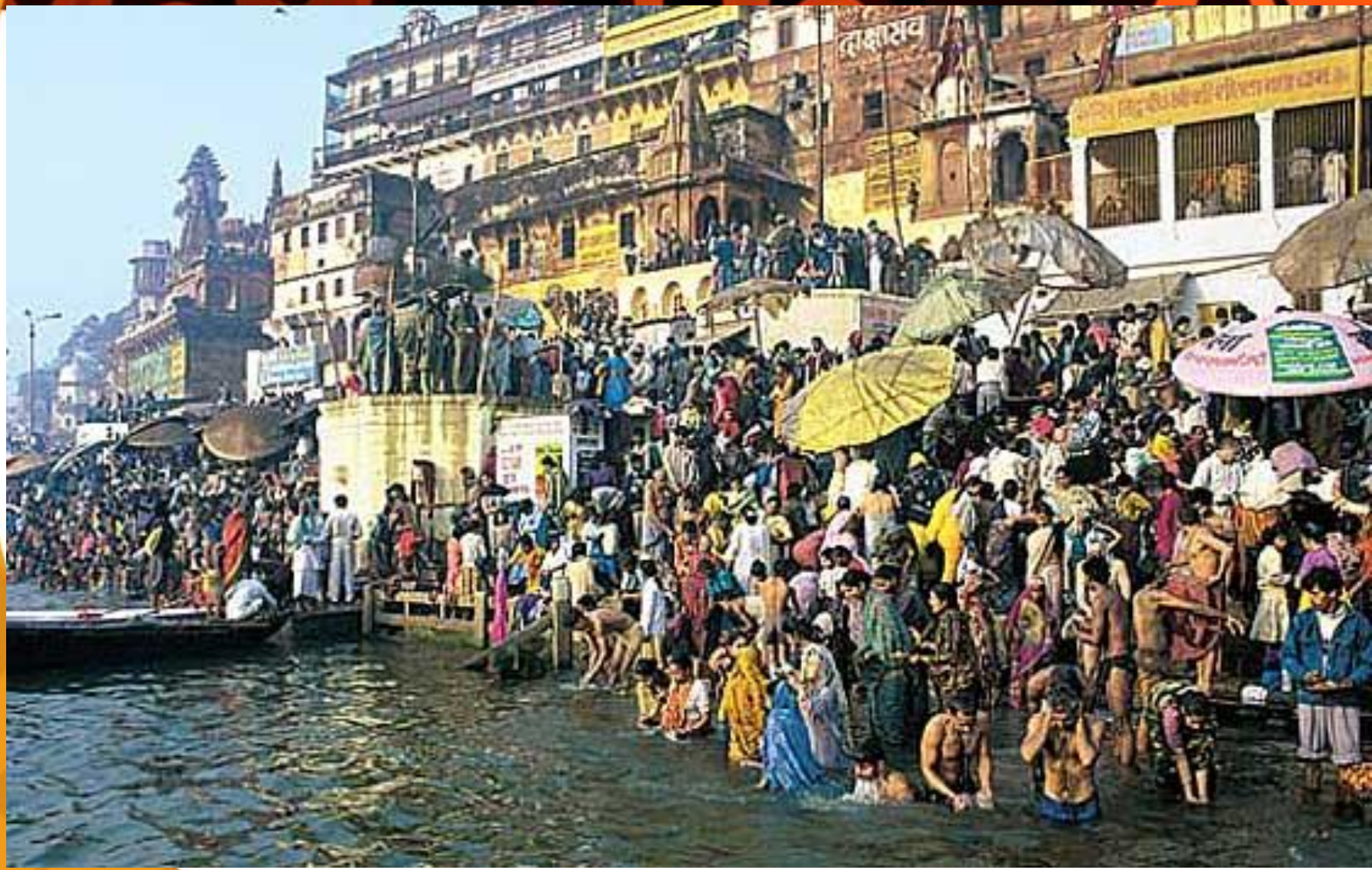




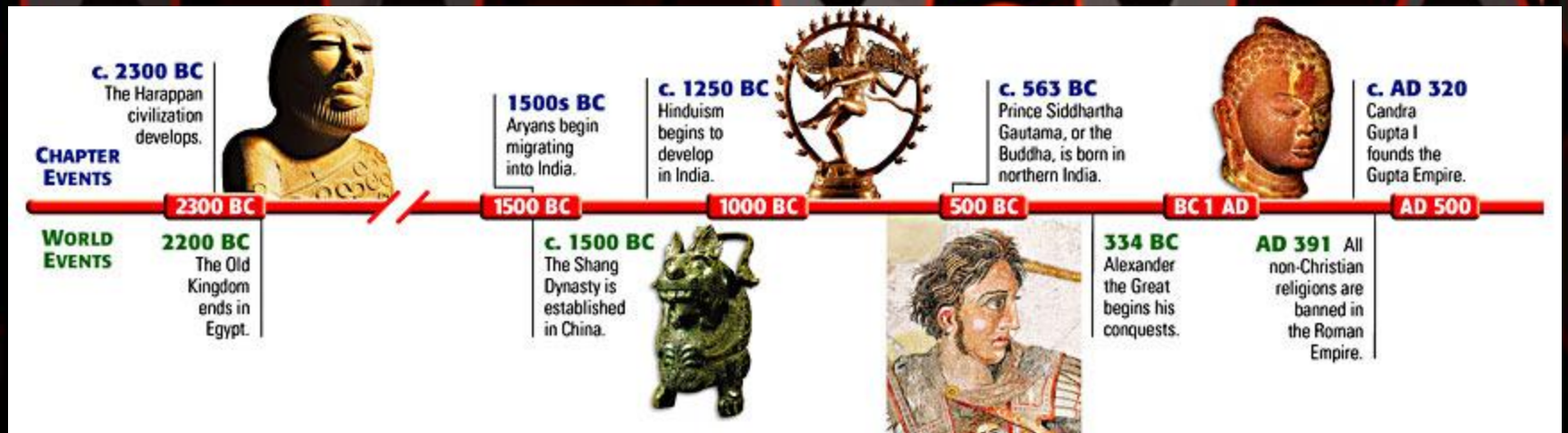
# Geography and Early India

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The ancient civilization of India, the birthplace of two major world religions—Hinduism and Buddhism. In this photo, crowds of Hindus gather to bathe in the sacred Ganges River.

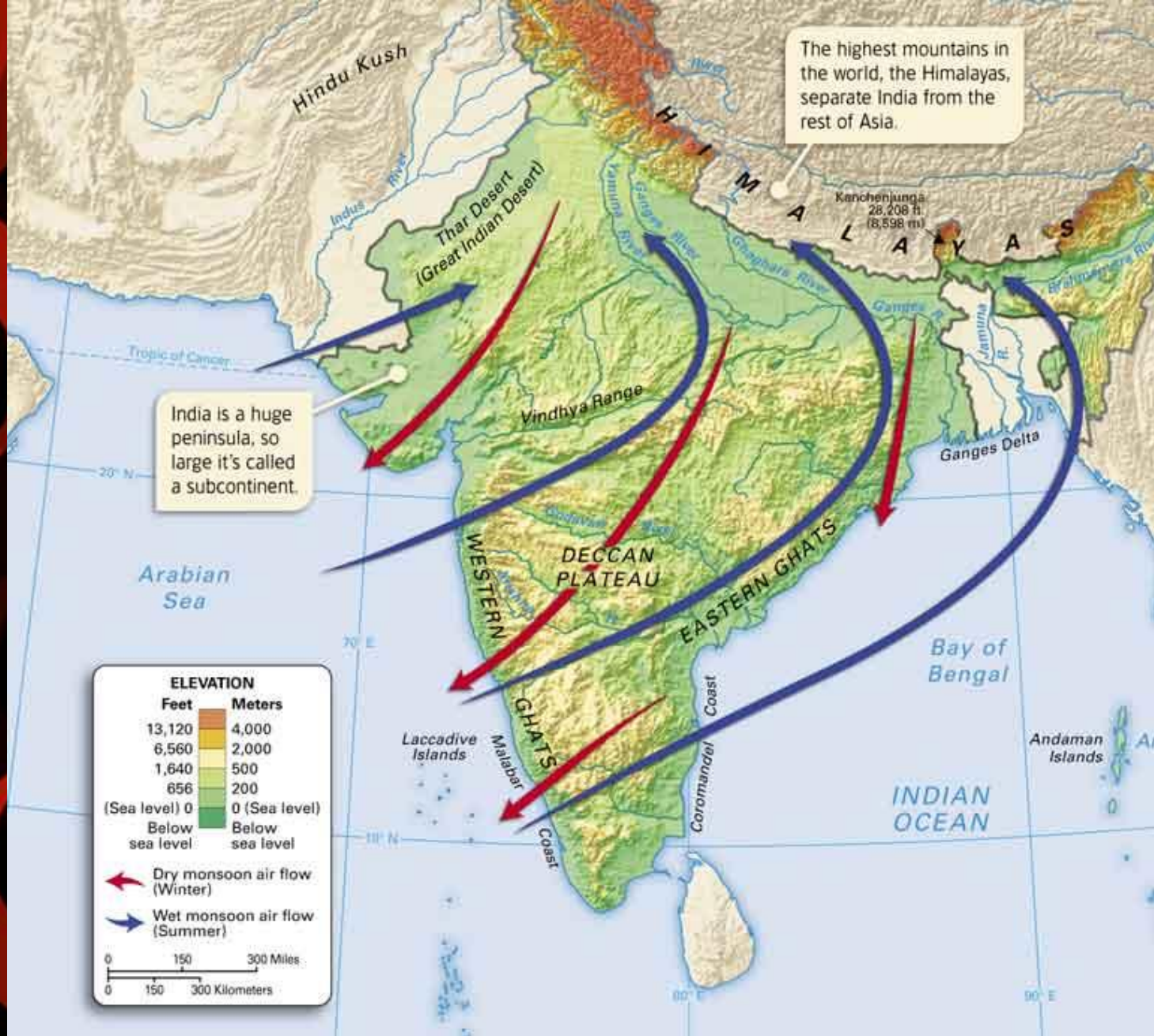
# Chapter 6 Time Line



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# Geography of India

- India is home to one of the world's earliest civilizations. India is so huge it's called a **subcontinent**, which is a large landmass that is smaller than a continent.
- A subcontinent is usually separated from a continent by physical features, such as mountains.
- The world's highest mountains, the Himalayas, are in India. India also has a vast desert, many fertile plains, and rugged plateaus.



# India: Physical

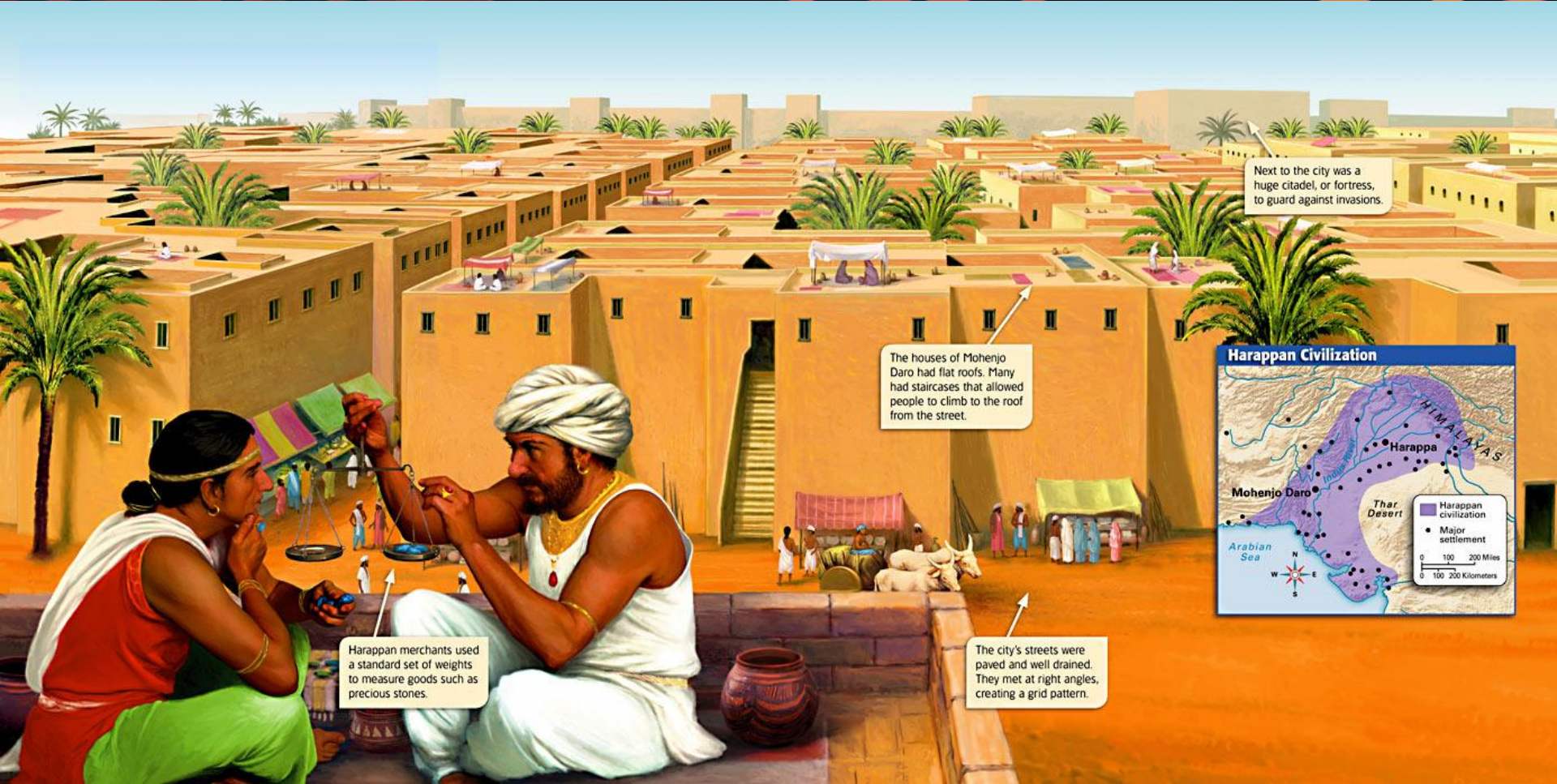
# The Indus River

- The Indus River, which flows from the Himalayas and is located mainly in present-day Pakistan, is the cradle of ancient Indian civilization.
- As in Egypt and Kush, the flooding river created fertile plains where people first settled.
- India's hot and humid climate is heavily influenced by **monsoons**, wind patterns that cause wet and dry seasons.

# Harappan Civilization

- India's first civilization was the Harappan civilization, which developed along the Indus River valley.
- Named after the ancient city of Harappa, archaeologists believe Harappans thrived between 2300 and 1700 BC.
- In fact, most information about Harappans comes from the ruins of Harappa and another major city, Mohenjo Daro.
- Each city was well planned and built in the shadow of a fortress that could easily oversee the city streets.

# Life in Mohenjo Daro

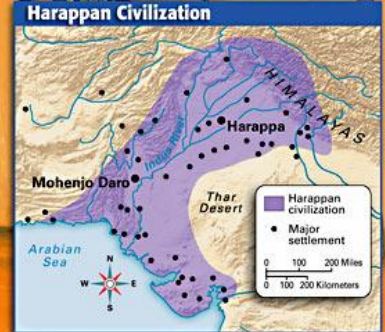


Next to the city was a huge citadel, or fortress, to guard against invasions.

The houses of Mohenjo Daro had flat roofs. Many had staircases that allowed people to climb to the roof from the street.

Harappan merchants used a standard set of weights to measure goods such as precious stones.

The city's streets were paved and well drained. They met at right angles, creating a grid pattern.

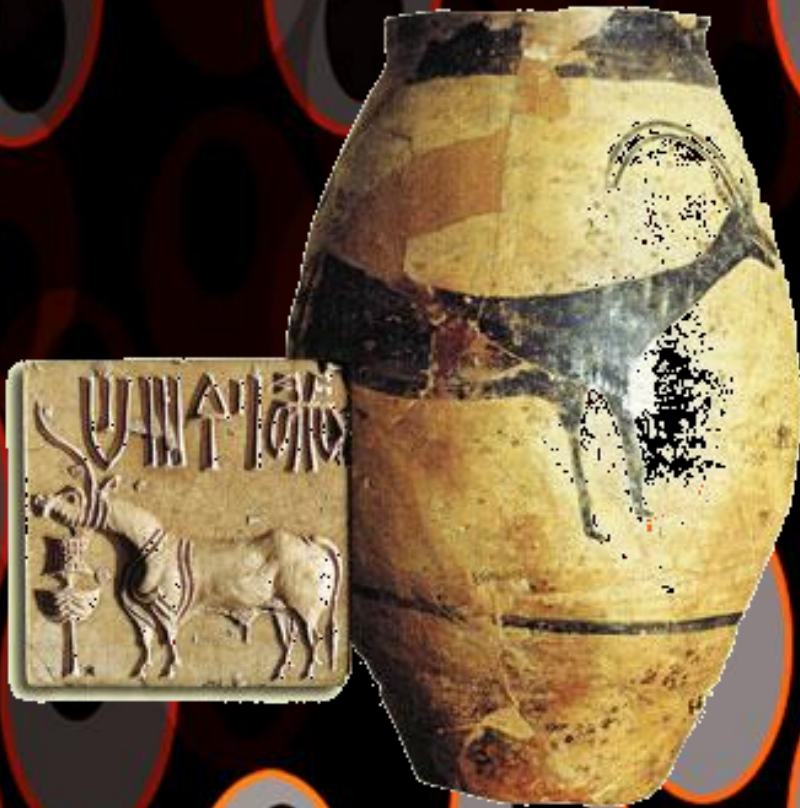


Mohenjo Daro was one of the two major cities of the Harappan civilization. Located next to the Indus River in what is now Pakistan, the city probably covered one square mile. The people who lived in the city enjoyed some of the most advanced comforts of their time, including indoor plumbing.

# Harappan Civilization

- The cities were very advanced. Most houses had indoor plumbing.
- The Harappans developed beautiful artisan crafts and a system of weights and measures.
- They also developed India's first writing system, but scholars have not been able to read it.
- Because of this, we know little for sure about the Harappan government, though it is thought that there were kings, who might have been thought of as gods.
- It's also unclear why the Harappan civilization crumbled.

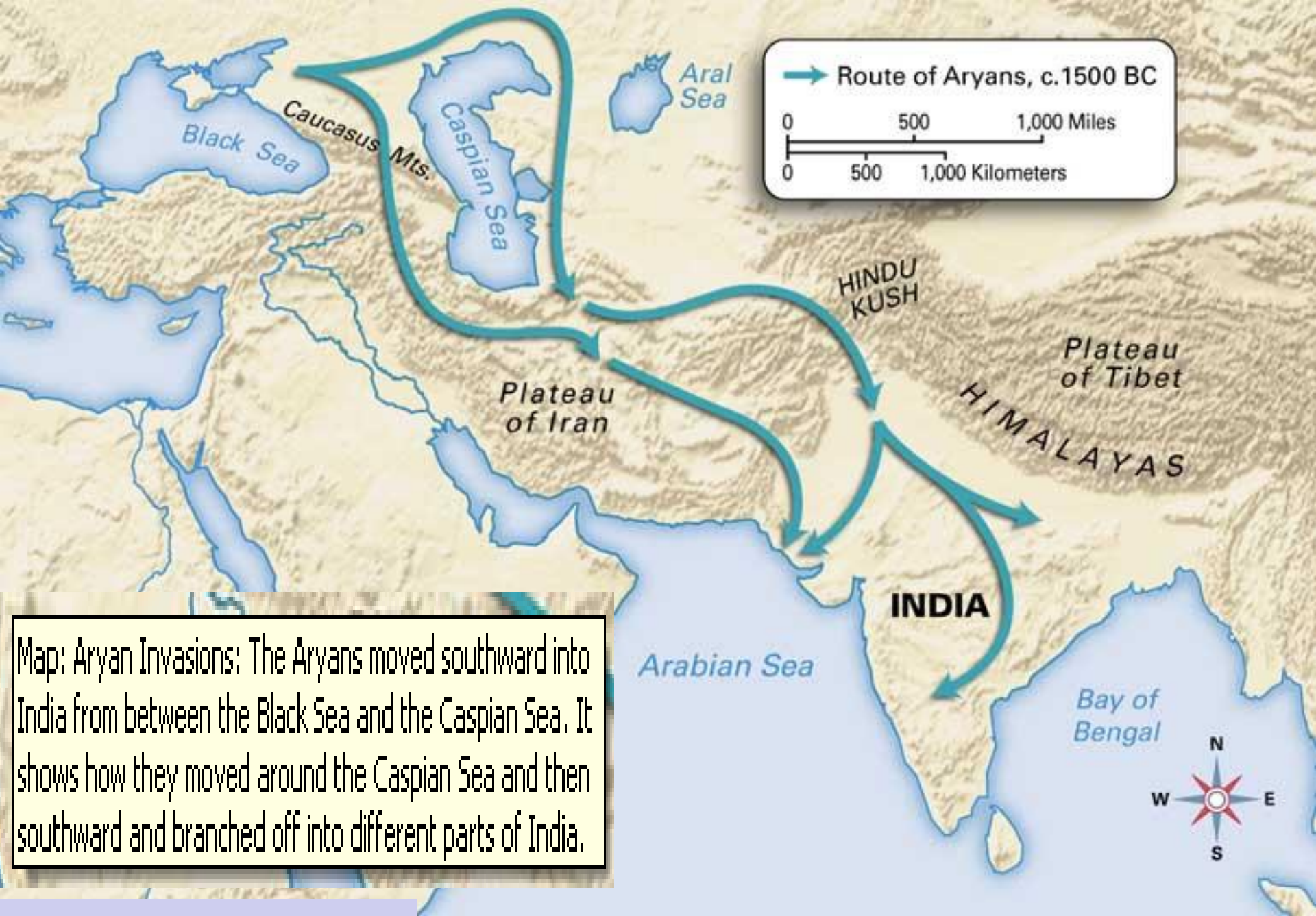
# Harappan Art



Like other ancient peoples, the Harappans made small seals like the one below that were used to stamp goods. They also used clay pots like the one at right decorated with a goat.

# Aryan Invasion

- Originally nomads from Central Asia, the Aryans had taken over the Indus and Ganges River valleys by 1200 BC.
- Unlike the Harappans, they had no central government and they did not build planned cities.
- Aryans lived in small communities run by a local leader, or raja.
- Aryan groups fought each other as often as they fought outsiders.



# Aryan Invasion

# Sanskrit

- The Aryans spoke **Sanskrit** and developed a rich tradition of poems and hymns that survived from generation to generation by word of mouth.
- People later figured out how to write in Sanskrit.
- The huge lasting influence of these early written works made Sanskrit the most important language of ancient India.
- Much of what we know about the early Aryans comes to us through Sanskrit records.