



A reed boat

CHAPTER 3

Water on the Earth

THERE IS WATER EVERYWHERE ON THE EARTH. PEOPLE SWIM IN IT, TRAVEL ACROSS IT, AND TAKE VACATIONS ON IT.

Water is important in human¹¹ history, and rivers are especially important. They bring water for drinking and for growing food. Towns and cities are very often next to rivers.

Rivers are also important for travel and trade. For example, in the Indus Valley¹² in Pakistan, there were boats on the river from about 3300 BCE. The boats carried people and food and many other things, like gold, silver, and pots.

¹¹ **human:** about people

¹² **valley:** low ground between hills or mountains, often with a river going through it



A pot from the Indus Valley

The people in the Indus Valley made their boats out of plants from the river called reeds. These boats were very strong. They could travel on the **ocean**. People in India and Pakistan still use these boats today.

Like rivers, **lakes** are good places for people to live. Lake Titicaca is a very big lake in South America. Part of the lake is in Peru and part of it is in Bolivia. It is more than 3,000 meters above sea level. But those aren't the only interesting things about Lake Titicaca.

In the lake, there are more than 40 islands called *Islas Flotantes*. These are not regular islands. They are floating islands. The Uros people make them from thousands and thousands of reeds. They build these islands and live on them. The bigger islands have about ten Uros families. The smaller islands have only two or three families. Family life and the water from the lake slowly destroy the reeds, so the families have to add more reeds to their island every few months.

The Uros islands of Lake Titicaca

