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

Worksheet – Set A

Chapter 6: The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation

Name:	Class: VI	Date:

Q1. Multiple Choice Questions

Tick (✓) or write the letter of the correct option.

1. The earliest civilisation of the Indian Subcontinent is known as the ___ civilisation.

(a) Vedic (b) Indus-Sarasvatī
(c) Mauryan (d) Gupta

2. Which was the first city of this civilisation to be excavated (1920–21)?

(a) Dholavira (b) Lothal
(c) Harappa (d) Rakhigarhi

3. The famous 'Great Bath' was found in

(a) Mohenjo-daro (b) Kalibangan
(c) Lothal (d) Dholavira

4. The Indus-Sarasvatī civilisation flourished from about

(a) 1500 to 500 BCE (b) 2600 to 1900 BCE
(c) 4000 to 3000 BCE (d) 500 BCE to 300 CE

5. Harappan craftspeople made beads of ___, a reddish semiprecious stone.

(a) carnelian (b) ivory
(c) steatite (d) bitumen

6. Harappan seals were generally made of

(a) gold (b) copper
(c) steatite (d) bronze

7. The huge basin (dockyard) at Lothal measured about

(a) 73 m × 12 m (b) 217 m × 36 m
(c) 12 m × 7 m (d) 33 m × 7 m

8. Today, the Sarasvatī River is known in India as the

(a) Yamuna (b) Hakra
(c) Ghaggar (d) Sindhu

9. The Harappans were the first in Eurasia to grow

(a) rice (b) cotton
(c) banana (d) ginger

10. Which metal is added to copper to make bronze?

(a) Iron (b) Gold
(c) Tin (d) Silver

Q2. Fill in the Blanks [10 × 1 = 10 marks]

1. In Mesopotamia, civilisation began about _____ years ago.

2. The 'upper town' of a Harappan city is where the local _____ probably lived.

3. Dholavira is located in the Rann of _____ in Gujarat.

4. The Sarasvatī River is first mentioned in the _____.

5. The Great Bath was waterproofed with natural _____, a form of tar.

6. A river that flows into a larger river is called a _____.
7. The sea trade of the Harappans was the first intensive _____ activity in India.
8. The ‘Dancing Girl’ from Mohenjo-daro is a _____ figurine.
9. A climatic change affecting much of the world began from _____ BCE onwards.
10. The study and techniques of extracting and purifying metals is called _____.

Q3. True or False

Write True or False. Do not change the statement.

1. The term ‘Indus Valley civilisation’ is now considered obsolete. (_____)
2. Harappa and Mohenjo-daro are in present-day India. (_____)
3. The quality of construction was the same for small and big Harappan houses. (_____)
4. It is certain that the Great Bath was a public bath for everyone. (_____)
5. Harappan cities had no drainage system. (_____)
6. The Harappans kept large armies and many weapons of war. (_____)
7. Bronze is harder than copper. (_____)
8. The writing on Harappan seals has been fully understood. (_____)
9. The Harappans grew cotton and wove it into cloth. (_____)
10. The Sarasvatī River flows throughout the year today. (_____)

Q4. Match the Following

Match each item in Column A with the correct item in Column B. Write the letter in the bracket: 1 → ( )

Column A	Column B
1. Harappa	(a) Soft stone used for seals
2. Mohenjo-daro	(b) Three distinct zones
3. Lothal	(c) Clay model of a plough found here
4. Dholavira	(d) First city excavated (1920–21)
5. Rakhigarhi	(e) Reddish semiprecious stone
6. Kalibangan	(f) A huge dockyard
7. Steatite	(g) Natural tar used for waterproofing
8. Carnelian	(h) The Great Bath
9. Bitumen	(i) Wide street in the lower town (Rajasthan)
10. Banawali	(j) Major city in Haryana

Q5. Answer in 2 lines

1. What is a tributary? Give an example.

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

3. Name any two characteristics of a civilisation.

4. Why are the inhabitants of this civilisation called ‘Harappans’?

5. Name the two parts of a larger Harappan city.

6. What was the size of the Great Bath?

7. Name any four goods the Harappans exported.

8. What was the chief purpose of Harappan seals?

9. Which two factors are agreed upon as causes of the decline of the civilisation?

10. What is a fortification?

Q6. Write Short Notes

Write 4 or 5 valid points with examples in your notebook.

1. **Short note on:** Town-planning in Harappan cities.
2. **Short note on:** Water management of the Harappans.
3. **Short note on:** Food and agriculture of the Harappans.
4. **Short note on:** Trade of the Harappans.
5. **Short note on:** Decline of the Harappan civilisation.

Q7. Answer in One Word

Read the definition and write the correct term.

1. A massive wall that surrounds a settlement or city for protection is called _____.
2. The higher layers of society, such as rulers, officials and priests, are called the _____.
3. A large natural or artificial place where water is stored is a _____.

4. Crops such as beans, peas and lentils (dal) are called _____.
5. A structure used to receive and send boats for transport of goods is a _____.
6. A river that flows into a larger river is called a _____.
7. An advanced stage of human society with government, cities, trade and writing is a _____.
8. The soft stone that was hardened by heating and used to make seals is _____.
9. The techniques of extracting, purifying and combining metals are called _____.
10. The metal formed when tin is added to copper is _____.

ANSWER KEY – SET A

Q1. Multiple Choice Questions

1. (b) Indus-Sarasvatī
2. (c) Harappa
3. (a) Mohenjo-daro
4. (b) 2600 to 1900 BCE
5. (a) carnelian
6. (c) steatite
7. (b) 217 m × 36 m
8. (c) Ghaggar
9. (b) cotton
10. (c) Tin

Q2. Fill in the Blanks

1. **6,000**
2. **elite**
3. **Kutch**
4. **Ṛig Veda**
5. **bitumen**
6. **tributary**
7. **maritime**
8. **bronze**
9. **2200**
10. **metallurgy**

Q3. True or False

1. **True** – The civilisation extended far beyond the Indus region.
2. **False** – They are in present-day Pakistan.
3. **True**
4. **False** – Most houses had their own bathrooms, so this view is ruled out.
5. **False** – Drains ran below the streets and carried waste water away.
6. **False** – There is no trace of an army or warfare.
7. **True**
8. **False** – The writing system is yet to be understood.
9. **True**
10. **False** – It is now a seasonal river that flows only in the rainy season.

Q4. Match the Following

1 → (d) 2 → (h) 3 → (f) 4 → (b) 5 → (j) 6 → (i) 7 → (a) 8 → (e) 9 → (g) 10 → (c)

Pairs: Harappa – First city excavated (1920–21); Mohenjo-daro – The Great Bath; Lothal – A huge dockyard; Dholavira – Three distinct zones; Rakhigarhi – Major city in Haryana; Kalibangan – Wide street in the lower town (Rajasthan); Steatite – Soft stone used for seals; Carnelian – Reddish semiprecious stone; Bitumen – Natural tar used for waterproofing; Banawali – Clay model of a plough found here

Q5. Answer in 2 lines

1. A tributary is a river that flows into a larger river or lake. For example, the Yamuna is a tributary of the Ganga.

2. The civilisation spread far beyond the Indus region, including the Sarasvatī basin, Gujarat and more. So the word ‘Valley’ is obsolete.
3. Any two: government and administration, urbanism, variety of crafts, trade, writing, cultural ideas, productive agriculture.
4. Harappa was the first city of this civilisation to be excavated (1920–21). Hence its people are called Harappans.
5. The ‘upper town’ where the elite probably lived and the ‘lower town’ where common people lived.
6. It measured about 12 × 7 metres. It was a small but elaborate tank made of carefully laid bricks.
7. Ornaments, timber, objects of daily use, and probably gold, cotton and some food items.
8. Seals helped traders identify their goods and each other. They were related to trade activities.
9. A climatic change from 2200 BCE that caused less rain and a drier phase, and the drying up of the Sarasvatī River in its central basin.
10. A massive wall surrounding a settlement or city, generally built for protection.

Q6. Short Notes (model answers)

1. Town-planning in Harappan cities.



Fig. 6.5: Housing area in Dholavira with perpendicular streets

- Larger 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 an **upper town** (elite) and a **lower town** (common people).
- Houses of various sizes lined streets and lanes; small and big houses had the **same quality of construction**, mostly of **bricks**.
- Some large buildings, like **warehouses**, were used for collective purposes. Example: Dholavira had **three zones** (Fig. 6.5).

2. Water management of the Harappans.

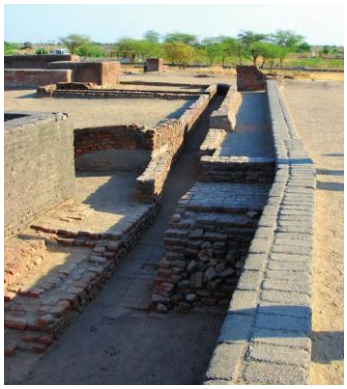

Fig. 6.7: Drainage system at Lothal

- Harappans gave great importance to **water management and cleanliness**.
- Homes had separate **bathing areas** connected to a network of **drains** below the streets.

- In **Mohenjo-daro**, water was drawn from hundreds of **brick wells**.
- At **Dholavira**, at least **six large reservoirs** were built of stone or cut into rock; the largest was **73 m** long.
- Reservoirs were connected by **underground drains** for water harvesting and distribution.

3. Food and agriculture of the Harappans.

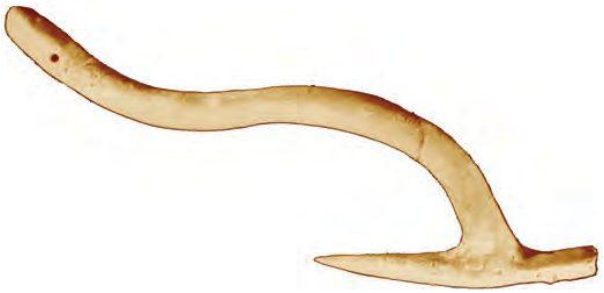

Fig. 6.9: Clay model of a plough from Banawali (Haryana)

- Settlements were along **rivers**, which gave water and enriched the soil.
- They grew **barley, wheat, millets**, sometimes **rice**, along with **pulses** and vegetables.
- They were the first in Eurasia to grow **cotton**, used to weave clothes.
- They used farming tools like the **plough** (clay model from Banawali).
- They domesticated animals, **fished**, and cooked **dairy products**, and even used turmeric, ginger and banana.

4. Trade of the Harappans.



Fig. 6.10: Harappan carnelian beads found at Susa (Iran)

- Trade was **internal** (between cities) and **external** (other civilisations, within and outside India).
- Exports: **ornaments, timber, objects of daily use**, probably gold and cotton.
- **Carnelian beads** and **shell bangles** were favourite products; copper was probably imported.
- They used **land routes, rivers and the sea**; **Lothal** had a huge **dockyard** (217 m × 36 m).
- Thousands of **steatite seals** helped identify goods and traders.

5. Decline of the Harappan civilisation.

- Around **1900 BCE** the cities were abandoned one by one; people scattered into small **rural settlements**.
- The old theory of **invasion or warfare** has no evidence; there are no traces of an army or weapons.
- A **climatic change** from 2200 BCE brought less rainfall and a drier phase.
- The **Sarasvatī River dried up** in its central basin; cities like **Kalibangan and Banawali** were abandoned.
- Much of the **culture and technology survived** and passed on to the next phase of Indian civilisation.

Q7. Answer in One Word

1. **Fortification**
2. **Elite**
3. **Reservoir**
4. **Pulses**
5. **Dockyard**
6. **Tributary**
7. **Civilisation**
8. **Steatite**
9. **Metallurgy**
10. **Bronze**