

Ch - 4

The First Cities of the Indian Subcontinent

Points to Remember:-

- Bronze Age cities were excavated in 1920s.
- Mohenjo-daro means mound of the dead.
- Indus Valley Civilisation is also known as Harappan Civilisation.

Exercise A:

Q1: Name four important sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Ans1: Following are the four important sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation:-

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| a) Rupar | b) Kalibangan |
| c) Lothal | d) Harappa |

Q2: What tells us that the Harappans grew wheat and barley?

Ans2: Grains found in cracks on the threshing floors show that the Harappans grew wheat and barley.

Q3: Write about the street plan of a typical Indus city.

Ans3: The streets were wide, cutting each other at the right angles. Street lights were also there.

Q4: Mention some important crafts of the Harappans.

Ans: Some important crafts of the Harappans were:-

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| a) Pot-making | b) Brick-making |
| c) Seal-making | d) Jewellery-making |
| e) Metal-casting | |
| f) Toy-making and sculpture | |

Q5: Prove with one example that the Harappans knew the art of weaving.

Ans: The statuette of a shawl-clad man and terracotta figurines of women wearing skirts are evidences that show that the Harappans knew the art of weaving.

Q6: Why do we not understand the inscriptions on the Harappan seals?

Ans: We don't understand the inscriptions on the Harappan seals because nobody has been able to decipher the Indus scripts.

Q7: What do you know about the weights and measures used by the Indus merchants?

Ans: Indus merchants were trading according to the sets of rules. They also used uniform weights and measures.

Q8: Mention one purpose for which the Indus people used large urns.

Ans8: The Indus people used large urns to bury the dead bodies.

Q9: Write about one of Lothal's main industries.

Ans: One of Lothal's main industry was bead-making industry.

Q10. What possibly led to the decline of the Indus civilisation?

Ans10: The Indus cities were probably destroyed by earthquakes, floods or a change in the course of the Indus civilisation.

Exercise B:

Q1. Why is the Indus civilisation also called the Harappan Civilisation?

Ans: The Indus civilisation is also called the Harappan Civilisation because the remains found at all the sites are very similar to those found at Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.

Q2. What do you know about the Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro?

Ans: The Great Bath was a masterpiece of engineering skills. It was made of bricks and was covered with waterproof material to prevent seepage. It was used for religious purposes.

Q3: Mention a few things depicted on the Indus seals.

Ans: A few things depicted on the Indus seals were:-

- a) Short inscriptions
- b) Inscriptions of animals like bull, buffalo, tiger, etc.
- c) Male God
- d) Pictures

Q4: Mention some important architectural features of Dholavira.

Ans4: Some important architectural features of Dholavira are:-

- a) In terms of size, Dholavira is one of the largest Indus settlement in India.*
- b) In town planning is magnificent as it was divided into three parts – a citadel, the middle town and the lower town.*
- c) It had several wells and large water tanks.*

Exercise C

Q1: Explain how cities arose. How is city life different from village life?

Ans1: The trade centres where a large number of people settled , developed into cities.

<i>Village Life</i>	<i>City Life</i>
<i>1. Villages were small in size.</i>	<i>1. Cities were bigger in size.</i>
<i>2. Village life was simple.</i>	<i>2. City Life was complex.</i>
<i>3. Village people had similar needs and occupations.</i>	<i>3. City people had different needs and different occupations.</i>

Q2. Briefly describe a typical house of the Indus civilisation.

Ans2: The description of a typical house of the Indus civilisation are as follows:-

- a) In the lower town houses were one or two storeys high.*
- b) Almost every house had a well.*
- c) They were built along narrow straight lanes.*
- d) They were made of baked bricks.*
- e) Every house had two or more rooms with small windows, a bathroom, a kitchen and a courtyard.*

Q3: What suggests that the Indus people carried on overseas trade?

Ans: The following information suggests that the Indus people carried on overseas trade:-

- a) Articles made up of materials that were not available in the region have been excavated.*
- b) A seal depicting a ship suggests there was overseas trade.*