

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

ANNOTATIONS: SHOW YOUR THINKING WHILE READING

What is Annotation? & Why Use it?

- 1) Writing in the _____, NOT _____.
- 2) Showing your _____ about a _____.
- 3) Helping you _____ what you're _____.

Ways to Annotate:

WRITTEN ANNOTATIONS

- Connect** – connect to your personal experience, background knowledge, etc.
- Clarify** – restate/write to simplify the author's point or the information
- Question** – write a question about what you want to know or what you are confused about
- Summarize** – sentence summary of what you read
- Respond** – respond to the text, give your opinion or thoughts
- Infer** – make an inference of what the author is saying
- Feel** – state an opinion or feeling you have

SYMBOLIC ANNOTATIONS

★ or underline =

! =

Circle or ? =

BK =

G.R.A.P.E.S. =

↙ =

Article Reflection Questions

- 1) How did annotating help you understand more about the development of ancient India and two of the cities that grew there? How would it have been different if you **only** read the article?
- 2) How would you describe the cities of Mohenjo-daro and Harappa to someone who knew nothing about them?
- 3) What more do you want to know about these cities or ancient India? List 2 questions you have.

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ANCIENT CITIES DISCOVERED!

Something historic took place in 1922: two ancient cities, Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, were discovered! These two cities were part of the Indus Valley Civilization, and it is estimated they were built in the 26th century BCE. Rumors started to circulate of Mohenjo-Daro's existence back in 1826 when a British traveler, Charles Masson, noticed what seemed to be brick castles sticking out of the ground – little action was taken to investigate further. Thirty years later engineers came across more bricks while building a railroad. Then, in 1920, Indian historian and archeologist R.D. Banerji began an excavation that uncovered Harappa; two years later they uncovered Mohenjo-Daro!

Sometime around 6000 BCE a nomadic herding people settled into villages into the mountainous region just west of the Indus River. By around 2600 BCE a civilization as grand as that in Mesopotamia and Egypt had begun on the Indus Plain and surrounding areas. Mohenjo-Daro was named by the ancient Indians who lived here, and it can be translated to mean “Mound of the Dead.” However, archeologists have been unable to locate a cemetery. Based on what has been uncovered, it is speculated that the ancient people held chicken-fighting ceremonies in Mohenjo-Daro as a religious ritual; others believe the city earned its name from the variety of animal sacrifices that took place here. Mohenjo-Daro's twin city, Harappa, is a greater mystery over how it received its name. The ancient Indians spoke a form of the Tamil (tah-mill) language; it is important to note that there is no “ha” sound in Tamil. This means that Harappa is pronounced more like “AAR-appa.” This is significant because in Tamil, “aaru” means “river” and “aarappan” can be translated to mean “someone who lives by the river.” It is now thought that this city was named due to its location near the Indus River.

Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa were alike in many ways. Each of these two cities had populations as high as around 40,000. Both cities were well-planned; archeologists know this because the streets were designed in a straight, grid-like pattern. Streets designed in this pattern are a huge clue that the city grew according to a design – otherwise the streets would be random and have no order. The boundaries of both Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa were both fortified with guard towers to the west and walled fortifications to the south.

Residents of both cities lived in sturdy brick homes, and the houses had bathrooms that were connected to sewers in what might be the world's first waste removal system. Homes had running water and both cities had an intricate system of canals to bring fresh water from the Indus Valley to nearby farms. They grew wheat, rice, mustard and sesame seeds, dates, and cotton. They domesticated dogs, cats, camels, sheep, pigs, goats, water buffalo, elephants, and chickens. Mohenjo-Daro had a building with an underground furnace and dressing rooms, suggesting bathing was done in heated pools, as in modern Hindu temples. Both cities had grand marketplaces where food, jewelry, and trade items would be exchanged, and it has been speculated that both cities had a very integrated society without social classes since all burial sites were very simple with no material goods.

While we know a great deal about these cities, there are many things we still do not understand. For example, we do not know what happened to the Indus River Valley civilization. It seems to have been abandoned about 1700 BCE. It is possible that a great flood weakened the civilization. The moving tectonic plates that created the Himalayas may have caused a devastating earthquake. It is also possible that the people may have been defeated by another culture. Some historians believe the civilization may have experimented with damming a river to control its flow; without realizing the consequences of temporary and destructive flooding. This flooding would explain the thick layers of silt thirty feet above the level of the river at the site of Mohenjo-Daro.