

The Harappan Civilization

Chapter 3: The Harappan Civilization · Topic 1

Key Concept

The Harappan Civilization flourished around 2500 BCE along the Indus River valley, in present-day Pakistan and northwest India.

Cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro showed advanced urban planning, with grid-pattern streets, drainage systems, and organised housing.

The Harappans were skilled traders, engaging in trade with Mesopotamia, and used a still-undeciphered writing system on seals.

The civilization declined around 1900 BCE, possibly due to factors like climate change, river shifts, or other environmental changes.

Quick Revision Notes

- Harappan Civilization: ~2500 BCE, Indus River valley.
- Located in present-day Pakistan, NW India.
- Cities: Harappa, Mohenjo-daro.
- Showed advanced urban planning.
- Grid streets, drainage systems, organised housing.
- Harappans traded with Mesopotamia.
- They had an undeciphered writing system.
- Civilization declined around 1900 BCE.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research the location of the Harappan Civilization on a map.
- 2 Discuss the urban planning features of Harappan cities.
- 3 Research Harappan trade with Mesopotamia.
- 4 Discuss the Harappan writing system.
- 5 Discuss possible reasons for the civilization's decline.
- 6 Draw a simple diagram of a Harappan city's grid layout.