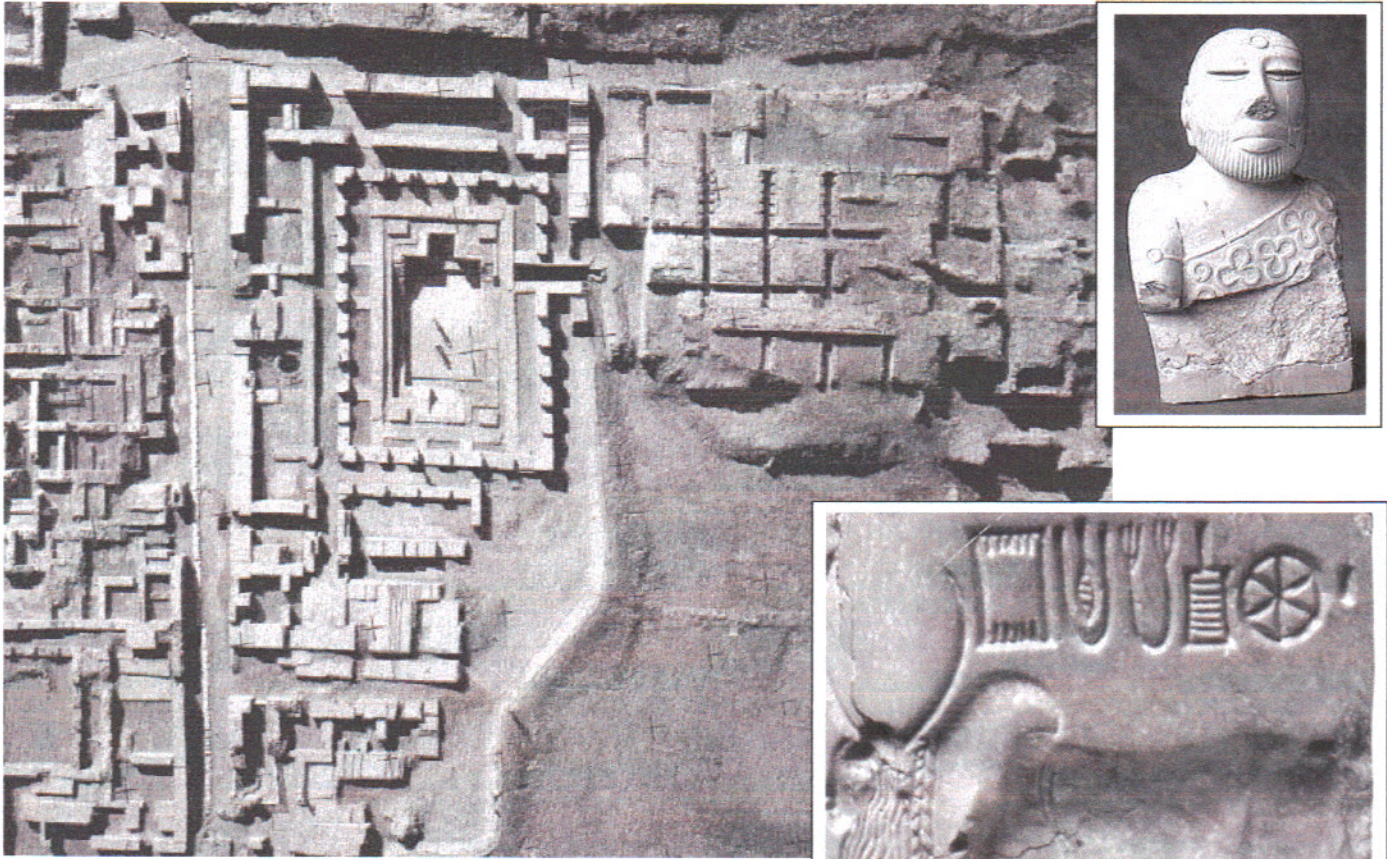


Mohenjo-Daro



Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were the earliest civilization in the Indus Valley, in what is today Pakistan. Pictured above are the excavated ruins of Mohenjo-Daro, one of the planned cities, complete with indoor bathrooms, which were built as early as 2500 B.C. The buildings were built out of kiln-fired bricks. All these accomplishments were very advanced for their time; indoor plumbing, kiln-fired bricks and urban planning are usually thought of as modern innovations. These ruins prove otherwise. The Harappans also had writing. An example is shown above. Even though thousands of inscriptions have been uncovered, the symbols remain undeciphered. Other mysteries abound here: The entire civilization collapsed around 1500 B.C., with both cities being abandoned and falling into ruin. The date does correspond with the arrival of invading nomads, known as Aryans, but no sign of violence has been unearthed amid the ruins.

Imagine that you are a visitor from Mesopotamia to the Indus Valley shortly after the fall of Mohenjo-Daro. After wandering the streets, sifting through the rubble to uncover artifacts such as the ones shown above, prepare a report to your king. Describe what you found and speculate about what might have caused the cities' demise.

Journal Entry: