Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tidy Streets of Mohenjo-daro

Circle group

More than four thousand years ago, a city called Mohenjo-daro stood by the Indus River. That place is in Pakistan today. The city was part of a civilization that spread across a large area. The people there were good planners.

The streets ran in straight lines. Many crossed at right angles, like the squares on a checkerboard. The houses were made of baked bricks. Many of the bricks were nearly the same size, so builders could use them anywhere.

The city had a clever water system. Many houses had a bathing room. Used water ran out through a drain. The drains joined big covered channels under the streets. Wells gave people clean water to drink.

Archaeologists, who study the past, found small carved seals. They have pictures and signs. No one today can read the signs. So we still do not know much about these people.

Questions

1. Beside what river did Mohenjo-daro stand?

_____

_____

2. What were the houses made of?

_____

_____

3. Where did the big drains run?

_____

_____

4. What did wells give the people?

_____

_____

5. What do the straight streets and matching bricks show about the builders?

_____

_____

6. Why do we still not know much about their writing?

_____

_____

Words to know

civilization: a large, organized group of people with cities, laws and skills
archaeologists: scientists who study the past by digging up old objects and buildings
channels: long, narrow paths that carry water
seals: small carved stones used to stamp a picture or sign

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tidy Streets of Mohenjo-daro

Triangle group

More than four thousand years ago, a city called Mohenjo-daro stood beside the Indus River in what is now Pakistan. It was part of a civilization that stretched across a large region. Its people were skilled planners.

The streets of Mohenjo-daro were laid out in straight lines, and many crossed each other at right angles, like the squares on a checkerboard. The houses were built from baked bricks. Amazingly, the bricks were nearly the same size in many places, so builders could use them anywhere.

The most surprising thing about the city was its water system. Many houses had a bathing room, and used water flowed out through a drain. The drains joined larger covered channels that ran under the streets. Wells gave people clean water to drink.

Archaeologists, who study the remains of the past, have found small carved seals with pictures and signs. Nobody today can read these signs. So there is still a lot we do not know about the people who lived there.

Questions

1. Beside what river did Mohenjo-daro stand?

_____

_____

2. What were the houses built from?

_____

_____

3. Where did the larger drains run?

_____

_____

4. What did wells give the people?

_____

_____

5. What do the straight streets and matching bricks suggest about the builders?

_____

_____

6. Why do we still not know much about these people's writing?

_____

_____

Words to know

civilization: a large, organized group of people with cities, laws and skills
archaeologists: scientists who study the past by digging up old objects and buildings
channels: long, narrow paths that carry water
seals: small carved stones used to stamp a picture or sign

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Tidy Streets of Mohenjo-daro

Square group

More than four thousand years ago, a city named Mohenjo-daro flourished beside the Indus River in what is now Pakistan. It belonged to a civilization that extended across an enormous region, and its inhabitants were remarkably skilled planners.

The city's streets were laid out in straight lines, and many of them intersected at right angles, much like the squares on a checkerboard. Houses were constructed from baked bricks, and astonishingly, the bricks were nearly uniform in size in many places, so builders could use them interchangeably.

The most impressive feature of the city was its water system. Many homes included a bathing room, and used water drained out through a pipe or channel. These smaller drains connected to larger covered channels that ran beneath the streets, while wells supplied the residents with clean drinking water.

Archaeologists, who investigate the remains of the past, have discovered small carved seals bearing pictures and signs. Since nobody today can read these signs, there is still a great deal we do not understand about the people who lived there.

Questions

1. Beside which river did Mohenjo-daro flourish?

_____

_____

2. What material was used to construct the houses?

_____

_____

3. Where did the larger drains run?

_____

_____

4. What did the wells provide for the residents?

_____

_____

5. What do the straight streets and uniform bricks suggest about the builders?

_____

_____

6. Why is so much about these people's writing still unknown?

_____

_____

Words to know

civilization: a large, organized group of people with cities, laws and skills
archaeologists: scientists who study the past by digging up old objects and buildings
channels: long, narrow paths that carry water
seals: small carved stones used to stamp a picture or sign

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: The Tidy Streets of Mohenjo-daro

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: The Tidy Streets of Mohenjo-daro

Easier · 147 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.9

1. The Indus River.
2. Baked bricks.
3. They were covered channels under the streets.
4. Clean water to drink.
5. They planned the city carefully before they built it.
6. No one today can read the signs on the seals.

Triangle: The Tidy Streets of Mohenjo-daro

This passage · 169 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6

1. The Indus River.
2. Baked bricks.
3. They were covered channels under the streets.
4. Clean water to drink.
5. They planned the city carefully before they built it.
6. Nobody today can read the signs on the carved seals.

Square: The Tidy Streets of Mohenjo-daro

Harder · 176 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 10.5

1. The Indus River.
2. Baked bricks.
3. They were covered channels beneath the streets.
4. Clean drinking water.
5. They planned the city carefully before they built it.
6. Nobody today can read the signs on the carved seals.