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CHAPTER 1

BRICKS, BEADS AND BONES THE HARAPPAN CIVILISATION

2Marks Questions:

1. List the items of food available to people in Harappan cities. Identify the groups who would have provided these.

Answer:

Food	Groups who provide these food items
(i) Products taken from plants	Food gatherers
(ii) Flesh and fish	Hunter groups
(iii) Wheat maize, millet, pulses, rice, and other eatable products	Agricultural groups

2. Who was John Marshall? How did he mark a change in the Indian archaeology?

Answer:

John Marshall was the Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India. His contribution in the Indian Archeology can be understood by the following points: He announced the discovery of new civilization i.e. Indus valley civilization. He helped in the preservation or conservation of Sanchi Stupa.

3. Who was R.E.M Wheeler? Mention any one of his contributions in the field of archaeology?

Answer:

He was the first person who recognized that it was necessary to follow the stratigraphy of the mound rather than dig mechanically along uniform horizontal line which rectified the previous problems faced by the archaeologists.

4. Who was Cunningham? Mention any one account used by him to locate the early settlements of Harappan' civilisation.

Answer:

Cunningham was the first Director-General of the Archaeological Survey of India who began archaeological excavation in the mid-nineteenth century. Cunningham used the accounts left by Chinese Buddhist pilgrims who visited the subcontinent between the 4th and 7th century CE to locate early settlements.

5. How were Harappa seals and sealings used to facilitate long distance communication? What did the sealings convey?

Answer:

Harappa seals and sealings were used to facilitate long distance communication. The mouth of the bag of goods was tied up with rope and on the knot was affixed some wet clay on which one or more seals were pressed, leaving an impression.

6. Mention the two sections of the Harappan settlements and give one main feature of each.

(or)

Give two features of the Harappan settlements?

The Harappan settlements were divided up into two sections, i.e. the Citadel and the Lower Town.

Answer:

There features are:

- The Citadel was smaller but higher than the Lower Town and was walled.
- In the Lower Town, several buildings were built on platforms and all building activity within the city was restricted to a fixed area on the platforms.

4Marks Question:

1. How do archaeologists trace socio-economic differences in Harappan society? What are the differences that they notice?

Answer:

(a) Archaeologists trace socio-economic differences in Harappan society in the following ways:

- Burials
- Looking for “luxuries”.

(b) The archaeologists have noticed the following differences in the socio-economic conditions in Harappan society :

- In the Harappan society, the dead were generally laid in pits. In some burial pits the hallowed-out spaces were lined with bricks.
- Some graves contain pottery and ornaments.
- In some instances the dead were buried with copper mirrors.
- Artefacts are divided into two categories – utilitarian and luxuries. The utilitarian objects are of daily use. These are made of ordinary materials such as stone and clay. These are found in all settlements. Luxury items are found in large settlements of Harappa and Mohenjodaro.
- These are made of valuable materials like faience. Gold too was rare and precious as all the gold jewellery has been found at Harappan sites.

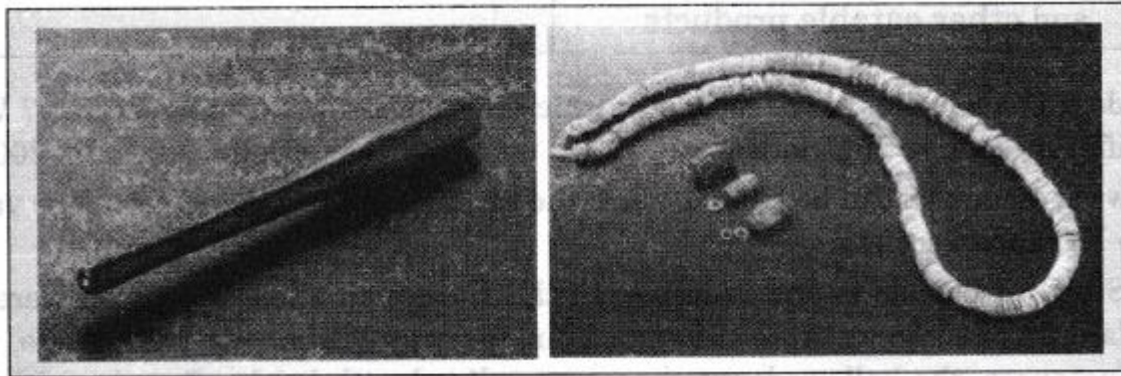
2. Would you agree that the drainage system in Harappan cities indicates town planning? Give reasons for your answer.

Answer: Yes, I agree with that the drainage system in Harappan cities which indicates the town planning. I can cite the following reasons in support of my .The drainage system needed a planning for its execution. It seems that first drainages were laid out and then houses were built along with the drains. Every house was supposed to have at least one wall along a street to allow the domestic waste water to flow out in the street drains.

- The plans of the lower town show that roads and streets were laid out along an approximate grid pattern, intersecting at right angles.
- It appears that human settlement was made by planning from the beginning. The city was restricted to a fixed area on the platforms.
- Bricks, sundried or baked, were of standard ratio. The length and breadth of bricks were of four times and twice the height respectively These bricks were used at all the settlements of the Harappan Civilisation.

3. List the materials used to make beads in the Harappan Civilisation. Describe the process by which any one kind of bead was made.

Answer: Making beads was an important craft of the Harappan people. It was mainly prevalent in Chanhudaro.



Materials for making beads included beautiful red coloured stone-like carnelian, jasper, crystal, quartz and steatite. Besides these, use of copper, bronze, gold, shell, faience, terracotta or burnt clay was also used. Process of making beads Making of beads differed as per the materials used. Beads had variety of shapes. They did not make geometrical shapes like one made of harder stones. Nodules were to be chipped for making rough shapes. They were finally flaked into the final form. By firing the yellowish raw material, the red colour of carnelian was obtained. Grinding, polishing and drilling constituted the last phase. Chanhudaro, Lothal and Dholavira were famous for specialized drilling.

4. Explain the distinctive features of the residential buildings of Mohenjodaro.

Answer: The most unique feature of the Harappan Civilisation was the development of urban centres. Mohenjodaro is the most well-known site of Harappan Civilisation. The following are the most unique architectural features of Mohenjodaro: Citadel It was smaller but higher. It was walled and was physically separated from the lower town. Here the buildings constructed with mud, bricks platform. Here, we find some structures that were probably used for special public purposes. These include the warehouse, a massive structure and the 'Great Bath'. The uniqueness of the structure of 'Great Bath' suggested that it was meant for some kind of special ritual bath. The Lower Town The lower town was also walled. Several buildings were built on platforms, which served as foundations. All building activity within the city was restricted to a fixed area on the platforms. Sun-dried or baked bricks were used at all Harappan settlements. The courtyard of the houses was the centre of activities like cooking and weaving, particularly during hot and dry weather.

5.Explain the strategies used by the archaeologists to understand socio-economic differences among the Harappans.

Answer:

The archaeologists have tried to find out socio-economic differences among the Harappans through two types of evidences. These were: Burials. Burials have been significant evidence to establish social differences within the Harappan society. The dead were generally laid in pits. There were differences in the way the burial pit was made. In some cases, the hollowed out spaces were lined with bricks.

However, whether these variations were an indication of social differences or not, it is not yet established. Pottery ornaments, jewellery of both men and women have been found in some burials. But the Harappans did not believe in burying precious things with the dead.

Artefacts Two types of artefacts have been found, i.e. 'luxuries' and 'utilitarian'. Luxuries artefacts were made from costly and rare, non-local material with complicated technology e.g. little faience pots. Utilitarian objects included objects of daily use made of stone clay, e.g. querns, pottery, needles, flesh-rubbers (body scrubbers), etc.

As far as distribution of such artefacts is concerned, we find that rare objects made of valuable materials were generally concentrated in large settlements like Mohenjodaro and Harappa and are rarely found in smaller settlements.

6.Describe the opinions of the archaeologists over the central authority of the Harappan Civilisation.

Answer:

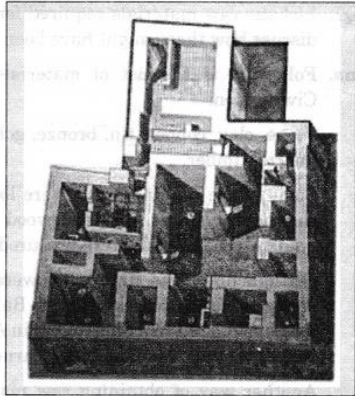
Opinion of some of the archaeologists about the Harappan society are as follows: Some archaeologists opine that Harappan society had no rulers and that everybody enjoyed equal status. Other scholars have the opinion that there was no single ruler but several. Mohenjodaro had a separate ruler, Harappans had another. In the same way, other regions had different rulers. Some scholars also argued that there was a single state given the similarity in artefacts, the evidence for planned settlements, the standardised ratio of brick size and the establishments near source of raw material. Of all, the last theory seems to be the most plausible as it is unlikely that entire communities could have collectively made and implemented such complex decisions.

7Marks Questions:

1. Describe some of the distinctive features of Mohenjodaro.

Answer:

Planned City: Harappa as a planned urban centre. It had two parts. One part of the city was small. It was built on a higher place.



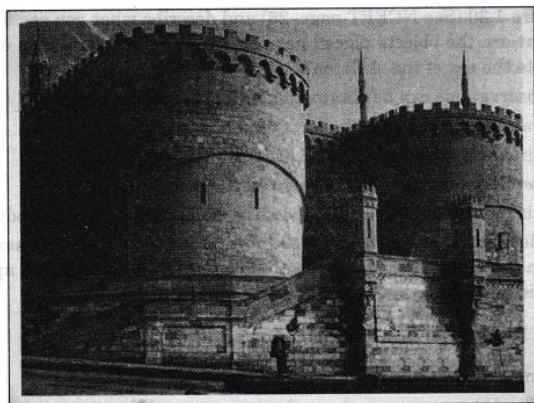
The second part was comparatively large. It was built on a lower place. The first part was designed as citadel and the second part was as lower town.

Lower Town: It was also a walled town. Most of the buildings were built on platforms.

In fact, these platforms were considered as foundation stones. It required huge quantity of labour force to build these platforms. It is obvious that settlement was first planned and then implemented as per the building plan.

Drainage System: The drainage system was well planned. All the roads and streets were laid out on a grid pattern. They intersected one another at the right angles.

The Citadel: There were many buildings in the citadel. These buildings were used for many special public purposes. The Warehouse and the Great Bath were



2. List the raw materials required for craft production in the Harappan Civilisation and discuss how these might have been obtained.

Answer:

(a) The raw materials required for craft production in the Harappan civilisation was as given below:

Stones like camelian, jasper, crystal, quartz and steatite;

Metals like copper, bronze and gold, and

Shell, faience and terracotta, or burnt clay.

(b) The above raw materials might have been obtained as mentioned

below : They established settlements such as Nageshwar and Balakot in areas where shell was available. Other places were Shortughai, in far-off Afghanistan, near the best source of lapis lazuli, a blue stone and Lothal near the sources of camelian, steatite and metal. The second way was to send expeditions to areas such as the Khetri region of Rajasthan for copper and south India for gold. The third way to have contact with distant lands. For example, copper was brought from Oman, on the south-eastern tip of the Arabian peninsula.

Mesopotamian texts mention contact with Meluhha, possibly the Harappan region. It is likely that communication with Oman, Bahrain or Mesopotamia was by sea.

3. Discuss, how archaeologists reconstruct the past.

Answer: Archaeologists excavate the sites of the ancient past related to culture or civilization. They find out the art and craft such as seal, material, remains of houses, buildings, pots, ornaments, tools, coins, weights, measurements and toys, etc. Skulls, bones, jaws, teeth of the dead bodies and materials kept with these dead bodies are also helpful for archaeologists. With the help of the botanists, and zoologists, archaeologists study the plants and animal bones found at different places. Archaeologists try to find out the tools used in the process of cultivation and harvesting. They also try to find out traces of wells, canals, tanks, etc. as they served means of irrigation.

Different layers of sites are observed to find out different things. These things give the picture of socio-economic condition such as religious life and the cultural life of the people. Tools, unfinished products, waste materials, help in identifying the centres of craft production. Indirect evidences also help the archaeologists in reconstructing the past.

4. Discuss the functions that may have been performed by rulers in Harappan society.

Answer: There are different views on the Harappan society. One group of archaeologists suggest that the Harappan society had no rulers and so everybody enjoyed equal status. The other group of archaeologists are of the opinion that there was no single ruler but several ones. The third theory seems the most suitable. It suggests that it is unlikely that entire communities could have collectively made and implemented such complex decisions. Evidences show that complex decisions were taken and implemented in the Harappan society. Extra ordinary uniformity of Harappan artefacts as evident in pottery, seals, weights and bricks show the complex decisions. Plans and layouts of the city were prepared under the guidance and supervisions of the rulers. Big buildings, palaces, forts, tanks, wells, canals and granaries were constructed. Cleanliness was the responsibility of the ruler. Roads, lanes and drains were also constructed. The rulers also looked after the welfare of the economy. They to inspire the farmers to increase agricultural production. They also motivated the craftsmen to promote different handicrafts.

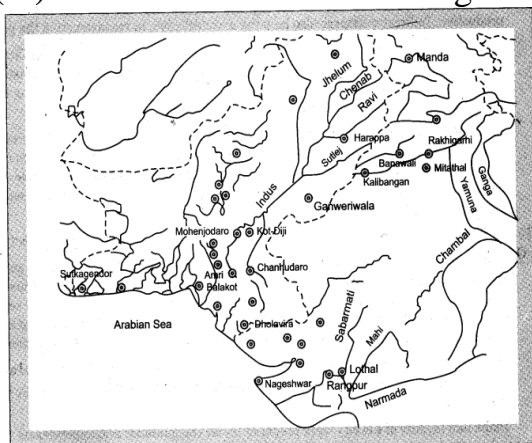
5. On the given map, use a pencil to circle the sites where evidence of agriculture has been recovered. Mark an X against sites where there is evidence of craft production and R against sites where raw materials were found.

Answer:

(i) Sites of agriculture: Harappa, Banawali, Kalibangan, Mohenjodaro, Dholavira (Gujarat).

(ii) Sites of craft production: Chanhudaro, Nageshwar, Balakot.

(iii) Sites of raw material: Nageshwar, Balakot, Khetri.



6.What factors in your opinion are responsible for the collapse of a mature Harapp'an Civilisation by 1800 BCE?

Answer:

There is strong evidence¹ that by 1800 BCE, most of the mature Harappan sites in regions like Cholistan had been . abandoned. Simultaneously, there was a growth of settlements in Gujarat, Haryana and Western Uttar Pradesh. At that time, distinctive artefacts of civilisation like weights, seals, special beads, writing, long-distance trade and craft specialisation disappeared. House construction technique deteriorated and large public structures were not produced.

A variety of explanations were given by scholars to explain the decline of mature Harappan Civilisation.

These reasons are:

- Climatic change
- Deforestation
- Excessive floods
- Shifting and drying up of rivers
- Overuse of the landscape

Some of these reasons may be holding true for certain settlements, but they do not account for the collapse of the entire civilisation.

No single reason was responsible for the decline of this civilisation. The civilisation might be destroyed by invaders which was proved by the bulk of bones found. It indicated a slaughter.

But the skeletons found did not belong to the same period according to George Dales. Thus, it was not concluded in favour of a dramatic collapse, rather it was believed that the end of Harappan culture was a gradual process.

7. Describe the contribution of John Marshall, Director General of the ASI to Indian archaeology,

Answer:

The two discoveries in seals in Harappa and Mohenjodaro by Daya Ram Sahni and Rakhal Das Banerji led to the conjecture that these two sites were part of a single archaeological culture. Based on these finds, in 1924, John Marshall, Director General of the ASI announced the discovery of a new civilisation in the Indus valley to the world.

Similar seals were also found in the excavation of archaeological sites of Mesopotamia. In this way, not only new civilisation came to limelight but we also came to know that this civilisation was contemporary to Mesopotamia.

Sir John Marshall's term as the Director General of ASI was actually a term of major change in Indian archaeology. He was the first professional archaeologist who worked in India.

He brought with himself his experience of Greece and Crete. Like Cunningham, he was also interested in spectacular findings. But he was equally interested in looking for patterns of daily life.

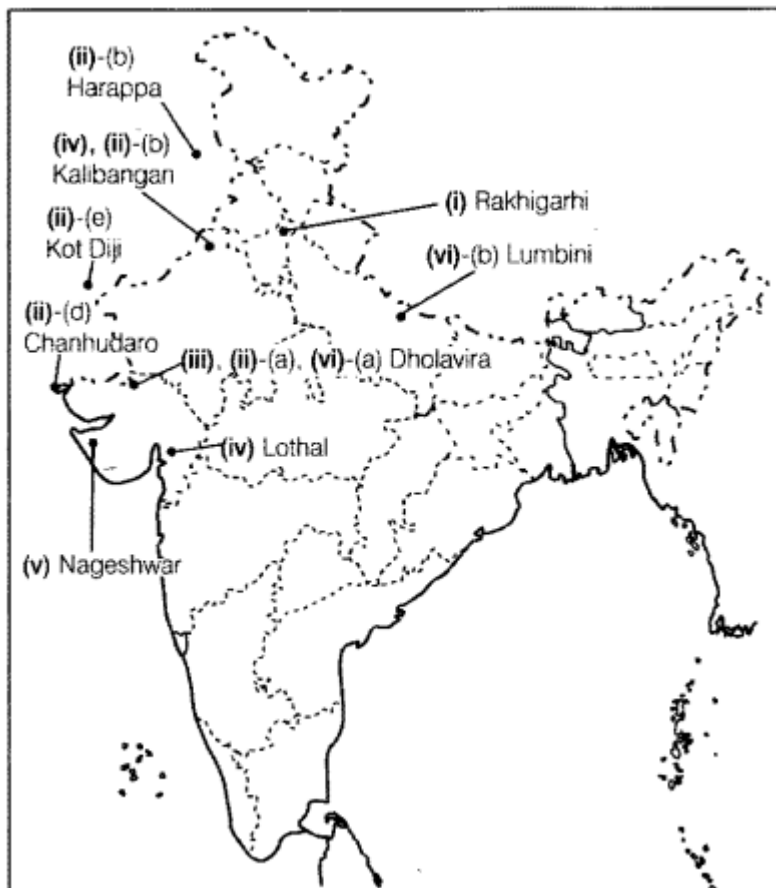
John Marshall tended to excavate along regular horizontal units, measured uniformly throughout the mound, ignoring the stratigraphy of the site and this was the biggest drawback in his excavation process. It means all the artefacts, found from the same unit, were grouped together, even if they were found at different stratigraphic layers. As a result, valuable information found about the civilisation was lost forever.

Map Work:

1. On the given political outline map of India, locate and label the followings with appropriate symbols.

- Rakhigarhi.
- Name of three mature Harappan sites.
- Dholavira.
- Lothal.
- Kalibangan, Nageshwar.
- (a) Dholavira
- (b) Lumbini.

Answer:



Multiple choice questions.

1. What is the distinctive material used to make the Harappan seals?

- a) Copper
- b) Steatite
- c) Gold
- d) Quartz

2. What term do archaeologists use for a group of objects distinctive in style found within a specific geographical area and time period?

- a) Tradition
- b) Culture
- c) Heritage
- d) Society

3. What is the significance of the Great Bath in Mohenjodaro?

- a) Residential area
- b) Ritualistic bathing
- c) Storage facility
- d) Agricultural site

4. How do archaeologists identify social differences in ancient cultures, particularly in burials?

- a) By studying pottery
- b) By analyzing drainage systems
- c) By examining the layout of cities
- d) By studying burial practices

5. Which material was likely used for transport, as suggested by terracotta toy models found at Harappan sites?

- a) Gold
- b) Shell
- c) Copper
- d) Timber

6. What is a common strategy for procuring materials for craft production in the Harappan civilization?

- a) Sending expeditions to far-off regions
- b) Trading with neighboring civilizations
- c) Relying solely on locally available materials
- d) Ignoring materials from outside the alluvial plain

Answer:

- 1)B
- 2)B
- 3)B
- 4)D.
- 5)D
- 6)A

Fill in the Blanks:

1. The Harappan Civilization, also known as the _____ Civilization, flourished in the Indian subcontinent around 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE.
2. The Harappan cities were characterized by well-planned layouts with _____ as the primary building material.
3. The Harappan script, found on many artifacts, remains undeciphered, contributing to the mystery surrounding their _____ system.
4. Harappan society had a sophisticated drainage system, with _____ to manage wastewater.
5. The Harappans engaged in long-distance trade, as evident from the discovery of _____ beads in various archaeological sites.
6. The Harappan people were skilled in crafting intricate _____ artifacts, showcasing their artistic abilities.
7. The Harappans had a thriving agricultural system, cultivating crops such as _____ and barley.
8. The discovery of human _____ at Harappan sites raises questions about their societal practices, including burial rituals.
9. The city of _____ is one of the prominent Harappan sites, known for its well-planned streets and buildings.
10. The decline of the Harappan Civilization is still a subject of debate among historians, with factors such as environmental changes and _____ being proposed.

Answer:

1. Indus
2. Bricks
3. Writing
4. Brick-lined sewers
5. Steatite
6. Beads
7. Wheat
8. Bones
9. Mohenjo-daro
10. Aryan invasion

Summary:

Bricks, Beads, and Bones: The Harappan Civilization" explores various aspects of the ancient Harappan civilization, also known as the Indus Valley civilization. The lesson covers topics such as the distinctive artifacts of the Harappan culture, including seals made of steatite, beads, weights, stone blades, and baked bricks. It delves into the geographical and chronological scope of the Indus Valley civilization, extending from Afghanistan to Gujarat, and dating between 2600 BCE and 1900 BCE.

The lesson discusses the existence of earlier and later cultures, labeled as Early Harappan and Late Harappan, with the Harappan civilization often referred to as the Mature Harappan culture. The archaeological evidence from various sites, including Harappa, Mohenjodaro, and Chanhudaro, provides insights into the lives of the Harappan people, their houses, tools, ornaments, and other artifacts.

Topics such as subsistence strategies, agricultural technologies, and urban planning are explored, highlighting the sophisticated drainage systems and planned layouts of Harappan cities.

The Citadel and Lower Town of Mohenjodaro are examined, showcasing the meticulous planning of the urban centers. The Great Bath, a significant structure, is discussed as a potential site for special ritual baths.

The lesson touches upon the study of social differences through burial practices and the identification of craft production centers. It provides examples of materials used for crafts, including beads made from various stones, metals, shells, faience, and terracotta. The importance of raw materials, tools, and waste material in identifying craft production centers is emphasized.

Finally, the lesson outlines the strategies employed by the Harappans to procure materials from different regions, including the establishment of specialized settlements near sources of specific materials. The interaction with regions like the Khetri area for copper and South India for gold is highlighted.