

The Harappan Civilisation

Chapter 1: The Harappan Civilisation · Topic 1

Key Concept

Major Harappan cities like Mohenjo-daro and Harappa had well-planned streets, sophisticated drainage systems, and standardised brick sizes.

The Harappans were skilled in agriculture, trade, and crafts, producing pottery, beads, and seals with unique, still-undeciphered symbols.

Harappan trade networks extended to Mesopotamia, evidenced by Harappan seals found in distant archaeological sites.

The civilisation eventually declined around 1900 BCE, possibly due to climate change, river shifts, or other factors still debated by historians.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Harappan Civilisation flourished around 2500 BCE.
- Major cities: Mohenjo-daro, Harappa.
- Cities had planned streets and drainage systems.
- Bricks were standardised in size.
- Harappans were skilled in trade and crafts.
- They produced pottery, beads and undeciphered seals.
- Trade extended to Mesopotamia.
- The civilisation declined around 1900 BCE.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research Mohenjo-daro or Harappa.
- 2 Discuss the urban planning of Harappan cities.
- 3 Explain why the Harappan script is a mystery.
- 4 Research Harappan trade with Mesopotamia.
- 5 Discuss possible reasons for the civilisation's decline.
- 6 Create a timeline of the Harappan Civilisation.