

The Indus Valley

History

Year 4

Lesson 5 of 6

Learning Objective		Resources
To explore the technology used by the Indus Valley civilisation.		Slides Fact Cards Weight Cards (FSD? activity only) Length Cards (FSD? activity only) Rulers, card, weighing scales, objects to weigh
Teaching Input		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Show the children the image of the weights on the slide. What do you think these are? What were they used for? Think, pair, share. Go through the information on the slide, explaining that they are weights, what they are made from and what they weigh. Explain that they were very accurate. Much more accurate than anything in Britain at the same time. Share the information on the slide about the measurement system they used. What does their level of accuracy tell us about the civilisation? Explain that this shows they were far more advanced and organised than the people in Bronze Age Britain were. Tell the children that there isn't a reliable record of weights and measure systems in Britain before the Romans and that England and Scotland did not agree on a system of measure until 1800 CE! 		
Main Activity		
<u>Lower ability:</u> Provide the children with plain paper. In a group the children will mind-map their answers to the question, 'Why is it important for a group of people to have a uniform unit of measure?'	<u>Middle ability:</u> Provide the children with the Fact Cards and plain paper. The children will write a script for a TV programme where they try to persuade the world to adopt a uniform unit of measure.	<u>Higher ability:</u> Provide the children with the Fact Cards and plain paper. The children will write a report outlining the positives and negatives of adopting a uniform unit of measure across the world.
Fancy something different...?		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the children with the Weight Cards, the Length Cards, rulers, strips of card, weights and balance scales or weighing scales and a variety of objects. The children will try to make their own weights and rulers to match the Indus specifications. 		
Plenary	Assessment Questions	
Ask the children to write three facts they now know about the Indus Valley civilisation. When they have written them they can share them with a partner before sharing some with the class. Does everyone agree they are facts and they are true?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do children understand the Indus Valley civilisation had advanced systems of measure compared to other civilisations at the time? Can children say why agreeing on a uniform system of measure is useful? Can children compare the Indus Valley civilisation with Bronze Age Britain? 	