

# Indus Valley Civilisation seals

## The key facts

- Most seals show one animal facing left with some writing above.
  - The writing usually starts above the animal's head.
  - Most seals were square.
  - Many seals show a trough or feeder in front of the animal's head.
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- These are some of the animals carved on the seals:

Unicorn	Rhinoceros	Antelope
Humped bull	Water buffalo	Crocodile
Short horned bull	Elephant	Hare
Sheep	Goat	Tiger



↑  
This is the actual size of most Indus Valley seals

- Which animals do you think were domesticated (farmed) and which were wild? Sort them into the boxes below. (No one knows for sure. Discuss your reasons with your partner.) Are there any animals that don't fit in either box?

Wild animals

Domesticated animals

- Some people think that animals were chosen because of their special characteristics – for example, elephants are strong, tigers are fierce and antelopes are fast and graceful. Complete this table to show what you think each animal represents. Some have been done for you.

Animal	Characteristic
Unicorn	
Rhinoceros	
Sheep	
Hare	
Tiger	
Humped bull	Leader of the herd
Crocodile	
Antelope	
Elephant	
Water buffalo	Protector

- Now draw your own seal in the box above. Choose one of the animals and some of the script that you looked at before.