Eastern River Valleys
2500 B.C.–1000 B.C.

- Terra-cotta toy horse

- A Harappan necklace

- 2500 B.C. Cities appear in Indus River valley
- 2000 B.C. Cities appear in Huang Ho valley
- 1766 B.C. Shang come to power in China
- 1200 B.C. Aryans arrive in Indus River valley
- 1122 B.C. Zhou invade Shang kingdom
SECTION 1  The Indus River Valley

The Indus River flows through the countries known today as Pakistan and India. About 2500 B.C., a group of people called Harappans (huh rap’ uhnz) settled in the valley of the Indus River. Although others had lived there before, the Harappans
were the first to create a civilization. Harappan civilization extended about 1,000 miles, or 1,600 kilometers, from the foothills of the Himalayas to the Indian Ocean. This area was more than twice the size of either Mesopotamia or Egypt.

The lives of the Harappan people were shaped by the Indus River. The river fertilized the land and made its soil rich. When the river flooded, however, it swept away everything in its path. People had to control the Indus in order to settle near it. To do this, they built dikes and dams. They cleared land for farming and built irrigation systems to bring water to dry areas. They grew barley, wheat, peas, melons, and dates and fished in the river.

The Harappans were the earliest known people to grow cotton. They spun the cotton, wove it into cloth, and dyed it bright colors. They produced cotton cloth hundreds of years before anyone else.

The Indus River influenced the way the Harappans built their cities. To protect cities from floods, the Harappans built them on raised mounds. They used river mud to make bricks, which they baked in the sun. Then they went one step further. They fired, or baked, some bricks in kilns, or ovens. They used these kiln-dried bricks as a covering over the mud bricks. The fired bricks were stronger and lasted much longer than sun-dried ones. The Harappans used fired bricks for houses and public buildings.
Harappa and Mohenjo-daro  Harappan civilization centered around two major cities, Harappa and Mohenjo-daro (mōhen’ jō dahr’ ō). These cities were about 400 miles, or 640 kilometers, apart. Many experts believe they were twin capitals.

Harappa and Mohenjo-daro are the oldest examples yet found of planned communities, or cities built to a definite plan. Both cities contained hundreds of small buildings. Some buildings served as homes, while others served as shops. The buildings were laid out on a planned street grid, or uniform network. The streets crossed each other at almost perfect right angles. The buildings that lined the streets were arranged in blocks of about the same size.

Most buildings were two stories high and were built around a courtyard, which opened into several rooms. Outer walls of buildings had no windows, and walls fronted on narrow lanes in such a way as to break the force of the wind. Almost every building had its own well, bathroom, and drains. The drains carried waste away from the houses and emptied it into drain holes lined with brick. These drains were cleaned often. This sanitation system helped protect the health of the Harappans.

The most important buildings of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro were built high above the houses and shops so as to be safe from neighboring peoples and floods. In each city, a citadel (sit’ uh duhhl), or fortress, stood on a mound at least 40 feet, or 12 meters, high. It was surrounded by a thick brick wall. Inside the citadel at Mohenjo-daro was a huge watertight tank called the Great Bath. Some experts believe it was used for religious ceremonies. Next to

**THE GREAT BATH AT MOHENJO-DARO**  The people of Mohenjo-daro may have washed themselves at the Great Bath. It measured 40 feet, or 12 meters, long and 23 feet, or 7 meters, wide. To make the Bath watertight, they used cement, tar, and four layers of brick. **What was the purpose of the Great Bath?**
the Great Bath stood a huge granary. Traders from other areas who stopped at Mohenjo-daro most likely left their goods there.

Harappa also had a series of huge granaries. The floor of each granary was supported on low walls. In the walls were air holes that allowed air to move around in the granary. This kept the grain dry and prevented it from spoiling. Nearby were circular brick platforms. Each had a scooped-out area in the center where grain could be pounded.

Decline of the Harappans

No one knows for certain how Harappan civilization came to an end. One reason may have been that the Harappans used up their natural resources. For example, the Harappan farmers may have tried to raise more and more crops on the same plots. This would have robbed the soil of nutrients needed to make it fertile enough to produce well. Without good harvests, there would not have been enough food to feed everyone, especially if the Harappan population was increasing.

Another reason may have been that the Harappans cut down too many trees to fuel their ovens. Without tree cover, floods would have swept away the soil and forced people to leave their cities and farming villages. It is known that parts of Mohenjo-daro had to be rebuilt several times because of floods. At first, the city was rebuilt carefully. As time went on, however, new buildings were not made as well, and older ones were patched up. Then, too, the Harappans may have gotten tired of rebuilding and decided to move somewhere else.

A third reason may have been that the Indus River valley was invaded and all the Harappans were killed. Unburied skeletons of groups of men, women, and children have been found in the streets of Mohenjo-daro’s ruins. Every skeleton showed some kind of injury.

All that is certain is that Harappan civilization began to change about 1700 B.C. Not only were homes no longer built as well, but pottery was no longer made as carefully. By 1200 B.C., a group of people called Aryans (ār’ ē uhnz) had taken over the Indus River valley. Harappan civilization ceased to be.

Evidence of a Lost Civilization

Very little is known about the Harappan people and their civilization. As yet, no one has been able to read Harappan writing. There is no record of the civilization’s political history. No royal tombs have been discovered. All that is known about Harappan religion is that there was more than one god, and most Harappan gods were female.

Much of what is known comes from the ruins of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. There, archaeologists have found jewelry made of gold and a blue stone called lapis lazuli (lap’ uhs laz’ uh lē), as
well as tools and weapons of stone, copper, and bronze. They have also found clay models of animals, rattles, dice, and toy carts with movable wheels.

One of the most important finds was a series of tiny seals made of soapstone. An animal and a line of writing were carved on each seal. The animals included tigers, elephants, rhinoceri, and crocodiles. This suggests that at one time much of the area was jungle. Most of the seals had a small hole in them and could be worn as necklaces or bracelets. The seals may have stated the names, titles, or trades of a person, family, or business. Experts believe the seals were used to stamp the wet clay that sealed packages of goods. Some Harappan seals have been found as far away as Sumer.

**Section 1 Assessment**

1. **Define:** planned communities, citadel.
2. How did the Indus River influence the Harappans?
3. What were some of the outstanding features of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Predicting Consequences** What do you think archaeologists would learn about the Harappans if they could read Harappan writing?

**Graphic Organizer Activity**

5. Draw a diagram like this one, and use it to summarize the accomplishments of the Harappans.
SECTION 2 The Huang Ho Valley

About 2000 B.C., or 500 years after the Harappans settled in the Indus River valley, a civilization developed in the Huang Ho valley of northern China. There are no records of its beginnings, and no remains have been found. For this reason, much of what happened comes from legend.

According to Chinese legend, a man-god named Yü the Great drove out the serpents and dragons that lived along the Huang Ho. He drained the land so that people could live there and grow crops. Yü founded a kingdom called Xia (she‘ ah) and united most of northern China under his rule.

Many experts believe that the early settlers of China chose the Huang Ho valley for their home because it was fertile. The river flooded every year, bringing rich soil with it.

The valley was cut off from other civilizations. The people there developed their culture without borrowing from other civilizations. By 1800 B.C., there were villages and farms all along the river. The people farmed the land and used the river for travel and trade. They made clay ovens, cupboards, benches, and pottery. They built small round clay houses with thatched roofs.

Cities of the Shang

The first records of Chinese civilization come from a dynasty (dɪ’ nuh stē), or ruling family, called Shang. The Shang came to power in 1766 B.C. They built the first Chinese
cities. Most were designed in the same way. At the center stood a palace and a temple. Public buildings and the homes of high government officials were built around the palace. Within an outer district were workshops, burial grounds, and the homes of the workers.

Most of the Shang people, however, did not live in the city. The city was the home of the rich, the educated, and the skilled. Poorer people lived in the countryside. They were farmers who grew such grains as millet, wheat, and rice and raised cattle, sheep, and chickens. The farmers also produced silk, which was used to make clothes for the very rich. The Chinese produced silk hundreds of years before anyone else.

Spirits, Ancestors, and Kings

The Shang worshiped spirits, or supernatural beings, which they believed lived in mountains, rivers, and seas. The people believed they had to please the spirits. If the spirits became angry or unhappy, the people might suffer a poor harvest or lose a battle.

The Shang believed that ancestors, or those from whom one is descended, also influenced people’s fortunes. So, they offered their ancestors food, wine, and special prayers. They hoped their ancestors would help them in time of need and bring them good fortune. Because of this respect for ancestors, family ties were very important to the Shang. They had rules about how family members should act toward one another. Children were taught to
Wu, the ruler of a former Shang territory, led the attack against the last Shang emperor. The emperor was so cruel that many soldiers gave up without a fight. Wu, known as “the Military King,” believed the gods wanted the Zhou dynasty to rule China, and he became the first Zhou ruler.

**Reading Check**
What were oracle bones? Who were the nobles, and what role did they play in the Shang dynasty?

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**People in History**

**Wu**

**Zhou King**

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**Oracle Bones**

Shang rulers tried to learn the future by using oracle bones. Here, a turtle shell used for this purpose shows an early form of Chinese writing.

When did Shang rulers use oracle bones?
Metal Casting  Shang metalsmiths perfected a form of casting to create some of the finest bronze works the world has ever known (below). Metalsmiths still use molds to create everything from artworks to machine parts (right). **What conclusions can you draw about Shang technology?**

Decline of the Shang  There was a great gap between rich and poor during the rule of the Shang. Rich Shang lived in the cities in wooden houses. They owned bronze weapons and ornaments and wore linen, wool, fur, and silk clothes. Poor Shang lived in the countryside and worked with wooden or stone tools. Their houses were thatched or mud huts or caves scooped out of the ground. Neither group felt any loyalty toward the other.

Many experts believe that this gap between rich and poor weakened the Shang civilization. In 1122 B.C., a people known as Zhou (jō) invaded the Shang kingdom. The Shang were not united enough to hold off the invaders, and their civilization came to an end.

arrows had sharp points of bone or bronze. Soldiers marched on foot behind nobles’ chariots. These soldiers generally were poor peasants whom the nobles had forced to leave their farms and join the army.
The Shang left behind a great gift to the rest of the world in their works of bronze. These include sculptures, cups, vases, fancy vessels, and a variety of other items used for religious purposes. Many art experts believe these are among the finest works of bronze ever made.

**Section 2 Assessment**

1. **Define:** dynasty, spirits, ancestors, oracle bones, nobles.
2. What were some of the Shang religious beliefs?
3. What may have been the reason for the decline of the Shang civilization?

**Critical Thinking**

4. **Formulating Questions** If world leaders today could use oracle bones, what questions might they want answered before making decisions?

**Graphic Organizer Activity**

5. Draw a diagram like this one, and use it to show the structure of a typical Shang city.

**Chapter Summary & Study Guide**

1. The eastern river valley civilizations began in the Indus River valley about 2500 B.C. and in the Huang Ho valley about 2000 B.C.
2. The first people to build a civilization in the Indus River valley were the Harappans.
3. The Harappans are believed to have been the first people to produce cotton cloth, bake bricks in ovens, and build sanitation systems.
4. The Harappan cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-daro are the oldest known planned communities.
5. No one knows for sure how the Harappan civilization ended, but the Aryans moved into and took over the valley about 1200 B.C.
6. The legendary kingdom of Xia probably was established in China about 2000 B.C.
7. The Shang started the first recorded Chinese dynasty around 1766 B.C.
8. The Shang believed spirits and ancestors influenced their lives.
9. The Shang developed the form of writing found on oracle bones and a method of making beautiful bronze artworks.
10. Shang civilization ended with the Zhou invasion of 1122 B.C.

**Self-Check Quiz**

Visit the Human Heritage Web site at humanheritage.glencoe.com and click on Chapter 5—Self-Check Quiz to assess your understanding of this chapter.
Using Key Terms

Imagine you are preparing a feature film about the civilizations in the Indus River and Huang Ho valleys. Use the following words in a brief summary describing the facts you plan to present in your film.

planned communities  citadel
dynasty  spirits
ancestors  oracle bones
nobles

Understanding Main Ideas

1. Why is so little known about the early life of people in the Indus River and Huang Ho valleys?
2. Why were Harappa and Mohenjo-daro unique places in which to live?
3. What were some of the possible reasons for the decline of the Harappans?
4. What evidence suggests that there was trade between Harappa and Sumer?
5. Why were family ties important to the Shang people?
6. How did Shang kings use oracle bones?
7. Why did the gap between the rich and poor help weaken the Shang?
8. What cultural contribution did the Shang leave to the world?

Critical Thinking

1. Why did people in the eastern river valleys borrow little from people in other regions?
2. What do you think may happen to a civilization if it uses up its natural resources? Why?
3. Do you think people today hold ancestors in the same high regard as the Shang? Explain.

Graphic Organizer Activity

Citizenship Create a diagram like this one, and use it to show the flow of power and authority in the Shang government. Groups that should appear on the chart include: artisans, farmers, king, spirits, ancestors, and nobles. Which group appears at the top? At the bottom?

Geography in History

Places and Regions Refer to the map of early India on page 84. Note the location of the Indus civilization and the geographic features that may have affected its development. Describe what other area of this region is a likely place for other civilizations to develop. Explain why.

Using Your Journal

Compare any details you may have noted about planned communities in Harappa and Mohenjo-daro with details about your own community. Create a chart illustrating the ways in which your community is similar and different.
THE HITTITES

Around 2000 B.C., the Hittites moved into Asia Minor from an area somewhere beyond the Black Sea. Within the next 700 years, they built an empire that rivaled Egypt in size and power. Although the Hittites adopted many of the customs of the people they conquered, they developed ideas and inventions of their own. One of the most important of these was the Hittite battle chariot—the weapon that allowed the Hittites to challenge the civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt.

In 1595 B.C., Hittite armies plunged deep into Mesopotamia to capture the city of Babylon. Although a rebellion forced the Hittite king to return home, Babylon never recovered from the attack. The Hittites went on to take control of lands stretching from the Aegean Sea in the west to the upper Euphrates River in the east.

Deeply religious, the Hittites used the fury of the gods to threaten people who broke laws or treaties. A Hittite artist armed this god with a thunder hammer and a handful of jagged lightning bolts.
The Hittites preferred to rule by treaty rather than by force. They recorded the terms of these treaties on gold, silver, or iron tablets written in their own hieroglyphics or in cuneiform adopted from the Babylonians.

Some Hittite battle chariots carried two warriors—a driver and an archer. The larger and heavier battle chariots carried three—a driver and two armed soldiers. This allowed the Hittites to double their fighting power.

The royal seal of a Hittite king was imprinted on this clay tablet.

The Hittites considered the sun goddess, called Arinna, the giver of all life. Known as “Queen of Heaven and Earth,” she was honored with works of gold such as this statue.

Taking Another Look
1. Where did the Hittites build their empire?
2. What methods did they use to control their empire?

Hands-on Activity
Writing an Argument  Write a list of arguments that an Egyptian soldier might have used to convince the pharaoh to adopt the all-new Hittite battle chariot.
1. Sumerian society granted certain rights to women. Which of the following rights did Sumerian women have?

A They had the right to operate businesses.
B They had the right to vote in city-state elections.
C They had the right to attend the same schools as men.
D They had the right to join the Sumerian army.

**Test-Taking Tip:** Eliminate answers that you know are incorrect. Since only the sons of the rich could attend school, you can eliminate answer C.

2. Which of the following Mesopotamian inventions is still used in agriculture today?

F Ziggurats
G Feed troughs
H Cuneiform
J Plows

**Test-Taking Tip:** Make sure that you read the question carefully. The question asks for an invention used in agriculture (farming). Since cuneiform is Sumerian writing, it cannot be the correct answer.

3. The Code of Hammurabi was important because

A it punished unfair judges
B it established one set of laws for all city-states
C it protected confidential messages sent between judges
D it required prison sentences for people convicted of crimes

**Test-Taking Tip:** Remember to read all the answer choices and pick the best answer. Although the Code of Hammurabi did punish unfair judges, this fact is not the most important. Which aspect of the Code was the most significant change from previous codes of law?

4. A major accomplishment of the societies of Mesopotamia and ancient Egypt, which allowed these civilizations to flourish, was

F the building of pyramids to honor rulers
G the teaching of English to children in school
H the use of waterways to irrigate crops
J the development of the 60-minute hour

**Test-Taking Tip:** The key phrase in this question is: which allowed these civilizations to flourish. Some of these accomplishments are certainly important—we still use the 60-minute hour today—but they did not all contribute to the basic survival of these two civilizations.
5. The Mesopotamian, Egyptian, and Indus River valley civilizations arose where they did because

A. of advice from their religious leaders about where to settle
B. there were so many hunting grounds in North Africa
C. the rivers they settled near provided a means of transportation
D. of the many renewable resources available nearby

**Test-Taking Tip:** Think about what these three civilizations had in common (they all settled in river valleys). Why was this geographical feature so important to the development of these societies?

6. The Egyptians made many contributions to other civilizations. Which of the following was NOT developed by the Egyptians?

F. papyrus
G. a number system based on ten
H. medical splints and bandages
J. city-states

**Test-Taking Tip:** Be careful—overlooking the words NOT or EXCEPT is a common error. Look for the answer that does NOT fit. Since the Egyptians did develop papyrus (a type of paper made from reeds), answer F is not the correct choice.

7. According to the map above,

A. ancient Egypt did not include Thebes
B. the New Kingdom of Egypt included the Sahara
C. the southern boundary of the Old Kingdom was near the 1st Cataract of the Nile
D. Phoenicia was not part of the New Kingdom of Egypt

**Test-Taking Tip:** Use the map’s legend, or key, to help you understand what the map’s symbols represent. Make sure your answer is supported by information on the map. Do not rely on your memory.