



Name: _____ Date: _____

Study Guide #4: **Civilization in India and China**

Geography of the Indus Valley. The first Indian civilization arose in the Indus River Valley. The dry land could be easily cleared for settlement. The Indus River also flooded periodically, providing water essential for agriculture and silt that enriched the soil. People were living in villages along the river by about 3000 B.C. As farmers produced surplus food, cities began to develop, and within about 500 years a civilization had arisen in India.

Indus Valley Cities. Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were two of the most important cities in the Indus Valley. In fact, archaeologists have acquired so much information about early Indus Valley civilization from Harappa that they have named that civilization **Harappan civilization**.

Harappan civilization developed over a wide geographic area from about 2300 to 1750 B.C. Its people appear to have shared a remarkably uniform civilization. They used the same types of tools and had the same systems of measurement. This has led some scholars to believe they may also have shared political unity.

The cities of Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were large, with populations of about 35,000 people, and planned in a gridlike pattern. Each city had a strong central fortress called a **citadel**.

Harappan Culture. Although Harappan civilization was quite urbanized, farming was still essential to the economy. Farmers grew many kinds of crops and kept livestock. City-dwellers worked primarily in industry and trade. People living in the Indus Valley also produced fine art, jewelry, and cloth. As early as 2500 B.C. they may have traded these goods with merchants from Mesopotamia.

People of the Harappan civilization also had a written language, although scholars have not been able to decipher it. It is believed that people of the Indus Valley worshipped a great god, some images of animals, and a mother goddess. Harappan civilization was destroyed around 1500 B.C., possibly by foreign invaders, earthquakes, or flooding.

Civilization in China. During the Neolithic period, one of the first settlements in China was along the Huang He, or Yellow River. This was an area naturally rich with plants and animals. Over the centuries the winds had deposited a fine yellow dust on the ground, which formed a fertile layer of soil called **loess**.

Every few years the Huang He would overflow in destructive floods. The climate in the Huang He valley was equally severe. Winters were long and cold, and summers short and hot. Heavy rains alternated with periods of drought and famine.

The Yangshao was one of the earliest prehistoric cultures in China and lasted from about 5000 to 3000 B.C. The Yangshao people were primarily farmers, growing grains and raising pigs and sheep. The Yangshao built their houses in clusters. For this, some archaeologists believe that they lived in

groups of related families. If this is true, the Yangshao culture would be the earliest example of the strong, clan-based type of society that was a feature of later Chinese civilization.

China's Neolithic peoples began a long history of cultural continuity in China. The traditions they started, which included intensive farming, strong familial ties, development of a writing system, and complex religious practices, would form the basis for Chinese culture for thousands of years.

Answer the questions below in your own words and in complete sentence. Highlight your evidence.

1. Why was the Indus Valley a good place for settlement?

2. What agricultural development was necessary before cities could flourish in the Indus Valley?

3. What evidence is there that Harappan cities may have been united politically?

4. What economic activities took place in Harappan civilization?

5. What were positive and negative attributes of the land along the Huang He River?

6. What long-lasting cultural traditions began with China's Neolithic cultures?
