

CLASS VI - History

In the Earliest Cities

Instructions:

1. Download the NCERT History textbook for Class VI (Our Past- I).
2. The chapter 'In the Earliest Cities' is divided into 5 teaching-learning days.
3. It is suggested that students take each-day content and perform the task.
4. Create your notebook (by stapling the blank pages from the old notebooks). You may use any leftover notebook or new notebook (of school) if you have.
5. Write the content of the soft copy notes (written in black) in your notebook.
6. Everyday few questions or activities are given (**written in red**) to be completed by the students in the notebook. Write the answer in points as per the marks allotted in brackets. One point for 1 mark, two points for 2 marks and three points for 3 marks respectively.
7. Few colourful diagrams, text and images are added to make the concepts more clear. Don't copy them.

Day -1 Read pages 32-33

- The Cities which were discovered in the Punjab province of Pakistan (Harappa) and in the Sind (Mohenjo-Daro), are one of the earliest cities of not only India but the whole world. Harappa was excavated in 1920 by the Archaeological Survey of India while Mohenjo-Daro, almost 500 km. away, was excavated in 1922.



Oh!!! So interesting, Could you please tell me how was Harappa discovered?

Q. How was Harappa discovered?

- Nearly a hundred and fifty years ago, when railway lines were being laid down for the first time in the Punjab, engineers stumbled upon the site of Harappa in present-day Pakistan.

Excavation – it means digging a place to discover some old and historical buildings, sites etc.

Q. Why the early cities discovered in India/Pakistan were called Harappan cities?

- As Harappa was the first city to be discovered, all other sites from where similar buildings (and other things) were found were described as Harappan. These cities developed about 4700 years ago.

Very often, old buildings are pulled down to make way for new construction. Do you think it is important to preserve old buildings? (discuss)

The major cities discovered

- ✚ Harappa, Pakistan
- ✚ Mohenjo-Daro (**in the Larkana district of Sind Province, Pakistan**)
- ✚ Lothal in Gujarat, India
- ✚ Kalibangan in Rajasthan, India
- ✚ Dholavira in Gujarat, India

What was special about these cities?

Q. Describe the cities of Harappan Civilisation.

- Most of the cities were divided into two or more parts. Usually, the part to the west was smaller but higher. Archaeologists describe this as the citadel.
- Generally, the part to the east was larger but lower. This is called the lower town.
- Very often walls of baked brick were built around each part. The bricks were so well made that they have lasted for thousands of years. The bricks were laid in an interlocking pattern and that made the walls strong.

These cities were found in the Punjab and Sind in Pakistan, and in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and the Punjab in India. Archaeologists have found a set of unique objects in almost all these cities: red pottery painted with designs in black, stone weights, seals, special beads, copper tools, and long stone blades.

Children, you must be curious to know what is citadel as this little birdie is. Isn't it?

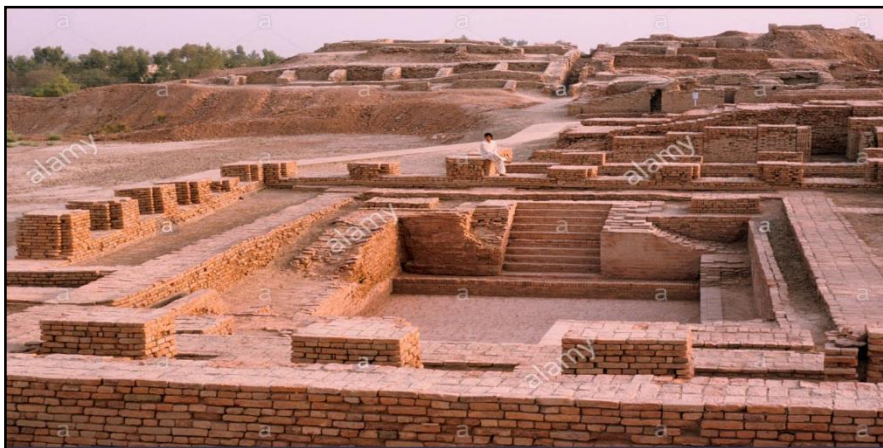
What is a Citadel then?



You don't know? Let me explain, "A citadel is like a fortress, typically on high ground above a city. Like the one we find at Mohenjo-Daro."

Q. Describe the special tank, called the Great Bath, which was built in Mohenjo-Daro.

- This was lined with bricks, coated with plaster, and made water-tight with a layer of natural tar.
- There were steps leading down to it from two sides, while there were rooms on all sides.
- Water was probably brought in from a well, and drained out after use.
- Perhaps important people took a dip in this tank on special occasions.





Now, write the answers of these questions in your notebook.

1. Define citadel. [1]
2. Where was Great bath? [1]
3. Who took a dip in the Great Bath and when?[2]
4. Mention the unique objects found in the cities of Harappan Civilisation.[3]