

Subject: History and Civics

Teacher: Mili Bhargava

Chapter 2 The Indus Valley Civilization.

Good Morning Students,

This civilization was found in Indian subcontinent and named after the river around which its cities were discovered. As Harappa was the first site to be discovered it was also called as the Harappan Civilization.

The Indus Valley Civilization extends from Suktagendor in the West to Alamgirpur in the East, Mohenjodaro in the North to Daimabad in South. Some important sites were Mohenjodaro, Kalibangan, Lothal, Banawali, etc.

For our sources of this period we depend upon archaeological sources in the form of seals, sealings, statues, ornaments, pots, buildings. Though we have found some script of Harappan Civilization, the historians are unable to decipher it.

Let us discuss about the main features of this civilization

1. Town Planning - As an urban civilization, it had features like
 - a) The main roads ran parallel to each other. The streets intersected main roads dividing the city into rectangular blocks.
 - b) We can find signs of roads curved at the corners so that carts could move easily.
 - c) Generally the cities were divided into - citadel

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and lower town. A number of important public buildings were found in citadel

- i) Great Bath of Mohenjodaro.
- ii) Great Assembly Hall
- iii) Granaries where the grains were stored.

In the lower town we find residential areas. The houses were generally one or two storeyed. All houses had a well, kitchen, bathroom. So it seems that people led a comfortable life.

The drainage system of the people of Harappa was perhaps the best in civilizations of the world. The drains which were usually covered were cleaned regularly. The house drains were connected to the main drains.

A dockyard has been found from Lothal which helps one to conclude that there must have been trade with the other civilizations of the time.

MCQ's

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| 1. Harappa | 5. Mohenjodaro. |
| 2. Indus | 6. Lothal |
| 3. Chalcolithic | |
| 4. Banawali | |