

## THEME -I

# BRICKS, BEADS, AND BONES

### Introduction

This theme deals with the salient features of Harappan civilization. The early phase of civilization, their subsistence strategies, features of towns, the end of civilization the challenges faced by the archeologists, end of civilization etc are the subthemes under discussion. The striking feature of this theme is emphasis given to archaeological excavations. The areas should be transacted in a way that would help the learner to get a clear idea about the reconstruction of social, Political and economic history in the light of archaeological evidences. This unit will help to develop a positive attitude towards the rich and ancient cultural heritage of India. More over it will create awareness in the learner about the need to preserve the archeological monuments.

### UNIT FRAME

Concepts/Ideas	Process/Activity with assessment	Learning Outcomes
Early Phase of Harappa civilization	Preparation of chart (process) showing the important sites and features of early Harappan settlements. Presentations of the chart (to port folio) Locating early Harappa sites( (to port folio)	Identify the early Harappan sites and to explain the features of early Harappan civilization
Subsistence Strategies	Group discussion (process) and preparation of notes (portfolio)	To analyze and explain the agricultural activities of Harappan people in the light of archaeological evidence
Mohenjo-Daro - a planned urban centre - features.	Seminar presentation (process)and preparations of seminar report (to port folio)	Explains and compare the striking features of the city of Mohenjo-Daro with modern urban centers.
Tracking the social differences - study of the burials - artifacts	Panel discussion (process) and preparation of note (to port folio)	Identify and explain various techniques using to analyze the social differences.
Craft production - centers of production	Group discussion and preparation of note - map reading and locating (to port folio)	Appreciate the achievement of Harappan people in the field of craft

		and technology to locate the centers if production.
Strategies for producing materials used – contact with distance lands.	Student teacher interaction – Map reading and locating (to port folio)	Identity and explain various centers and devises used by Harappan people to collect the materials used for the making artifacts
Seals, Scripts and weights	Panel discussion (process) and preparation of notes (to port folio)	Analyze and explain the uses of seals and weights.
Ancient Authority	Student – teacher interaction (process) and the preparation of note.	Analyze and explain various views about the political system of Harappans.
End of the civilization	Group discussion (process) and preparation of notes (to port folio)	Identity and explain the various behind the decline of the civilization
Discovery of the civilization – techniques –problems in the interpretation of archaeological evidence.	Interview with experts preparation of questions to for interview and preparation of notes based on interview	Analyze the various techniques use by the archaeologists in excavations and the changes of misinterpretation,

### Guided Discussion

The class is divided in to 5 groups. Each group is assigned to collect date on the end of Harappan culture. Here we can make groups according to

- Climatic changes
- Excessive floods
- Deforestation
- Drying of river
- Other chances

Each group should have a leader. The teachers provide adequate materials and necessary help and ensure achieve preparation of all members. After collecting the information a discussion is conducted in the classroom. Each group presents their own findings. After discussion the teacher consolidation and provide additional points. Each group prepare a report which goes to port folio

## **Name Harappan and Indus Valley civilization**

The civilization flourished in North West of Indian sub continent in 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> millennium B C E is called Harappan or Indus Valley civilization. Harappan in present Pakistan was the first site excavated. There is a practice among the scholars to call the civilization in the name of the first site excavated. Thus the civilization. Archaeological studies proved that the civilization spread to the banks of river Indus and its tributaries. Thus it was also called Indus valley civilization.

## **Three Phases of Harappan Civilization**

The growth and development of the Harappan civilization can be divided in to three different phases.

The early Harappan	3000 BCE	-	2600 BCE
The Mature Harappan	2600 BCE	-	1900 BCE
The late Harappan	1900 BCE	-	1500 BCE

## **When the burials disclose the mystery**

The studies at burials give us lot of information about the civilization. Recently archaeological excavated skeletal remains from Rakhigarhi, a Harappan site in Haryana (Hisar district, excavations are conducted jointly by Deccan college and Haryana Department of archaeology) in November 1914, archaeologist excavated numerous burials from Chandrayan, Bahupat district of Uttar Pradesh. Besides this a cemetery with 70 burials, most of them with skeletons is excavated from Farmana in Haryana. It is the largest cemetery found in any of the Harappan sites in India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. (Spread over 3.5 hectares). Here some skeletons are found below the other, signifying that they belonged to an earlier period. The site was excavated in 2007 -08

The site of Farmana is one of the few Harappan sites in the sub continent that have mature Harappan cemeteries located in this vicinity. Variations in customs, burial goods and the orientation of pits suggest the presence of different population groups within Farmana.

In a pot along with a skeleton in the burials archaeologist got 'Masala curry' of spices, including turmeric.

The studies prove that women enjoyed high status in society. They were carefully buried in the centre of the pit with their jewelry,

## Evaluation Questions

1. Give any two evidence that supports the view that there existed a between early and mature phase of Harappan civilizations.
2. How far the archaeological studies help us to reconstruct the agricultural activities of the Harappan people.
3. 'The Harappan cities were the result of careful planning and engineering skill' Examine think the statement in the light of evidence from the city of Mohejo Daro
4. Give any two strategies use by the scholars to identity the social condition.
5. What information do we get from the study of burial system about the social conditions of Harappa?
6. Examine the achievements of Harappan people in the field of art and sculpture.
7. Give an account of Harappan trade contacts,
8. Analyze the various archaeological evidence that supports the Harappan trade conducts with like people of Quran
9. What were the features of weights and measures used by Harappans.
10. Give any two features of the Harappan script.
11. What is the importance of seals in the like of Harappans.
12. Give an account of various archaeological evidence that shed light on the political authority in Harappa.
13. Analyze the differed views put forward by scholars regarding the decline of the Harappan civilization.
14. Analyze the role of Alexander Cunningham in the discovery of Harappan civilization
15. Give an account of the religious like of Harappans.
16. What are the major challenges faced by the archaeologists in the study and interpretation of various archaeological sources
17. Match column 'A' with suitable items from column 'B'

## Answer Key

1. In early Harappan sites the settlements are small – no large building
2. Studies by arch co- zoologist – domestication of animals – studies by arch co- botanists – cultivated grains – plague cultivation – evidence
3. Citadel and lower town – bricks in standard ratio – drainage system – Road – Houses - wells- public buildings – granaries – great bath of Mohenjo-Daro
4. Study of burials – study of artifacts

5. Different types of burials - use of bricks in some burials - pottery in burials ornaments.
6. Craft skills - Chandudaro site - materials used making ornaments - beads - Blackot, Nageswara sites
7. Different materials used - collected from different regions - trade with Quran - evidences
8. Presence of nickel both in Omani and Harappan Copper artifacts - Harappan jar discovered from Quran.
9. Made of chart - cubical - no markings - binary - decimals.
10. Short inscriptions - not alphabetical.
11. Used to identify the goods - convert the identity of the sender
12. Uniformity in town planning, weights, bricks - remains of large building - priest king - view that no rules - each settlements had rules
13. Around 1800 BC most of the mature sites declined - rural way of life in remaining settlements - different views about the causes behind the decline
14. First director of ASI study of Harappan seals.
15. Archaeological evidence - terracotta female figurines = priest king - great bath of Mohenjo-Daro fire altars - depictions on seals - protoshiva conical stone objects.
16. Problems in interpretation of unusual and unfamiliar objects - mother goddesses - preastking - great bath - ... altars - protoshiva
  1. Terracotta model of plough have been discovered from
    - a. Shortughai and Balakot
    - b. Lothal and Nageswar
    - c. Banawali and cholistan
    - d. None of the above
  2. Evidence of ploughed field is available from,
    - a. Kalibanyan
    - b. Shortughai
    - c. Dholavira
    - d. Nageswar and Balakot
  3. Which among the following sites were the main centers of making shell objects
    - a. Mohenjodaro and Harappa
    - b. Kalibanyan and Banawala
    - c. Dholavira and Lothal
    - d. Nageswar and Balakot
  4. The first director General of ASI was,

- a. Alexander Unninghan
  - b. John Marshall
  - c. Mortiver Wheeder
  - d. None of the above
5. The discovery of new civilization in Indusvally was announced in 1924
- a. Mortiver wheeler
  - b. Alexander Cunningham
  - c. John Marshall
  - d. None of the above

### Answers

1. C. Bana Wali and Choliston
2. A. Kalibanyan
3. D. Nageswar and Balakot
4. A. Alexander Cunniugham
5. C. John Marshall

### Suggested Readings

1. Birth of civilization in India and Pakistan Raymond and Bridgth aldcins
2. Understanding Harappa - Sherin Ratnakar
3. Indus civilization - Irfan Habeeb
4. Ancient India - R. S. Sharma
5. Ancient and Early Medieval India - Upinder Singh
6. Trading Encountered - DilipChakrabarthy
7. Frontline - 2015 April 17, 2015 May 29