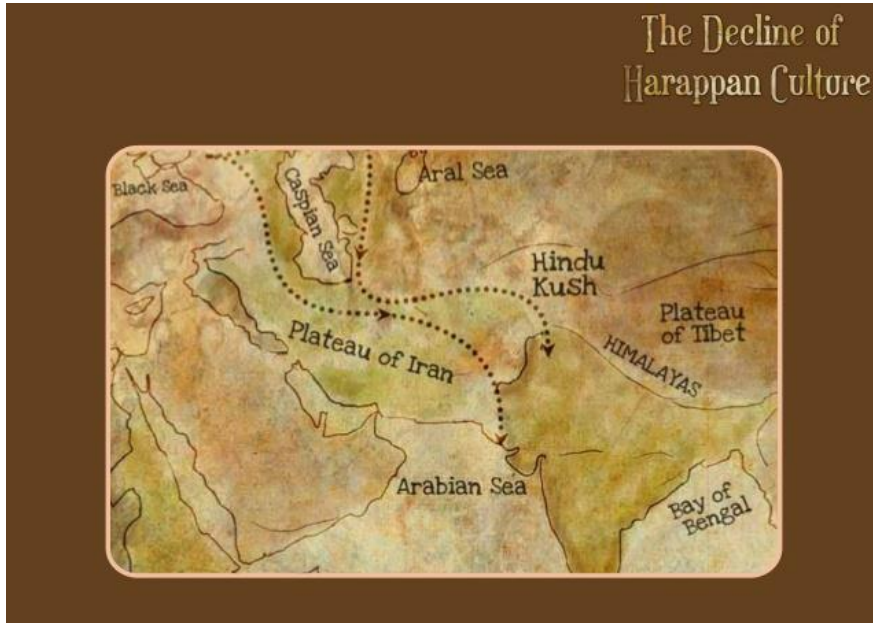
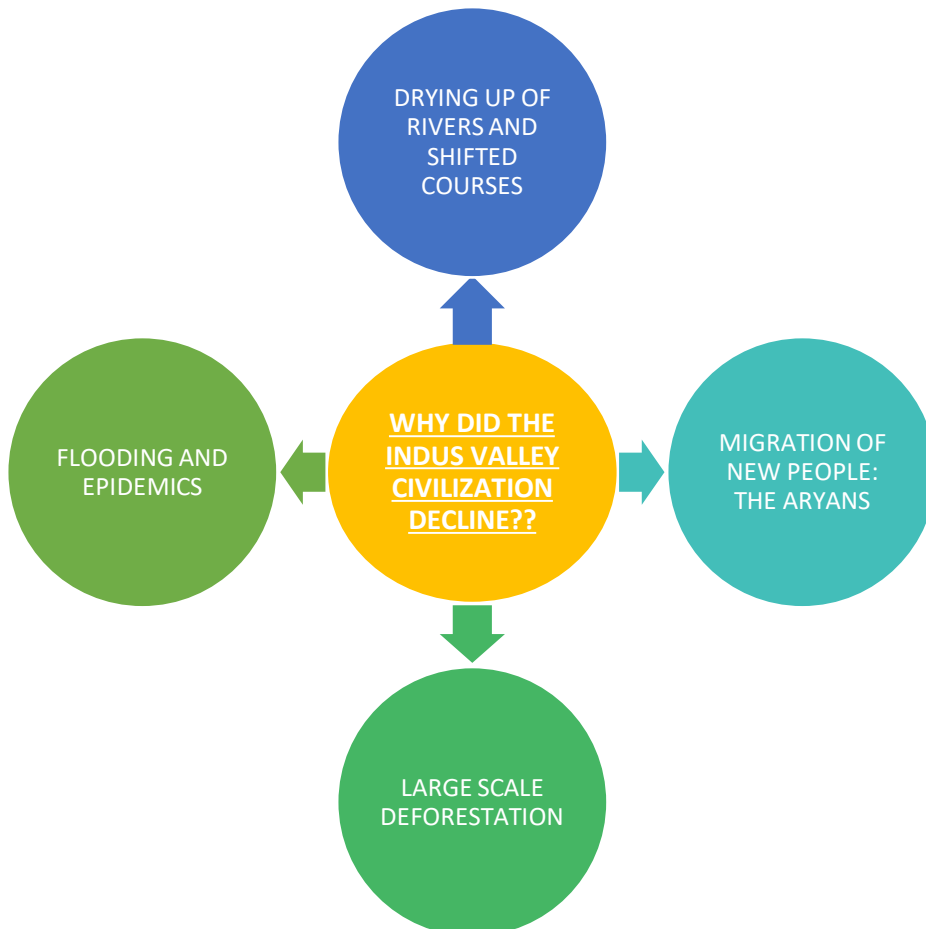


INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION RESOURCE - 2

MIND MAP – DECLINE OF THE INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION



Observe the mind map below for reasons of decline of the great civilization. Can you think of some other reasons?



Note to CIET:

When someone clicks on the points, the following information should pop out for each point:

1. **COMING OF THE ARYANS:** Historians believe that a new race of people from Central Asia came over to the area under the Indus Valley Civilization and it appeared more like an invasion rather than a friendly arrival. They spoke an indo-Eurasian dialect and called their land the 'Aryavarta' (The land of the Aryans). They are guessed to be fierce people who preferred wars and did not treat the indigenous people of the civilization kindly. There seems to have developed a social conflict and a divide started setting in the society based on class. This seemed to have started a power struggle that upset the set society of the Indus valley people and people either fled the areas to escape their wrath or died in the process of rebelling.



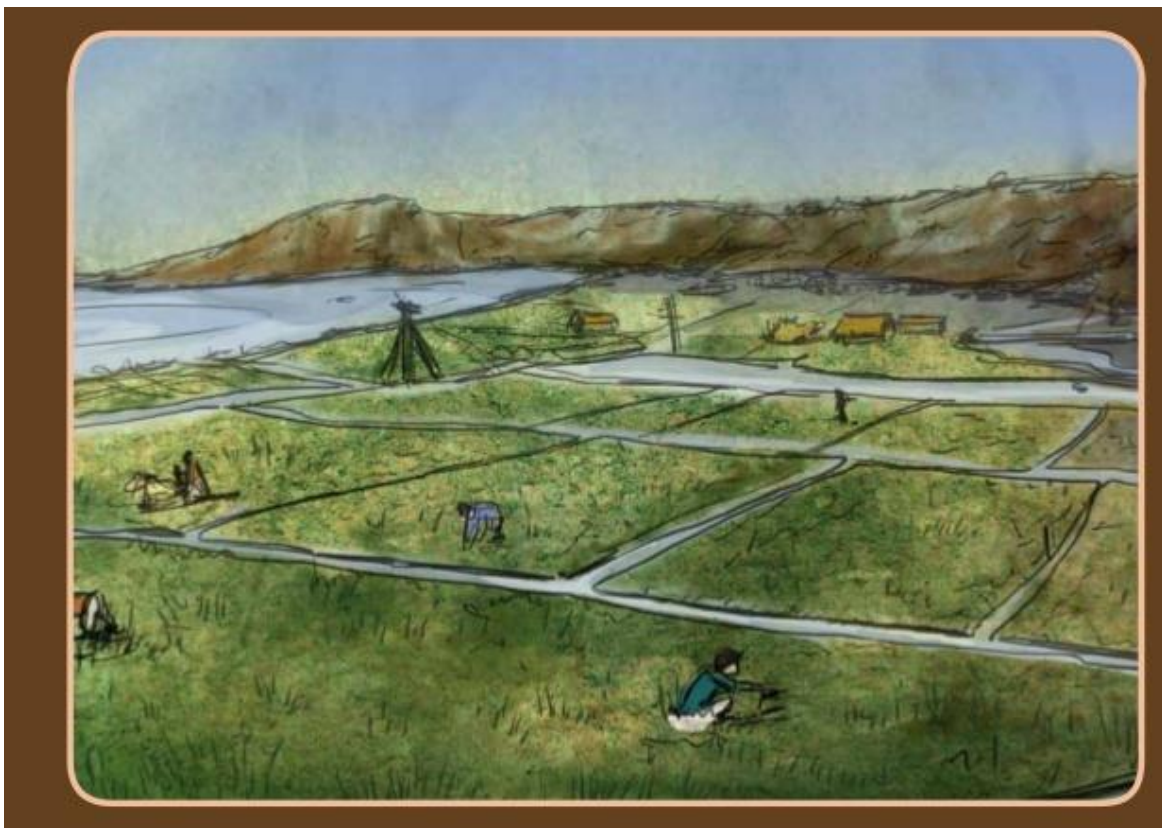
(These scattered skeletons excavated at one of the sites hints at an invasion as they do not seem to be buried properly with proper rites and rituals.)

2. **LARGE SCALE DEFORESTATION:** The area of the civilization was densely populated and more and more people depended on the natural resources. The historians believe that the demand for fuel (firewood) increased tremendously due to requirement for food, along with the requirement of the same for baking bricks, forging the metals and for smelting of copper ores. So more and more trees were being cut down regularly to meet the growing demand. The green cover of the valley could also have been destroyed by the grazing of the increased number of cattle, goat and sheep that the Indus Valley people domesticated to meet their daily dairy needs. Better metal implements meant faster deforestation and was accompanied by more and more land being cleared for agricultural purposes.



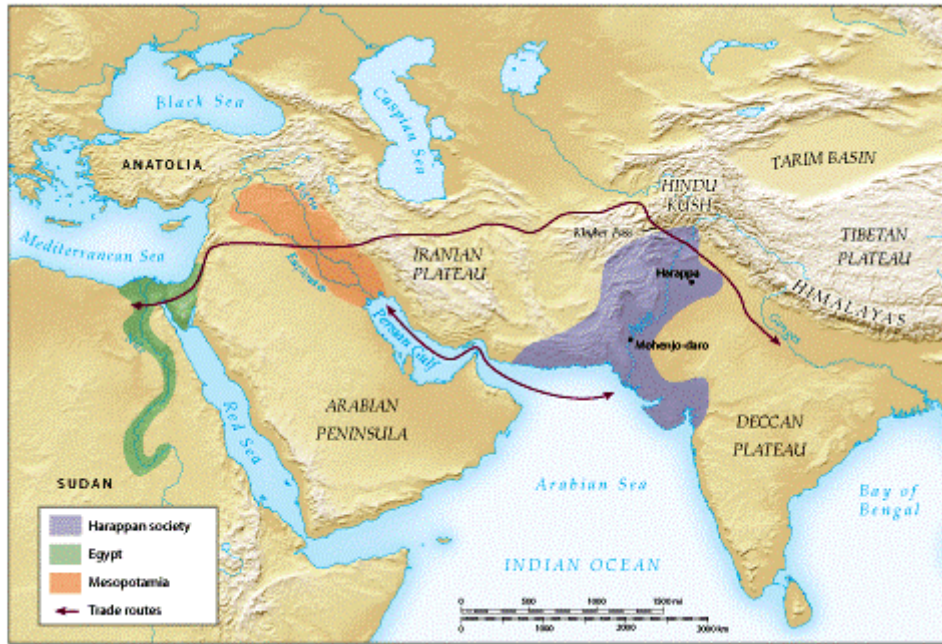
(the above picture is an example of deforestation and what it does to the land. How the green cover gets reduced and the soil becomes loose for easy erosion.)

3. FLOODING AND EPIDEMICS: The historians have found hasty burials and evidence of sudden departures from the Indus Valley sites, along with numerous skeletons which have been deemed as diseased. They suggest that there was flooding in many areas of the civilization, and since they were built mainly on the banks of rivers, the cities got destroyed, leaving many dead people behind. In the aftermath of the flood come diseases due to rotting bodies and food. These diseases would have soon become epidemics killing hundreds of people in one go, making many sick and forcing the others to abandon the area. This could have been one of the main reasons why the Indus Valley people abandoned their cities, buried the dead quickly and settled into central India or moved outwards towards the Eastern regions.



(The above picture shows how water was used to irrigate crops and what would have happened when the supply of water was cut off due to the change in the course of the Indus river and due to the drying up of the river Saraswati.)

4. DRYING UP OF RIVERS AND SHIFTED COURSES: Historians believe that the river Indus changed its course leaving the previously well-watered regions dry and flooding new regions. Another river Saraswati dried up due to tectonic movements in the area leading to destroyed crops, droughts and famines. Since the rivers course changed, it would have affected trade also and forced people to migrate to other areas, thus abandoning the well-established cities. This in turn, led to decline of the maintenance of the cities, people stopped developing writing, trading raw materials from afar and using seals, breaking down of the drainage system and smaller houses being built in a haste.



Meta data of E-Content

S.N.	AREA OF META DATA	TO BE FILLED BY CONTENT GENERATOR
1	Theme	In the Earliest Cities – Chapter 4
2	Subject	History
3	Linkage of theme with chapter	The resource describes the reasons for the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization. In the resource I have tried to highlight the main reasons relevant to the student with the help of a mind-map so the student gets the gist of the scenario of the decline of the civilization and then can read in detail about how these reasons shaped its decline.
4	Class/Level	VI
5	Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help the learner understand the relevant reasons of the decline of the Harappan civilization with well-explained and logical details
	Description	In the resource, the suggested reasons for the decline of the Indus valley civilization have been pointed out and explained logically so that the child can relate to the reasons of decline. The coming of the Aryans seemed to have had a deep impact on the valley. Although no records of mass fighting have been found but the result of their coming was a social unrest that led to people either rebelling against the unrest or abandoning their houses for peaceful areas. The next reason explained is the large scale deforestation, which happened due to increased demand on the natural resources of the area by the people in terms of firewood for daily needs and for the metal smelting, coupled with the boom in grazing by the cattle, goat and sheep. Increased development in iron ore and metallurgy meant better tools for cutting down trees and that would also have quickened the speed of deforestation. The clearing of lands for spreading agriculture could also have contributed to large scale deforestation. The next point talks about the possibility of decline of the civilization based on the flood theory. Flood or floods in the valley region must have forced people to evacuate various regions and relocate to different sites. It would have also led to many people dying then and there or dying later due to the sicknesses that usually follow floods. Since the civilization was settled mostly on river banks, the level of destruction would have been higher and seems a more believable reason for the decline or as a combination with the already present reasons. The last reason explained is the change in course of the river Indus and the subsequent drying up of the river Saraswati due to tectonic movements in that area. This change would have altered the trade pattern leading the people to change settlements and areas for better opportunities. This would have also affected agriculture as water for irrigation was important for survival. Bad crops would have meant a famine and subsequent deaths of people that would have led to migration of the people and thus, the decline of the civilization.
7	Key Words	Decline, skirmishes, flood, epidemics, deforestation, large-scale, migration, implements, relocation, settlements, sites, course, shortage, irrigation, tectonic movements
8	Content Developer person	Ananta Prasad Chowdhury
9	Subject Coordinator	
10	CIET Coordinator	

ACTIVITY

Because of an earthquake, the following lines have been broken and scattered. Can you help link them correctly? Drag the broken links in white to the coloured line that you feel is correct. If it is correct, the white line will take the colour of the previous line, if not, it will remain white. HELP!

The coming of the Aryans started a power struggle that.....

Since the rivers Indus changed its course and Saraswati dried up.....

Flooding affected many areas of the Indus Valley civilization because.....

Increased demand and supply of wood for cooking, metal smelting and for making better agricultural implements led to.....

A)Most of the cities were built on the banks of the river Indus and its tributaries for easy transportation and regular supply of water for irrigation and daily use.

B)upset the set society of the Indus valley people and people either fled the areas to escape their wrath or died in the process of rebelling.

C) increased deforestation on a large scale which forced people to move to other areas.

D) it would have affected trade also and forced people to migrate to other areas, thus abandoning the well-established cities.

Note to CIET: Answers:

1 – B

2 – D

3 – A

4 – C

Special effects: Please make the coloured boxes appear like broken lines. When the correct line is dragged and matched by the student, it should take on the colour of the box to show the complete line. If the incorrect line is dragged it shouldn't take on the colour but remain white as an indicator of incorrect answer. Please give a nice celebratory effect when the correct lines are joined.