

Geography and Early India

Sixth Grade Social Studies

Harappan Civilization

- Grew up in the Indus River Valley.
- As surplus of food increased, towns increased as well. Why?

India's First Civilization

- Harappan civilization was between 2300 and 1700 BC.
- Two cities were the Harappa and Mohenjo Daro.
- Each had a towering fortress. Why?
- Both cities had public wells.

Harappan Achievements

- Had bathrooms with indoor plumbing.
- Artisans made pottery, jewelry, ivory objects, and cotton clothing.
- Developed a system of weights and measurements.
- Developed India's first writing system.
- No one is sure why the Harappan civilization ended.

Aryan Migration

- Dominate group in India after the Harappan.
- Arrived in India in the 2000s BC.
- Much of what we know about Aryan comes from the Vedas (religious writings).

Government and Religion

- Did not build big cities like the Harappan civilization.
- Lived in small communities, mostly of family.
- Each group had their own leader.
- Rajas led the villages.

Language

- Sanskrit- most important language of ancient India.
- Not spoken now but is the root of most modern South Asian languages.