

Chapter – 8

Villages towns and Trade

2marks:

1.Describe the functions of the gram bhojka. Why do you think he was powerful?

Answer:

Grama bhojaka was the village headman and, at times, happened to be the largest landowner, too. They were powerful people of the village who collected taxes from the villagers in the name of the king, functioned as a judge and enforced the law of the king in the village.

2.List the crafts persons who would have been present in both villages and cities.

Answer:

Craftsmen such as blacksmiths, weavers, carpenters and potters were present in both villages and cities. They played a crucial role in providing goods and services that ensured the smooth functioning of any settlement.

3.If you have seen crafts persons at work, describe in a short paragraph what they do. (Hint: How do they get the raw materials, what kind of equipment do they use, how do they work and what happens to the finished product.)

Answer:

I have seen crafts persons like cobblers and carpenters in the cities and villages. Cobblers are a common sight, and one could be found sitting at almost every corner of the city. They mend shoes by stitching the torn leather or pasting the flapping sole. In villages, they produce handmade shoes and slippers from leather to sell them locally or in urban markets for a good price.

4.List the functions performed by men and women who live in your city or village. In what ways are these similar to those performed by people who lived in Mathura? In what ways are they different?

Answer:

This project should be done under the supervision of your subject teacher.

5.What marked a significant advancement in ancient India around 3000 years ago?

Answer:

The use of iron, especially in agriculture, marked a significant advancement around 3000 years ago.

6.Who were the three ruling families in the southern part of the subcontinent around 2300 years ago?

Answer:

The three ruling families were the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas.

7.What were punch-marked coins, and where were they in use for about 500 years?

Answer:

Punch-marked coins were stamped with symbols using dies or punches. They were in use for about 500 years over most parts of the subcontinent.

8.Which dynasty became powerful in western India around 200 years later, and who was its most important ruler?

Answer:

The Satavahanas became powerful in western India around 200 years

later. The most important ruler was Gautamiputra Shri Satakarni.

9.What was the significance of Mathura in ancient times?

Answer:

Mathura was an important settlement for over 2500 years, serving as a trade hub, cultural center, and religious site. It was the second capital of the Kushanas and produced fine sculpture around 2000 years ago.

4marks:

1.Describe the role of Pataliputra in the Mauryan Empire's administrative structure under Ashoka's rule.

Answer:

Pataliputra served as the imperial capital in the Mauryan Empire during Ashoka's rule. From this central location, Ashoka exercised direct control over core regions, overseeing a well-organized administrative structure.

2.Explain the impact of the Kalinga war on Ashoka's governance and policies.

Answer:

The Kalinga war marked a turning point in Ashoka's reign, leading him to reevaluate the consequences of warfare. Witnessing widespread suffering, Ashoka decided to renounce further military conquests, adopting a philosophy of dhamma that emphasized ethical conduct, compassion, and non-violence.

3.How did Ashoka communicate his principles of dhamma to the people of the Mauryan Empire?

Answer: Ashoka used inscriptions, crafted in Prakrit and the Brahmi

pillars and rocks across the empire to communicate his messages and principles of dhamma. These inscriptions conveyed his commitment to moral governance, religious tolerance, and ethical behavior.

4. Discuss the significance of Arikamedu as a coastal settlement.

Answer:

Arikamedu, dating back between 2200 and 1900 years, was a coastal settlement where ships unloaded goods from distant lands.

Archaeological finds, including pottery from the Mediterranean, suggested trade connections. The site provides insights into ancient maritime trade and cultural exchanges.

5. How did shrenis function in ancient India, and what roles did they play in society?

Answer:

Shrenis were associations of crafts persons and merchants in ancient India. They provided training, procured raw materials, organized trade, and served as banks. Shrenis played a crucial role in supporting economic activities and fostering collaboration among various skilled groups.

6. Discuss the significance of the Silk Route and its connection to the Kushanas.

Answer:

The Silk Route was a network of trade routes connecting Asia, including India, to the Roman Empire. The Kushanas, ruling over central Asia and north-west India around 2000 years ago, played a vital role in controlling parts of this route, facilitating trade, and benefiting from taxes, tributes, and gifts.

7. Explain the importance of Mathura in ancient times, considering its functions and role in trade.

Answer:

Mathura, an important settlement for over 2500 years, served as a trade hub, religious center, and cultural site. Located at crossroads, it facilitated trade between the northwest and east. Mathura also produced fine sculpture and became the second capital of the Kushanas.

8. Describe the composition and characteristics of the Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW).

Answer:

The Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) was a type of pottery found in the northern part of the subcontinent. It was hard, wheel-

made, with a shiny black surface resulting from exposure to high temperatures. The NBPW is significant for understanding ancient craft and trade.

9. Outline the three ruling families in the southern part of the subcontinent around 2300 years ago and their centers of power.

Answer:

The three ruling families were the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas. They had two centers of power each: one inland and one on the coast. Notable cities included Puhar or Kaveripattinam, the port of the Cholas, and Madurai, the capital of the Pandyas.

10. Compare the drainage system in your locality with that of the cities mentioned in the lesson. What similarities and differences do you notice?

Answer:

The drainage system in our locality is the technologically advanced version of the drainage system used by past civilisations. In ancient times, mud bricks, ceramic and thatch were used to make them. The drawback was that the materials were not durable and would fall down with constant use. Today's modern drainage systems are made of durable materials like concrete and metal. However, just like in the past, drainage is made by many rings which are stacked one over another.

7marks:

1.Evaluate the administrative structure of the Mauryan Empire under Ashoka's rule, focusing on the role of Pataliputra as the imperial capital.

Answer:

The Mauryan Empire, during Ashoka's rule, had a well-organized administrative structure centered around Pataliputra, the imperial capital. Pataliputra served as the nerve center from which Ashoka exercised direct control over core regions. The administrative system comprised provinces with semi-autonomous capitals, such as Taxila and Ujjain. Officials were responsible for tax collection, law enforcement, and maintaining order. The emperor, supported by the royal family and senior ministers, ensured effective governance.

2.Analyze the factors that influenced Ashoka's decision to renounce military conquests after the Kalinga war, and discuss the subsequent impact on his governance and policies.

Answer:

The Kalinga war was a turning point in Ashoka's reign, compelling him to reevaluate the consequences of warfare. Witnessing widespread suffering, Ashoka decided to renounce further military

conquests and embraced a philosophy of dhamma. This philosophy emphasized ethical conduct, compassion, and non-violence. The impact on governance was profound, as Ashoka implemented policies promoting moral governance, religious tolerance, and ethical behaviour, marking a unique approach to ruling an empire.

3.Examine the role of Ashoka's inscriptions in communicating his messages and principles of dhamma to the diverse population of the Mauryan Empire.

Answer:

Ashoka used inscriptions crafted in Prakrit and the Brahmi script to communicate his messages and principles of dhamma. These inscriptions adorned pillars and rocks across the empire, serving as a means to reach a wide audience, including the illiterate. The inscriptions conveyed Ashoka's commitment to moral governance, tolerance of different religions, and the importance of ethical behavior in daily life, contributing to societal harmony.

4.Assess the significance of Arikamedu as a coastal settlement, considering its role in trade and cultural exchanges.

Answer:

Arikamedu, dating back between 2200 and 1900 years, was a crucial coastal settlement facilitating trade and cultural exchanges. Ships unloaded goods from distant lands, and the site provided evidence of

pottery from the Mediterranean, suggesting trade connections. The presence of Roman artifacts indicated a diverse range of goods traded, highlighting Arikamedu's importance in ancient maritime trade and cultural interactions.

5.Evaluate the functions of shrenis in ancient India, emphasizing their role in supporting crafts persons and merchants.

Answer:

Shrenis, associations of crafts persons and merchants, played a pivotal role in ancient India. They provided training, procured raw materials, organized trade, and even served as banks. Shrenis supported economic activities by fostering collaboration among skilled groups, ensuring the smooth functioning of craft production and trade. Additionally, they played a crucial role in the financial support of religious institutions.

6.Analyze the significance of Mathura in ancient times, considering its functions as a trade hub, religious center, and cultural site.

Answer:

Mathura, with a history spanning over 2500 years, held significance as a multifaceted city. It served as a trade hub due to its strategic location at crossroads, facilitating trade routes between the northwest and east. Additionally, Mathura became the second capital of the

Kushanas, indicating its political importance. The city was a religious center with Buddhist monasteries and Jaina shrines, contributing to its cultural richness.

7.Discuss the economic activities associated with crafts persons in ancient India, highlighting the types of crafts and the role of shrenis.

Answer:

Crafts persons in ancient India engaged in diverse economic activities, producing goods such as pottery, textiles, and metalwork. Shrenis, associations of crafts persons, played a vital role by providing training, procuring raw materials, and organizing trade. They functioned as financial institutions, supporting economic growth by fostering collaboration and skill development among crafts persons.

8.Assess the impact of the Silk Route on trade and cultural interactions, with a focus on the role of the Kushanas in controlling parts of this ancient trade network.

Answer:

The Silk Route, a network of trade routes connecting Asia to the Roman Empire, had a profound impact on trade and cultural interactions. The Kushanas, ruling over central Asia and north-west India around 2000 years ago, played a crucial role in controlling parts

of this route. By facilitating trade, collecting taxes, and protecting traders, the Kushanas contributed to economic prosperity and cultural exchanges along the silk route.

Choose the correct answer:

(a) Ring wells were used for:

- 1. Bathing**
- 2. Washing clothes**
- 3. Irrigation**
- 4. drainage**

(b) Punch-marked coins were made of:

- 1. Silver**
- 2. Gold**
- 3. Tin**
- 4. Ivory**

(c) Mathura was important:

- 1. Rulers**
- 2. Crafts persons**
- 3. Religious centre**
- 4. Forested area**

(d) Shrenis were associations of:

1. Rulers

2. Crafts persons

3. Farmers

4. Herders

Answer:

a)Drainage:

Archaeologists found rows of pots or ceramic rings arranged one on top of the other, known as ring wells. They were used as latrines in some cases and also as drains and garbage dumps.

b) Silver:

‘The punch-marked coins’ get their name from the designs on the coins that were punched on them. They are coins made out of materials like copper and silver.

c)Religious centre:

Mathura has been an important settlement for more than 2500 years, with several shrines within the fortified city. There were Buddhist monasteries and Jain shrines, and it was an important centre of worship for Lord Krishna.

d)Crafts persons:

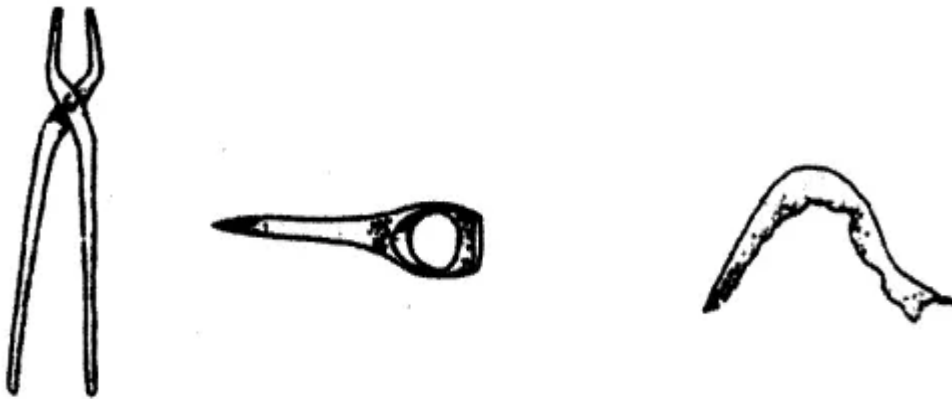
Shrenis was an association of craftsmen and merchants. These shrenis of crafts persons provided training, procured raw materials and distributed the finished product.

Let talk:

Which of the iron tools shown on page 79 would have been important for agriculture? What would the other tools have been used for?

Answer:

The iron tools on page 79 are tongs, axes and sickles, as shown in the picture below, respectively. Of these, the sickle would have been used for agriculture, the axe would have been important for chopping trees and gathering firewood, and tongs would have been used by a blacksmith for making tools from hot iron.



Iron tools (i) Tongs (ii) Axe (iii) Sickle

Fill in the blanks.

1._____ was a word used for large landowners in Tamil.

Answer:

vellalar

2.The *grambhojaka* often got his land cultivated by the_____.

Answer:

Slaves and workers

3.Ploughmen were known as_____ in Tamil.

Answer:

Uzhavar

4.Most *grihapatis* were _____ landowners.

Answer:

Smaller

5.The Mauryan Empire, under Ashoka's rule, had a well-organized administrative structure. Pataliputra served as the _____ capital, from which Ashoka exercised direct control over the core regions.

Answer:

imperial

6.Arikamedu, a coastal settlement dating back between 2200 and 1900 years, played a crucial role in facilitating _____ and cultural exchanges.

Answer:

trade

7.Shrenis, associations of crafts persons and merchants in ancient India, provided training, procured raw materials, and even served as _____.

Answer:

banks

8.Mathura, with a history spanning over 2500 years, served as a multifaceted city, functioning as a trade hub due to its strategic location at _____.

Answer:

crossroads

9.The Kushanas, ruling over central Asia and north-west India around 2000 years ago, played a crucial role in controlling parts of the ancient trade network known as the _____.

Answer:

Silk Route

10. Craftspersons in ancient India engaged in diverse economic activities, producing goods such as pottery, textiles, and _____.

Answer:

Metalwork

Multiple choice:

1. What was the primary philosophy embraced by Ashoka after the Kalinga war?

- a. Expansionism**
- b. Dhamma**
- c. Feudalism**
- d. Monarchy**

Answer:

b. Dhamma

2. Which city was an important settlement for more than 2500 years due to its strategic location at crossroads and diverse functions?

- a. Taxila**
- b. Pataliputra**
- c. Mathura**

d. Ujjain

Answer:

c. Mathura

3. What type of pottery, known for its shiny black surface, is generally found in the northern part of the subcontinent?

a. Harappan Pottery

b. Redware

c. Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)

d. Terracotta

Answer:

c. Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW)

4. The term "Shrenis" in ancient India refers to associations of:

a. Rulers

b. Crafts persons and merchants

c. Farmers

d. Soldiers

Answer:

b. Crafts persons and merchants

5. What was the name given to large landowners in Tamil regions during ancient times?

- a. Grihapatis**
- b. Vellalars**
- c. Gramabhojakas**
- d. Dasa karmakaras**

Answer:

- b. Vellalars**

6. The Kushanas controlled which significant ancient trade network?

- a. Spice Route**
- b. Silk Route**
- c. Maritime Route**
- d. Trans-Saharan Trade Route**

Answer:

- b. Silk Route**

7. Sangam literature, some of the earliest works in Tamil, was composed around:

- a. 500 years ago**
- b. 1000 years ago**
- c. 1500 years ago**

d. 2300 years ago

Answer:

d. 2300 years ago

8. The primary purpose of irrigation works during ancient times was to:

a. Enhance agricultural production

b. Build fortifications

c. Establish religious centers

d. Facilitate trade

Answer:

a. Enhance agricultural production

9. The term “muvendar” in Sangam literature refers to:

a. Traders

b. Crafts persons

c. Three chiefs

d. Kings

Answer:

c. Three chiefs

10. What marked a turning point in Ashoka's reign, leading to a change in his policies and governance?

- a. The Battle of Taxila**
- b. The Kalinga war**
- c. The Mauryan Civil War**
- d. The Invasion of Ujjain**

Answer:

- b. The Kalinga war

Summary:

The lesson explores the historical developments in villages, towns, and trade in ancient India. The use of iron, especially in agriculture, marked a significant advancement around 3000 years ago. The emergence of well-organized cities, punch-marked coins, and the beginning of Sangam literature unfolded around 2500 years ago.

The administrative structure of villages involved key figures such as the gramabhojaka, and in the southern region, landowners like vellalar and ploughmen like uzhar. Cities like Mathura played multifaceted roles, serving as trade hubs, cultural centers, and religious sites.

Trade flourished along the Silk Route, and the Kushanas, rulers of central Asia and northwest India, controlled significant portions of it around 2000 years ago. The lesson delves into the roles of traders, shrenis (associations), and the interconnectedness of various regions through trade routes.

Craftsmanship, evidenced by pottery like the Northern Black Polished Ware, and the functioning of shrenis in organizing crafts and trade are highlighted. The lesson also touches upon the social structure, occupations, and rulership in different regions, including the muvendar in the south and the Satavahanas in the west.

Overall, the historical narrative encompasses the dynamic interactions between villages, towns, and trade, offering