

### Lesson at a Glance

- About eighty years ago, remains of the site of a very old city called **Harappa** were found in present-day Pakistan. The city is supposed to be about 4700 years old. More such cities were also discovered.
- These cities were usually divided into two or more parts. The part to the west was smaller but higher and the part to the east was larger but lower. The first part has been called **citadel** and the second part, the **lower town**.
- The bricks used were so well made that they have survived thousands of years. The pattern of their use made walls strong.
- A special tank, called the great bath, has been found in the city of **Mohenjodaro**. Some cities had fire altars and store houses.



The Great Bath

- Houses were 1- or 2-stories high. Wells supplied water. Cities had covered drains. Houses, drains and streets were planned and built at the same time.
- A Harappan city was a very busy place. Rulers planned the construction of special buildings. **Scribes** helped prepare **seals**.

- Craftspersons made all kinds of things. Archaeologists have found things made of stone, shell and metal in addition to beads, weights and blades. Seals and pots with wonderful designs were also made. Cloth has also been found.



A Harappan Seal

- The Harappans got raw materials locally or from other places like Rajasthan, Oman, Iran etc.
- They grew wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame, linseed and mustard. A tool called **plough** was used to dig the earth. **Irrigation** was also employed. Animals were reared by the Harappans.
- In Dholavira in present-day Gujarat, a large open area for ceremonies, and stones with engravements in Harappan script, have been discovered.
- A storehouse has been found in the city of Lothal.
- However, there was a major change 3900 years ago and much of the Harappan cities perished. It may have been because of rivers drying up, or deforestation, or several other reasons.

### ■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

#### Let's Recall

**Q. 1.** How do archaeologists know that cloth was used in the Harappan civilization?

**Ans.** Actual pieces of cloth have been found in Mohenjodaro, attached to the lid of a silver vase and some copper objects. Spindle whorls have also been discovered, which were used to spin thread. This indicates cloth was used in the Harappan civilisation.

**Q. 2.** Match the columns:

Copper

Gujarat

Gold

Afghanistan

Tin

Rajasthan

Precious stones

Karnataka.

**Ans.** Copper

Rajasthan

Gold

Karnataka

Tin

Afghanistan

Precious stones

Gujarat, Afghanistan.

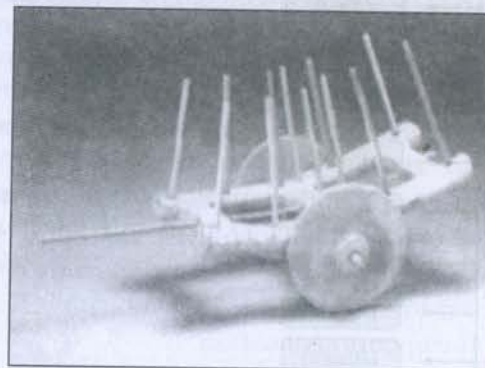
**Q. 3.** Why were metals, writing, the wheel and the plough important for the Harappans?

- Ans.**
- Metals were used for Copper and bronze: Making tools, weapons, ornaments, vessels.
  - Gold and silver: Ornaments, vessels.
  - Writing has always been a very important means of communication. It was important for the Harappans also.
  - The wheel was used in carts and pottery.
  - The plough was used to dig the earth for turning the soil and for planting seeds.

#### Let's Discuss

**Q. 4.** Make a list of all the terracotta toys shown in the lesson. Which do you think children would have enjoyed playing with the most?

**Ans.** The terracotta toys shown in the lesson are:



Toy Cart



A Toy Plough

Children would have preferred toy carts instead of ploughs.



Terracotta Toys

**Q. 5.** Make a list of what the Harappans ate, and put a tick mark against the things you eat today.

**Ans.**

Food Items eaten by Harappans

→	Wheat
→	Barley
→	Pulses
→	Peas
→	Rice
→	Sesame
→	Linseed
→	Mustard
→	Fruits

**Note:** Depending upon where you live, and with the help of your teacher, select the food items eaten by you.

**Q. 6.** Do you think that the life of farmers and herders who supplied food to the Harappan cities was different from that of the farmers and herders you read about in chapter 3? Give reasons for your answer.

**Ans.** Some points of difference between the lives of farmers and herders who supplied food to the Harappan cities, and those of the previous chapter:

(i) **Tools.** Harappan farmers and herders used a wooden tool called plough which was used for turning the soil and planting seeds. The earlier farmers and herder used mortars and pestle for grinding grain. Their tools were also made of bone.

(ii) **Irrigation.** Harappan farmers and herders used irrigation for better produce while the earlier ones did not.

(iii) **Storage.** The Harappan farmers stored food in well-built granaries and not in clay pots, baskets, etc.

(iv) **Residence.** Harappan farmers lived on the outskirts of cities, whereas there were no settled cities in the time of the farmers and herders in Chapter 3.

### Let's Do

**Q. 7.** Describe three important buildings in your city or village. Are they located in a special part of the settlement (e.g. the centre)? What are the activities that take place in these buildings?

**Ans.** The answer to this question depends on the city/village you live in. Take the help of your teacher to prepare the answer.

**Q. 8.** Are there any old buildings in your locality? Find out how old they are and who looks after them.

**Ans.** The answer to this question depends on the locality you live in. Take the help of your teacher to prepare the answer.

