

Teacher Tips

Teacher Note: You will create a pile of artifacts for each student to use.

- Follow the steps below:
 - Place one real artifact from the Indus Valley Civilization in a pile for each student.
 - There are 15 options on the first page of [Handout: Artifacts to Use](#).
 - If you have more than 15 students, make copies of this page to use.
 - In addition to the real artifact, place two artifacts that are either fake or do not belong to the Indus Valley Civilization.
 - There are 15 of these artifacts on the second page of [Handout: Artifacts to Use](#).
 - We suggest using 30 of these artifacts or two copies of that page.

Once students have found their artifacts, they should split into groups based on the categories in the lesson. Note: Groups are not all the same size. If you have more than 15 students, we suggest adding in doubles of the smaller groups' objects. Students should split up as follows:

Jewelry:



Animal Figurines:



Pottery:


















Seals and Writing:



Miscellaneous Home Items:



Artifacts to Use - Real Indus Valley

Artifacts to Use - Fake/Not Indus Valley



Returning Artifacts

For years, people have removed artifacts from their original locations. For example, artifacts associated with ancient cultures in Africa, Asia, and Mesoamerica have been removed by archaeologists and treasure hunters. Often, these artifacts taken and sold for a profit, kept as souvenirs, or displayed in museums.

Thanks to the efforts of UNESCO and new laws, some of that is changing. Here are some examples of international cooperation that has helped some artifacts return home, while some are still being fought over:



http://www.unesco.org/new/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/HQ/CLT/movable/pdf/mosaic_01.png

This is a mosaic (a piece made of tiles) of the Roman Catholic saint, St. Mark. The mosaic dates back to the 6th century C.E. and was one of many completed for a large wall in a church in Cyprus. This piece, along with several other mosaics, was stolen from the church in the 1970s. The mosaics were then broken apart and sold. This piece was found in the Netherlands. The Dutch government worked with authorities in Cyprus to safely return the mosaic.



<https://www.mic.com/articles/76321/9-priceless-artifacts-museums-should-return-to-their-home-countries>

Not every nation wants to return artifacts. One of the most famous and ongoing arguments is over the Elgin Marbles. This is one of the most famous artifacts of ancient Greece. The piece was originally part of the Greek Parthenon, one of the most famous buildings in the world. The artifact was removed from Athens by a British ambassador in the early 19th century. It has been on display in the British Museum since 1816. For years, the Greek government has asked for the return of the Elgin Marbles, but the British Museum refuses to return the artifact, stating that they have the legal ownership of the piece.

Returning Artifacts



<http://www.unesco.org/new/typo3temp/pics/41b64acce8.jpg>

This is a piece of an ancient Greek column that may have been part of a tombstone. The artifact dates from 340 BCE. The object was stolen and illegally sent from Greece. It turned up at an auction of antiquities in London. The auction house agreed to turn the artifact over to the British government. In 2018, the British government returned the artifact to the Greek government. The artifact is now on display at a museum.



<http://www.unesco.org/new/typo3temp/pics/06b9873a5f.jpg>

This 16th century painting that belonged to a Jewish art dealer. The Nazis confiscated the painting. The painting was recovered from an auction in Germany. The auction house turned the painting over to the German government. The government returned the painting to descendants of the original owner that now live in Canada.

Steps to Analyze and Return Artifacts

Step 1: Identify Artifacts

- First, get a grouping of artifacts and the Handout: Key for Artifacts from your teacher.
- Choose one of the artifacts you have been given and compare it to the handout.
- It is your job to see if each of the artifacts in your possession is both real and associated with the Indus Valley civilization.
- If BOTH are true, you can move on to the next step.
- If your artifact is not real or is not associated with the Indus Valley civilization, you need to choose another artifact.
- After you choose another artifact, look at the key again.
- Repeat the process until you have found an artifact that is both real and is associated with the Indus Valley civilization.
- The artifact(s) that do not meet both requirements can be returned to your teacher.

Step 2: Create a Database Entry

- Each artifact is part of a group. When your teacher tells you, find other students that are part of your group.
 - The groups are: Jewelry, Animal Figurines, Pottery, Seals, and Miscellaneous Home Items.
- Fill in the database entry sheet on the next page.

Step 3: Returning Artifacts

It is your job to return the artifact to the nation that it belongs to. Write a letter on another sheet of paper. Make sure your letter includes the following:

- The name of the artifact(s).
- A statement that describes the artifacts are being officially returned to the government of that nation.
- A description of what the artifact tells us about the Indus Valley civilization.
- The date that the artifacts are to be returned.
- Your signature.
- An explanation describing how the 1970 UNESCO law is being used to make sure that artifacts that belong to another nation will be returned to that nation.

Database Entry

Fill out the information below about your group's artifacts:






Names of antique appraisal specialists: _____

Sketch of each artifact and short description of each:




Note: Use only as many boxes as you need. If you have duplicates of the same artifact, each student should still report on the artifact they found, meaning an artifact might be listed more than once.

Claim about what the artifacts tell us: (What do you think these artifacts tell us about life in Ancient India?)

Key for Artifacts






Picture of Artifact	Real or Counterfeit?	Indus Valley artifact? If so, what was it used for?
	Real	Yes. The figure on this seal probably shows an Indus god. The god has three faces, a headdress with horns and is wearing arm bangles. n.d.
	Real	Yes. These are small toys made of terra-cotta showing a wagon with a human figure and piece of pottery, oxen and a chicken c. 2500 BCE
	Real	Yes. Pottery fragment with red and black painted decoration. Pottery was used for a variety of purposes as bowls, urns and other containers. C. 2500 BCE
	Real	Yes. This is a painted pottery urn from Harappa, possibly used as grave goods. C. 1900-1300 BCE
	Real	Yes. This is a necklace made of gold and semi-precious stones that someone from royalty or the wealthy might wear. c. 3500 BCE

Key for Artifacts






Picture of Artifact	Real or Fake?	Indus Valley artifact? If so, what was it used for?
	Real	Yes. This is a terra cotta oil lamp used to provide light. c. 2500-2000 BCE
	Real	Yes. This is an alabaster figure of a bull, possibly used for decoration. c. 3000-1600 BCE
	Real	Yes. This is a stamp seal. Stamp seals were used to stamp goods to show ownership. c. 2600-1900 BCE
	Real	Yes. This is a ceramic bowl with painted decoration. c. 3000-2500 BCE
	Real	Yes. These are seals with Indus Valley writing which consisted of pictures and symbols. n.d.

Key for Artifacts








Picture of Artifact	Real or Fake?	Indus Valley artifact? If so, what was it used for?
	Real	Yes. This is a gold and <u>semi precious</u> stone necklace. n.d.
	Real	Yes. These are weights that would have been used to measure everything from grains to precious stones and gold. n.d.
	Real	Yes. This is a small red ceramic figure of a monkey. It is not known if the monkey held a religious meaning. c. 2400-1750 BCE
	Real	Yes. This is a small terra cotta bird whistle that might have been used by a child. 2500-1750 BCE
	Real	Yes. This is a terracotta dish container on a stand. It is believed to have been used to hold offerings for religious ceremonies.






Key for Artifacts

Picture of Artifact	Real or Fake?	Indus Valley artifact? If so, what was it used for?
	Fake	No. This is a modern silver-stamped bracelet inspired by Indus designs.
	Real	No. This is a jade horse carving of the kind seen in ancient Chinese culture. 3400-2250 BCE
	Real	No. This gold piece was made in ancient China c. 5000-4000 BCE
	Real	No. This is a stele showing a battle scene and an Arabic inscription. c. 500 CE
	Real	No. This is an Etruscan amphora used to store liquids c. 540-530 BCE

Key for Artifacts

Picture of Artifact	Real or Fake	Indus Valley artifact? If so, what was it used for?
	Fake	No. This is modern Indian jewelry made to look like traditional jewelry.
	Fake	No. This is modern Indian ceramic painted pottery.
	Fake	No. These are modern clay pots made in Pakistan.
	Real	No. This is an Arab pottery dish with Arabic writing. c. 900 CE
	Real	No. This is a copper lamp from the Eastern Han Dynasty of China. c. 25-220 CE

Key for Artifacts

Picture of Artifact	Real or Counterfeit?	Indus Valley artifact? If so, what was it used for?
	Counterfeit	No. This is a modern alabaster elephant made in Italy.
	Real	No. This is a Japanese stoneware jar. c. 1400 CE
	Fake	No. This is a modern wood incense burner from India.
	Real	No. This is an ancient Roman wooden toy top. c. 200 CE
	Real	No. This is a piece of an ancient Roman glass beaker used to hold liquid. c. 350 CE