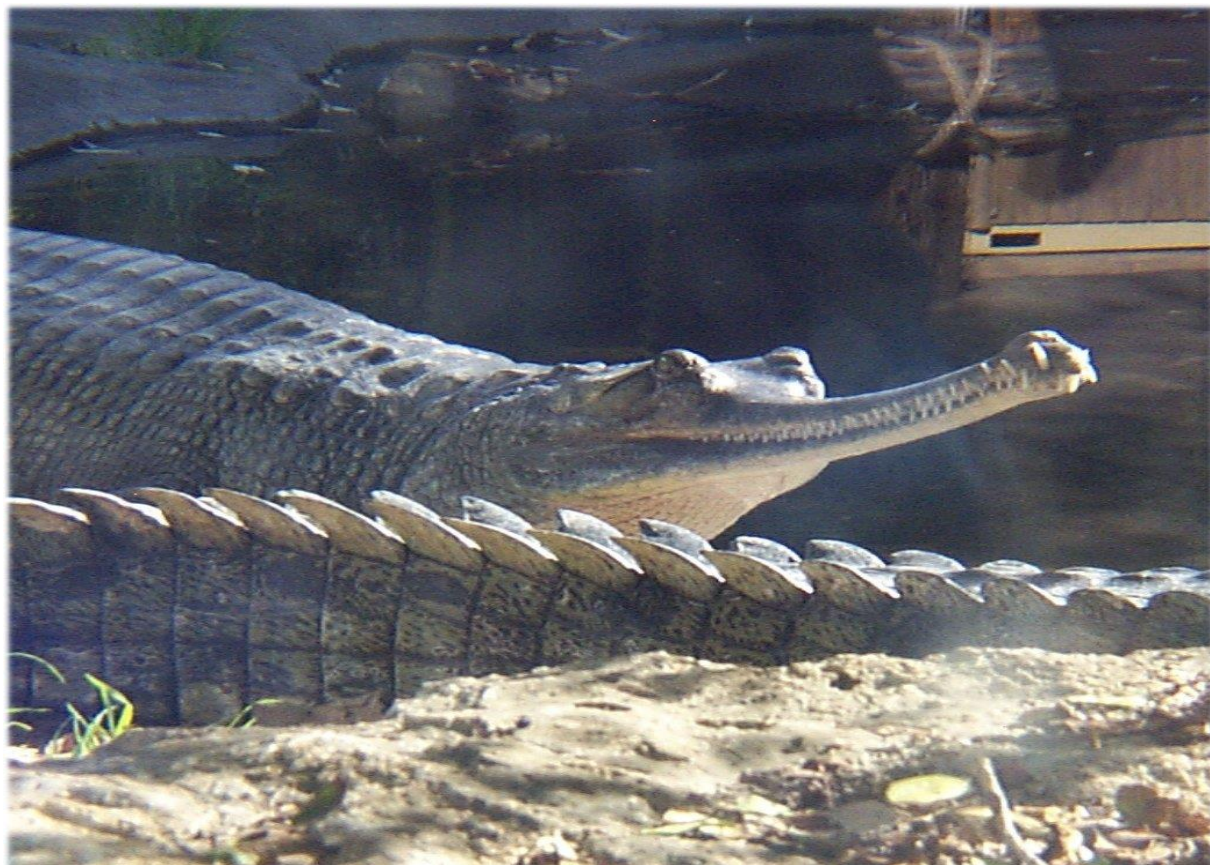


Seals



Humped bull

Gharial eating fish on molded terra-cotta tablet from Mohenjo Daro.



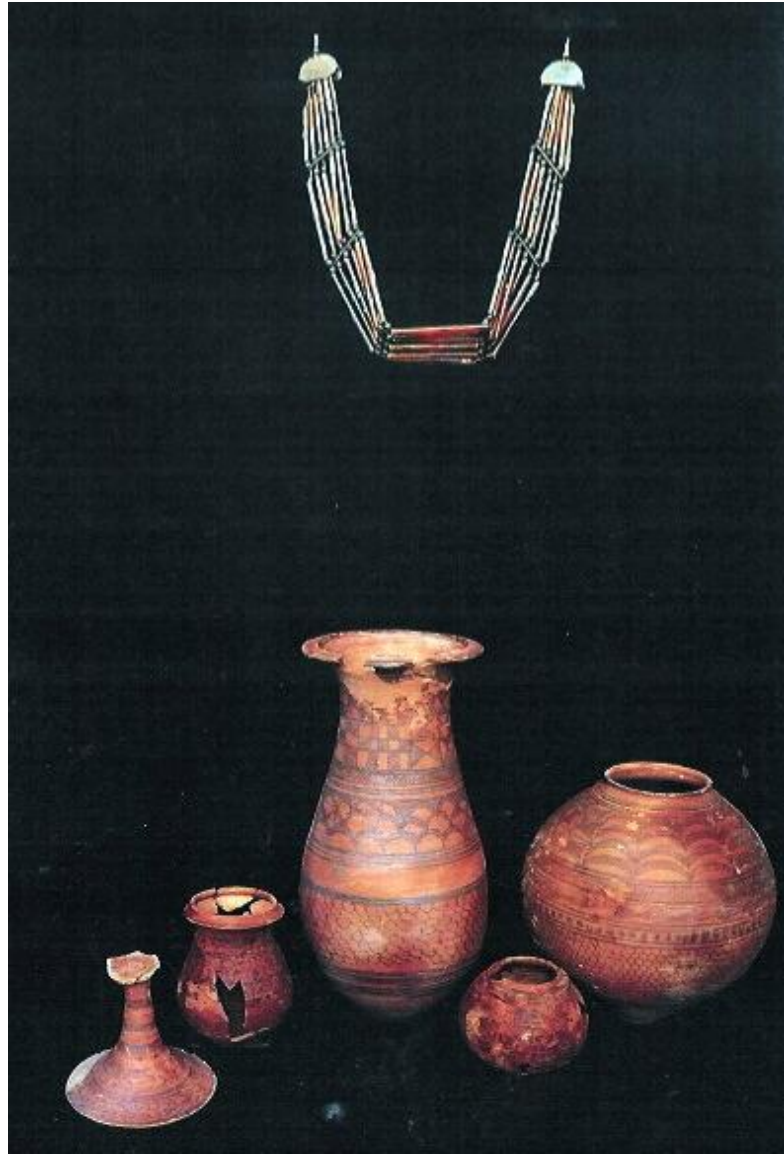


Yogi seal

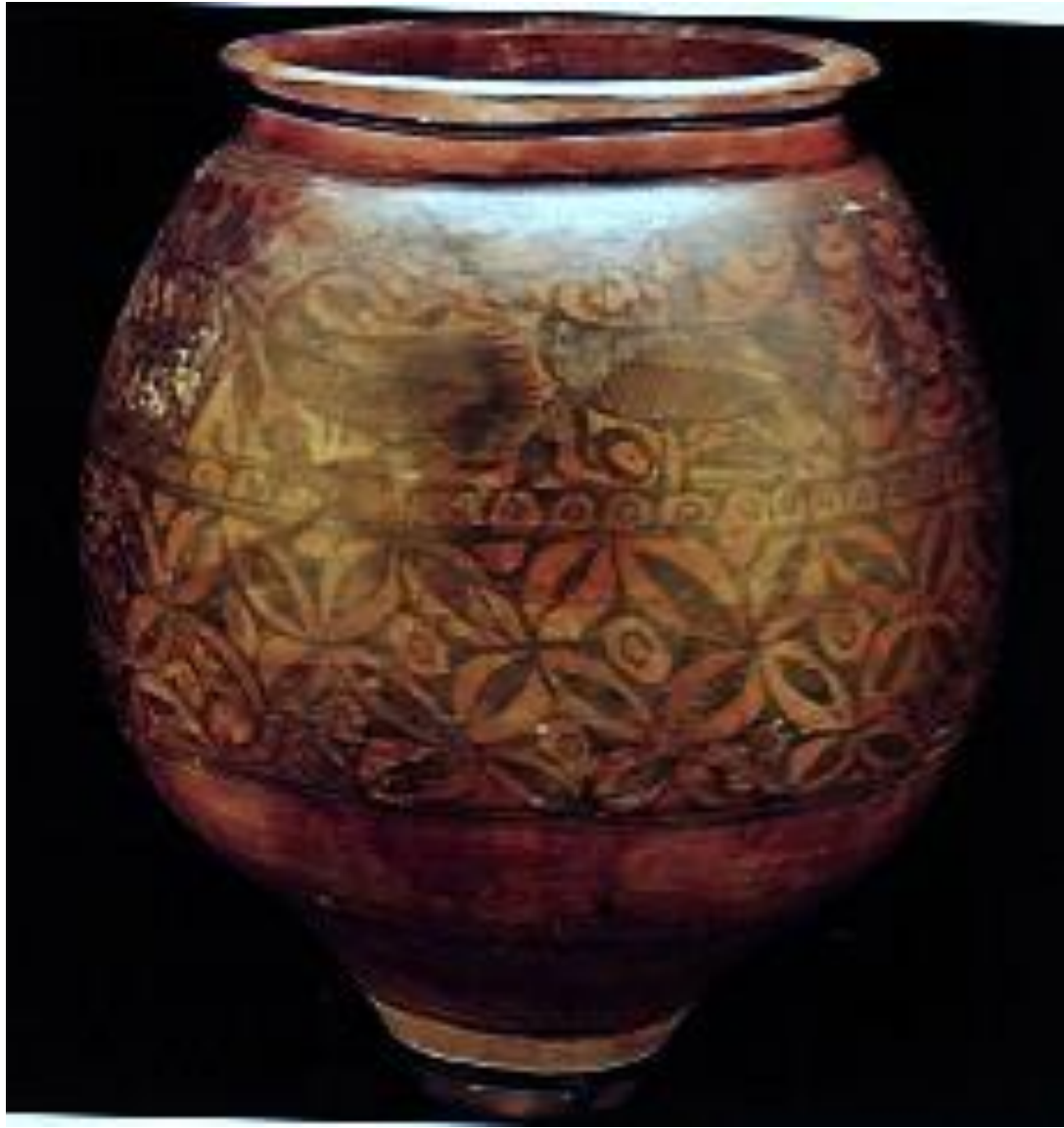


Pottery

- Hand thrown vessels decorated with red slip and black painted decoration (animals, geometric, floral and vegetation motifs)
- Pipal (*Ficus religiosa*) or Bodhi leave



Crafted goods and painted pottery



Lothal- Harappan Port



Seals with Script- Complex society





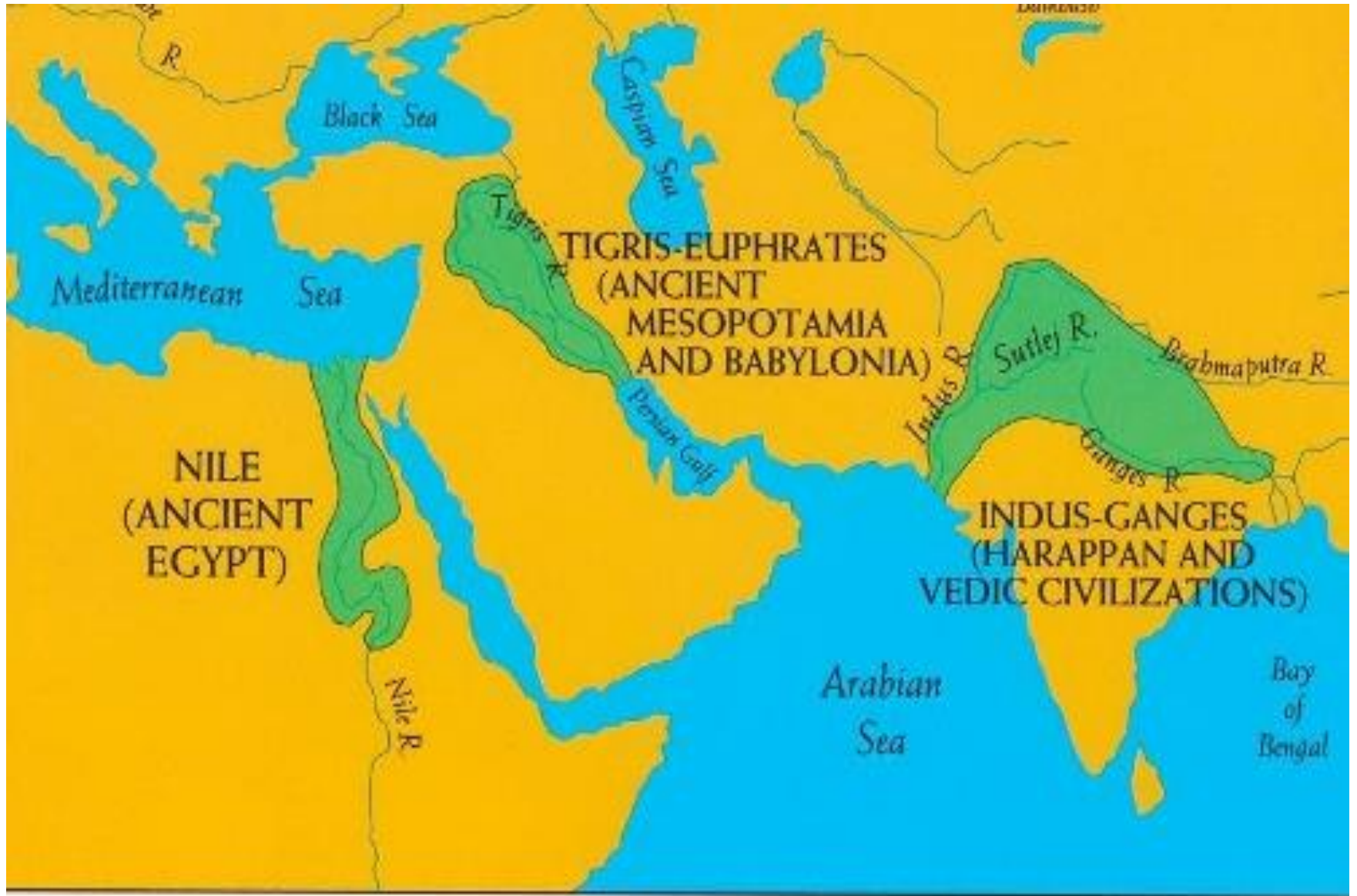
More seals



...and more seals...

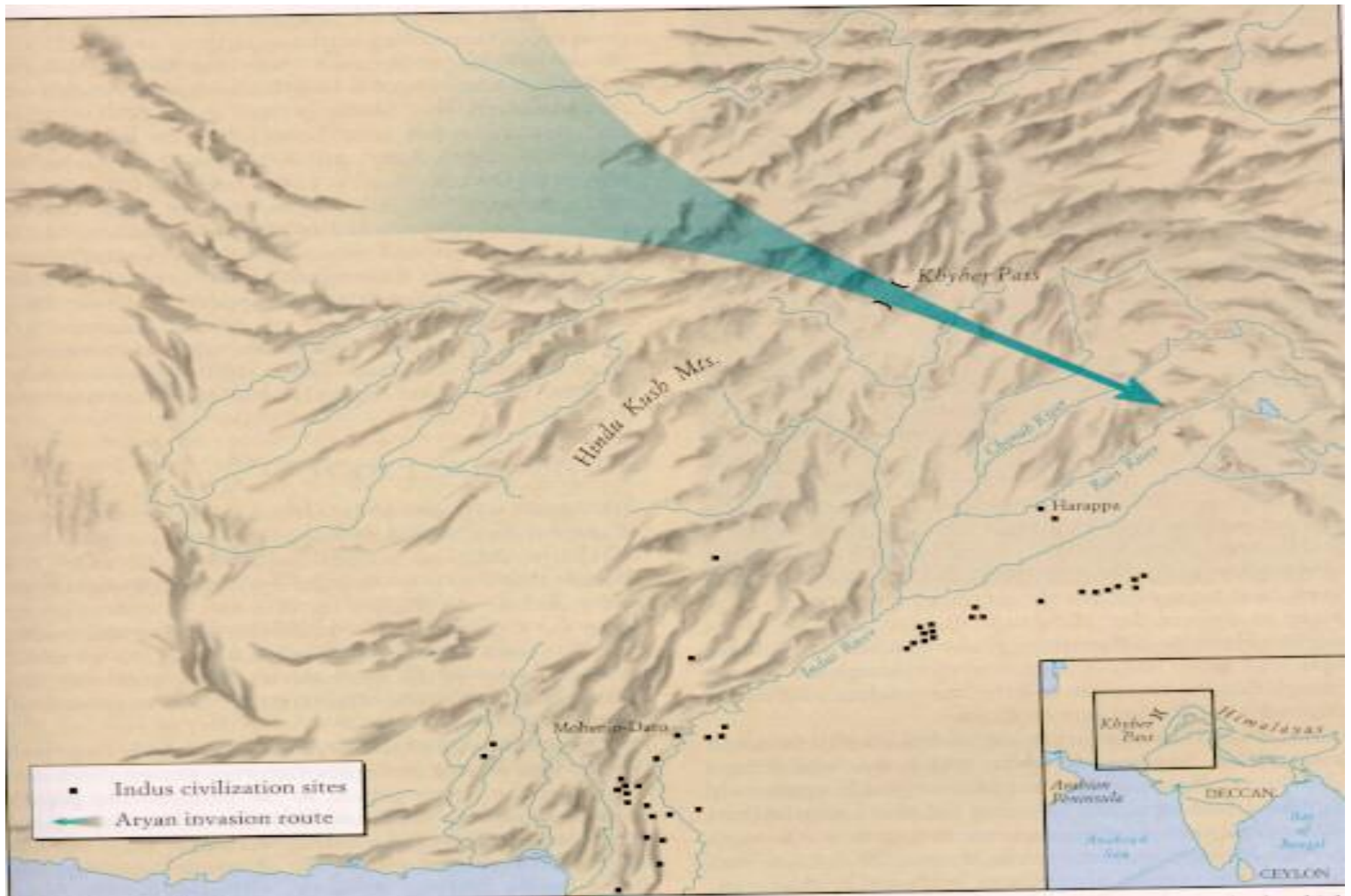


Seated “yogi” : Proto Shiva?



The Aryan Invasions

- Indus civilization on the verge of collapse
- about 1500 B.C.
- settlement by a nomadic people
 - the Aryans



Possible route of the Aryan invasions

However Harappa Declined

- Decline of Commerce and Trade
- Earthquake
- Flood
- Drying of Rivers
- Changes in environments

Questions?????

1. What is archaeology?
2. What are the steps involved in finding evidences?
3. Which equipments/Tools are required for Archaeology?
4. Why did people did not discover the language of Indus valley?
5. What kind of artifacts archeologist collects?
6. How do you research more about artifacts?
7. How do you know the evidence is of that particular time only
8. How do you know the evidence that there is artifacts in that particular place?

9. What is the role of an archaeologist in finding evidences of past civilization?
10. What are the findings of Indus valley civilization?
11. Which are the streams related to archaeology?



• **THANK YOU !**