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Aii Language Center
A Mengly J. Quach Education School

Name_____ Date_____

Reading Explorer 5, Third Edition
Additional Reading Practice
Unit 1B

Read the passage and choose the correct answer for each question.

The Mysterious Indus Valley City

A The Indus Valley civilization was entirely unknown until 1921, when excavations in what would become Pakistan revealed the cities of Harappa and Mohenjo Daro. This mysterious culture emerged nearly 4,500 years ago and thrived for 1,000 years, profiting from the highly fertile lands of the Indus River flood plain and trade with the civilizations of nearby Mesopotamia.

B A well-planned street grid and an elaborate drainage system hint that the occupants of the ancient Indus civilization city of Mohenjo Daro were skilled urban planners with a concern for providing clean water to all of the inhabitants of the city and for the disposal of dirty water and sewage. The people who developed these cities identified themselves with a writing system that cannot be deciphered, so their names or the names of their sacred deities are still unknown.

C The city lacks ostentatious palaces, temples, or monuments. There is no obvious central seat of government or evidence of a king or queen. Modesty, order, and cleanliness were apparently preferred. Pottery and tools of copper and stone were relatively uniform throughout the Indus cities but there are some variations in different regions. Seals and weights suggest a system of tightly controlled trade. The city's wealth and stature is evident in artifacts such as ivory, lapis,[1] and gold beads, as well as the baked-brick city structures themselves.

D A watertight pool called the Great Bath is a monumental public bathing area that may have been used for special rituals in one of the neighborhoods of Mohenjo Daro. Jonathan Mark Kenoyer, a National Geographic grantee who has worked at both Mohenjo Daro and Harappa argues that their belief system did not involve the construction of major temples, but that they may have worshipped out in the open or at the foot of specific trees. Wells were found in nearly every block of houses at Mohenjo Daro, and most houses had a bathing area linked to the drainage system.

City of Mounds

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E The ancient city of Mohenjo Daro sits on a high mound made up of the remains of earlier habitation levels in the modern-day Larkana district of Sindh province in Pakistan. During its heyday from about 2,600 to 1,900 B.C., the city was one of five major cities located in different parts of the greater Indus Valley. It spread out over about 100 hectares on a series of mounds, and the Great Bath and an associated large building occupied the highest mound at the western edge of the city.

F According to Kenoyer, the mounds grew organically over the centuries as people kept building platforms and walls for their houses. —Gradually you have a high promontory[2] on which people are living,‖ he says. With no evidence of kings or queens, Mohenjo Daro was likely governed as a city-state, perhaps by elected officials or elites from each of the major communities of the city.

Prized Artifacts

G A miniature bronze statuette of a woman with ornaments and carrying a small offering bowl was called a —dancing girl‖ by archeologists when it was discovered in 1926. At Mohenjo Daro and some other sites are a few stone sculptures of seated male figures, such as the intricately carved and colored Priest King, so called even though there is no evidence he was a priest or king. The sculptures were all found broken. Kenoyer says, —Whoever came in at the very end of the Indus period clearly didn't like the people who were representing themselves or their elders,‖ he says.

H Just what ended the Indus civilization—and Mohenjo Daro—is also a mystery. Kenoyer suggests that the Indus and the Ghaggar-Hakra Rivers changed course, which would have hampered the local agricultural economy and the city's importance as a center of trade. But no evidence exists that flooding destroyed the city, and the city was not totally abandoned, Kenoyer says. Experts argue that there are many factors that contributed to the decline and eventual reorganization of the Indus Civilization—and that is the subject of continuing research by scholars excavating sites in India and Pakistan today.

1 **Lapis** is a bright blue rock used for decoration and in jewelry.
2 A **promontory** is a peak of high land that sticks out into a body of water.

1. Which of the following is NOT a mystery to archeologists?
- a. who occupied Mohenjo Daro
- b. how large Mohenjo Daro was
- c. why Mohenjo Daro collapsed
- d. who destroyed Mohenjo Daro's sculptures

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2. Which of the following did archeologists find in Mohenjo Daro?
- a. religious items
- b. royal monuments
- c. items used for trade
- d. government buildings

3. What is true about the Great Bath?
- a. It was located next to a temple.
- b. It was the city's only bathing area.
- c. It was on the highest part of the city.
- d. It was also used for political ceremonies.

4. What does the discovery of the broken male sculptures suggest to Jonathan Kenoyer? a. Religion played a very significant role in the daily lives of the city's occupants. b. Members of Mohenjo Daro's royal family were killed by the city's occupants in a violent struggle.
- c. The city's occupants had only a basic level of artistic skill when they were overthrown.
- d. There was probably some conflict between Mohenjo Daro's occupants and the people who replaced them.

5. What is true about the city of Mohenjo Daro?
- a. The city was abandoned suddenly.
- b. The people were skilled at city planning.
- c. The city was governed by a king and queen.
- d. The civilization collapsed 4,500 years ago.

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