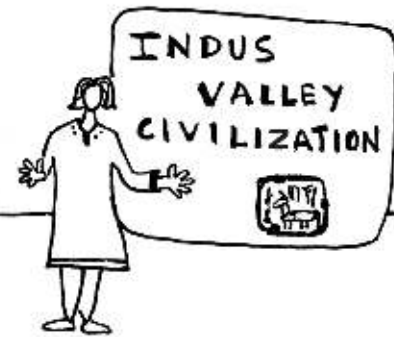


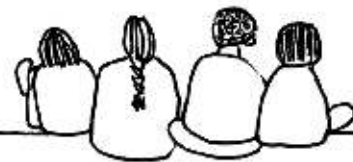
# teacher's file

## Creating a Museum about the Indus Valley: A History Project

Tanushree B



The starting point of the history project was a talk about the Indus Valley civilization. The teacher gave an overall introduction to the way of life of the people of the Indus—how they lived over 4,000 years ago, their planned cities, trade and travel, art and writing, food and farming. We also spoke of the discovery and decline of the civilization.



6500-4000 BC  
Simple farming in what is today North-west India and Pakistan.



# teacher's file

In the second stage, learners chose a topic of interest about the Indus Valley civilization and created a poster on it. Luckily, the range of topics chosen by the group encompassed the entire Indus valley civilization beautifully.

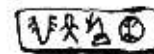
We spent most of our project time in this stage reading from books, talking to interested people and looking up the Internet.

The most frequently used resources were:

- The Indus Valley Civilisation (Step-up History) by Rhona Dick
- The Indus Valley City (Building History) by Gillian Clements
- [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/indus\\_valley](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/primaryhistory/indus_valley)



3300 BC. Harappa, a farming village, appears near the Ravi river. Mohenjo-daro appears near the Indus.



2800 BC. Indus people begin to develop their own form of writing.

# teacher's file

Each child chose a topic of his/her interest. Luckily the range of topics chosen by the group encompassed the entire Indus Valley civilization beautifully.

## TOPICS CHOSEN FOR THE POSTERS

DISCOVERY and DECLINE

What was CITY LIFE like then?

CITY PLANNING and the DRAINAGE SYSTEMS

Location, Geography of the area

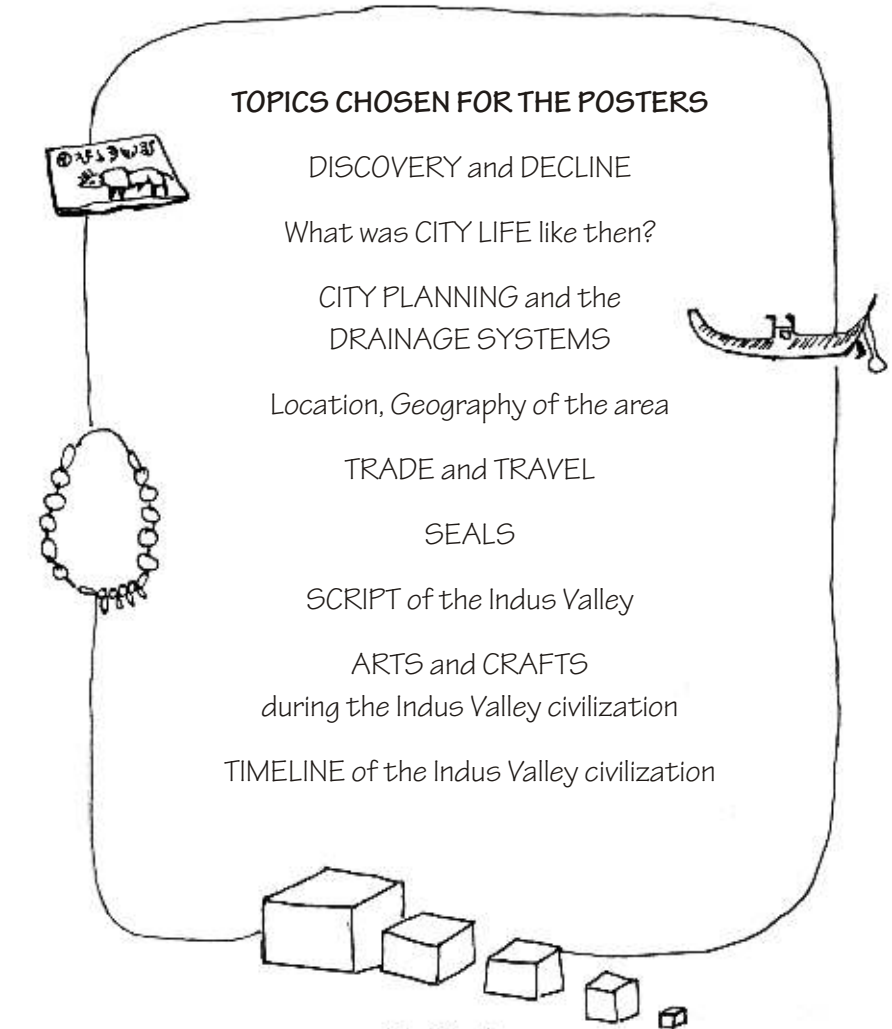
TRADE and TRAVEL

SEALS

SCRIPT of the Indus Valley

ARTS and CRAFTS during the Indus Valley civilization

TIMELINE of the Indus Valley civilization



2600-1900 BC. The Indus Valley civilization was at its height. There was city planning, writing and trade with Mesopotamia.



2200 BC. Harappa covers 370 acres. Possibly 80,000 people living there.

## teacher's file



We also created an exhibition of artefacts that we made. This was the most fun part of the project—to observe the photographs of artefacts closely and to patiently create some ourselves. Most of the artefacts were re-created in clay.



1900-1700 BC. Trade and farming decline in the Indus area.



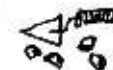
By 1600 BC. The Indus culture reaches its end.

## teacher's file

The final stage was to put together all that we had created and understood about this fascinating civilization in an Indus Valley Museum. In the process, we had effortlessly picked up a new vocabulary that we often used in our conversation: timeline, excavation, archaeologist, artefacts, civilization, trade routes, invasion.

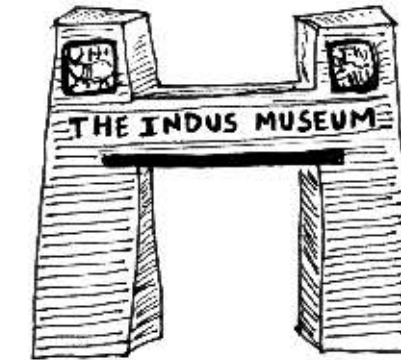


AD 1800-1900. The first Indus stamp seals are found but are not identified as part of an ancient civilization.



AD 1920-21. The first excavations in Harappa and Mohenjo-daro take place, led by Sir John Marshall.

## teacher's file



Since we were working towards putting together a museum, there were some important aspects for us to keep in mind.

- That we had a feel of the Indus Valley civilization that flourished 4000 years ago and were not merely transferring information from the book to the poster we were creating
- To learn to think together—we had to make decisions in groups and on our own
- To consciously take responsibility for the entire project together as a group of students and teachers
- To ensure our handwriting in the posters was neat and large, so people visiting the museum would be able to read what was written
- To be alert to how we would present/share our work
- To ensure that the displays we created appealed to us
- To ensure one of us was always present to talk with people who might have questions about the Indus Valley
- That it's okay to say 'I don't know' when we don't know.
- To have fun!



TODAY! Teams of archaeologists continue to excavate at Harappa, Dholavira and other sites.