CBSE CLASS 6 • SOCIAL SCIENCE • EXPLORING SOCIETY: INDIA AND BEYOND

Case Study Worksheet – Set A

Chapter 6: The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation

Name:	Class: VI	Date:

Read each case study carefully and answer the three questions that follow. (Each question carries 2 marks.)

Case Study 1: The Great Bath of Mohenjo-daro

In the city of **Mohenjo-daro** archaeologists found a small but elaborate tank called the **Great Bath**. It measured about **12 × 7 metres**. Carefully laid bricks were covered with **natural bitumen**, a form of tar, to make the tank waterproof. The tank was surrounded by small rooms, one of which had a **well**. A drain in one corner emptied the tank so it could be refilled with fresh water. Some thought it was a public bath, but this idea is ruled out because most houses in the city had **individual bathrooms**.

1. What is the Great Bath and where was it found?

2. How did the Harappans make the tank waterproof?

3. Why has the idea of a ‘public bath’ been ruled out? Give one other possible purpose.

Case Study 2: Water Harvesting at Dholavira

Dholavira lies in the **Rann of Kutch** in Gujarat. The city had at least **six large reservoirs** built with stones or even **cut into the rock**. The largest reservoir was **73 metres** long. Most reservoirs were joined by **underground drains** for efficient **water harvesting** and distribution. Building and cleaning such a network needed many workers and probably a local authority to organise the work.

1. Where is Dholavira located?

2. What were the reservoirs of Dholavira made of and how were they connected?

3. What does this system tell us about the city’s administration?

Case Study 3: The Dockyard of Lothal

Lothal is a small settlement in **Gujarat**. It has a surprisingly huge basin measuring **217 metres in length and 36 metres in width**, which is a little more than **two football grounds** in length. The basin must have been a **dockyard**, a structure to receive and send boats for transporting goods. Many Harappan settlements were located along the coast of Gujarat and Sindh. This shows the first intensive **maritime** activity in India.

1. What is a dockyard?

2. Give the length and width of the Lothal basin.

3. Why is the Lothal dockyard important for understanding Harappan trade?

Case Study 4: What Did the Harappans Eat?

The Harappans built settlements along the banks of rivers, which gave water and enriched the soil. They grew **barley, wheat, millets**, sometimes **rice**, plus **pulses** and vegetables. They were the first in Eurasia to grow **cotton**. They also domesticated animals and **fished** in rivers and the sea. Scientific tests on cooking pots showed **dairy products** and, surprisingly, **turmeric, ginger and banana**.

1. Why did Harappans settle along rivers?

2. Name three crops grown by the Harappans, other than cotton.

3. How do we know what Harappans cooked?

Case Study 5: The Decline of the Civilisation

Around **1900 BCE** the Sindhu-Sarasvatī civilisation began to fall apart and the cities were abandoned one by one. People scattered into small **rural settlements**. Long ago it was thought that **invasions** destroyed the cities, but there is no trace of warfare. Two factors are agreed upon: a **climatic change** from **2200 BCE** that reduced rainfall, and the **drying up of the Sarasvatī River** in its central basin, after which cities such as **Kalibangan and Banawali** were abandoned.

1. When did the decline of the civilisation begin?

2. Why can we say the civilisation was not destroyed by war?

3. Which two factors led to the decline?

Case Study Worksheet – Set B

Case Study 1: Planning of a Harappan City

The larger Harappan cities were built according to **precise plans**. They had **wide streets**, often oriented to the **cardinal directions**. Most cities were surrounded by **fortifications** and had two parts: the **upper town**, where the local elite probably lived, and the **lower town**, where common people lived. Individual houses lined the streets and lanes, and the quality of construction was the same for small and big houses. Buildings were generally made of **bricks**.

1. What are the two parts of a Harappan city?

2. What does the word ‘fortification’ mean?

3. What does the same quality of construction for all houses suggest about Harappan society?

Case Study 2: The Mystery of the Seals

Thousands of small **seals** have been excavated from many Harappan settlements. They were generally made of **steatite**, a soft stone hardened through heating. They measure only a few centimetres and usually show **animal figures** with, above them, a few **signs** that are part of a **writing system**. That system and the meaning of the animal figures are **yet to be understood**. Traders needed to identify their goods and each other, and the seals seem to relate to **trade**.

1. Of what material were most seals made?

2. What do the seals generally show?

3. Why can we not read the Harappan seals today?

Case Study 3: Beads, Bangles and Trade

The most favoured Harappan ornaments were beads of **carnelian**, a reddish semiprecious stone found mostly in **Gujarat**. Craftspeople developed special techniques to **drill** the beads so that a string could pass through. They also made **shell bangles** from hard **conch shell**. Carnelian beads were excavated at **Susa** (present-day Iran), and a Harappan **ivory comb** about 7 cm long was found on the coast of **Oman**.

1. What is carnelian?

2. Why did making shell bangles need sophisticated techniques?

3. What do the finds in Susa and Oman prove?

Case Study 4: The Lost River Sarasvatī

The **Sarasvatī River** used to flow from the foothills of the **Himalayas** through Haryana, Punjab, parts of Rajasthan and Gujarat. Today it is called **Ghaggar** in India and **Hakra** in Pakistan. It is now a **seasonal river** that flows only during the rainy season. It is first mentioned in the **Ṛig Veda**, where it is worshipped both as a goddess and as a river flowing 'from the mountain to the sea'. Many Harappan sites such as **Rakhigarhi, Kalibangan and Banawali** lie along it.

1. By what names is the Sarasvatī known today?

2. Why is the river called 'seasonal' today?

3. In which ancient text is the Sarasvatī first mentioned? How is it described?

Case Study 5: The Wells of Mohenjo-daro

In **Mohenjo-daro**, people drew water from hundreds of **brick-built wells**. Archaeologists have counted about **700 wells**, which seem to have been regularly **maintained** and used for several centuries. Homes had separate bathing areas connected to **drains** that ran below the streets. It is often said that the Harappans had a high **civic sense**.

1. What were the wells of Mohenjo-daro made of?

2. What does the use of the wells for several centuries tell us?

3. How do drains and bathing areas show civic sense?

Case Study Worksheet – Set C

Chapter 6: The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation

Name:	Class: VI	Date:

Read each case study carefully and answer the three questions that follow. (Each question carries 2 marks.)

Case Study 1: What Is a Civilisation?

The term **civilisation** is used for an advanced stage of human societies. A civilisation should have: some form of **government and administration**; **urbanism** (town-planning, water management, drainage); a variety of **crafts**; **trade** both internal and external; some form of **writing**; **cultural ideas** expressed through art, architecture, literature or customs; and a **productive agriculture** that feeds both villages and cities. In **Mesopotamia** (modern Iraq and Syria) civilisation began about **6,000 years ago**.

1. What does the term ‘civilisation’ mean?

2. List any three characteristics of a civilisation.

3. Where did the Mesopotamian civilisation begin, and when?

Case Study 2: Discovering Harappa

The city of **Harappa** (today in Pakistan’s Punjab) was the first city of this civilisation to be excavated, in **1920–21**. **Harappa and Mohenjo-daro** were identified in **1924**. Because many sites were found in the Indus plains, it was first called the ‘**Indus Valley civilisation**’. Archaeologists now use the names **Harappan, Indus, Indus-Sarasvatī or Sindhu-Sarasvatī** civilisation. The development is also called the **‘First Urbanisation of India’**.

1. Why are the people of this civilisation called Harappans?

2. Why is the name ‘Indus Valley civilisation’ no longer used?

3. What is the ‘First Urbanisation of India’?

Case Study 3: The Dancing Girl and Other Objects

The '**Dancing Girl**' is a **bronze** figurine from **Mohenjo-daro**, only **10.8 cm** high. Her arm is covered with **bangles**, a practice still seen in parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan. Other objects include a statuette often called the '**Priest King**', a seal with a **swastika**, a terracotta figurine seated in a '**namaste**', and a pot design from **Lothal** that seems to tell the story of the **thirsty crow**.

1. What is the Dancing Girl made of and how tall is it?

2. What familiar practice can be seen in the Dancing Girl figurine?

3. Name two other cultural or symbolic objects of the Harappans.

Case Study 4: Farming in the Harappan Age

Intense agricultural activity was managed by hundreds of small rural **villages**. Cities could survive only if enough produce from rural areas reached them **daily**. The Harappans made farming tools including the **plough**; a small **clay model of a plough** was found at **Banawali** in Haryana, and some such tools are still used by modern farmers. They grew cereals, pulses, vegetables and **cotton**, which they wove into clothes.

1. Who managed the intense agricultural activity?

2. Why did cities depend on villages?

3. What was found at Banawali and why is it important?

Case Study 5: Working with Metals

The Harappans mastered the art of working **copper**, a soft metal. If **tin** is added to copper, the resulting metal is **bronze**, which is harder. The Harappans used bronze to make **tools, pots and pans**, and some figurines. Copper was probably **imported**, since it was not common in their region. The study and techniques of extracting, purifying and combining metals is called **metallurgy**.

1. What is bronze?

2. Name two things Harappans made from bronze.

3. What is metallurgy?

ANSWER KEY – CASE STUDIES SET A

Case Study 1: The Great Bath of Mohenjo-daro

1. The Great Bath is a small but elaborate tank found in the city of Mohenjo-daro.
2. They laid bricks carefully and applied natural bitumen (a form of tar) on top.
3. Most houses in Mohenjo-daro had their own bathrooms. It may have been a bath for the royal family only, or a tank for religious rituals.

Case Study 2: Water Harvesting at Dholavira

1. Dholavira is in the Rann of Kutch in Gujarat.
2. They were built with stones or cut into rock, and connected by underground drains.
3. It shows careful planning and a local authority that organised workers and maintained the reservoirs, so the city had an organised municipal administration.

Case Study 3: The Dockyard of Lothal

1. A dockyard is a structure used to receive and send boats for the further transportation of goods.
2. It was 217 metres long and 36 metres wide.
3. It shows that the Harappans traded by sea; their maritime activity was the first intensive one in India and helped trade with far-off regions.

Case Study 4: What Did the Harappans Eat?

1. Rivers provided water and enriched the soil for agriculture.
2. Any three: barley, wheat, millets, rice, pulses, vegetables.
3. Scientific examination of clay cooking pots showed remains of dairy products, turmeric, ginger and banana; animal and fish bones also show their diet.

Case Study 5: The Decline of the Civilisation

1. Around 1900 BCE.
2. There is no trace of warfare or invasion, and the Harappans do not seem to have kept an army or weapons of war.
3. A climatic change that brought less rain from 2200 BCE, and the drying up of the Sarasvatī River in its central basin.

ANSWER KEY – CASE STUDIES SET B

Case Study 1: Planning of a Harappan City

1. The upper town (elite) and the lower town (common people).
2. A massive wall surrounding a settlement or city, generally for protection.
3. It suggests that differences between the rich and poor were not glaring, and society was fairly equal.

Case Study 2: The Mystery of the Seals

1. Steatite, a soft stone hardened by heating.
2. Animal figures such as a unicorn, bull or horned tiger, with a few signs of writing above them.
3. Their writing system has not yet been understood, so we do not know the meaning of the signs or animal figures.

Case Study 3: Beads, Bangles and Trade

1. A reddish semiprecious stone found mostly in Gujarat.
2. Shell is a hard material, so it needed special skill to work it into bangles.

3. They prove that Harappan goods were traded with distant lands outside India.

Case Study 4: The Lost River Sarasvatī

1. Ghaggar in India and Hakra in Pakistan (the Ghaggar-Hakra River).
2. It flows only during the rainy season.
3. In the Ṛig Veda, as a goddess and as a river flowing from the mountain to the sea.

Case Study 5: The Wells of Mohenjo-daro

1. Bricks.
2. It shows regular maintenance and organised civic management over a long period.
3. They show that Harappans cared about cleanliness and public health by carrying waste water away safely through drains below streets.

ANSWER KEY – CASE STUDIES SET C

Case Study 1: What Is a Civilisation?

1. An advanced stage of human societies.
2. Any three: government and administration, urbanism, crafts, trade, writing, cultural ideas, productive agriculture.
3. In Mesopotamia (modern Iraq and Syria) about 6,000 years ago.

Case Study 2: Discovering Harappa

1. Because Harappa was the first city of the civilisation to be excavated (1920–21).
2. The civilisation extended much beyond the Indus region, so ‘Valley’ is obsolete.
3. The growth of villages into towns and cities in this region (around 2600 BCE).

Case Study 3: The Dancing Girl and Other Objects

1. It is made of bronze and is 10.8 cm high.
2. Wearing bangles covering the whole arm, still seen in parts of Gujarat and Rajasthan.
3. Any two: Priest King statuette, swastika seal, three-faced deity seal, namaste figurine, thirsty crow pot design.

Case Study 4: Farming in the Harappan Age

1. Hundreds of small rural sites or villages.
2. Cities needed enough farm produce to reach them every day to survive.
3. A small clay model of a plough; it shows the Harappans used the plough, which is still used by some farmers today.

Case Study 5: Working with Metals

1. A metal made by adding tin to copper; it is harder than copper.
2. Any two: tools, pots, pans, figurines.
3. The techniques of extracting metals from nature and purifying or combining them, as well as the scientific study of metals and their properties.