

6. INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION

Why do we call the modern age as Computer age? After the invention of electricity, computer is regarded as the most important one and so it is called Computer age.

In the previous lesson, we studied about the early man. The period when early man used stone was known as stone age. The first metal known to man was copper. So he used both copper and stone. That age was known as Copper Stone Age. During that period there existed an ancient civilization in India which was the Indus Valley Civilization. (Harappa)

This is the beginning of the Indian civilization.

Harappa:

In 1856, when the British ruled India, they laid railway lines on the banks of River Ravi, a branch of Indus river. They found a mound of sand. There they saw well- burnt bricks and ruins.

They took those bricks and constructed the railway lines. So they destroyed many such walls of the buildings.

In 1921, archaeologists found out that it was the ancient city of India. Harappa in Sindhi means 'Buried City'. The cities discovered after the Indus Valley Civilization were named as Harappan Civilization.

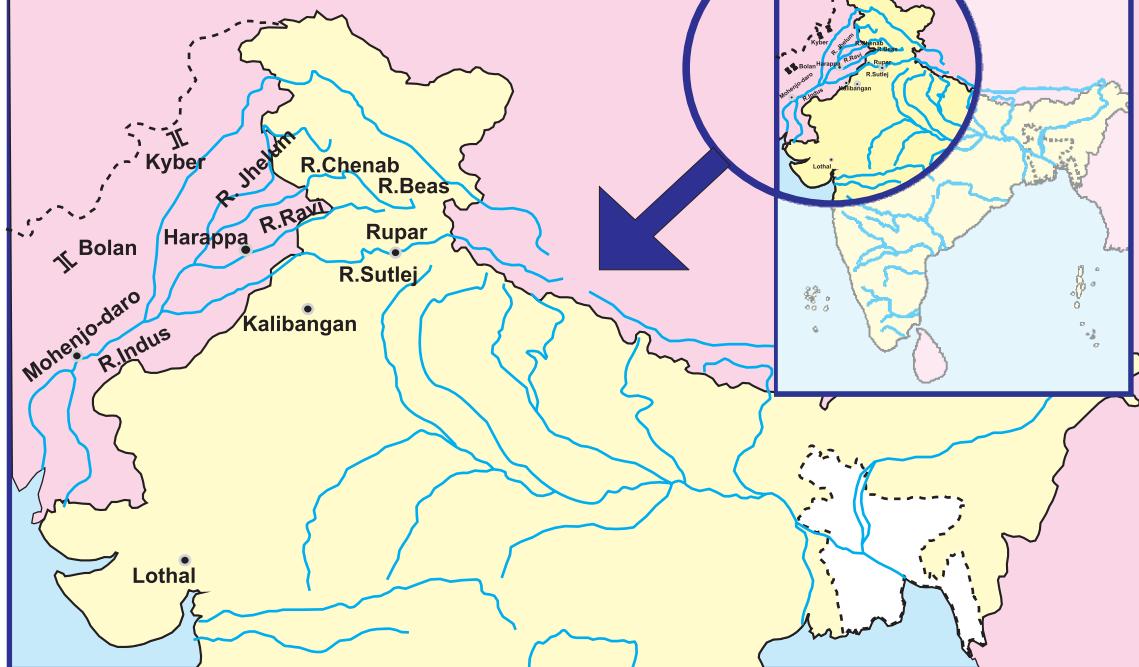
This civilization flourished in India about 4700 years ago. Likewise, the ruins of the cities were found in Mohenjo-daro, Chanhudaro, Kalibangan and Lothal.

The Great Bath:

The most important structure found in the citadel was the Great Bath. It was built of kiln-fired bricks and sealed with a lining of bitumen.



Indus Valley Civilization



There were steps on both the sides of the pool. There were rooms on all the sides of the pool for changing clothes. It was fed by water from a well and the dirty water was emptied by a huge drain.

Buildings :

Houses were built in grid system. There were houses which had two rooms and multistoried houses, public hall, granary and public buildings built out of bricks. There were no windows in the houses. Every house had a well and a bathroom. There were dustbins in front of the houses.

Town planning :

The Indus valley cities were well planned. The northern part of the town was narrow and elevated. The excavators considered that those were constructed on security basis. The eastern side was broad and lowered. We get more information from this town planning.

Mohenjo – dero in Sindhi means
'Mound of Dead'

The town was built with experts who were well versed in the art of town planning.

There would have been an administrative committee in the city to administer it.

Houses were built on both the sides of the broad streets in systematic order.

The houses had flat roofs and were many storied.

Administration:

The public drainage system, the Great Bath, the public hall, street lights and the provision of dustbins show that the administrative system was well organized.

Drainage system:

The drains from the houses were covered. They ran along the sides of the streets which were connected to the street drains.

They had manholes at regular intervals for cleaning.

Applied Science:

The **science and technology** such as construction, selections of lands , measurement of plots, foundation, selection of quality building materials and geometrical figures were in use.



Drainage system - Mohenjo-daro

We have an idea about ancient man from the archaeological evidences. This is the place where you can write your ideas.

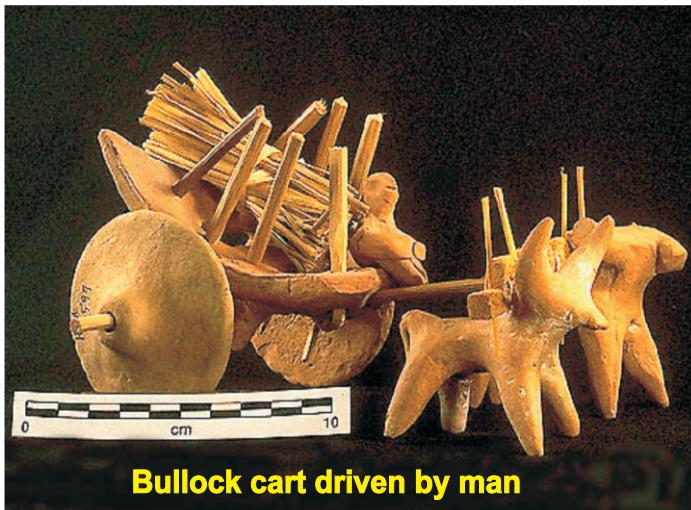
List the similarities and the differences between the Great Bath of the Indus Valley and the ponds that are seen in the temples of Tamil Nadu. What types of machinery would they have used to fill the ponds?

Life style of Indus Valley people :

Row houses were built for the employers of town administration. People exported and imported things like metals, precious stones, ornaments and various useful products.



Statue of a man with beard made of limestone



Bullock cart driven by man



Dancing girl



Pasupathi



Pieces of broken pots excavated from Harappa

Pots: They made pots with the help of potter's wheel. They were polished and coloured.

Handicrafts:

There would have been workers like document writers, seal makers, carpenters, doll makers, masons and other artisans.

They also found out dolls made out of terracotta and other playing articles out of shells, brass, copper, silver and gold.

They used copper and bronze to make weapons, household articles and tools. Gold and silver were used to make ornaments. Weights were made out of a kind of stone.

Terracotta seals:

Hundreds of rectangular seals were discovered here. Pictographic writings were written on them. The script had not been deciphered yet. On the terracotta seals, bulls, cart, dove, boats and a figure of a human meditating are seen.

Script:

The terracotta planks discovered here were engraved with letters. The figures that were engraved on the seals and the pictorial writing showed their skill of writing. They were pictographic writing.

Each picture depicts a specific meaning. Each page was written from right to left and left to right.

These writings are related with the ancient Tamil writings. There are varied opinions regarding this.



Ornaments found in Harappa



Seals



Pictorial writing

Occupation :

In the Indus Valley there were agriculturists, artisans, traders, weavers, potters and blacksmiths. Agriculture was their main occupation, They cultivated wheat and barley. They stored the surplus grains in the granary.

1. List the various occupations in your area.
2. Do we store grains? If yes, where and how?
3. Gather evidences to prove that Indus Valley people traded by sea.

Dress :

People wore cotton and woollen dresses. Men wore a garment similar to the 'dhoti' as lower garment and a shawl as upper garment.

Ornaments :

To make ornaments they used gold, silver, ivory, and precious stones. Poor people wore ornaments made out of shells and copper. Both men and women wore many ornaments.

Art:

They were experts in making pots out of terracotta. The figures of birds, animals, images of male and female, bullock cart driven by a man, pots and bowls were discovered.

Sculpture:

The statue of a dancing girl made out of bronze found in Mohenjo-daro and the statue of a man with beard made out of limestone are examples of the excellent sculptures.

Religion:

The articles excavated in Mohenjo-daro tell us about their religious Practices and the love towards their religion. They worshipped Lord Shiva represented as Pasupathi, Mother Goddess, Lingam, Trident and trees.

They buried the dead in urns along with food and ornaments.

Causes for the decline of the towns:

1. Wooden articles would have got destroyed by fire.
2. Rivalry because of the civil war.
3. Natural calamities and the change in the course of River Indus would have buried things.
4. The Aryans would have destroyed these towns in order to succeed.
5. The heap of bones discovered in Mohenjo-daro is evidence of the invasion of the foreigners.

Evaluation:

I. Choose the correct answer:

1. Which of these help you to know about Indus Valley Civilization?
 - a. stone inscriptions
 - b. archaeological evidences
 - c. copper plates
2. Mohenjo-daro means
 - a. Garden city
 - b. Port city
 - c. Mound of Dead
3. Port Lothal of the Copper Stone Age is in
 - a. Punjab
 - b. Sindu
 - c. Gujarat
4. Harappan Civilization was
 - a. Civilization of village
 - b. Civilization of town
 - c. Civilization of corporation
5. The metal unknown to Indus Valley people
 - a. gold
 - b. iron
 - c. copper
6. Harappa in Sindhi means _____
 - a. Buried City
 - b. City of Fort
 - c. City of Rivers

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. The main God of the Harappans was _____.
2. The excavation of the Indus Valley Civilization was done in _____.
3. The Great Bath is situated at _____.
4. _____ was the writing used by the Indus Valley people.

III. Match the following:

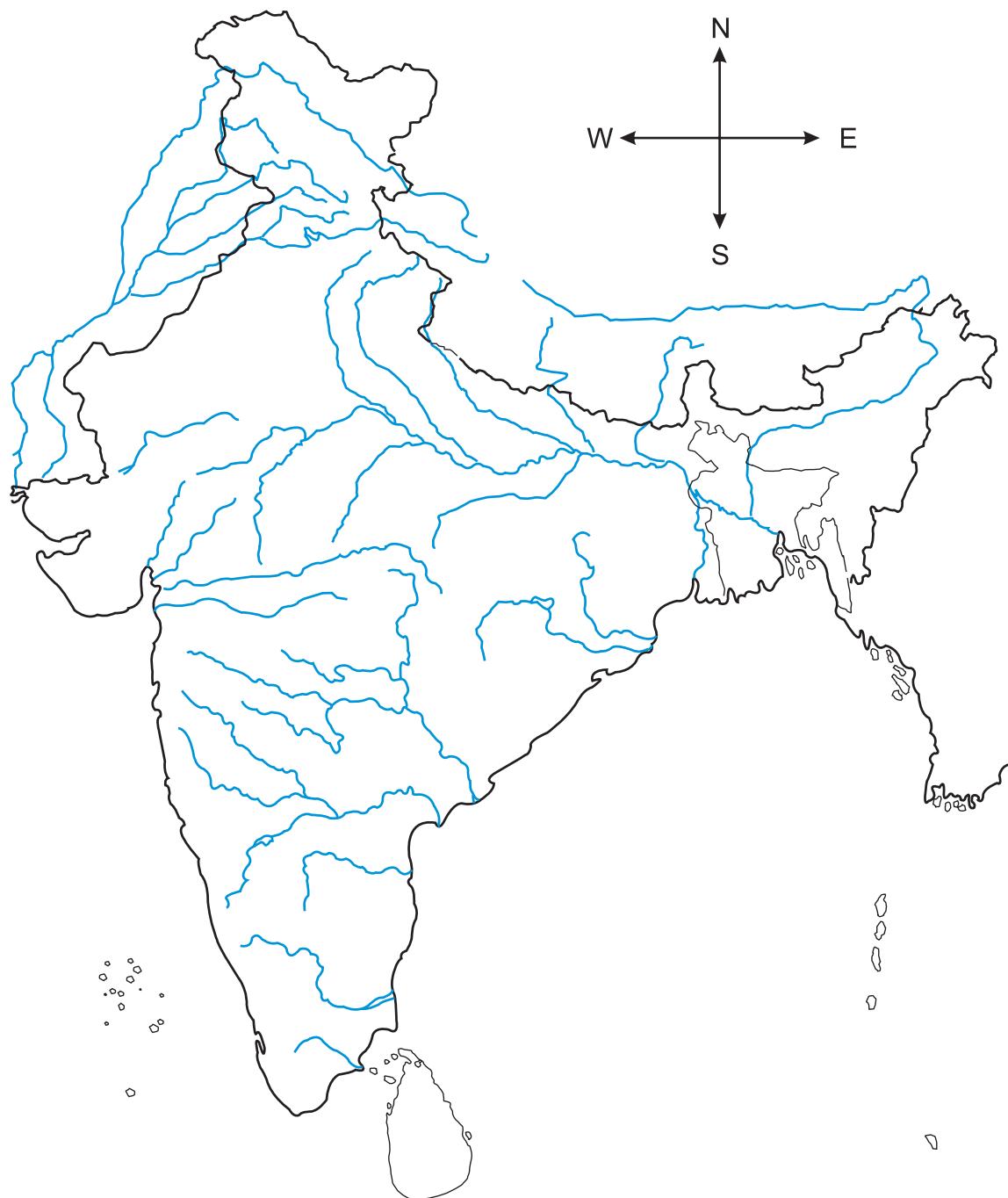
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|---------------|----------------|
| 1. Great Bath | - pots |
| 2. Excavation | - burnt clay |
| 3. Wheel | - Ravi |
| 4. Terracotta | - Mohenjo-daro |
| 5. Punjab | - 1921 |

IV. Answer the following:

1. List the occupation of the Harappans.
2. Write about the Great Bath .
3. What were the causes for the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization?
4. Explain the writings of the Indus Valley people.

Formative Assessment

1. Why did civilization originate at the riverbanks – Discuss.
2. How do you know the cities are planned and constructed?
3. Visit the nearest museum.
4. Mark the following places in the outline map of India. Lothal, Kalibangan, Rupar, Harappa, Mohenjo-daro.



7. ANCIENT TAMIL NADU

The land mass between the Himalayas and Cape Comorin is hailed as our Grand Old Country of Bharath by Bharathiyan in his “Ode to Child”. (Pappa Pattu) Historians conclude that the land to the south of the Vindhyan Range is the most ancient in the world.

In the southern state there are people who speak different languages like Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam and Tulu. The people who live in the south of Tirupathi speak Tamil.

Bavanandhi Munnivar, the author of Nannool describes Tamil Nadu as follows.

Venkata hills on the North, Cape Comorin on South and the land between these two is Tamil Nadu.

During the British rule, most of the parts of south India was called 'Madras Presidency'. After independence, the state which had Tamil as its language was separated. Arignar Anna, the then Chief Minister in 1967 named the state as Tamil Nadu.

The Tamil we speak can be appreciated as Senthamizh, Paeynhamizh and Muthamizh. The National poet Subramania Bharathiyan sang

“Senthmizh naadenum poothinilae-inba
Thean vandhu paayuthu kathinelae-yengal
Thanthaiyan naadenum poothinilae-oru
Sakthi pirakuthu moochinilae.”

Ancient Tamizhagam was ruled by the Chera, Chola and Pandya who were called Mooventhars. The Western part was ruled by the Cheras, the North- East by the Cholas and the South was by the Pandyas.

The Pre-historic Tamil Nadu :

Before prehistoric period, the Indian Ocean on the south of Cape Comorin was a land mass. It was called as 'Kumari Kandam'. The river Fahruli ran on this land mass which was eight to ten times bigger than South India. There were wide ranges of mountains. It was said that the land had sufficient rain, dense forest, civilized people and efficient kingdom. That kingdom would have been the ancient Pandyan Kingdom.

Three Sangams :

The capital of Pandya was Thenmadurai. Tamizhvalartha Thalai Sangam assembled there. The Pandya ruled over the land with Kapadapuram as its capital. This place was left over after the tsunami in which Thenmadurai was taken away by the sea. In Kapadapuram the poets gathered and had the Second Sangam. That city also became a prey to tsunami later.

Then the Pandya ruled with Madurai as their capital. The last Sangam was held in Madurai Muthoor. It was known as Kudal as the Pandya kings patronized the poets and held research on Tamil. It was believed that the First, Second and Third Sangam helped in the development of literature and Tamil flourished under the leadership of Pandyan Kings. These Sangams would have been for a long time.

The Continent Lemuria :

The conditions were favourable for the growth of living organisms only at Cape Comorin which was submerged after the tsunami. Because of this the evolution of man would have taken place then. The language spoken by those people was the basic of Tamil language. The researchers believed that they were the ancient Tamilians. People who lived on the southern part of the land mass are considered as the

ancestors of the people of Cape Comorin. There was a big land mass connecting Africa and Australia, which was called [Lemuria](#) after the name of the monkey Lemur.

It was believed that human beings evolved from the Lemurs. The language of the people was ancient Tamil. The land where their descendants lived was called Tamil Nadu.

Historic period:

The historic period of Tamil Nadu began from the Sangam age. Sangam age is the period during which the poets of the Third Sangam joined together and did research on Tamil. This period lasted for 400 years from BT 200 – AT 200. Some consider that it was between BT 300 – AT 300.

[Note : BT – AT](#) was calculated based on the birth year of Thiruvalluvar ie 31 B.C. According to the decision taken by Tamil scholars that time can be calculated considering that Thiruvalluvar was born 31 years before Christ. This was accepted and announced by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The Sangam literatures, what we got now are Ettuthogai and Pathupattu. The poem in these literature were written by Kapilar, Paranar, Avvaiyar, Nakkeerar

and hundreds of poets. With the help of these we can understand the civilization, customs, culture and political life of Tamilians.

Tolkappium which was a pride to Tamil literature originated before the Third Sangam. Tamil literature would have developed a few thousand years ago. It was a pride to Tamil, that Tirukkural which was hailed by all the religions originated during the Sangam age.

Our mother tongue Tamil which is adoptive to grammatical norms and is called Senthamilzh. Scholars call Tamil a classical language, because it had developed without the help of other languages.



Activity:

Identify the type of land division that you live in. Write down.

The people who lived in the south which was surrounded by water on three sides were good sea traders before the Sangam age as per the proverb, “**Thiraikadal vodiyum thiraviyam thedu**”. The language Tamil is abundant with words like Navai, Kalam, Kappal, Thoni, Odam, Padagu, Theppam and Katamaram which are used to denote the mode of travel at sea.

This shows their interest in sea trade. There were many ports like Puhar, (Kaveripoompattinam), Korkai, Musiri, Thondi and Vanchi. They had trade contacts with Egypt, Yavanam, Rome, China and other eastern countries. They followed the barter system.

Mohenjo-daro and Harappa excavated in the Northern hemisphere were examples of town civilization. They



Five division of Lands

examined thousands of things found there . It was proved that it had connection with the Southern Tamilians for more than four – five thousand years ago. This showed that in those days Tamilians were not only in the south but also in the north.

During the Sangam, the poets divided the lands into five physical divisions. The mountainous region was called Kurinchi, the forested region was referred as Mullai, the wet and agricultural land area was called Marutham, the coastal area was Neithal and the sandy regions which suffered by drought were called Palai. The occupation of the people depended on the region where they lived.

In those days, the most important duty of the kings was protecting their subjects. Apart from the kings there were chieftains and patrons who ruled smaller regions. Conditions were favourable for the poets, pannar, koothar, viraliyar, traders, idayars, uzhavars, maravars to lead a comfortable life.

Agriculture was honoured as it provided food to all. Next to agriculture weaving was given importance.

The Ancient Three Tamil Kingdoms:

The Chera Kingdom:

Chera kingdom included the whole of present Kerala and North West -of Tamilnadu.



The famous Chera kings Imayavaramban Neduncheralathan and Sillambu Pugazh Cheran Senguttuvan reached the Himalayas and hoisted the Chera flag. Their capital was Vanchi (Karur), the ports were Thondi and Musiri and their emblem was Bow and Arrow.

The Chola Kingdom:

The Chola kingdom included present Trichy, Thanjavur, Pudukkottai, Nagapattinam and some parts of the South Arcot. The famous Chola kings were Karikal Cholan and Killivalavan.



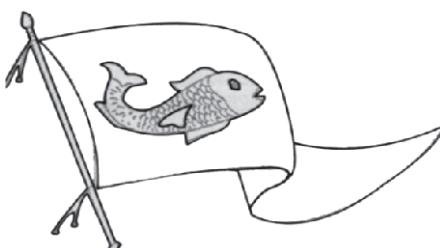
Karikalan who ruled over two thousand years ago conquered Eelam. He built Kallanai on the banks of river Cauvery with the help of captives which is still in use. He was called Karikal Peruvalathan.

Their capital was Uraiur, their port was Kaviripoompattinam and their emblem was Tiger.

The famous kings of the medieval period were Rajaraja Chola and Rajendra Chola. They conquered not only the North but also Java and Kadaram.

The Pandya Kingdom:

The Pandya kingdom included the places from Kanyakumari to Madurai. The Pandyan king Muddathirumaran and Thalaiyalanganathu Cheruvendra Nedunchezhiyan who defeated the combined forces of seven chieftains, lived in the Pandya kingdom. The one who played an important role in Silapathigaram by saying, “**Yano Arasan; Yanae Kalvan**” (I am not a king, I am the culprit) and established truth was also a renowned Pandya king. Their capital was Madurai, their port was Korkai (Tuticorin) and their emblem was Fish.



The seven chieftains were called as Kadaiyel Vallalgal. The famous among them were Pari, Ori, Malayan, Nalli, Ezhini, Pegan and Aay.

Social Life :

“Pirrapokkum ella uirukkum -chirappova
Cheithozhil vettrumai yan”

According to the Thirukkural mentioned above there was a society without any discrimination.

There were discrimination according to their occupations. There was sect system but they were not discriminated according to their birth. Untouchability was not in practice. In due course, caste discrimination and untouchability came into force.

Women had the privilege of choosing their life partners. Parents agreed to that. The rituals, raising of holy fire and chanting of mantras were not in vogue. Women were not treated as per the Vedas.

As building of temples was not in practice, the Sangam people worshipped the stones erected in memory of the dead soldiers which were known as Hero Stones or Nadukkal and their ancestors.

They celebrated harvest festival, Pongal festival and the festival of Spring season. In the capital they celebrated Indiravizha. They did not know about the festivals of the Puranas.

Evaluation:

I. Choose the correct answer :

1. The area that was considered as the most ancient one in the world
 - a) Ganges Valley
 - b) the area in the south of Vindhya
 - c) north west valley
2. The land mass on the South Kanyakumari during pre-historic period
 - a) Continent of Kumari
 - b) Continent of Bharath
 - c) Continent of Africa
3. The place where evolution of man began
 - a) Mediterranean countries
 - b) Asyria
 - c) Lemuria
4. Which year is considered as the birth year of Thiruvalluvar
 - a) AD 31
 - b) BC 31
 - c) AD 13
5. The city where the Second Sangam was held
 - a) Thenmadurai
 - b) Kapadapuram
 - c) Koodal Nagar

II. Fill in the blanks:

1. _____ was the organisation where the Tamil poets assembled and did the literary research in Tamil.
2. The _____ were the ancestors of the people of Cape Comorin.
3. The historical period of the Tamil began from _____ age.
4. The Grammar book, _____ originated before the Third Sangam.
5. _____ was the most important occupation of the Sangam age.

III. Match the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Tolkappiam | - Yano Arrasan; Yanae Kalvan |
| 2. Mullai | - Hero Stones |
| 3. Pandiyar Nedunchezhiyan | - Mountainous region |
| 4. Heroic death | - coastal area |
| 5. Kurinchi | - book before Tamil Sangam |
| 6. Neithel | - forest area |

IV. Answer the following:

1. Why is Tamil known as classical language?
2. Name the Tamil words which are used to denote the mode of travel at sea.
3. Why is Madurai known as Kudal?
4. What are the countries with whom the Tamilians had trade?
5. Mention the physical divisions of the land during the Sangam age.
6. Name the famous Pandya kings.
7. Name the important Chera kings.
8. Write notes on Karikal Peruvallathan.
9. Name the Kadaiyelu Vallalgal.
10. Mention the social status of women during the Sangam age.

V. Answer in detail :

1. Write the characteristic features of the ancient Tamil.
2. Describe the First, Second and Third Sangam.
3. Write about the sea trade of the Sangam Age.

Formative Assessment

1. Prepare and display the models of 5 types of lands.
2. Prepare a tabular column based on the trees, flags and flowers of the three tamil kingdoms.
3. Do the festivals of the present time gives only happiness? Discuss.
4. **Who am I?**

Land and areas around the land. Who am I?

Mountain and areas around the mountains. Who am I?

Forests and areas around the forests. Who am I?

Sea and areas around the sea. Who am I?

Draught stricken area- Who am I?

'I can, I did'

Student's Activity Record

Subject:

