

Chapter 4. In the earliest Cities

Very Short Q&A:

Q1: Name the place where the large piece of white stone having the inscription of Harappan script was found.

Ans: Dholavira

Q2: What was the purpose of Fire altars in Harappa?

Ans: To perform sacrifices

Q3: Most of the beads that were found in Harappa were made of _____.

Ans: Carnelian

Q4: The City of Lothal stands beside the Gulf of Khambat. True/False

Ans: true

Q5: What was the intensity of rainfall in Harappa?

Ans: heavy rainfall

Q6: Where was the city of Lothal situated?

Ans: Lothal was situated near the areas where raw materials such as semi-precious stones were easily available

Q7: The huge tank of water in located Lothal was used as _____.

Ans: Dockyard

Q8: What was the purpose of seals?

Ans: Seals may have been used to stamp bags or packets containing goods that were sent from one place to another.

Q9: Name the most important centre for making objects out of stone, shell and metal.



Ans: Lothal

Q10: Generally the Harappan writings have been found on Black stones. True/False

Ans: false

Q11: Where is Dholavira located?

Ans: Rann of Kutch

Q12: Write the name of a new tool which was used to dig earth for turning the soil and planting trees.

Ans: Plough

Q13: What is faience?

Ans: Faience is a material that is artificially produced, it was used to make beads, tiny vessels etc.

Q14: Name the Harappan cities where sacrifices may have been performed.

Ans: Kalibangan and Lothal

Q15: From present-day Gujarat, Iran and Afghanistan, the Harappans obtained _____.

Ans: precious stones.

Q16: What was the name of the special tank of Mohenjodaro?

Ans: the Great Bath

Q17: Harappa was discovered _____ years back.

Ans: 80

Q18: The city of Lothal stood close to the Gulf of _____.

Ans: Khambhat.

Q19: What do we call to the western part of the Harappan city?

Ans: Citadel

Q20: Name the places where traces of fire altars have been found.

Ans: Kalibangan and Lothal

Q21: Name the city of Harappa that was divided into three parts.

Ans: Dholavira

Q22: Invasion of aryaans have been the reason for the decline of some of the Harappan cities. True/False

Ans: True

Q23: We find proof of abandonment of cities like _____ and _____.

Ans: Sind and West Punjab

Q24: Name the city where Cotton was most probably grown.

Ans: Mehrgarh

Q25: What was the shape of the Harappan seal?

Ans: Rectangular

Q26: Name the metal that stands out due to its absence at the Harappan cities

Ans: Iron

Q27: Who were Scribes?

Ans: They were probably the people who wrote on seals and other materials about transactions and other factors

Q28: The special buildings of the city were constructed at the _____.

Ans: Citadel

Q29: Name the material used to make a plough.

Ans: Wood

Q30: Mention a unique finding of Dholavira.



Ans: Large letters of Harappan script

Q31: State a features of the houses constructed in Harappan civilisation.

Ans: drainage system

Q32: What was the purpose of 'great bath' in the Harappan civilisation?

Ans: bathing on special occasions

Q33: What were the important functions of the ruling class people?

Ans: Construction of special buildings and sending envoys

Q34: How the Great Bath was made water tight?

Ans: By Natural tar

Q35: What do we call the pattern in which bricks were laid to make the walls stronger?

Ans: Interlocking

Q36: Name two popular gold mines in Karnataka.

Ans: two popular gold mines at Hatti and Kolar in Karnataka.

Q37: What was the common feature of Harappan buildings?

Ans: baked bricks

Q38: People in Egypt carefully preserved the dead bodies known as _____.

Ans: bitumen

Q39: The city of Lothal was located on the banks of the river _____.

Ans: Bhogava

Q40: What do we call to the pyramids build by people of Egypt?

Ans: huge tombs



Q41: The Egyptian people used to preserve the bodies of their kings after their death and buried them in these pyramids. True/False

Ans: true

Q42: Name the states where the two sites of the Harappan civilization were vacated due to flood.

Ans: Sind and West Punjab

Q43: The Pharaohs built huge tombs in Egypt, which are known as _____.

Ans: Pyramids

Q44: What was the shape of pyramids?

Ans: Pyramids were shaped as inverted cone masonry structures.

Q45: What is Mummy?

Ans: A Mummy is a corpse, whose skin and organs have been preserved

Q46: What do the archaeologists described the smaller but higher structure found at Harappan sites?

Ans: Citadel

Q47: What is the second name of Interlocking pattern?

Ans: Interlocking pattern is also known as running lane pattern

Q48: The scribes were skilled in the manufacturing of seals. True/False

Ans: True

Q49: Mention the name of a metal, which was mixed with copper to produce bronze during Harappan period.

Ans: Tin

Q50: What were the uses of bronze metal?

Ans: This metal was used to make weapons and also agricultural implements.



Short Q&A:

Q1: List features of The Great Bath.

Ans: The Great Bath was lined with bricks, coated with plaster and made water tight with a layer of natural tar. There were steps leading down from two sides into the tank.

Q2: Write about Harappan seals.

Ans: Harappan seals had pictures of animals that relate to a wet and marshy environment. Rhinoceroses, elephants, and tigers were placed in the midst of marshy plants.

Q3: Why were metals, writing, wheel and plough important for the Harappans?

Ans: Metals, writing, wheel and plough were important for the Harappans because metals were used to make tools and ornaments; writing helped them to know scriptures; wheel helped them to move from one place to another as carts came into being and finally plough was important to plough land and grow crops for their food.

Q4: When was cotton cultivated at Mehrgarh?

Ans: Cotton was probably grown at Mehrgarh about 7000 years ago. Mehrgarh was also the first site in India where agricultural activities took place.

Q5: How do archaeologists know that cloth was used in the Harappan civilization?

Ans: The archaeologists have found actual pieces of cloth attached to the lid of a silver vase and some copper objects at Mohenjodaro. As we know that cloth is made up of cotton, probably, the farmers grew cotton at that time. The archaeologists have also found spindle whorls, made of terracotta and faience which were used to spin thread. This proves that the cloth was used in Harappan civilization.

Q6: Describe the life of the people in Harappan cities?

Ans: The Harappan city was a very busy place. There were people who planned the construction of special buildings in the city. They may have kept the most valuable objects, such as ornaments of gold and silver, or beautiful beads, for themselves. And there were scribes, people who knew how to write, who helped prepare the seals, and perhaps wrote on other materials that have not survived till date. Men and women, craftsmen, made all kinds of things – either in their own homes, or in special workshops. People were travelling to distant lands at that time by carts to inland places or by ship to foreign lands.

Q7: What is the meaning of seals and sealing?



Ans: Seals may have been used to stamp bags or packets containing goods that were sent from one place to another. After a bag was closed or tied, a layer of wet clay was applied on the knot, and the seal was pressed on it. The impression of the seal is known as sealing. Harappan people used the seals for signs of proprietorship, against ill or bad omens etc also.

Q8: What were the main Harappan towns in Gujrat?

Ans: The main Harappan towns in Gujrat were Dholavira, located on Khadir Beyt in the Rann of Kutch and Lothal that stood beside a tributary of the Sabarmati, close to the gulf of Khambhat.

Q9: What was the main food of people in the cities?

Ans: The main food of the Harrappans were wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame, linseed and mustard together with meat, milk and milk products.

Q10: What types of metals were used to make tools in earlier cities?

Ans: There were mainly four types of metals that were used to make tools in earlier cities. They were - Copper, bronze, gold, and silver. Copper and bronze were used to make tools, weapons, ornaments and vessels. Gold and silver were used to make ornaments and vessels.

Q11: What type of houses were found in the earlier cities?

Ans: In Harrappan city, which is the first urban site in India, houses were either one or two storeys high, with rooms built around a courtyard.

Q12: Write down the names of the main earliest cities?

Ans: The names are: Mohenjodaro, Harappa, Kalibangan, Rakhi Garhi, Chanhudaro, Dholavira, Surkotada, Lothal and Sotkakoh.

Q13: What was the use of the Great Bath? What materials were used in the great bath?

Ans: Important people (priests, rulers) took ritual baths in this tank. The tank was lined with kiln burnt bricks, plaster of gypsum and bitumen was used to make the tank water resistant.

Q14: List three factors which show that Lothal was an important production centre of the Harappan civilisation.



Ans: Following factors show that Lothal was an important production centre of the Harappan civilisation:

1. It was situated near areas where raw materials such as semi-precious stones were easily available.
2. This was an important centre for making objects out of stone, shell and metal.
3. Pieces of stone, half made beads, tools for bead making and finished beads have all been found in a building. This building was probably a workshop for making beads.

Q15: What led to the decline of the Harappan civilisation?

Ans: The historians are uncertain regarding the causes for the decline of the Harappan civilisation. Various factors were responsible for the end of the physical existence of the Harappan cities.

1. The decline in the quality of buildings and town planning indicates as if the rulers were losing control which forced the people to move to newer settlements.
2. The rivers changed their course, which led to either heavy floods or drought like situations.
3. Ecological changes led to the decline of land and agriculture. With time, the requirement for fuel increased, which led to excessive deforestation. Moreover, grazing by large herds of animals destroyed the green cover. All this must have enforced them to evacuate to other areas.

Q16: What were the important crafts of the Harappan people?

Ans: In the Harappan cities, there were men and women who made all kinds of things either in their own homes or in special workshop known as crafts persons.

1. Copper and bronze were used to make tools, weapons, ornaments and vessels. Gold and silver were used to make ornaments and vessels.
2. The Harappans made seals out of stone. These seals were generally rectangular in shape and had an animal carved on them.
3. The Harappans made beads, weights and blades. Most of the beads were made out of carnelian, a beautiful red stone. They also made pots with beautiful black designs.

Q17: What were the main features of the cities built during the Harappa Civilisation?

Ans: Harappan cities were divided into two or more parts. The western part was higher and was also called the citadel. The eastern part or the lower town was made up of baked bricks. These bricks were laid in interlocking pattern that made the wall strong. Some of the cities also had a huge water tank or 'The Great Bath'. Fire altars for worshipping were



also found in these tanks. Most of the houses were either one or two stories high. They were built around a courtyard. The cities also had covered drainage systems. The drainage system also had manhole at regular intervals for cleaning up.

Q18: Describe the Great Bath.

Ans: The Great Bath is a tank excavated in Mohenjodaro. It has steps leading from two sides. The bath was lined with bricks and coated with bitumen to make it water proof.

Q19: What was special about the roads in the Indus Valley Civilization?

Ans: The roads were wide and cut each other at right angles. Houses were built on both sides and covered drains ran along the streets.

Q20: What are the two important salient features about the constructions excavated in the Indus Valley Civilisation?

Ans: It has been found that baked bricks were used in all buildings. These bricks were laid in an interlocking pattern to make strong walls.

Long Q&A:

Q1: Write about the drains in the Harappan cities.

Ans: People of Harappa paid special attention to the drainage system. Many of the cities had covered drains. All the drains were laid out in straight lines having a gentle slope so that water could flow through it. Drains in the houses were connected to the street drains. Inspection holes were provided at regular intervals to ensure proper cleaning of the drains.

Q2: List some of the important architectural features of Dholavira.

Ans: The city of Dholavira was located on Khadir Beyt in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat. Here fresh water was available and the soil was very fertile.

1. Unlike some of the other Harappan cities, which were divided into two parts, Dholavira was divided into three parts.
2. Each part was surrounded with massive stone walls, with entrances through gateways.
3. There was also a large open area in the settlement, where public ceremonies could be held.

