

Class VI - Social Science

Exploring Society India and Beyond
The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation

CBSE NOTES

The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation - Practice Worksheet

Strengthen your foundation with key concepts and basic applications.



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Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

1. Define 'civilisation' and list its key characteristics. Why is it important to understand these characteristics?

Hint: Refer to the definition of civilisation given in the chapter.

2. Describe the agricultural practices of the Harappans and explain their significance in the development of the Harappan Civilisation.

Hint: Think about what crops were important for their diet and economy.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

3. Discuss the urban planning features of Harappan cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.

Hint: Consider how urban planning affects daily life in cities.

4. What role did trade play in the Harappan Civilisation? Provide examples of traded goods.

Hint: Reflect on both internal and external trade relationships.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

5. Explain the significance of the Sarasvatī River to the Harappan Civilisation.

Hint: Remember to think about geographical advantages for settlements.

6. What evidence do we have of Harappan craftsmanship and industry, and why is this important?

Hint: Consider how skilled labor contributes to a community.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

7. How did the Harappans manage water resources in their cities? Explain its relevance.

Hint: Think about the relationship between health and infrastructure.

8. What factors likely contributed to the decline of the Harappan Civilisation?

Hint: Consider how environmental changes affect societies.



Solve the following questions. Write your answers in the space provided.

9. Describe the social structure of the Harappan society. How was it reflected in their urban design?

Hint: Think about how urban areas can signify class differences.

10. Discuss the relevance of writing in the Harappan Civilisation. What functions did it serve?

Hint: Consider why written records are essential for societies.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

1. Define 'civilisation' and list its key characteristics. Why is it important to understand these characteristics?

Solution: Civilisation is defined as an advanced stage of human societies. Key characteristics include a form of government, urbanism, diverse crafts, trade, writing systems, cultural expressions, and productive agriculture. Understanding these is crucial because they help us identify and study societal development and interactions across history.

2. Describe the agricultural practices of the Harappans and explain their significance in the development of the Harappan Civilisation.

Solution: The Harappans practiced agriculture by cultivating cereals, pulses, and vegetables. They were the first to grow cotton in Eurasia. These agricultural practices were significant as they ensured food security and supported population growth, leading to the establishment of towns and cities.

3. Discuss the urban planning features of Harappan cities like Harappa and Mohenjo-daro.

Solution: Harappan cities were meticulously planned with wide streets aligned to cardinal directions, fortified walls, and a division into upper and lower towns. They emphasized drainage and water management systems, demonstrating advanced civil engineering.

4. What role did trade play in the Harappan Civilisation? Provide examples of traded goods.

Solution: Trade was vital in the Harappan Civilisation, facilitating economic exchanges both internally and with other cultures. Examples of traded goods include ornaments, cotton textiles, and metal tools. Trade expanded their wealth and led to cultural exchanges.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

5. Explain the significance of the Sarasvatī River to the Harappan Civilisation.

Solution: The Sarasvatī River provided fertile land for agriculture, supporting large populations. Its banks offered crucial water resources, inspiring settlement patterns. The river is also mentioned in the R̥ig Veda, highlighting its cultural significance.

6. What evidence do we have of Harappan craftsmanship and industry, and why is this important?

Solution: Evidence includes the discovery of various crafts such as pottery, jewelry, and tools. Maritime activity at Lothal reveals shipbuilding and trade capabilities. This craftsmanship indicates a sophisticated economy and cultural expression.

7. How did the Harappans manage water resources in their cities? Explain its relevance.

Solution: The Harappans had elaborate drainage systems, public baths, and wells for water supply. This efficient water management was essential for hygiene, public health, and agriculture, reflecting advanced urban planning.

8. What factors likely contributed to the decline of the Harappan Civilisation?

Solution: The decline could be attributed to climatic changes, including droughts, leading to the drying up of the Sarasvatī River. Environmental factors may have disrupted agriculture and trade, ultimately causing urban abandonment.



Check your answers with the solutions below.

9. Describe the social structure of the Harappan society. How was it reflected in their urban design?

Solution: The Harappan society had a social structure that likely included elites, artisans, and farmers, reflected in urban design where the upper town housed the elite and the lower town accommodated commoners. This social stratification highlights inequality in space usage.

10. Discuss the relevance of writing in the Harappan Civilisation. What functions did it serve?

Solution: Writing in the Harappan Civilisation was used for record-keeping, possibly for trade and administrative purposes. It facilitated communication and helped maintain structure in their complex society, indicating an advanced cultural identity.



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