

Indus River Valley Civilizations

2500-1000 B.C.E.



Geography: What modern day country is the Indus River Valley in?



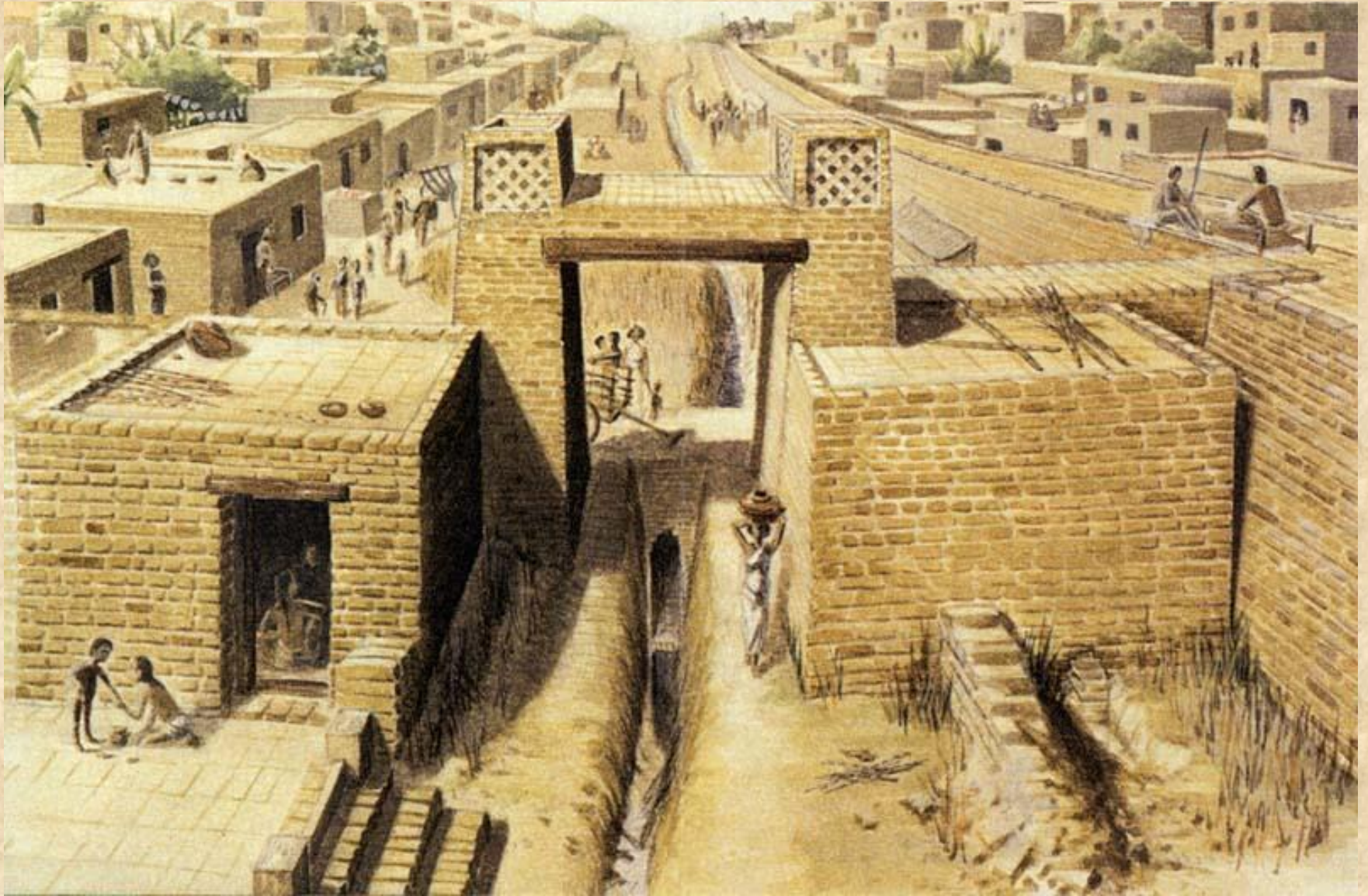
The Indus River Valley Civilization is still very mysterious

- The only information we have from this civilization are artifacts like small statues,



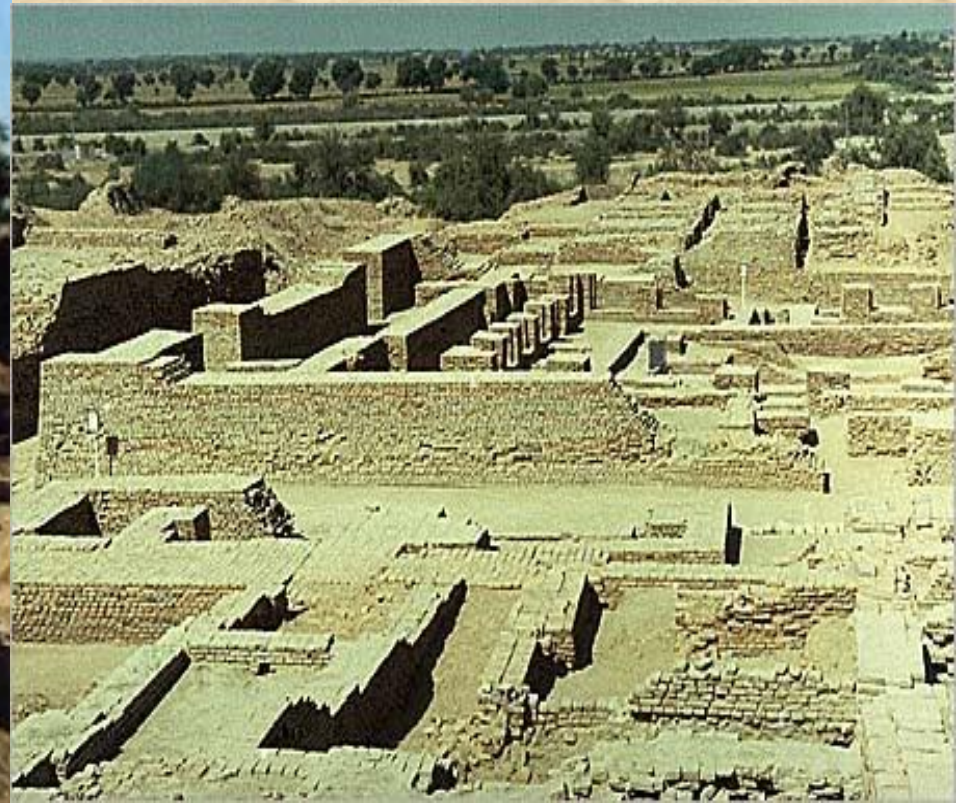
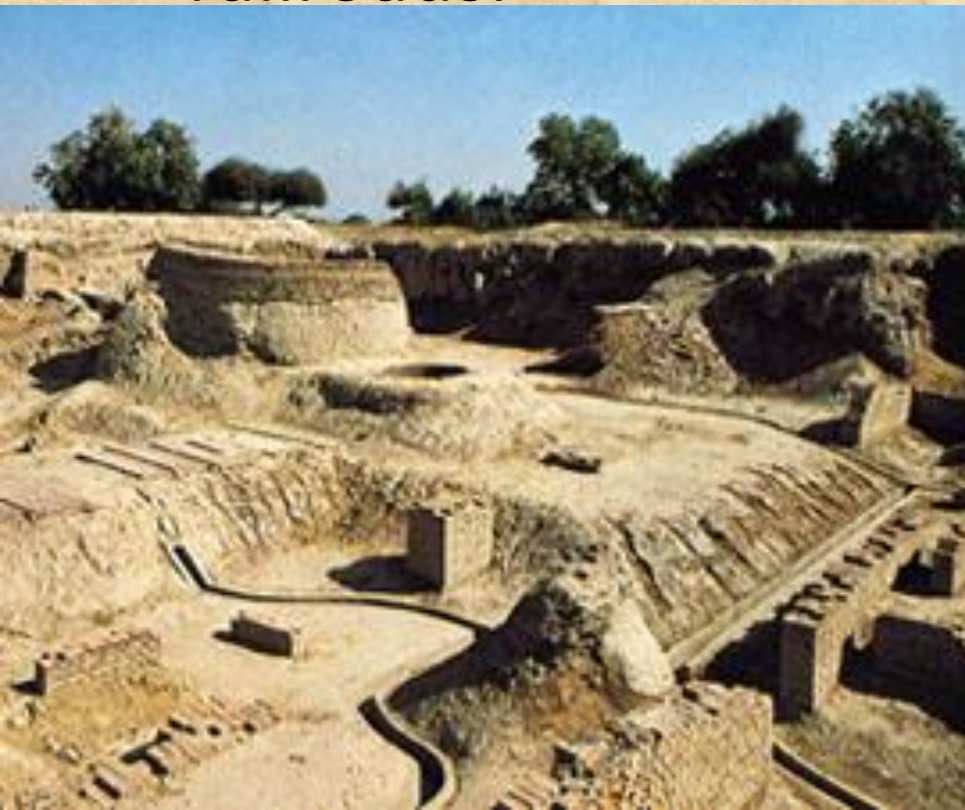
- And the ruins of two large cities.
 - Harappa
 - Mahenjo-Daro

Harappa



Harappa

- Much of the City was destroyed in the 1800's when bricks from the city were used to build railroads.



Mohenjo-Daro





Pictographs are pictures of plants, animals, or other objects which represent words or ideas.

Harappan Language

- Like much of the early Indus Valley Civilization, their Language has not yet been **deciphered** (or figured out)



Harappan Economy

- Like Mesopotamia and Egypt, the Indus Valley economy was based upon Grains like wheat or barley



- They also grew cotton to make clothes

Harappan Economy

- They traded cotton, grain, copper, and ivory with Mesopotamia



- Harappan Culture was also credited with having created the first system of uniform weights and measurements

Harappan Religion

- Archeologists believe that the Harappan's were polytheistic and worshipped animals like Bulls, Elephants, and Deer

Moo



The End of Harappan Civilization

- Around 1900 B.C.E. the Harappan Culture in the Indus River Valley ends

Why!?

- No one knows why.....

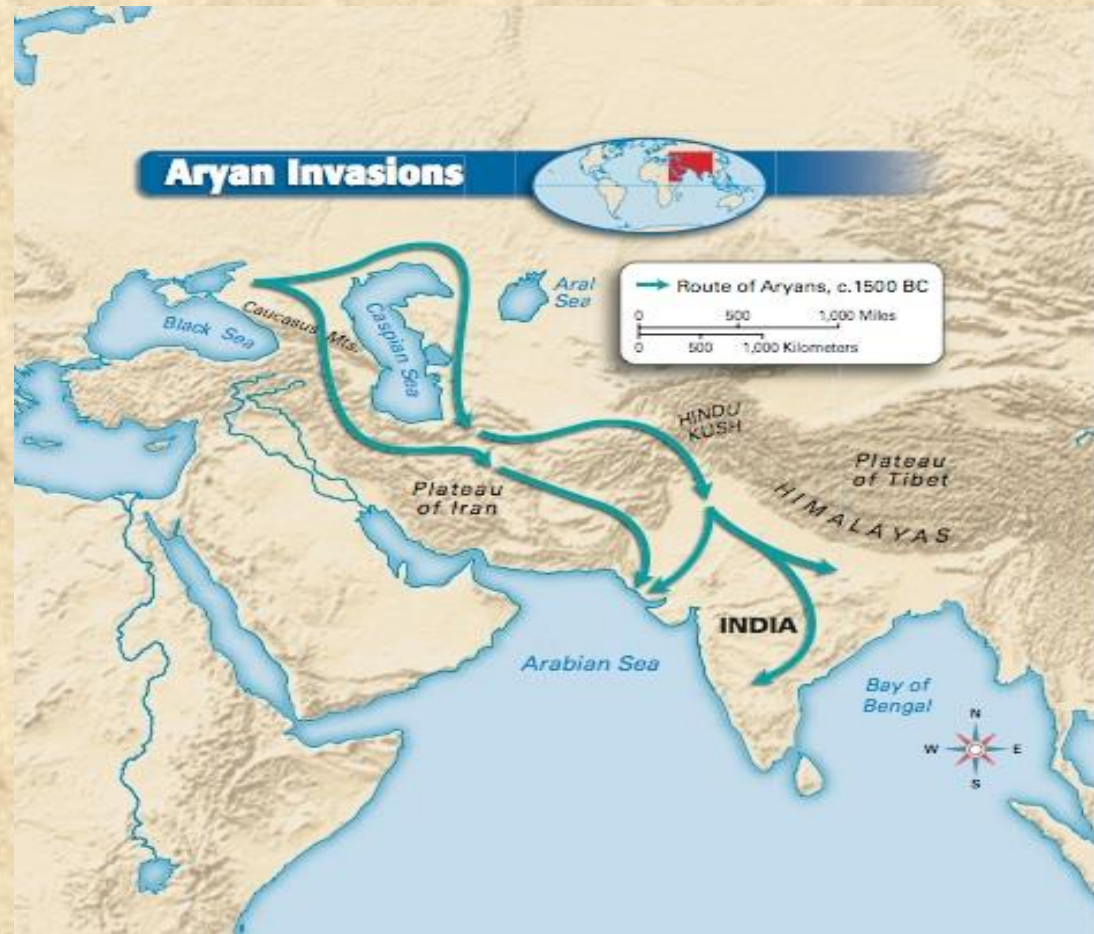


Why do you think Harappan Civilization Ended?

Write 3 sentences explaining what you think might have ended Harappan Civilization

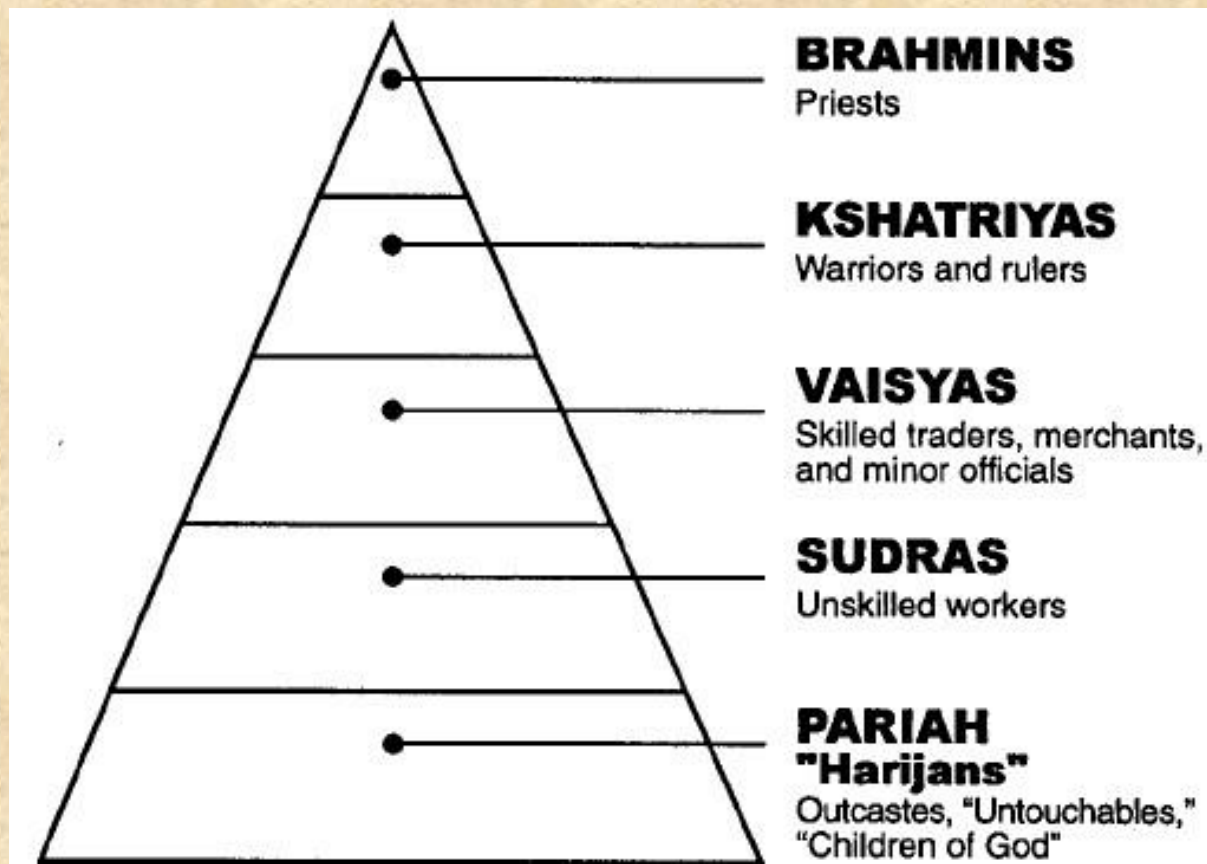
Aryan Invasion

- One theory about the end of Harappan Culture is that a group of people called the **Aryans** invaded the Indus River Valley from the Northwest



Aryan Invasion

- The Aryans established a new social structure in the Indus Valley called the **Caste System**



The Caste System

- Everyone fell into one particular caste
- You could not move to any other caste
- You had to marry within your own caste
- You had to respect the authority of higher caste members

Hinduism

- The caste system was based around a new religion called **Hinduism**
- It would become the world's third largest religion and the main religion throughout the Indian sub continent even until today



Hinduism

- Hindu people believe in 3 major world creators or gods
 - Brahma- The God of Creation
 - Vishnu- The God of Preservation
 - Shiva- the God of Destruction



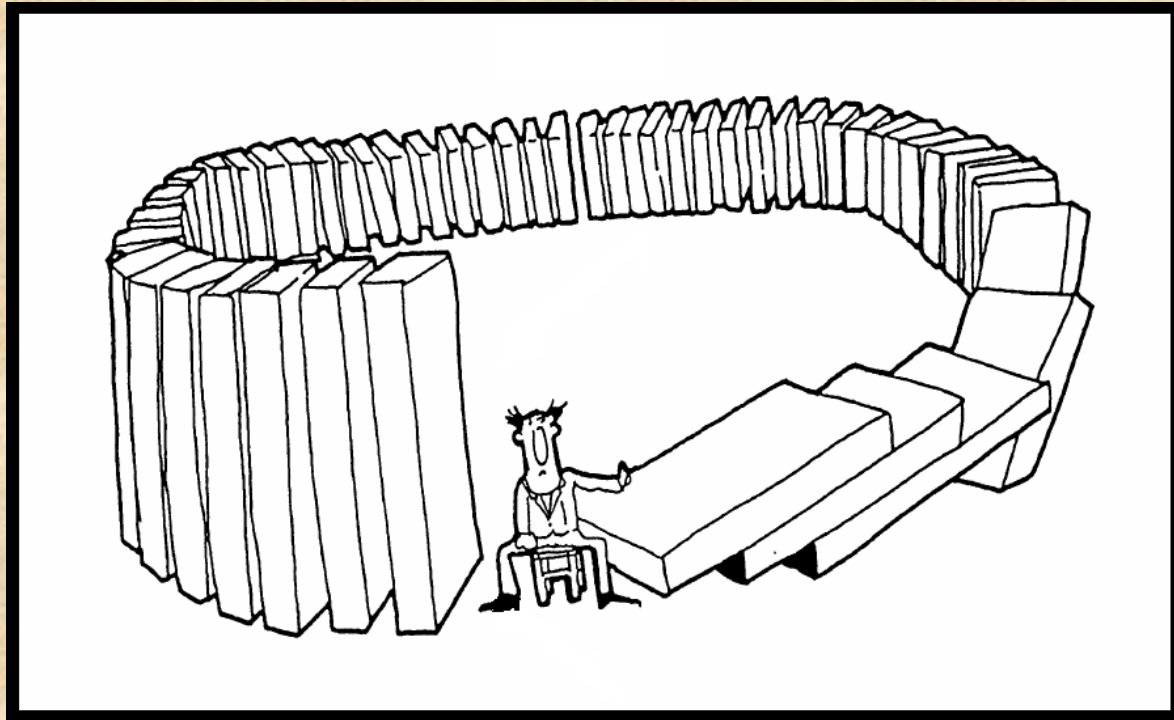
Hinduism

- They also believed in the idea of **Reincarnation** where a person's spirit was reborn into different lives depending on how they lived their past lives



Hinduism

- Another belief of Hindu people is the idea of Karma



- Karma is the idea that the things you do in life will effect the caste you end up in for the next life. *What goes around comes around.*

Buddhism

- From Hinduism grew a religion called Buddhism
- An Indian Priest named Gautama hated the Caste System
- He left his throne to help the people in the country
- His goal was to reach **Nirvana**, or the ultimate state of Enlightenment and Peace
- He would become the first **Buddha** or enlightened one



Buddhism

- Buddhism became popular among the lower castes in India
- Eventually it would spread to China and become the main religion in China



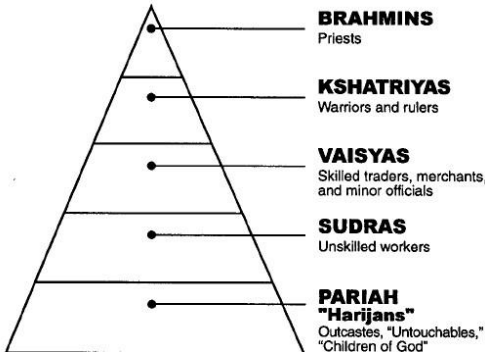
Indus River Valley Government

- We have little information on the way government worked in the Early Indus River Valley Civilizations

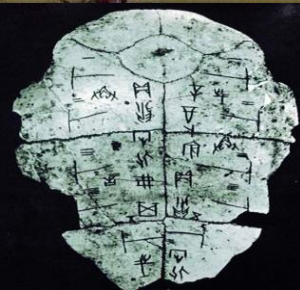
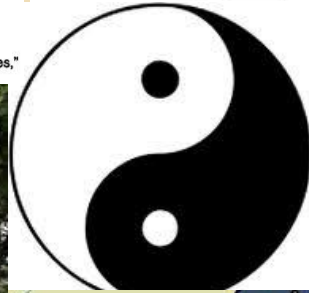
So how can we tell what their political structure was like?

Indus River Valley Government

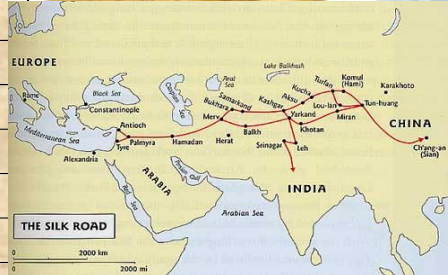
- Due to the high level of organization in the cities of the Indus Valley we can tell there was a strong central government
- It most likely revolved around the kings or rulers of the cities and/or the High Priests of the Hindu religion
- We can make this conclusion because of the Caste system which exists still today



道



	Oracle Bone	Greater Seal	Lesser Seal	Modern
man (rén)	𠂔	人	𠂔	人
woman (nǚ)	𡚦	女	𡚦	女
ear (ěr)	𦊮	耳	耳	耳
fish (yú)	𩺰	魚	魚	魚
sun (rì)	日	日	日	日
moon (yuè)	月	月	月	月
rain (yǔ)	雨	雨	雨	雨
cauldron (dǐng)	鼎	鼎	鼎	鼎
well (jǐng)	井	井	井	井
above (shàng)	上	上	上	上
down (xià)	下	下	下	下



Ancient China and the Yellow River Valley



Ancient China Geography

- Located in the **Yellow River Valley**
- The area was mountainous which helped protect it and keep it isolated



Ancient Chinese Government

- Early Chinese government was controlled by **Emperors** (supreme rulers over many different states/cities) along with their families and friends
- However each city would have it's own ruling prince or nobleman

Ancient Chinese Government

- These ruling families were called **Dynasties**
- A **Dynasty** is a series of rulers who control an area from generation to generation



The First Dynasty

- Legend holds that the first dynasty was the legendary **Xia Dynasty** but we have no historical record of them

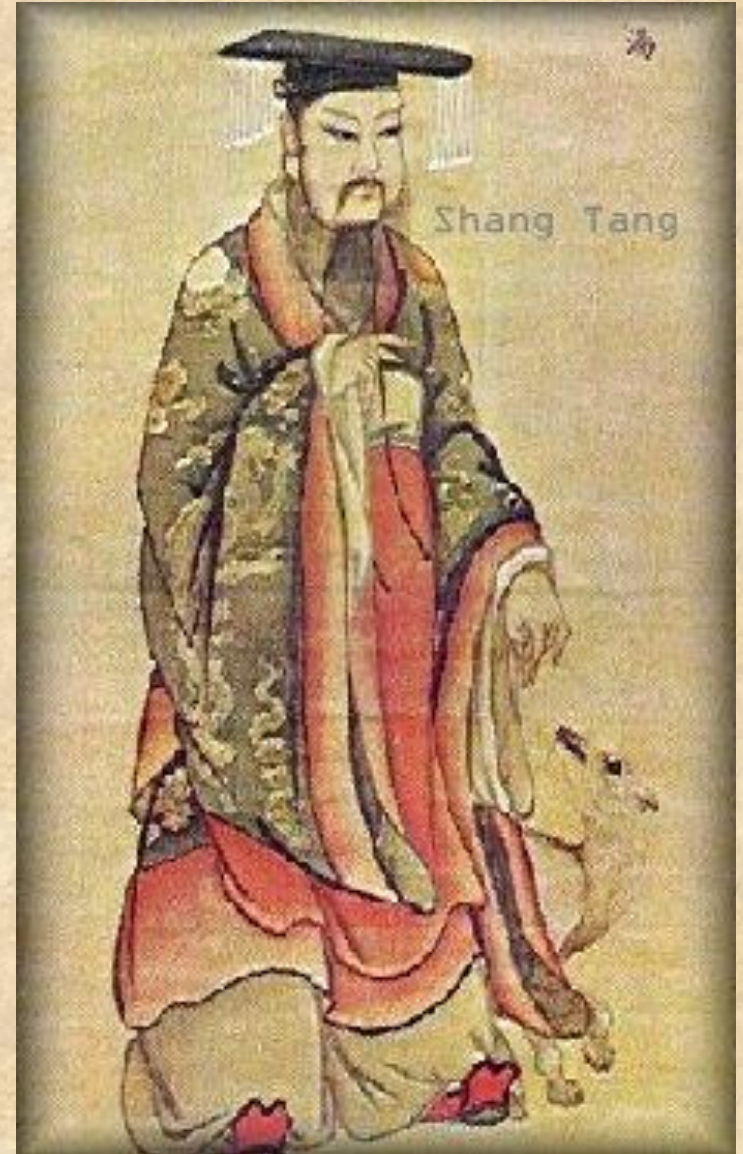


Yu the Great, Founder
of Xia Dynasty

- The first recorded dynasty in China was called the **Shang Dynasty**

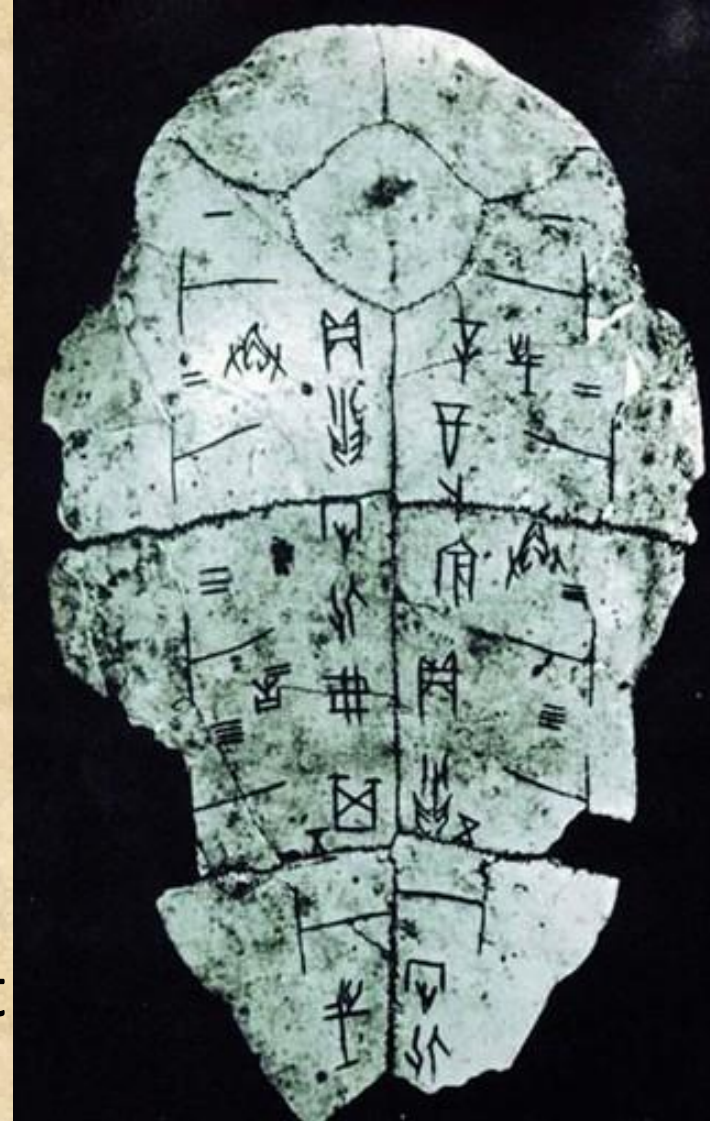
Shang Dynasty

- The Shang Dynasty ruled from 1766-1122 b.c.e.
- It was the first civilization along the yellow river we have a record of






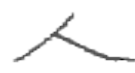








































Early Chinese Writings

- The earliest evidence we have of the Shang dynasty are carvings on pieces of bone called **oracle bones**
- This is earliest known Chinese writing
- Questions or information were carved onto bones to get answers from the Gods or predict the future.



Chinese Writing

- Chinese Writing consists of symbols which may stand for sounds or whole ideas.
- The first Chinese writings showed a type of pictograph which eventually formed into the characters that are used today

	Oracle Bone	Greater Seal	Lesser Seal	Modern
man (rén)				
woman (nǚ)				
ear (ěr)				
fish (yú)				
sun (rì)				
moon (yuè)				
rain (yǔ)				
cauldron (dǐng)				
well (jǐng)				
above (shàng)				
down (xià)				

Chinese Writing

- Since each character occupies its own block of space Chinese writing can be written vertically or horizontally

元来日本語は漢文に倣い、文字を上から下へ、また行を右から左へと進めて表記を行っていた。漢字と仮名の筆順も縦書きを前提としており、横書き不能な書体も存在する。

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Chinese Writing

- Writing your name in a different language based on sound alone is called **transliteration**
- this does not mean it has the same meaning as your name in your native tongue
- Chinese characters also have a meaning behind them, for instance 汤 姆 is my name
Tom Transliterated
- In Chinese those individual characters mean
Soup and Farm

Ancient Chinese Religion

- The Ancient Chinese were polytheistic like most of the other ancient civilizations



- Their gods were typically gods of the natural world- gods of the sky, water, weather, etc.

Ancient Chinese Religion

- They also had a supreme god called **Shangdi** (the most high god)



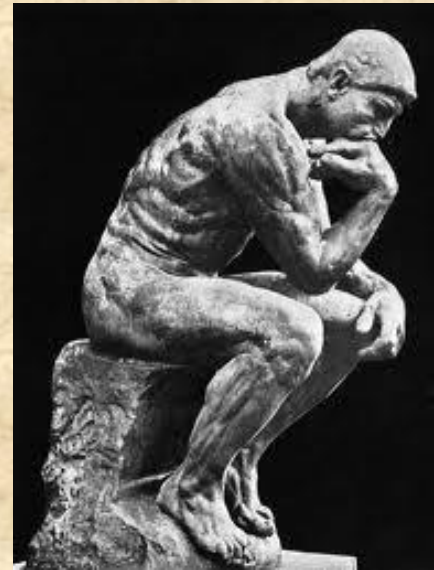
- He controlled victory in battle, harvest, the fate of the kingdom, and the weather.

Ancient Chinese Religion

- They also believed that their **ancestors** - their parents and grandparents - became like gods when they died,
- They believed their ancestors wanted to be worshipped too, like gods.
- Each family worshipped their own ancestors.

Ancient Chinese Philosophy

- Later Chinese beliefs switched from superstitious beliefs toward a more philosophic way of living life

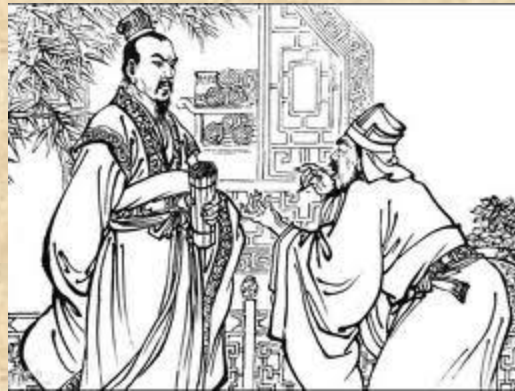


hmmm

- A **philosophy** is a set of ideas which guide your actions by answering questions about life, ethics, and purpose

Legalism

- Was the philosophy which believed that the nature of man is evil.
- In order to keep order amongst evil, strict laws and harsh punishments need to be used
- It is called **legalism** because of the emphasis on these laws



Ancient Chinese Philosophy

- The First Chinese Philosopher was a man named **Laozi (or Old Master)**
- He created **Daoism** which was part religion and part just a way of life
- Taoism is the idea of living in harmony with **Dao** or the source or everything that exists



Daoism

- Daoism is perhaps best described using the Yin-Yang



- It represents balance in all things and living in harmony with nature rather than trying to change things.

Confucius

- A later Chinese philosopher named **Confucius** disagreed with the Daoist ideas. He started his own philosophy called **Confucianism**
- He believed that everything had an order to it and put respect for parents above all else.
- If everyone followed that order and did what they were supposed to (or what they were told) everyone would live happy lives

Chinese Religion Today

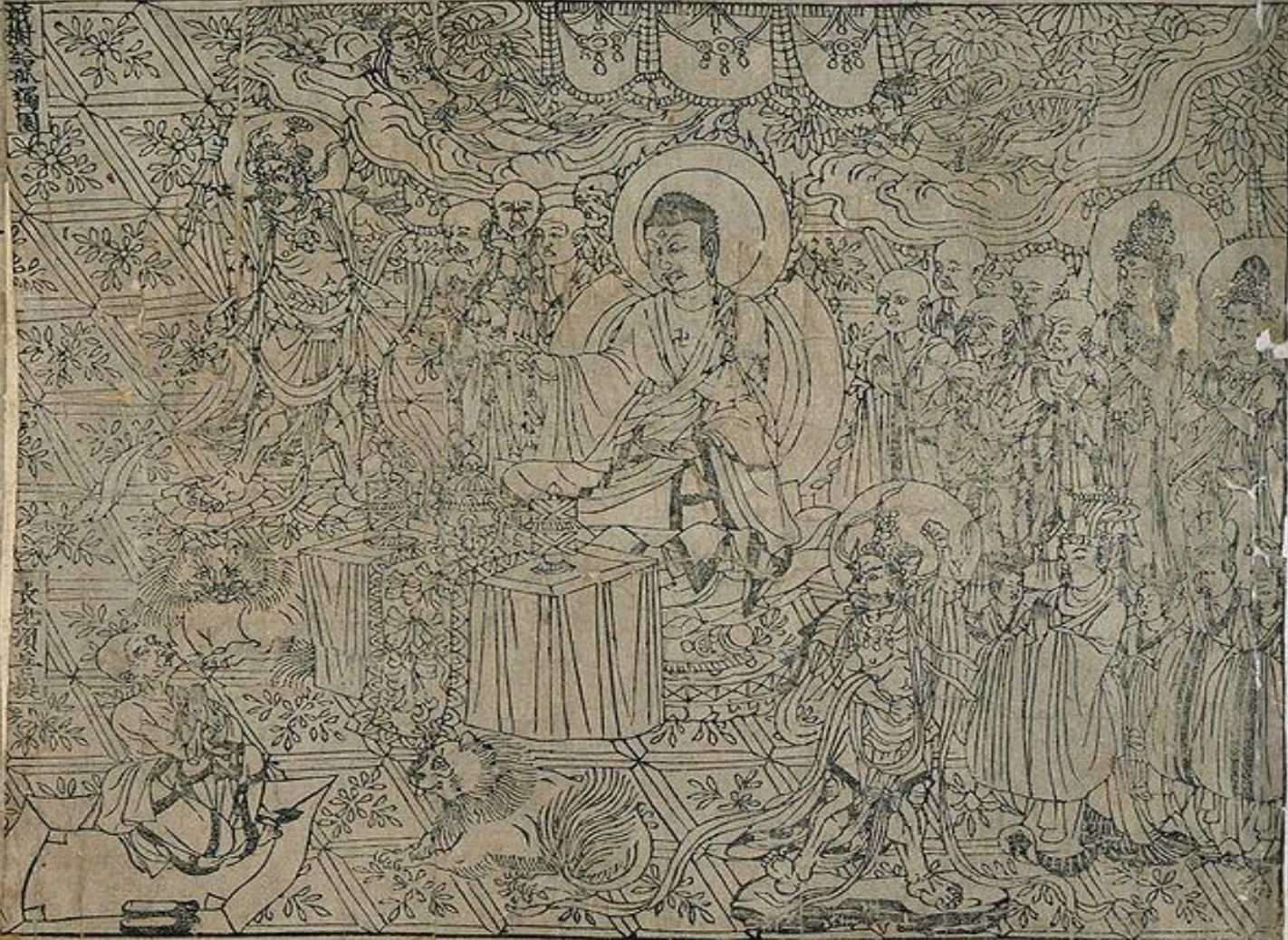
- Today the largest religion or philosophy in China is Buddhism. Though Taoism and Confucianism still have many followers



- Buddhism started in India and eventually became unpopular there, at the same time it grew in popularity in China.

Chinese Technology

凡欲讀經先念淨口業真言遍
 循唎 循唎 摩訶循唎 娑婆訶
 奉請除災金剛 奉請辟毒金剛 奉請黃隨求金剛
 奉請白淨水金剛 奉請赤聲金剛 奉請定除厄金剛
 奉請紫賢金剛 奉請大神金剛
 金剛般若波羅蜜經



Chinese Technology

- The Chinese were also the first people in the world to use gun powder
- Chinese uses of Gunpowder
 - Fireworks
 - Rockets
 - Flaming arrows and spears
 - Bombs or Grenades



The Great Wall of China



Chinese Economy

- Ancient Chinese economy was primarily based on Barter or trade of goods such as rice, or wheat in place of money.
- There is some evidence that along with this trade the shells of sea snails may have been used like money



Silk



Silk



Silk

- The Chinese kept the secret of how to make silk for a 1000 years
- They used silk to make cloth for royal families and the wealthy all over the world
- Demand for this luxury item created one of the worlds most largest and most extensive trade routes called the Silk Road

The Silk Road

