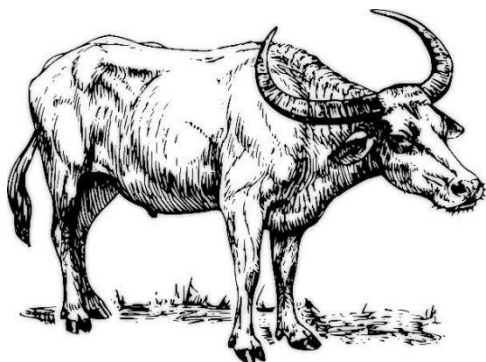


Unit One: India, North America, Mesopotamia, and Sumer

Lesson One: Ancient India

The civilization of ancient India started along the Indus River. The water in the river comes from melting glaciers and natural springs from the mountains surrounding the river.

<http://web.archive.org/web/20201022164829/http://peakwater.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/09/indusriver1.gif>



The early people in the Indus River valley were nomadic hunters and gatherers. Farming developed slowly in this arid land. As in other ancient civilizations, the small farming communities grew and formed cities. These cities were the beginnings of the Ancient Indian civilization which was also known as the Indus Valley Civilization and the Harappan Civilization. The farmers grew barley, wheat, cotton, melons, and dates, among other crops. Instead of horses, water buffalo and elephants were used to pull the plows and other farm equipment.

The two largest cities in the Indus Valley were Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro. These were built using mud bricks that were baked in a wood-fired oven.

Mud brick activity

Supplies: One brick air-dry clay, rolling pin, pizza cutter, sheet to dry clay, and glue

Instructions

1. Open air-dry clay and roll into sheets approximately 1-inch thick.
2. Cut into 1-inch by 1-inch squares using the pizza cutter.
3. Separate the cut squares and lay to dry; this might take a day or two.
4. Assemble the city using glue or stack dried blocks.

The homes contained a toilet, places to cook, and rooms to sleep, much like our own homes. The cities contained markets to buy food and supplies and areas for craftsmen to make pots and clothing. Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were thought to contain as many as 40,000 people.

http://web.archive.org/web/20190805192435/http://ancientindia.co.uk/indus/home_set.html

The civilization of Ancient India is still a bit of a mystery as the language has not yet been translated. Archaeologists have made some very interesting discoveries. They believe the people who lived in the valley traded with their neighbors and were peaceful. The cities had an amazing way of dealing with the waste from the 40,000 people. Ditches were dug and then covered so the

citizens were not exposed to the waste. Both cities also had garbage chutes.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zcsbr82>

Where did the people go? No one really knows the answer to that question. The civilization lasted about 800 years, and then it mysteriously ended. Was it disease, floods, war, or drought? Archaeologists are still searching for the answer. The residents of the cities were gone, and the vegetation and sands covered the ruins until they were discovered in the 1920s.

Explore the ancient city of Mohenjo-Daro by clicking on this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QUng-iHhSzU>

Hungry for more information? Here is another link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch/?v=FzOKUTJK8Wc>.

Parents: This video does have references to Indian religious beliefs.

SchoolhouseTeachers.com note: Parents should closely monitor children's use of YouTube if you navigate away from the videos cited in these lessons. We also recommend viewing the videos on a full screen setting in order to minimize your students' exposure to potentially offensive ads and inappropriate comments beside or beneath the video.

Unit One: India, North America, Mesopotamia, and Sumer

Lesson Two: Ancient Native Americans

The Ancient Native Americans were as diverse in culture, crafts, beliefs, and lifestyle as the rest of the world is today. Many times, Native Americans are stereotyped by showing them wearing a war bonnet and living in a tipi. While some of the cultures did wear a war bonnet and some did stay in a tipi, many did not. We are going to briefly study five cultures over the next five days that reflect the beauty and diversity of the ancient Native Americans.



<http://www.learner.org/interactives/historymap/indians.html>

Day 1: Iroquois



Five tribes made up the Iroquois Nation; they were the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Seneca, and Cayuga. The name Iroquois means “people of the longhouse.” A longhouse is a long, narrow building built from wooden poles and covered with elm tree bark. These longhouses would be the living quarters for many families in the same clan. There was a long hallway in the center of the house. Each family lived in a small area that was divided in two. The higher level

was used to store that family’s belongings, and the lower level was their sleeping quarters.

The Iroquois typically wore clothing made of deer skins. The women wore long skirts and leggings while the men wore loose, fitted leggings and breechcloths that were held in place by belts. They both wore moccasins. Women's hair was long and braided while men typically cut their hair off and left a strip down the center of their scalp. This style is known as a "Mohawk" today.

The Iroquois were farmers. They grew what was known as the "three sisters," (<http://blogs.cornell.edu/garden/get-activities/signature-projects/the-three-sisters-exploring-an-iroquois-garden/how-to-plant-the-three-sisters>) which were corn, squash, and beans. Their diet was supplemented by hunting and gathering fruit and nuts. In the spring, maple trees were tapped and the sap collected and processed to make maple syrup and candy.

For more information and activities, here are some fun links:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z1JRFt92d_U

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FupC_CBabdk - stop at 3:20

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