

Mohenjo-daro

Unsealing an Ancient Indus City

A 37-minute documentary, filmed on location, with a one-page lesson plan. Grades 5 to 7 · England KS2 earliest civilisations

The Indus Valley is the one ancient civilization in the sixth-grade sequence with almost no good classroom film behind it. Omar Khan, founder of Harappa.com, walks through Mohenjo-daro with the archaeologists working there — the Priest-King, the bronze Dancing Girl, the Great Bath, the grid-planned streets and drains, and a script nobody has deciphered. The archaeologists disagree on camera, which is the point: this is a civilization known through its objects rather than its stories, so pupils have to reason from evidence.

Fits one class period

37 minutes, in five chapters. A teacher with twenty minutes can take the chapter on the city and its drains, or the one on the undeciphered script, on its own.

The quiz is inside the film

Ten questions appear as pupils watch, and each pupil sees their own result. Nothing to hand out, nothing to mark. Written by history educator Ilona Aronovsky.

Everything is prepared

A printable one-page teacher guide, six discussion questions, two writing prompts, vocabulary, and curriculum alignment. Ready to use as it stands.

FIVE CHAPTERS

01:30	The Story	An ancient story still told in the villages around the site, and voices from South India tracing a living connection.
07:29	The City	Standardised brick, underground drainage, the toys and games of its citizens, and the bronze Dancing Girl.
15:15	The Citadel	The Great Bath, the mysterious jar sign, evidence of long-distance trade, and who might have run the city.
21:33	The Writing	Thousands of carved seals, trade with Mesopotamia, and why the script has resisted every attempt at decipherment.
29:06	The Future	Rising groundwater and salt erosion, how Partition divided the study of a shared civilization, and what comes next.

THREE WAYS TO USE IT

Whole	One class period. Play it through, let the ten questions do the checking, then take the discussion questions from the guide the following lesson.
In parts	Twenty minutes. The city and its drains, or the undeciphered script, stands on its own and needs no set-up.
At home	Set it as homework. Pupils see their own quiz results as they watch, so they arrive having already argued with it.

CURRICULUM

United States California HSS 6.5.1 · Texas TEKS §113.42 · C3 D2.His.10.6–8 and D2.Geo.2.6–8 · CCSS RH.6–8.1 and RH.6–8.7
England Key Stage 2, the earliest civilisations depth study — the Indus Valley is one of the four named options



mohenjodaro.net/teachers.html

The film, the printable guide, the discussion questions and the writing prompts. Free to show, to link and to share — in class, at home, anywhere.



Written and directed by Omar Khan, founder of Harappa.com, a public resource on the ancient Indus Valley Civilization since 1995. Produced by Harappa Films, 2026. Quiz questions by Ilona Aronovsky. Subtitles in English, Hindi, Tamil and Urdu.