

Chapter – 3

In the Earliest Cities

2marks:

1. How do archaeologists know that cloth was used in the Harappan civilization?

Answer:

Actual pieces of cloth were found attached to the lid of a silver vase and some copper objects at Mohenjodaro. Archaeologists have also found spindle whorls made of terracotta and faience. These were used to spin thread.

2. Match the columns

Copper	Gujarat
Gold	Afghanistan
Tin	Rajasthan
Precious Stones	Karnataka

Answer:

Copper	Rajasthan
Gold	Karnataka
Tin	Afghanistan
Precious Stones	Gujarat, Afghanistan

3. Why were metals, writing, the wheel and the plough important for the Harappans?

Solution 3:

Metals – used for making tools, ornaments, vessels, weapons

Writing – for communication purposes

Wheel – for pottery and for making carts used for travelling

Plough – used for farming purposes

4. Make a list of all the terracotta toys shown in the lesson. Which do you think children would have enjoyed playing with the most?

Answer:

1. Toy Plough

2. Toy Cart

3. Many Terra cota toys in the shape of different animals

5. Make a list of what the Harappans ate and put a tick mark against the things you eat today.

Answer:

We can find a list of 9 different items.

1. Peas

2. Barley

3. Rice

4. Wheat

5. Fruits

6. Mustard

7. Linseed

8. Sesame

9. Pulses

6. Do you think that the life of farmers and herders who supplied food to the Harappan cities was different from that of the farmers and herders you read about in Chapter 2? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer:

Irrigation – Earlier farmers and herders did not have access to irrigation facilities, unlike their later counterparts.

Storage – Earlier farmers used clay pots and baskets for storage purposes, whereas later-stage farmers had well-built granaries.

Tools – Earlier farmers did not have wooden tools like ploughs that could be used for tilling the land.

7. Why did the discovery of Harappa by railway engineers lead to the destruction of many old buildings in the city?

Answer:

The railway engineers who discovered Harappa saw it as a source of high-quality bricks for building railway lines. In their pursuit of these bricks, they dismantled many old buildings, resulting in significant destruction.

8.What were some common features of Harappan cities in terms of their layout and structures?

Answer:

Harappan cities, such as Mohenjodaro and Harappa, typically had a citadel and a lower town. The citadel, often to the west, was smaller but higher, surrounded by well-baked brick walls. The lower town, usually to the east, was larger and lower.

4marks:

1.Explain the significance of the discovery of Harappa by railway engineers and its subsequent impact on the ancient city. How did this discovery contribute to the destruction of historical structures?

Answer:

The discovery of Harappa by railway engineers initially served as a source of high-quality bricks for building railway lines. However, this led to the unintentional destruction of many old buildings in the city, as the engineers dismantled structures to obtain bricks for construction. The subsequent impact on the preservation of archaeological heritage was twofold. On one hand, the discovery brought attention to the existence of an ancient city, leading to subsequent archaeological investigations around eighty years later.

2.Describe the layout and features of Harappan cities, highlighting the characteristics of the citadel and the lower town. How did the cities demonstrate advanced urban planning?

Answer:

Harappan cities, including Mohenjodaro and Harappa, had a citadel and a lower town. The citadel, generally situated to the west, was smaller but higher, enclosed by well-baked brick walls. The lower town, located to the east, was larger and lower. These cities exhibited

advanced urban planning with covered drains, planned streets, and unique structures like the Great Bath in Mohenjodaro.

3.Discuss the possible reasons for the decline and abandonment of Harappan cities around 3900 years ago. What environmental factors might have contributed to this significant change?

Answer:

The decline of Harappan cities around 3900 years ago remains a mystery, but scholars propose various theories. Possible factors include drying up of rivers, deforestation, and floods. The environmental impact of brick-making and copper smelting, along with grazing by large herds, might have contributed to deforestation, affecting the sustainability of these cities.

4.Examine the role of seals and sealings in Harappan society. How were these artifacts used, and what purpose did they serve in the economic and administrative aspects of the civilization?

Answer:

Seals played a crucial role in Harappan society, likely used to stamp bags or packets containing goods for transportation. The sealing process involved applying wet clay on knots, and the seal's impression ensured the integrity of the goods during transit. This practice had economic and administrative significance, providing a means of verifying the safe arrival of goods.

5.Explore the craftsmanship and specialization seen in Harappan cities. How did specialists contribute to the production of artifacts, and what evidence supports the existence of expert crafts persons?

Answer:

Harappan cities exhibited craftsmanship and specialization, with evidence of specialists contributing to various aspects like stone carving, bead making, and seal carving. The finely crafted artifacts, such as carved faces and intricate designs on objects, suggest the presence of expert crafts persons. These individuals likely focused on specific skills, enhancing the quality of goods produced in the civilization.

6.Discuss the agricultural practices of the Harappans, including the crops they cultivated and the tools they used. How did innovations like the plough impact their farming techniques?

Answer:

The Harappans engaged in agriculture, cultivating crops like wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame, linseed, and mustard. The introduction of the plough marked an innovation in their farming techniques, enabling efficient soil turning and seed planting. While actual ploughs haven't survived, toy models indicate their use in Harappan agriculture.

7.Examine the trade and resource acquisition strategies of the Harappan civilization. From where did they source metals like copper, tin, gold, and precious stones, and how did they facilitate transportation of these raw materials?

Answer:

The Harappans sourced metals like copper from present-day Rajasthan and Oman, tin from present-day Afghanistan and Iran, gold from present-day Karnataka, and precious stones from Gujarat, Iran, and Afghanistan. The transportation of these raw materials likely involved some form of trade routes, possibly using wheeled vehicles, as suggested by toy models and seal impressions found in archaeological sites.

8.Elaborate on the unique features of Harappan artifacts, such as stone weights, beads, blades, and faience. How did these objects contribute to the understanding of Harappan life, trade, and craftsmanship?

Answer:

Harappan artifacts, including stone weights for measuring, beads made of carnelian, stone blades, and faience objects, provided insights into various aspects of Harappan life. Stone weights were likely used in trade, beads showcased craftsmanship and aesthetics, blades might

have had practical uses, and faience objects, produced artificially, demonstrated the technological skill of the Harappans. Together, these artifacts contribute to our understanding of their daily life, trade practices, and advanced craftsmanship.

7marks:

1.Discuss the architectural features of Harappan cities, focusing on the layout, construction materials, and unique structures like the Great Bath. How did these features reflect the advanced urban planning of the Harappan civilization?

Answer:

Harappan cities, exemplified by Mohenjodaro and Harappa, showcased remarkable architectural features. The cities were typically divided into a citadel and a lower town, with the citadel positioned to the west, smaller but higher, surrounded by well-baked brick walls. The lower town, larger and lower, also had walls. The use of baked bricks in an interlocking pattern contributed to the strength and durability of these structures.

One unique structure that stands out is the Great Bath in Mohenjodaro. This large tank, lined with bricks and made watertight with natural tar, had steps leading down from two sides and rooms on all sides. The careful planning and construction of these structures, along with features like covered drains and planned streets, exemplify the advanced urban planning skills of the Harappan civilization. The Great Bath, in particular, suggests a sophisticated understanding of water management and communal activities.

2.Explore the economic activities of the Harappans, considering the roles of rulers, crafts persons, scribes, and traders. How did

these various groups contribute to the economic vibrancy of Harappan cities?

Answer:

The Harappan civilization was marked by a bustling economy supported by various groups. Rulers likely played a role in planning and constructing special buildings, while also engaging in trade with distant lands to acquire valuable resources. Craftspersons were crucial in producing a diverse array of goods, ranging from stone tools to intricate artifacts like seals and beads. Scribes, proficient in writing, contributed to administrative tasks, preparing seals, and possibly documenting important information.

Traders were instrumental in facilitating economic exchanges, possibly using seals for authentication. These interactions would have involved the exchange of goods like metal, precious stones, and other commodities. The economic vibrancy of Harappan cities is evident in the specialized roles of different groups, fostering a thriving and interconnected economic system.

3.Examine the factors that led to the decline and eventual abandonment of Harappan cities around 3900 years ago. Evaluate the various theories proposed by scholars and discuss the potential environmental, social, and economic causes.

Answer:

The decline of Harappan cities around 3900 years ago remains a

subject of speculation among scholars, with multiple theories attempting to explain this phenomenon. One proposed factor is the drying up of rivers, impacting water sources crucial for sustenance. Another theory suggests deforestation, driven by the need for fuel in brick-making and copper smelting, along with grazing by large herds. Flooding is also considered a potential cause. However, none of these factors singularly explains the widespread abandonment of cities. It is likely that a combination of environmental, social, and economic challenges led to the decline. The loss of control by rulers and subsequent breakdown of systems may have played a role, contributing to the cascading effects that ultimately resulted in the abandonment of Harappan cities.

4. Analyze the significance of seals and sealings in Harappan society, focusing on their role in economic transactions and administrative functions. How did the use of seals impact trade, and what evidence supports their importance in Harappan civilization?

Answer:

Seals and sealings held significant roles in Harappan society, particularly in economic transactions and administrative functions. Seals were likely used to authenticate bags or packets containing goods, ensuring their safe transit. The sealing process involved applying wet clay on knots, leaving an impression of the seal.

This practice had economic implications as it provided a method for verifying the integrity of goods during transportation. The presence of seals and sealings in various archaeological sites suggests their widespread use, underscoring their importance in trade and administrative processes. These artifacts are crucial in understanding the organizational structure and economic dynamics of the Harappan civilization.

5.Examine the impact of technological advancements, such as the plough, on Harappan agriculture. How did innovations in farming tools contribute to the agricultural practices of the Harappans, and what evidence supports the use of the plough in their civilization?

Answer:

Technological advancements, notably the introduction of the plough, had a significant impact on Harappan agriculture. The plough revolutionized farming techniques by enabling efficient soil turning and seed planting. While actual ploughs haven't survived, the presence of toy models indicates their use in Harappan agriculture.

The adoption of the plough likely increased agricultural productivity, contributing to the cultivation of crops like wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame, linseed, and mustard. The innovation in farming tools reflects the adaptability and ingenuity of the Harappans in enhancing their agricultural practices.

6.Evaluate the trade and resource acquisition strategies of the Harappan civilization, with a focus on the sourcing of metals like copper, tin, gold, and precious stones. How did the Harappans establish trade connections, and what evidence supports their long-distance exchanges?

Answer:

The Harappans engaged in extensive trade, acquiring metals such as copper from present-day Rajasthan and Oman, tin from present-day Afghanistan and Iran, gold from present-day Karnataka, and precious stones from Gujarat, Iran, and Afghanistan. The establishment of trade connections involved the use of likely trade routes, possibly utilizing wheeled vehicles, as suggested by toy models and seal impressions found in archaeological sites.

The presence of these raw materials in Harappan cities indicates long-distance exchanges, showcasing the economic interconnectedness of the civilization. The ability to source diverse resources from distant regions contributed to the economic prosperity and technological advancements of the Harappan civilization.

7.Discuss the role of specialists in Harappan society, examining their contributions to craftsmanship and the production of unique artifacts. How did the expertise of these specialists shape the material culture

the Harappan civilization, and what evidence supports their presence?

Answer:

Specialists played a pivotal role in Harappan society, contributing their expertise to various crafts, including stone carving, bead making, and seal carving. The finely crafted artifacts, such as seals with intricate animal carvings and beads made from carnelian, highlight the presence of expert crafts persons. The faces and designs carved on artifacts showcase the precision and skill of these specialists.

While not everyone could have been a specialist, the existence of individuals dedicated to specific crafts enriched the material culture of the Harappan civilization. Evidence of specialized workshops, tools, and half-made artifacts found in archaeological sites supports the notion of specialists shaping the unique and sophisticated material culture of the Harappan civilization.

Fill in the blanks:

1.The Harappan city of Dholavira was located on Khadir Beyt in the _____ of Kutch.

Answer:

Rann

2.One of the unique objects found in Harappan cities was a tank

called the _____, located in Mohenjodaro.

Answer:

Great Bath

3.Harappan cities were divided into two parts, with the smaller and higher part known as the _____.

Answer:

Citadel

4.The Harappans sourced copper from present-day _____ and Oman.

Answer:

Rajasthan

5.The decline of Harappan cities around 3900 years ago is associated with factors like river drying, _____, and floods.

Answer:

Deforestation

6.The Harappans grew crops like wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame, linseed, and _____.

Answer:

Mustard

7.Seals were likely used to stamp bags or packets during trade and were made from materials like _____.

Answer:

Stone

8.One of the Harappan cities, Lothal, was situated close to the Gulf of _____.

Answer:

Khambhat

9.The Harappans used the plough for _____, which contributed to efficient soil turning and seed planting.

Answer:

Agriculture

10.The advanced urban planning of Harappan cities is evident in features like covered drains, planned _____, and unique structures.

Answer:

Streets

Multiple choice:

1.What was the unique feature of the Great Bath in Mohenjodaro?

- a) Decorative carvings**
- b) Lined with bricks and made watertight**
- c) A storehouse for precious materials**
- d) Special fire altars**

Answer:

- b) Lined with bricks and made watertight**

2.Which region is believed to be the source of copper for the Harappans?

- a) Karnataka**
- b) Afghanistan**
- c) Gujarat**
- d) Rajasthan**

Answer:

- d) Rajasthan**

3.What contributed to the decline of Harappan cities around 3900 years ago?

- a) Excessive rainfall**

- b) Drying up of rivers**
- c) Introduction of advanced technologies**
- d) Increased agricultural productivity**

Answer:

- b) Drying up of rivers**

4.What agricultural tool revolutionized farming techniques for the Harappans?

- a) Hoe**
- b) Scythe**
- c) Plough**
- d) Sickle**

Answer:

- c) Plough**

5.Which of the following materials was NOT used to make Harappan seals?

- a) Stone**
- b) Copper**
- c) Shell**

d) Wood

Answer:

d) Wood

6.Where was the city of Dholavira located?

a) Thar Desert

b) Deccan Plateau

c) Rann of Kutch

d) Western Ghats

Answer:

c) Rann of Kutch

7.What was the primary purpose of seals in Harappan society?

a) Religious ceremonies

b) Economic transactions

c) Agricultural practices

d) Domestic decoration

Answer:

b) Economic transactions

8.What economic role did traders play in Harappan civilization?

a) Farming

- b) Metalworking**
- c) Facilitating exchanges**
- d) Seal carving**

Answer:

- c) Facilitating exchanges

9.Which region provided gold to the Harappans?

- a) Rajasthan**
- b) Karnataka**
- c) Afghanistan**
- d) Gujarat**

Answer:

- b) Karnataka

10.What was a significant factor in the planning and layout of Harappan cities?

- a) Random construction**
- b) Lack of walls**
- c) Advanced urban planning**
- d) Absence of streets**

Answer:

- c) Advanced urban planning

Summary:

The provided text describes aspects of the Harappan civilization, focusing on the discovery of the ancient city of Harappa and insights into life in the earliest cities. Here's a summary of the key points. The story begins with the accidental discovery of Harappa by railway engineers in Punjab, Pakistan, who initially saw it as a source of high-quality bricks for railway construction. This led to the inadvertent destruction of historical structures. Eighty years later, archaeologists identified Harappa as one of the oldest cities in the subcontinent, dating back 4700 years.

The Harappan cities, including Mohenjodaro and Harappa, displayed advanced urban planning, divided into citadels and lower towns with well-baked brick walls. Notable structures like the Great Bath and unique objects such as seals, stone weights, and beads were found in these cities. The cities also featured covered drains, planned streets, and multi-storeyed houses.

Life in Harappan cities was vibrant, with rulers, crafts persons, scribes, and traders contributing to the economic prosperity. The Harappans engaged in trade, acquiring raw materials like copper, tin, gold, and precious stones from distant regions. Specialized craftspeople, known as specialists, played a key role in producing intricate artifacts.