

The Harappan Civilisation

Chapter 6: The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation · Topic 1

Key Concept

The Harappans built well-planned cities, like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, with grid-pattern streets, advanced drainage systems, and standardised burnt-brick buildings.

They were skilled in crafts, trade, and agriculture, using seals with animal figures and undeciphered script, and trading with distant regions like Mesopotamia.

The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro is a famous structure, likely used for ritual bathing, showing the civilisation's engineering skill and possible religious practices.

The Harappan Civilisation eventually declined, possibly due to changing river courses, climate change, or other factors, though its exact decline remains a topic of research.

Quick Revision Notes

- The Harappan Civilisation is also called the Indus Valley Civilisation.
- It flourished around 2500 BCE.
- Harappa and Mohenjo-daro were major planned cities.
- Cities had grid-pattern streets and drainage systems.
- Harappans used seals with animal figures and an undeciphered script.
- They traded with distant regions like Mesopotamia.
- The Great Bath at Mohenjo-daro was likely for ritual bathing.
- The civilisation's decline is still researched, possibly due to climate or river changes.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research one Harappan city in detail.
- 2 Discuss the significance of the Great Bath.
- 3 Explain what Harappan seals might have been used for.
- 4 Compare Harappan city planning to a modern city.
- 5 Research a theory about the Harappan decline.
- 6 Draw a simple map showing Harappan and Mohenjo-daro locations.