

## THE INDUS VALLEY

Read this information about the civilisation that grew up in the valley of the River Indus around 3000 BC, then answer the follow-up questions.

### Mohenjo-Daro

The Indus River flows almost 2000 miles from its source in Tibet in the Himalayas through modern-day Pakistan and Northern India to the Indian Ocean.



About ninety years ago, archaeologists began to excavate the ancient site of Mohenjo-Daro, translated as 'Mound of the Dead', which was built around 2500 BC and flourished in the Indus Valley.

We think of urban planning as a modern concept, but it existed here in the form of strong city walls containing a network of streets, the world's earliest example of sanitation, granaries for storing food, wells to supply water and bathing rooms. Houses had separate living and sleeping areas and were built with upstairs rooms and courtyards.



Unearthed seals, such as this example, showing a bull or possibly a unicorn, were carved out of stone, and, as a result of their durability, have told archaeologists a lot about this early civilisation. They appear to have been pressed into clay to create tags, similar to a label, for traded goods.

Seals typically have an image of an animal with an example of the script of the Indus Valley language along the top. Markings like these have been found on other objects, showing that people wrote the first line from right to left, the second line from left to right, and so on. Altogether, four hundred separate symbols have been found, but, as yet, no one has successfully deciphered them. Possibly, the inscriptions are a record of some business agreement or the identity of the supplier.

1. In the 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, why might the writer have used the phrase **modern-day** to describe Pakistan?

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2. In the 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, which word suggests this civilisation was very successful?

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3. What archaeological evidence is there that the layout of Mohenjo-Daro was planned before it was built?

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4. Why might the urban planning of the city be a surprise to us?

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5. Why do you think it was possible to have bathing rooms and sanitation?

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6. What does **unearthed** mean?

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7. The seals were carved out of stone. Why would an archaeologist find this useful?

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8. What evidence has been found to prove how the seals were used?

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9. Why has the writer used the word **typically** when describing the seals?

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10. In the last paragraph, four different words are used to refer to the letters in the Indus Valley language. What are they?

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11. Find the phrase or sentence that points out that we are still not sure what the symbols mean.

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12. Write down two words or phrases that suggest archaeologists are careful to avoid making claims that cannot be supported by evidence.

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13. How do the two images support the text?

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## EMMELINE PANKHURST

Read this information about Emmeline Pankhurst and answer the questions that follow.

### **Emmeline Pankhurst**

Born on the 15<sup>th</sup> July 1858 in Manchester to a family in which political discussions were commonplace, Emmeline Goulden was unquestionably one of the most influential figures of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

In 1879, she married Richard Pankhurst, a lawyer and supporter of the women's suffrage movement, i.e. the right of women to have the vote. His death in 1898 was a great shock to Emmeline.

In 1888, she supported a strike involving the women who worked at the Bryant and May matches factory, where women worked fourteen hours a day and were fined if they dropped matches on the floor. At about the same time, she was also concerned about conditions in Manchester's workhouses, where poor people without work were confined – sometimes in inhuman conditions. Her meetings, held in local parks to draw the public's attention to what was going on, were declared illegal.



In 1903, she helped to create the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU). Her daughters, Christabel and Sylvia, were also active members. This organisation would soon gain notoriety for its headline-grabbing activities: politicians and the general public were often shocked when they smashed windows, tied themselves to railings outside Parliament, and were involved in arson attacks. In 1913, Emily Davison, a WSPU member, was killed when, in protest against the government's unfair treatment of women, she threw herself in front of the King George V's racehorse at the Epsom Derby.

It was during this period that Emmeline Pankhurst and her followers were nicknamed the 'suffragettes'.

It was common for suffragettes to be arrested. In prison they would go on a hunger strike, which led to force feeding. This prompted the government to pass what was dubbed the 'Cat and Mouse' Act – a law that allowed hunger-striking prisoners to be released and then re-arrested once they grew healthy and strong again.

In 1914, on the declaration of war, Emmeline turned her energy to helping with the war effort. In 1918, voting rights were given to women over the age of thirty. Emmeline died on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1928 not long after a law was passed granting women equal voting rights with men.

1. What **two** early influences helped to form Emmeline Pankhurst's views about women's rights?

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2. What major change happened in Emmeline's life in 1898?

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3. In 1886, what were employment conditions like for Bryant and May workers ?

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4. At this time, what other issue did Mrs Pankhurst involve herself in?

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5. What sorts of activities of the WSPU hit the headlines?

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6. What dramatic event took place at the Epsom Derby?

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7. What was the nickname that Mrs Pankhurst and her followers were given?

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8. Explain what was meant by the 'Cat and Mouse' Act.

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9. When did women over the age of thirty get the vote?

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