

**Chapter 9**

**Vital Villages, Thriving Towns**

Question1. What tools were made of Iron?

Ans. Axes and ploughshare.

Question2. What was included in irrigation works?  
Ans. Canals, wells, tanks and artificial lakes.

Question3. Who were living in the villages in southern India?

Ans. Large landowners known as vellalar.

Ordinary ploughmen known as uzhavar.

Landless laborers known as kadaisiyar and adimai.

Question4. Who were living in the villages in northern India?  
Ans. The village headman known as gramabhojaka.

Independent farmers known as grihapatis.

Landless laborers known as dasakarmakar.

Question5. Mention the works performed by gramabhojaka.

Ans. The post of village headman was hereditary. Gramabhojaka was often the largest landowners. The king used him to collect taxes from the village. He also functioned as a judge and sometimes as a policeman.

Question6. How did archaeologists find about life in early cities?  
Ans. Sculptors carved scenes depicting people’s lives in towns and villages, or by looking in the accounts of travelers.

Question7. What were ring wells?  
Ans. Ring wells were used as toilets and as drains and garbage dumps in houses.

Question8. Which was the first coin developed?  
Ans. Punch marked designs.

Question9. Why was Mathura an important settlement?  
Ans. It was important because it was located at the cross roads – from northwest to east and north to south.

Question10. What was the special about the city?  
Ans. Mathura was famous for fine sculptures and several shrines.

Question11. Mathura became the second capital of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Ans. Kushanas.

Question12. Mathura was an important \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Ans. Religious center.

Question13. What is extremely fine pottery known as?  
Ans. the Northern Black Polished Ware.

Question14. Where were the major craft Centre in north and south?  
Ans. Varanasi in the north and Madurai in the south.

Question15. What were shrenis?

Ans. Associations of craft persons and merchants.

Question16. What were the functions of shrenis?  
Ans. They trained the craft persons, procured raw materials, distributed finished products, served as banks and the shrenis of merchants organized trades.

Question17. What was Arikamedu?  
Ans. Arikamedu was a coastal settlement where ships unloaded goods.

Question18. What was found in that area?  
Ans. Massive brick structure, which may have been a warehouse.

Question19. What was Arretine Ware?  
Ans. Red-glazed pottery.