



# Ancient India and the Spread of Hinduism

## ► Places, Regions, and Landscapes

1. Turn to pages 24–25 in the Atlas. Read the introduction and look at map A, “How Big is the Indian Subcontinent?” Write **T** next to each of the following statements if it is true or **F** if the statement is false.
  - a. The earliest civilization in India was centered around the Indus River. \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. The Indus Valley civilization had no cities. \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. The Indian subcontinent includes only the present-day countries of India and Pakistan. \_\_\_\_\_
  - d. Nomads who migrated to India started a religion called Hinduism. \_\_\_\_\_

## ★ Gathering the Facts

2. Use map B, “Indus Valley Civilization,” to answer the following questions.
  - a. What year did farming begin in western India? \_\_\_\_\_  
How many years ago did this take place? \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. After farming began in western India, how many years passed before farmers moved into the Indus River Valley? \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Why did farmers move to the Indus Valley?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  - d. When did the first planned cities develop? \_\_\_\_\_
  - e. What are the names of the two major Indus Valley cities?  
\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_
  - f. There were other cities in the Indus Valley and beyond. How were these cities connected? \_\_\_\_\_
  - g. Was trade important to the Indus Valley civilization? How do you know?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

★ **Links Near and Far**

3. Use map C, "Mohenjo-Daro," to answer the following questions.

a. What barrier enclosed the city of Mohenjo-Daro?

\_\_\_\_\_

b. What major public buildings did Mohenjo-Daro have?

\_\_\_\_\_

c. Turn to page 8 and look at the illustration of Jericho. How is this city similar to Mohenjo-Daro? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

d. How was Mohenjo-Daro different from Jericho?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

e. How was Mohenjo-Daro like cities today? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

f. How was Mohenjo-Daro different from cities today? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

★ **History Through Maps**

4. Look at map D, "Aryans and Hinduism." Then, for each pair of events below, write **C** next to the cause and **E** next to the effect.

a. \_\_\_\_\_ Aryans migrate from Central Asia into India.

\_\_\_\_\_ Dravidians migrate south.

b. \_\_\_\_\_ Hinduism spreads throughout India.

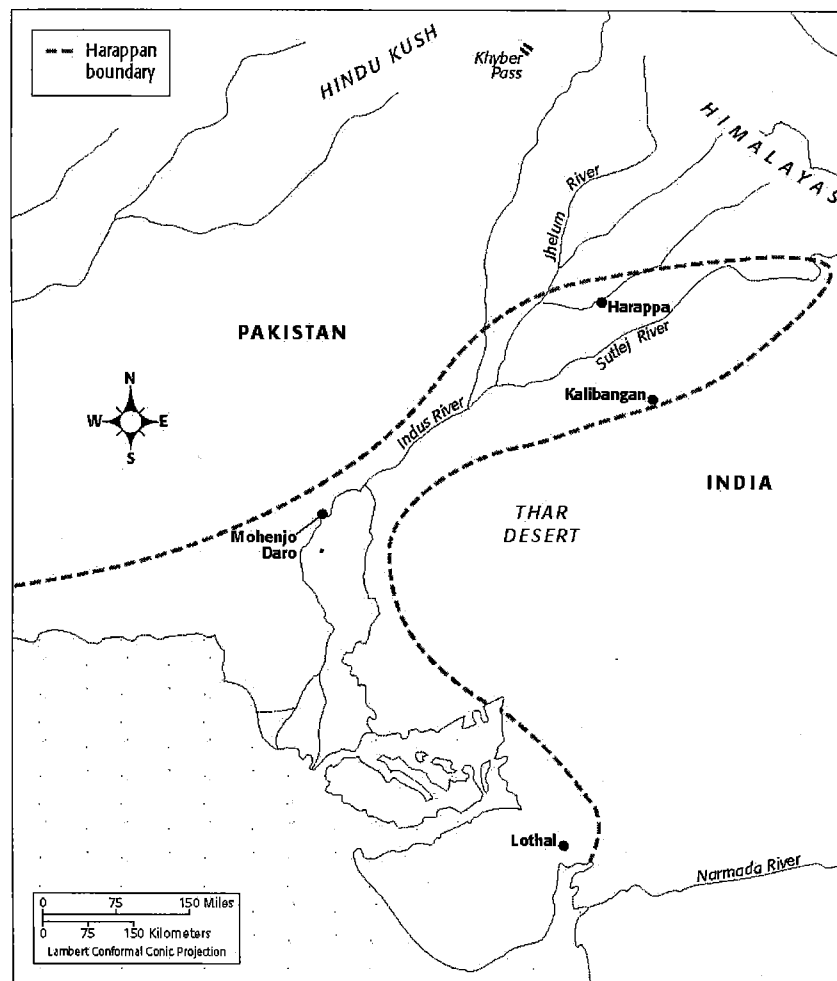
\_\_\_\_\_ Aryans expand across Ganges Plain.

➤ **People and Cultures**

5. Read the history question, "What do Hindus believe?" According to Hinduism, what

# The Indus River Valley

Harappan civilization began to develop in India in the Indus River Valley in what is now Pakistan and western India. One of the largest cities in the region was Mohenjo Daro. Ruins of this ancient city show that high brick walls surrounded the city in order to defend it against floods and hostile neighbors. The city was built according to a grid system. Its brick streets crossed at right angles and were lined with storehouses, shops, and homes.



## MAP ACTIVITY

1. Use a light color to highlight the Indus River Valley.
2. What desert is located east of the Indus River valley? Color it yellow on the map.

3. The Ravi River runs near Harappa. Label it on your map. What river does the Ravi flow into?
4. Update the map's legend to reflect your changes and colors.

### ANALYZING MAPS

1. **Movement** If you lived in Harappa, about how many miles would you have to travel to get to Mohenjo Daro?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. **Location** In what modern-day countries is the Indus River Valley located?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. **Location** What reasons might the people of Mohenjo Daro have had for constructing high walls around the city?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. **Place** How might the location of both Harappa and Mohenjo Daro have led to their end?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### EXTENSION ACTIVITY

Imagine that you are an ancient engineer and you have been given the task of designing a new city somewhere in the Indus River Valley. Where would you place your city? What would it look like? How would you build it to protect it from invaders and natural disasters such as floods? What would you name it? Draw your new city on a large sheet of paper.