

# Indus River Valley





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# What We Will Learn Today:

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**How did geography effect the Indus River Valley civilization?**



# India's Geographic Features



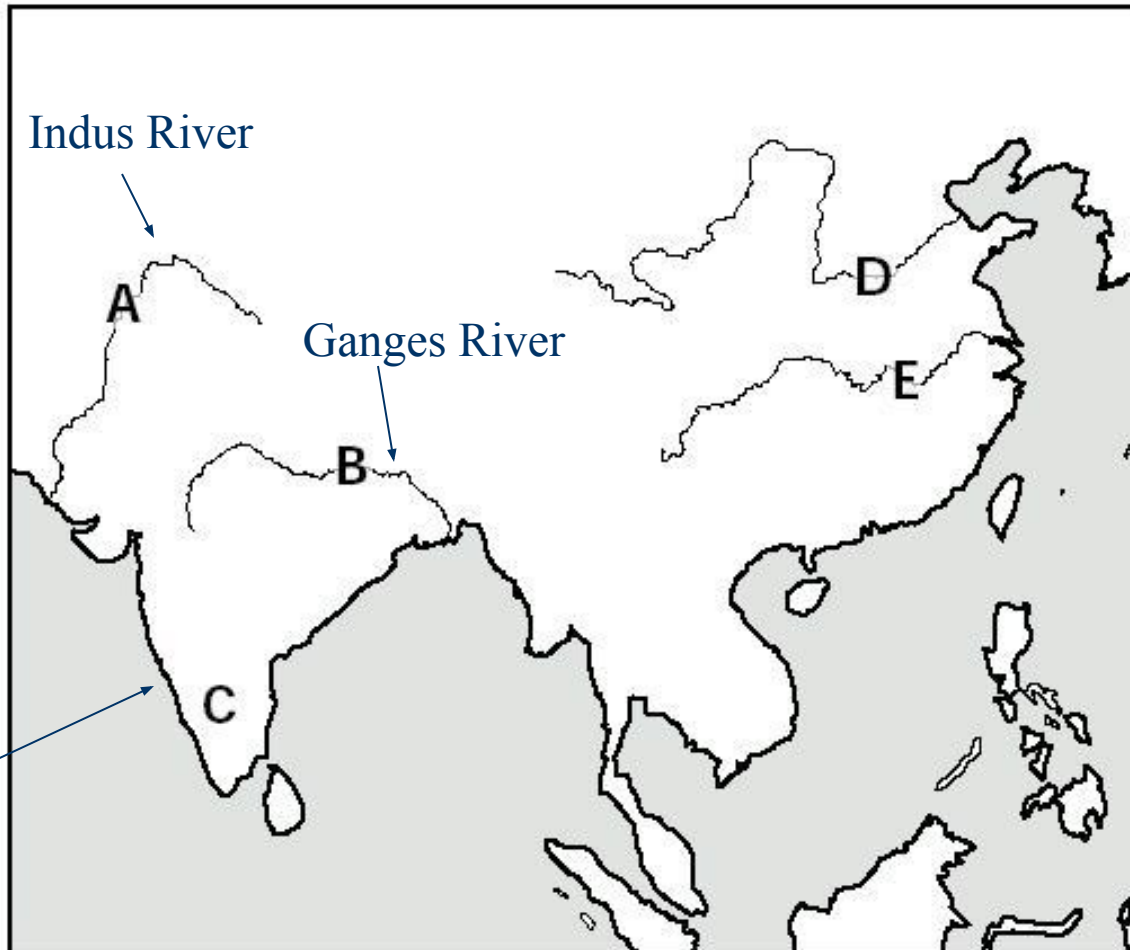
- The Indian **subcontinent** is a **large, wedge-shaped peninsula** that extends southward into the Indian Ocean.
- **Subcontinent**: A large region that is part of a continent, but is **separated** from the rest of the continent in some way.





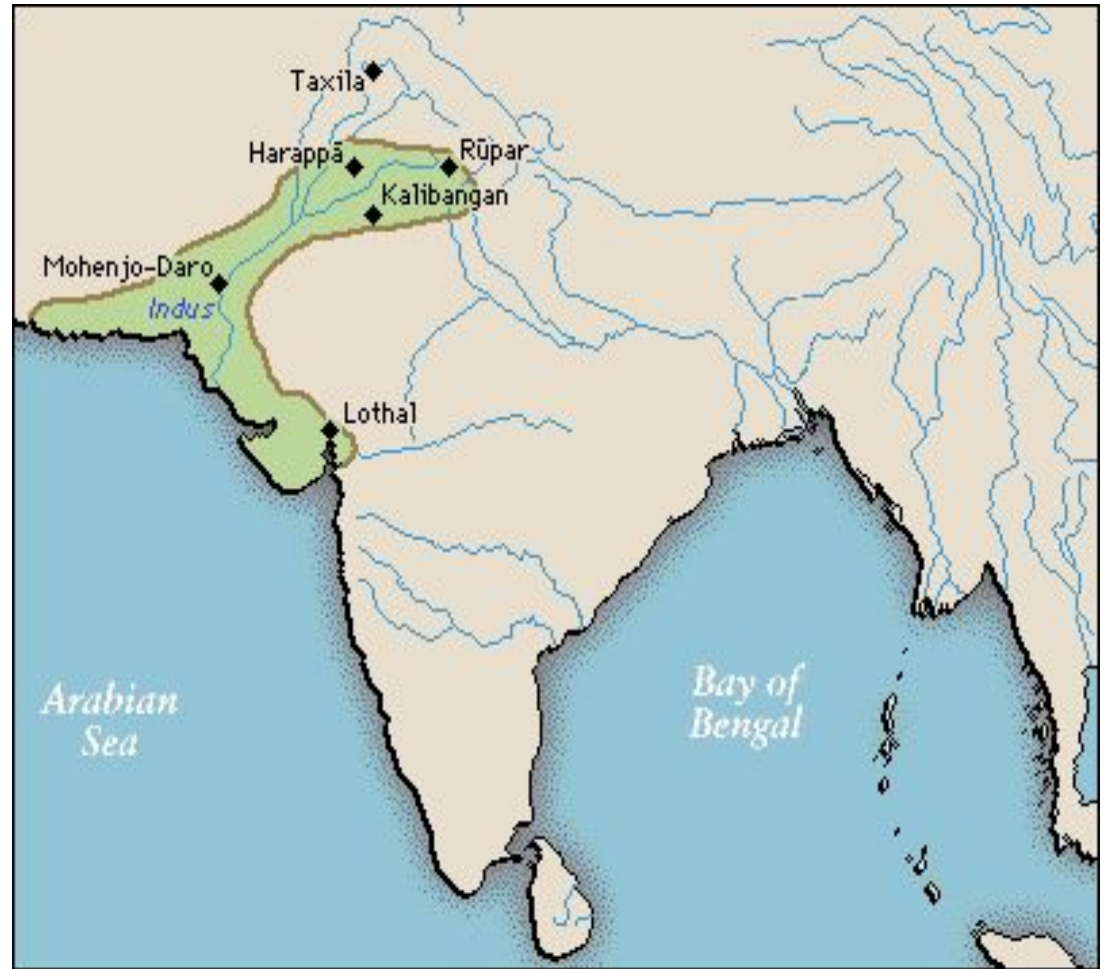


# Identification of Geographic Features in India



Peninsula  
and/or  
Subcontinent

- Several major rivers flow out of the Himalayas. The valley of one of them, the Indus, was the location of India's first civilization.



- The Indus is located in present day Pakistan, west of India. When heavy snows in the Himalayas melted, the Indus flooded.
- As in Mesopotamia and Egypt, the flooding left behind a layer of fertile silt. The silt created ideal farmland for early settlers.





# Himalayan Mountains

- This peninsula is surrounded on the north and northwest by huge mountains, the **Himalayan Mountains**.
- This has often limited India's contact with other cultures. This is known as **cultural isolation**.
- **You decide!** How would isolation impact the people on Ancient Indus?



- Most of India has a hot and humid climate. This climate is heavily influenced by India's **monsoons**, seasonal wind patterns that cause wet and dry seasons.

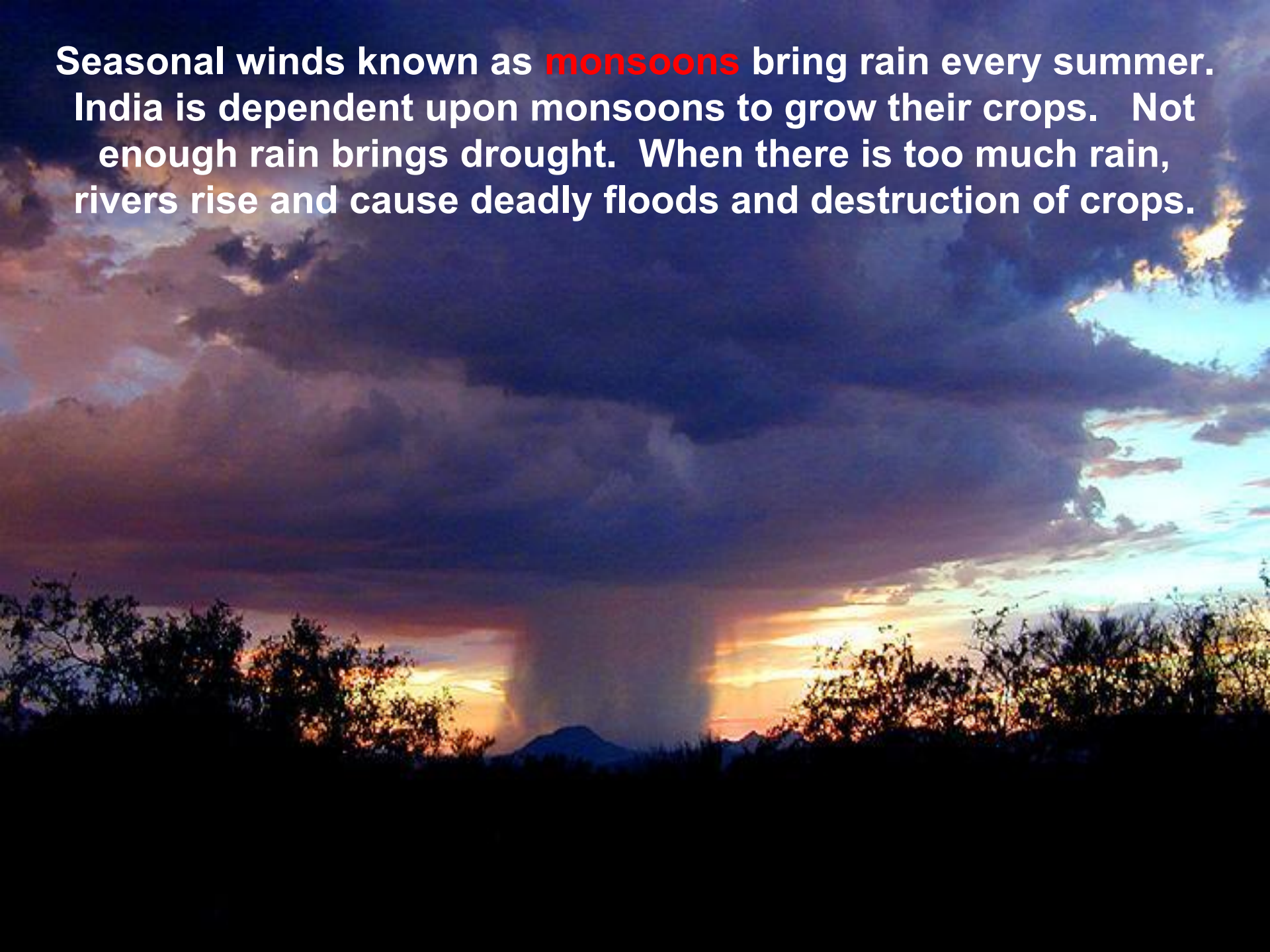


**Monsoons** Seasonal winds called monsoons dominate India's climate. From October to February, winter monsoons from the northeast blow dry air westward across the country. Then, from the middle of June through October, the winds shift. These monsoons blow eastward from the southwest, carrying moisture from the ocean in great rain clouds. The powerful storms bring so much moisture that flooding often happens. When the summer monsoons fail to develop, drought often causes crop disasters.

**Environmental Challenges** The civilization that emerged along the Indus River faced many of the same challenges as the ancient Mesopotamian and Egyptian civilizations.

- Yearly floods spread deposits of rich soil over a wide area. However, the floods along the Indus were unpredictable.
- The rivers sometimes changed course.
- The cycle of wet and dry seasons brought by the monsoon winds was unpredictable. If there was too little rain, plants withered in the fields and people went hungry. If there was too much rain, floods swept away whole villages. **A**

Seasonal winds known as **monsoons** bring rain every summer. India is dependent upon monsoons to grow their crops. Not enough rain brings drought. When there is too much rain, rivers rise and cause deadly floods and destruction of crops.





# Civilization in the Indus River Valley Begins

- About 2500 BC, about the time when the pyramids were rising in Egypt, the first Indian civilizations were forming in the Indus River Valley.
- Little is known about these civilizations, but **Harappa** and **Mohenjo-Daro** were most likely twin capital cities.

