

HISTORY: CLASS-6: SUMMARY

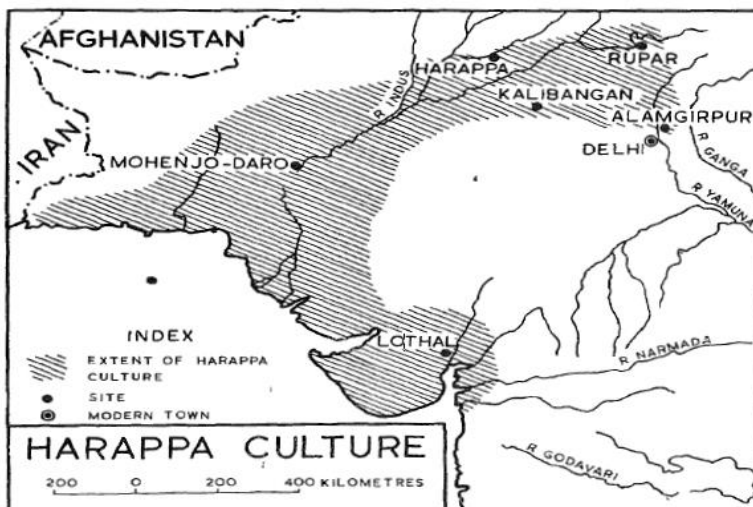
CHAPTER 2 - MAN TAKES TO THE CITY LIFE

Points of Discussion

- Indus Valley Civilization
- Contemporary Civilizations
- Important sites of IVC
- Buildings and houses during IVC
- Food habits, clothes, occupations, and religion of IVC people

People in the large villages were prosperous because they **were now producing more food than they required for their needs**, so they could exchange this surplus food for other things, such as cloth, pottery or ornaments. Now, it was no longer necessary for every family to work in the fields and produce its own food. Those who were weavers, potters or carpenters exchanged the articles which they produced for food grown by other families. **Gradually, as trade increased**, the craftsmen began to live together, and such **villages grew into towns**.

1. Civilisation – It was the stage of man’s development when he looks for more than just the satisfaction of his material needs. His community is governed by laws. Man is civilised when he attempts to satisfy the needs of his mind.



2. Biggest advancement- Invention of a script which was used by the traders to keep a record of their trade was the major advancement. They **knew how to write. The script was pictographic.**

Unfortunately, historians have not yet been able to read and understand the pictographs.

3. The earliest city to be discovered was **Mohenjo-Daro** on Indus in Sindh. Further up the Indus

Valley, another ancient city was excavated; this was **Harappa** near modern **Montgomery**.

4. The Indus Valley Civilization is also called the Harappa culture since the pattern of life resembles that of Harappa. Some of these cities were found at **Rupa near Chandigarh**, **Lothal near Ahmedabad**, **Kalibangan in Rajasthan** (Rajasthan and Sindh had wet climate). The Harappa culture was spread over the whole of Sind, Baluchistan and almost, the whole of Punjab (east and west), northern Rajasthan, Kathiawar and Gujarat. **It was called a civilisation because the people were living a more advanced life than those of the previous primitive ages.**
5. The Harappa culture grew at the same time with other civilisations of Asia and Africa in the valleys of rivers - **Nile, Euphrates, Tigris and Hwang-Ho**. In **Egypt**, there was the civilisation of the Pharaohs who built the Pyramids at this time. In the region now called Iraq, there was the **Sumerian Civilization**. The Harappa people had trading contacts

with the people of Sumer. Even in those days, there **was Trade between India and other parts of the world.**

1. ENVIRONMENT –

- At that time, the northern and the western parts of India (including what is now Pakistan) were covered with forests. The climate was moist and humid, and Sind and Rajasthan were not desert areas as they are today. The animals which the people of this region knew were **forest animals, such as the tiger, the elephant, the rhinoceros and the hippopotamus.**
- The forests provided **timber** which was used to make the kilns where the bricks used for building the cities were made. Timber was also used for building boats.
- More grain was grown than was eaten by the people in the villages. This extra or surplus grain was taken to the cities to feed the people of the towns and was stored in large granaries or buildings, specially made for storing grain.
- They made articles by hand, such as beads, cloth, and ornaments, which were used in the cities and some of which were also sent to distant lands. For example -the kingdom of Sumer in Iraq.

2. THE CITIES AND THE BUILDINGS-

- The cities of Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa were divided into two parts- The upper part that was built on the raised ground has been described as the **citadel**. This part included the public buildings, the granaries, the more important factories, and the religious buildings.
- In the citadel at Harappa, the most impressive buildings were the **granaries**. The grain was brought in boats along the river and stored in the granary. This was the best way of transporting grains as it was the cheapest and most efficient way since it required less LABOUR. **The labourers all lived together near the factory in small quarters.**
- The citadel at Mohenjo-Daro protected by a rampart had these and other buildings as well. There is a large building which appears to have been a palace or the house of a **governor**.
- The best known of the buildings in the Mohenjo-Daro citadel is the **Great Bath**. This resembles a large swimming pool.



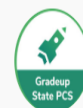
The Great Bath in the citadel at Mohenjo-daro

3. HOUSES-

1. The lower city of Mohenjo-Daro was carefully planned before the houses were built. **The streets ran straight and at right angles to each other.** Streets were wide, the main street was about ten metres wide, which is as wide as many of the large streets in modern cities. The houses were built on both sides of the street. Houses were built of brick and had thick, strong walls, which were plastered and coloured.
2. **The kitchen** had a fireplace. **Bathrooms** were built on one side of the house and had **drains** which were connected with the street drain. The street drain ran along



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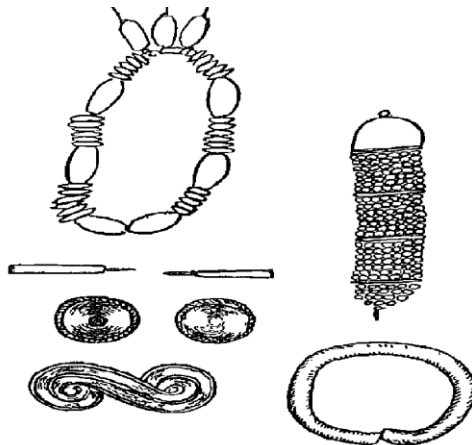


the sides of the street and was lined with bricks, so that, it could be kept clean. Some of the drains were covered with slabs of stone.

3. There were courtyards and wells in every house.

4. **FOOD** - The people ate wheat and barley, which they ground in millstones and baked into bread. They liked fruit, particularly pomegranates and bananas. They also ate meat and fish.

5. **CLOTHES**- They knew how to weave cotton, and the finding of clay spindles suggests that many of the women must have spun the yarn at home. Mostly, the clothes were of cotton, though some wool was also used. The men wore **amulets**, and the women wore **bracelets and necklaces**. These were made of beads of **shell and, for the rich, of gold and silver**.



Jewellery found at Mohenjo-daro

6. **AMUSEMENTS AND TOYS**- Small clay carts resembling the modern ekkas, which were probably copies of the carts drawn by oxen, in which the grown-ups travelled, figures of animals which were made like **puppets**, so that, their limbs

could be moved by pulling a string, whistles made in the form of birds and rattles of all kinds have been found. Marbles were also popular with children. For girls, there were **dolls** too. The older people spent their time in gambling, dancing, hunting and cockfighting.



Seal found at Mohenjo-daro showing a standing bull. The signs on the top are in the Harappan script



Bearded figure found at Mohenjo-daro

7. **OCCUPATIONS**-

- The spinning and weaving of cotton and wool was a major occupation.
- Cloth was used by the Harappans and was also sent to the towns along the coast of the Persian Gulf and to Sumer.
- The potters were probably the busiest of all, and they produced some beautiful **pottery**. Most of it was made of reddish clay and on it, were painted designs in black — lines, geometrical designs, tree and leaf designs and animal figures.

- The making of beads and amulets was also popular. These have been found in large numbers. Beads were made of clay, stone, paste, shell and ivory.
- Among the objects found in great numbers at Mohenjo-Daro, were flat **rectangular seals made of clay or stone**. The seal had a design on one side, usually, the picture of a bull, or a tree, or some scene, and above the picture, there was a line of pictographs; the picture signs were used as a script by the Harappa people. These seals were perhaps used by merchants and traders to stamp their goods.

TRADE

1. They traded with each other and sent goods regularly from one place to another. Seals and small objects made at Mohenjo-Daro have been found at Babylon. **The merchandise was shipped from Lothal (where a dock has been excavated), and incoming goods were received here.**

8. RELIGION- A seated figure of a male-god, carved on a small stone seal, was found. There were certain trees which were sacred, such as the pipal tree, which is often shown on the seals. They might also have held the bull sacred. The Harappans buried their dead in graves. They believed that there was life somewhere even after death because the graves often contained household pottery, ornaments and mirrors.

9. Fall- There is no assurance on how this civilization came to an end. The civilisation may have been destroyed by floods, which came regularly; or there may have been an epidemic or some terrible disease which killed the people. The climate began to change, and the region became more and more dry like a desert.

Conclusion

In this topic, you learned about Indus Valley Civilization, contemporary civilizations, important sites of IVC, buildings and houses during IVC, food habits, clothes, occupations, and religion of IVC people.