

The Indus Valley Civilisation

26.08.20

Q1 Why do we say that the Harappan cities were well-planned?

Ans. We say that, the Harappan cities were well planned for the following reasons -

1. The cities were neatly arranged in rectangles and squares and had roads those were straight and formed grids.

2. All important buildings were built on a raised area. Harappan houses of fired clay bricks were built which had a few rooms or two floors.

3. The cities were clean due to a very good drainage system covered drains ran alongside the roads and carried dirty water away from the houses.

Q2 What caused the decline of the Indus Valley Civilisation?

Ans. After 1900 BC, the Indus Valley Civilisation started to fall apart. Some of the reasons historians gave are -

1. Repeated flooding could have forced people to abandon the cities.

2. Perhaps a river changing its course caused the land to dry up.

3. There might have been an earthquake.

4. People from outside may have attacked and destroyed the cities.

Q3. What is a citadel? Describe two important buildings that were found in the citadel of Mohenjo-daro.

Ans. The citadel was the raised part of the city where all important buildings were found which also had a granary to store grains and a large central well.

1. The Great Bath - A large structure that had an open space at the centre, surrounded by rooms and galleries. It was built like a swimming pool which was perhaps used as a public bathing.

2. The Great Granary - A very big structure made of bricks that had rows of rooms in which abundant amount of grains were stored, complete with air ducts to dry the grain.

Short Note :

4. Write a short note on seals.

Ans Small pieces of clay and stone with writing and pictures on them were found in the Indus Valley sites. These were called seals. Most of them had pictures of animals like elephants and bulls on them. It is believed by some that these seals were used for trade while others said that the figures on the seals were pictures of gods and were meant to protect the wearers.