

The Indus Valley

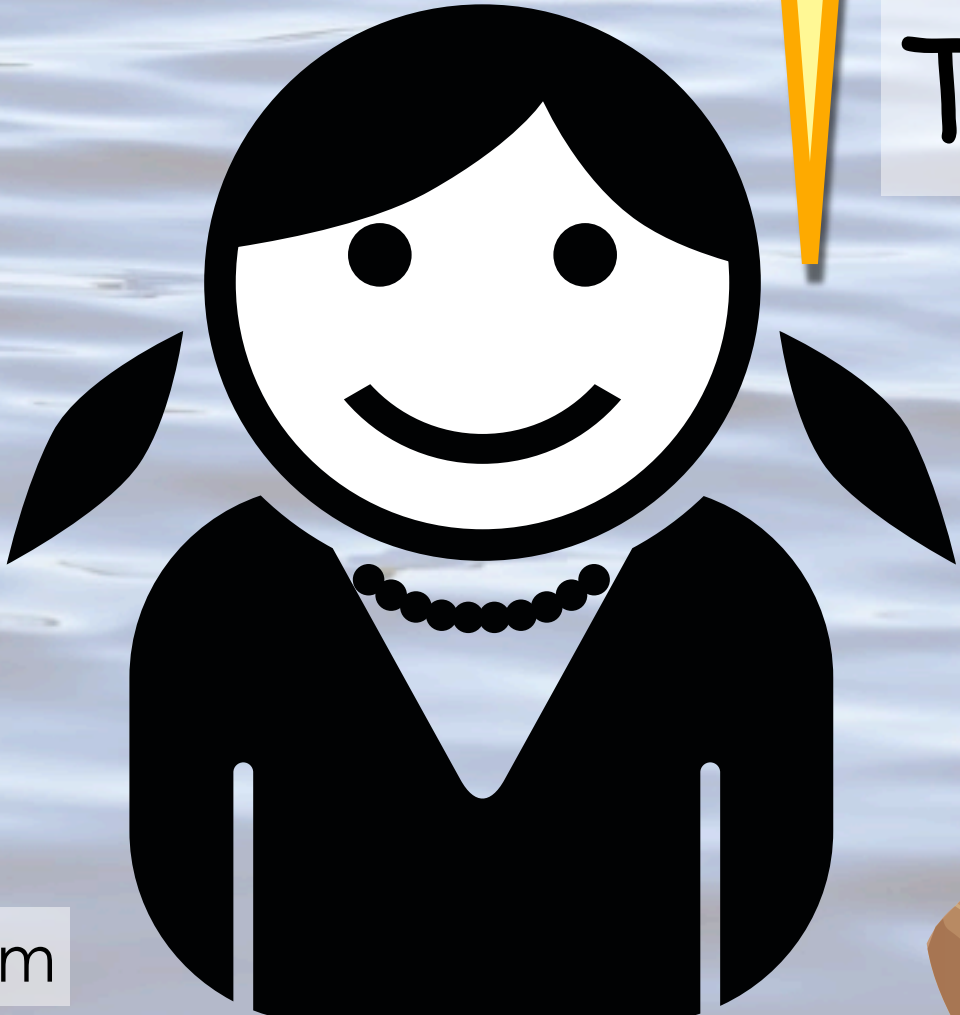
Learning Objective:

To explore the technology used by the Indus Valley civilisation.



What do you think these are? What were they used for?

Think, pair, share



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This is a set of Indus Valley weighing scales and weights. Several of these have been found in the Indus Valley. Most of the scales were made from copper. The weights were cubes made from a flinty rock called grey chert. The smallest cubes found weighed around one gram.

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The cubes were all uniform weights. This meant that the weight of an item could be checked by anyone who had access to a set of weights and some scales.

Why do you think the weights were made from stone not clay?

Think, pair, share

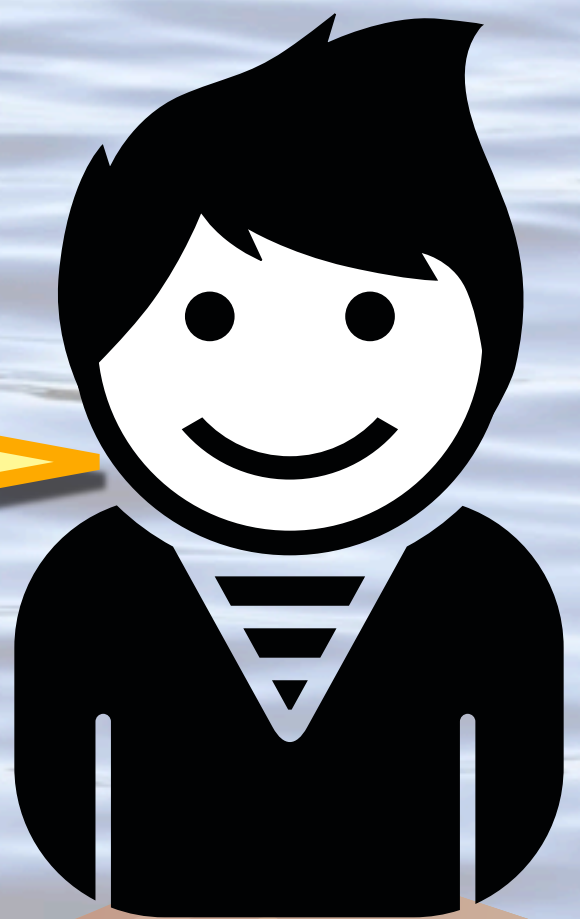
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Clay chips easily which would have affected the accuracy of the weights. They were made from stone so they were more accurate.

These weights were much more accurate than anything Britain had at that time!



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The Indus Valley civilisation also had a very accurate system of measure. An ivory scale was found in Lothal with a scale of around 1.6 mm. This is the smallest measurement ever found from the Bronze Age.



What does their level of accuracy tell us about the civilisation?

Think, pair, share

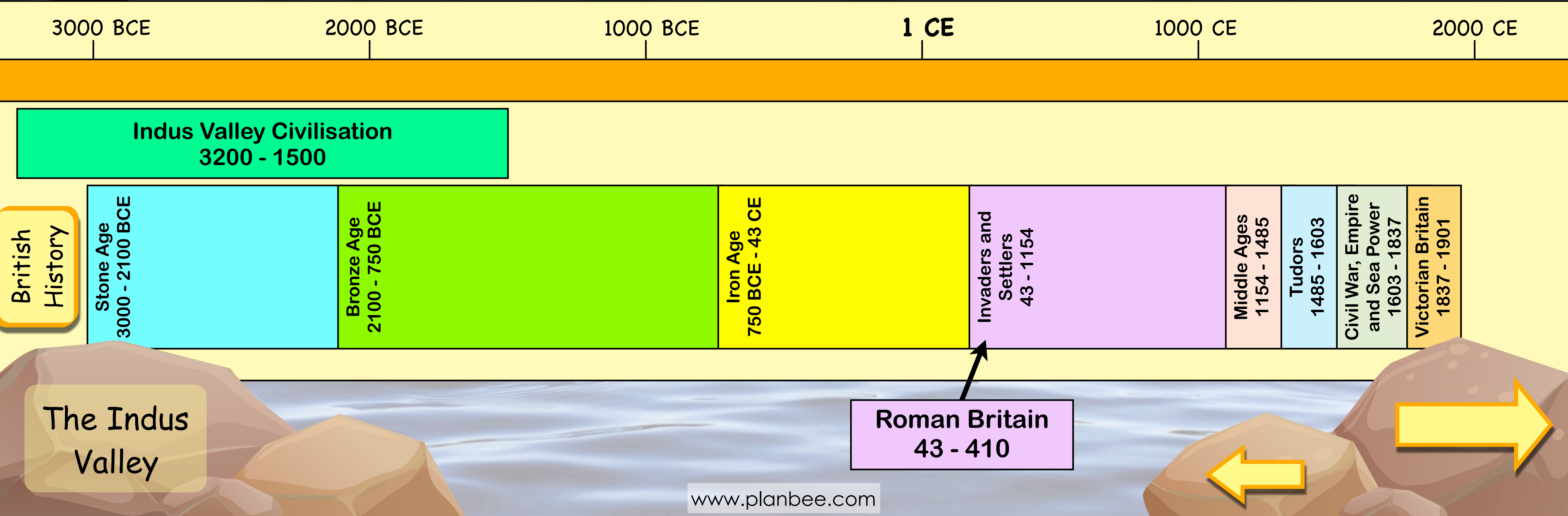
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This tells us that the Indus Valley people were far more advanced and organised than the people in Bronze Age Britain.



Did you know there isn't a reliable record of weight and measure being used in England before the Romans invaded? It wasn't until 1800 CE that England and Scotland agreed to use the same system of measure!



Write three facts about the Indus Valley civilisation.

Share your facts with a partner, then share some of them with the class. Does everyone agree they are facts?



Plenary

