VA #1 River Systems of the World

7. Amazon River 14. Tigris River
Monsoon Song
by Guru Dev Rabindranath Tagore

After the long hot burning tropical summer, When the dark clouds of rain make the first appearance on the far side of the horizon, One's heart is at once filled with joy and hope. And then comes the rains, soaking the earth and the human soul.

My mind flies with the clouds in infinite space To the musical accompaniment of Shravana rains. It takes wings and flies with the wild ducks And loses itself in the ecstasy of turbulent nature.

Mon Mor Megher Sangi
mon more meghero sangee, ude chale dig digantero pane nishimo shunne shrabano barshano sangeete rimijhim rimijhim rimijhim.

mon more hansha balakar pakhay jaye ude kachito kachito chakito tarito – aaloke. jhanjhano manjeero bajay jhanjha rudra anande.

kolo – kolo kolo mondire nirjharinee dak dyay pralaya aaobhane. bayu bahe purba samudra hote uchchhala chhalo chhalo tatinee tarange.

mon more dhaye tari matto prabahe tal – tamalo – aranney khubdha shakhar andolaney.

A barahmasa is an Indian folk song about the seasons. There are thousands of barahmasas from all parts of India. One of the most famous is the Monsoon Song.
**VA #8 Asian Monsoon Wind Flow**

**Convergence zone**: A region in the atmosphere where two prevailing flows of air meet and interact, usually resulting in distinctive weather conditions.
The following presentation identifies the importance of water and major river systems to human life and ancient civilizations in India and China, and provides examples of the natural resources upon which early civilizations in these areas relied.
The Indus, Ganges, and Huang He
Major Cities: Harappa and Mohenjo Daro

The excavated city of Mohenjo Daro is located in modern day Pakistan.
Ecosystem Goods:

- Indus and Ganges rivers: fresh water and fish
- Himalaya Mountains: forests of cedar trees
- Floodplains: fertile, alluvial soil, good for growing crops, such as wheat, barley, millet, peas, sesame seeds, dates, and cotton
- Rivers: soil, mud for bricks for building houses and walls

Millet

Himalaya Mountains
- Thar Desert: gemstones (lapis lazuli, turquoise)
- Animals: water buffalo
- The Indus and Ganges rivers: transportation
- Himalaya Mountains: protection, climate
- Monsoon rains: fed the rivers
This is a map of the area that was controlled by the Shang Dynasty, along with a picture of the Huang He River cutting its way through the mountains.
Ecosystem Goods:

- Huang He River: water for crops, animals, and humans; fish
- Fertile (“loess”) soil: agriculture, clay
- Pine trees: buildings, carvings used for decoration
- Silk worms: silk fabrics
- Jade: jewelry
- Bronze: ritual vases and vessels
- Animals: sport (hunting), labor

Bronze mask
Silk worms
Jade mask
The most important part of the Chinese economy was agriculture. People used water from the Huang He River. Farming was considered sacred. Some farmers burned crops to please the gods or communicate with them. The main crops were millet, wheat, barley, and later, rice.
Silk (worms)

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<td>Silk (worms)</td>
<td>They sold and traded silk.</td>
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“Sindhu [the Indus River] in might surpasses all the streams that flow. Varuna [a god] cut the channels for thy forward course, O Sindhu, when thou rannest on to win the race. Thou speedest o’er precipitous ridges of the earth, when thou art Lord and Leader of these moving floods.”

“Like floods of rain that fall in thunder from the cloud, so Sindhu rushes on bellowing like a bull.”

“Flashing and whitely-gleaming in her mightiness, she moves along her ample volumes through the realms. Most active of the active, Sindhu unrestrained, like to a dappled mare, beautiful, fair to see.”

“So have I praised its power, mighty and unrestrained, of independent glory, roaring as it runs.”

Quotes from the Rig Veda, Book 10

“Ganga [the river goddess] cast each of [her sons] into the Ganges at birth, so that they could quickly return to heaven.”

Quote from Mahabharata, Book 16

The Indus and Ganges rivers are mentioned in many sacred scriptures of Hinduism:
VA #26 The Empire During the Shang Dynasty