

**Theory A**

Droughts and floods affected the availability of water in the Indus Valley settlements.

**Theory B**

The people of the Indus Valley civilisation were massacred during an invasion.

**Theory C**

There was an outbreak of disease in the Indus Valley, causing the population to decline.

**Theory D**

Trade routes with Mesopotamia and Egypt declined, which affected the Indus Valley's imports and exports.

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## Evidence A

The course of several rivers has changed since the height of the Indus Valley civilisation.

## Evidence B

An Indo-European tribe called the Aryans migrated from Eastern Europe and Central Asia. They settled in northwest India around 1500 BCE.

## Evidence C

Indus Valley settlements had communal water systems. If the water was infected by a disease like cholera it would infect lots of people quickly.

## Evidence D

Excavations of Mohenjo-Daro have revealed buildings were buried under several layers of silt. This suggests repeated instances of flooding.

## Evidence E

Sir Mortimer Wheeler found a burial site in Mohenjo-Daro containing thirty-seven skeletons. He thought the people had been killed violently. It is now thought they died naturally and were from a much later time period.

## Evidence F

The trade route with Mesopotamia was important for the Indus Valley civilisation. During the decline of the Indus Valley civilisation Mesopotamia was suffering political problems. This may have caused trading to stop.

## Evidence G

The River Ghaggar-Hakra which flowed past several Indus cities now only flows in the rainy seasons. It is dry for the rest of the year.

## Evidence H

Excavations of the Indus Valley settlements have not revealed any weapons or evidence of an army.

## Evidence I

Most skeletons of the Indus Valley people show they appear to have died naturally from malaria. Malaria is a disease spread by mosquitoes.

## Evidence J

There is evidence of climate change which caused the rivers to dry up. The dates this happened are uncertain.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



Read the evidence cards and match the evidence that supports or opposes these theories in the relevant boxes. Then decide which theory you think is most likely to be correct and write it in and your reasons for choosing it the final box.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



You are an historian. Your boss wants to know why the Indus Valley civilisation declined. Prepare a presentation to explain the different theories and share the evidence that supports and opposes them. You also need to include reasons why no one can currently say exactly why the civilisation declined.

A large rectangular area with a blue border, containing 25 horizontal lines for writing a presentation.