

CLASS VI

IN THE EARLIEST CITIES

CHAPTER - 3

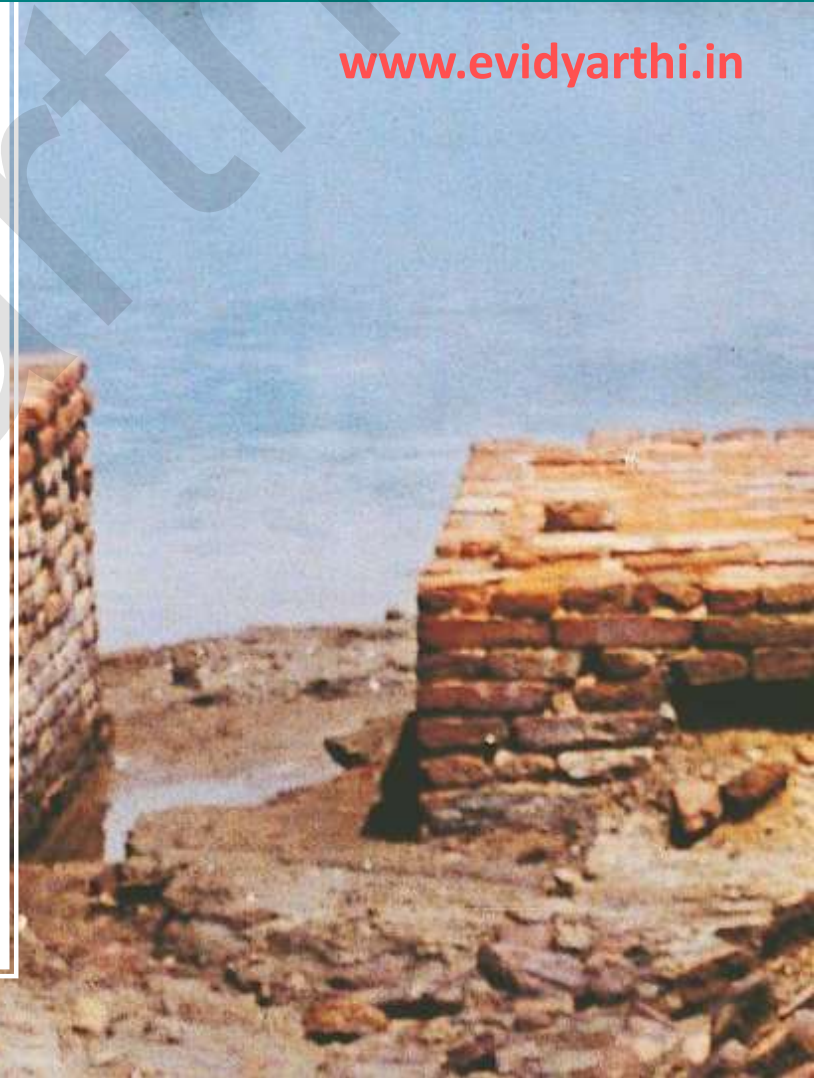
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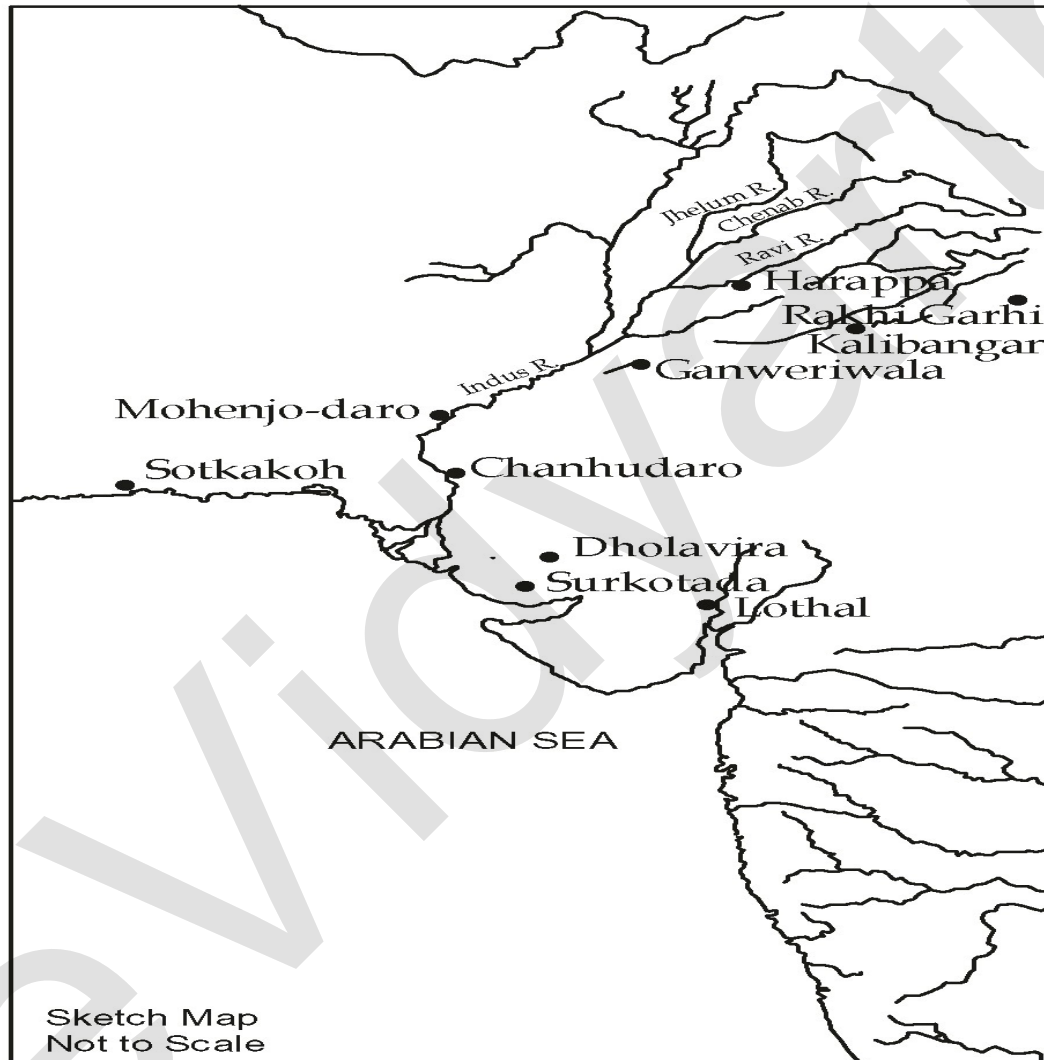
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- The story of Harappa
- What was special about these cities ?
- Houses, drains and streets
- Life in the city
- New crafts in the city
- In search of raw materials
- Food for people in the cities
- A closer look — Harappa towns in Gujarat
- The mystery of the end



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❑ The story of Harappa

- Old Buildings have a story to tell.
- 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.
- they carried off thousands of bricks from the walls.
- Then, about eighty years ago, archaeologists found the site, and realized that this was one of the oldest cities in the subcontinent.

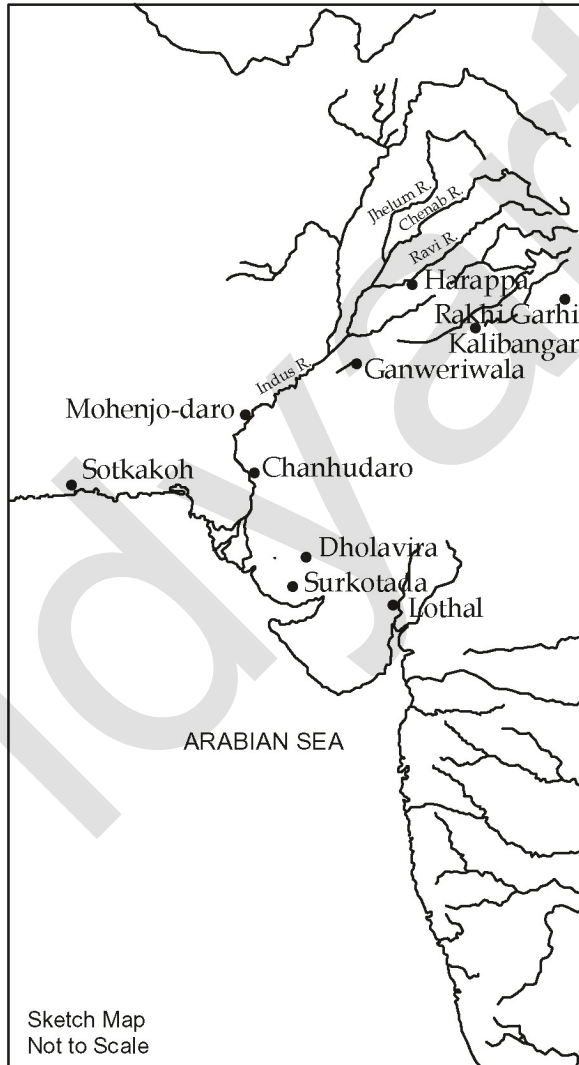
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- Harappa is in modern day Pakistan.
- developed about 4700 years ago.
- This site was accidentally discovered when the East India Company was doing the construction of railway lines in 1856.

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❑ Important sites at Harappa

- Mohenjo-Daro, Kalibangan, Lothal and Dholavira are some other important sites of the Indus Valley Civilization. About 150 sites of this civilization have been discovered till date.

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- Most of the sites this civilization are in modern day Pakistan. Some of the sites are in India, e.g. Kalibangan (Northern Rajasthan), Banawali (Haryana), Dholavira (Gujarat) and Lothal (Gujarat).
- After excavations from different sites, it has become clear that this civilization was spread over major parts of western India and Pakistan and some parts of Afghanistan.

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❑ What was special about these cities ?

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❑ What was special about these cities ?

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Cities were divided into two or more parts.

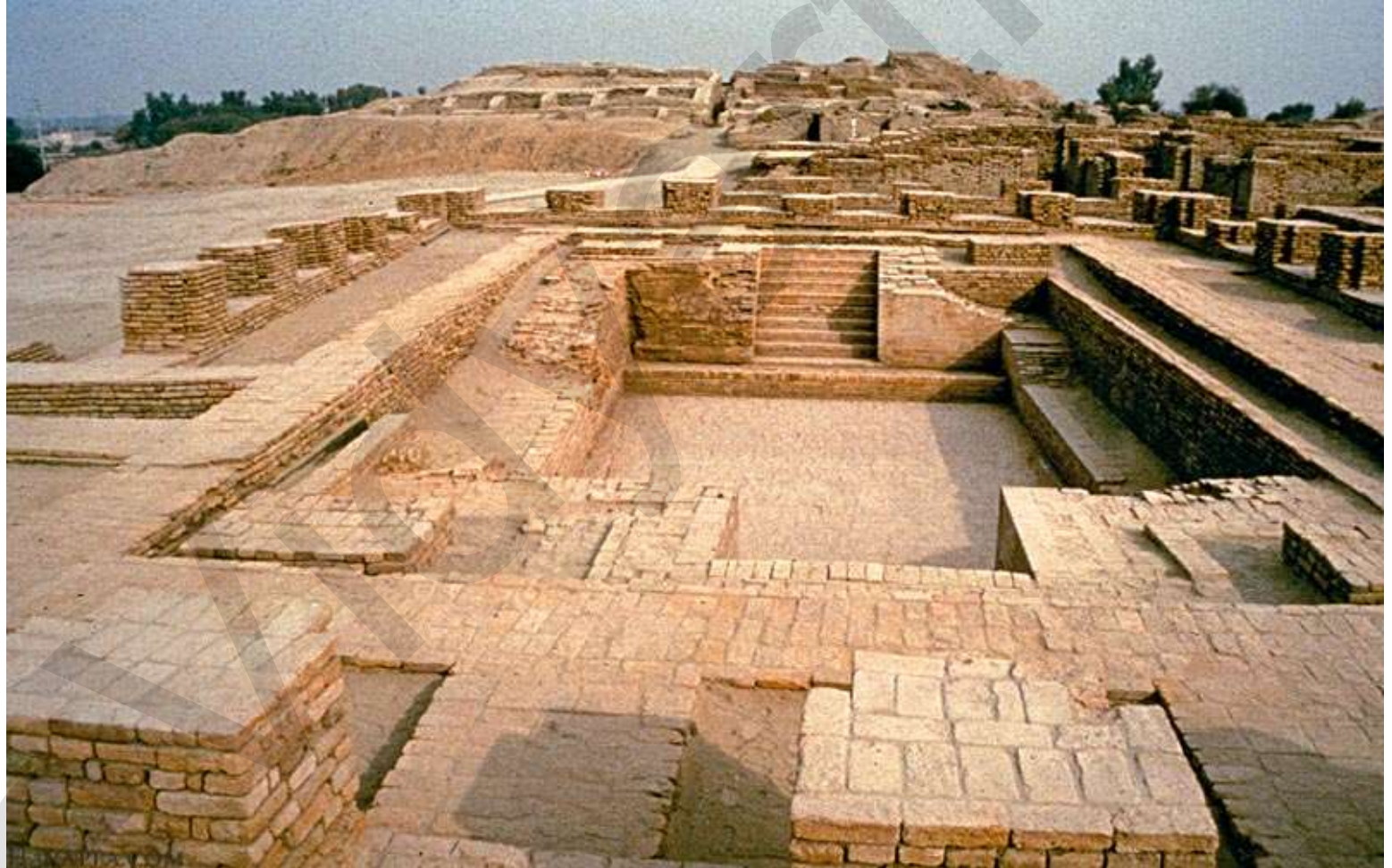
- the part to the west was smaller but higher called citadel.
- the part to the east was larger but lower and are known as lower town.

In some cities, special buildings were constructed on the citadel. For example, in Mohenjodaro, a very special tank, which archaeologists call the Great Bath, was built in this area.

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Great bath



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- Rich people lived in the upper part of the city.
- Workers lived in the lower part of the city.

➤ Use of Baked Bricks

- Houses and other structures were made of baked bricks.
- Bricks were of uniform size which means that the people of Harappa had developed good workmanship.

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Baked Bricks

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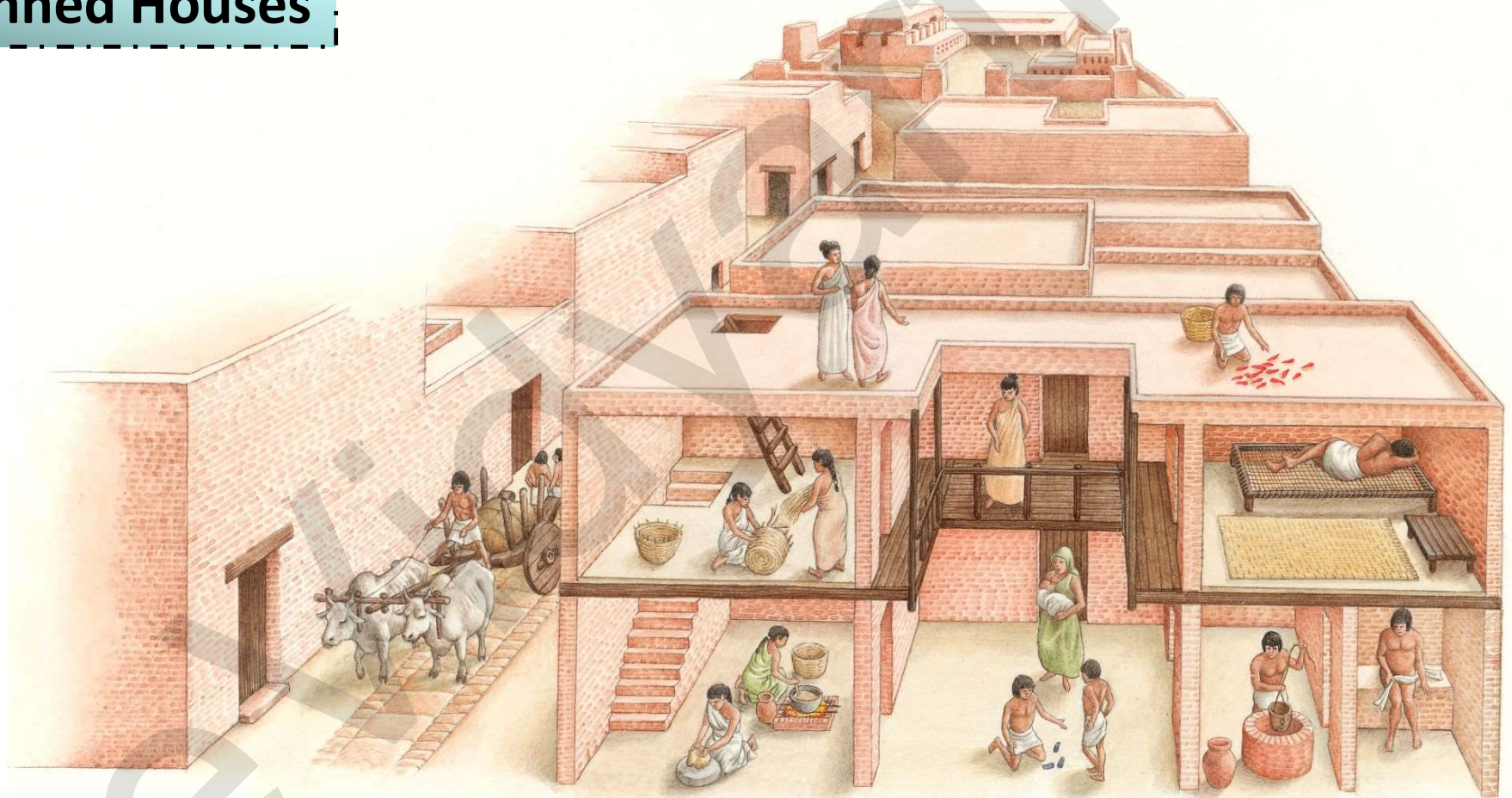
☐ Special Features of these Cities

- ✓ Town Planning
- ✓ Use of Baked Bricks
- ✓ Roads and Drainage
- ✓ Planned Houses
- ✓ Granaries

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► Planned Houses



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➤ Planned Houses

- Houses were either one or two storeys high, with rooms built around a courtyard with separate bathing areas.
- Some houses had wells to supply water.
- The walls of the houses were strong and thick.

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➤ Roads and Drainage

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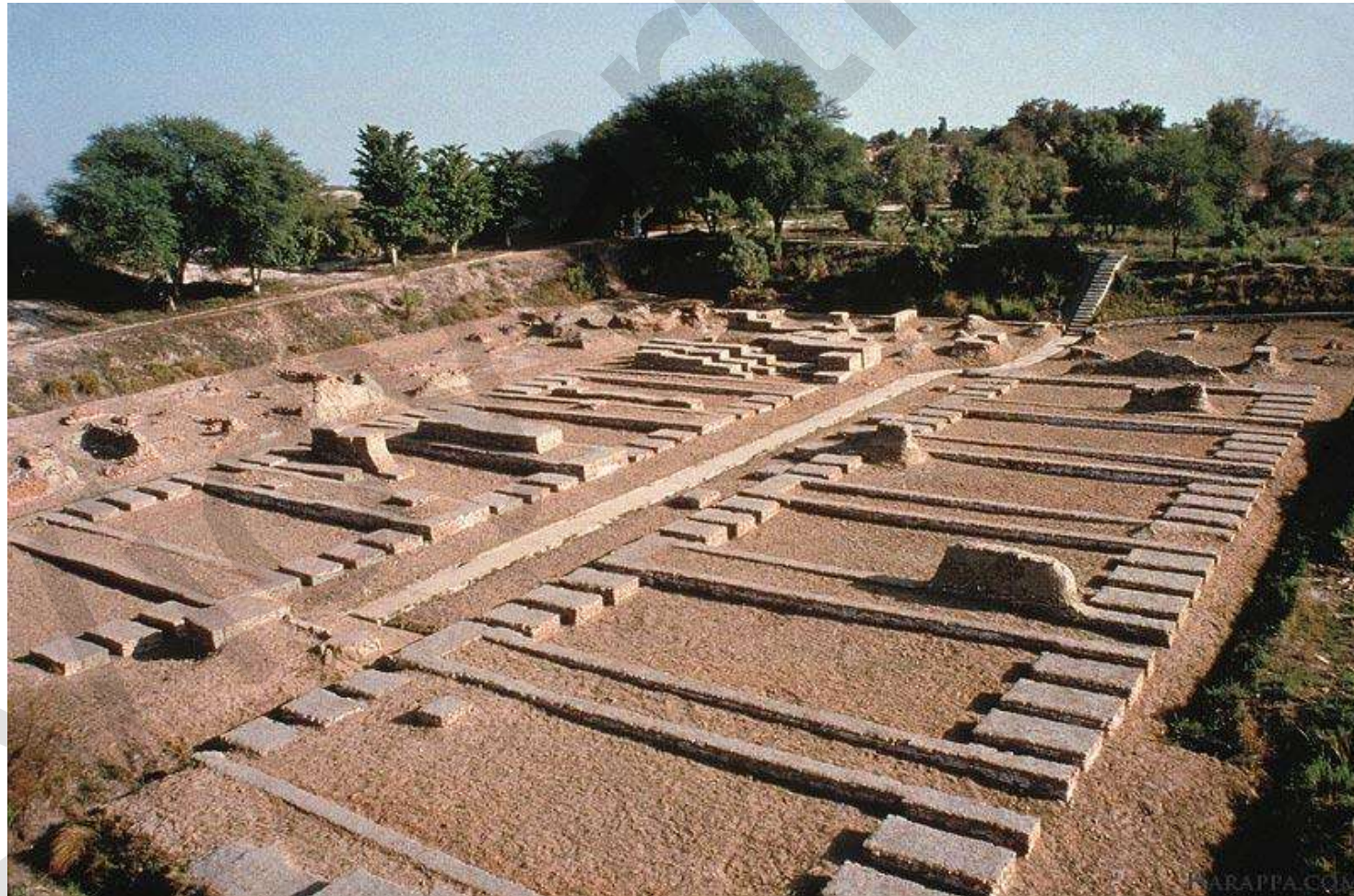
➤ Roads and Drainage

- Roads were paved with bricks.
- The drainage system was properly planned. Drain from each house was connected to the drains in the streets.
- each drain had a gentle slope so that water could flow through it.
- As the drains were covered, inspection holes were provided at intervals to clean them.

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➤ Granaries

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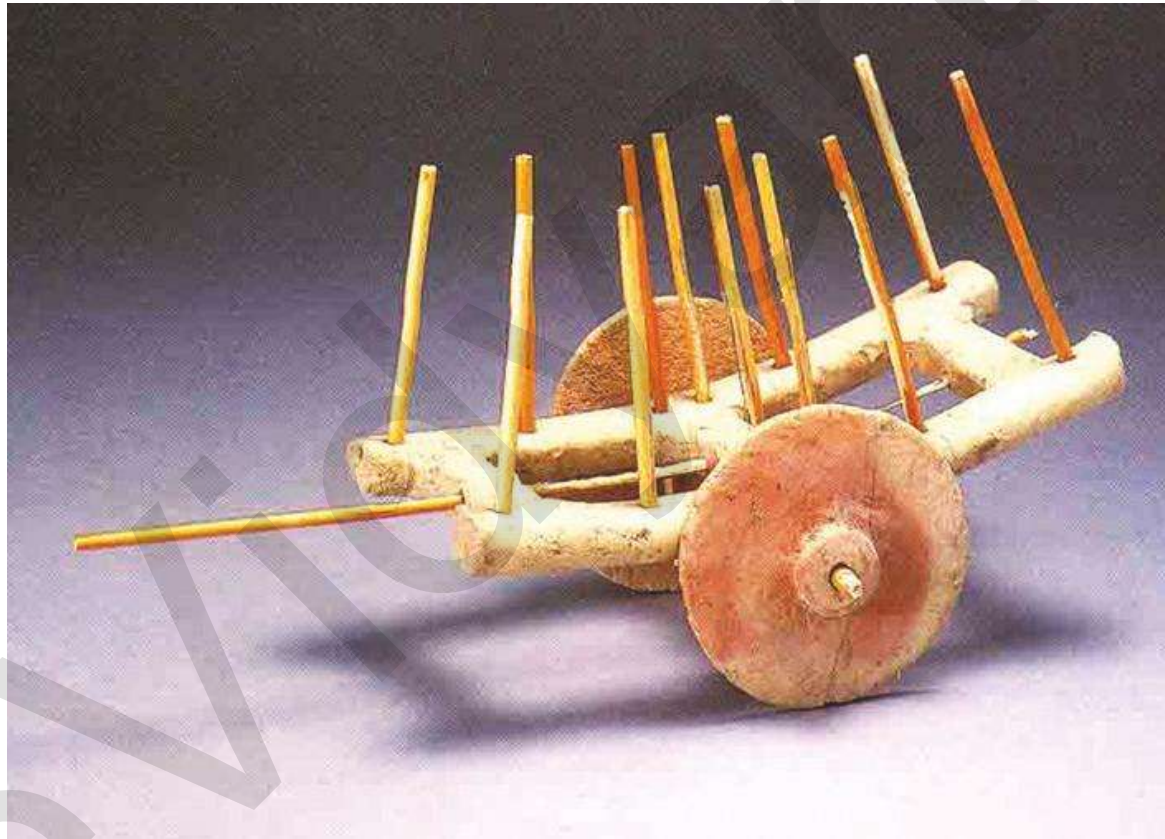
➤ Granaries

- Many of these cities had covered drains.
- In the cities of the Indus Valley Civilization; a large granary has been found. Charred grains have been found in these granaries which shows that food grain production was surplus during this period.
- Historians also guess that taxes were collected in the form of grains.
- Grains collected as tax were stored in such large granaries.

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❑ Life in the city

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❑ Life in the city

- A Harappan city was a very busy place.
- It is probably administered by a ruler.
 - ✓ Different activities were going around the city:
 - people planning construction of special buildings in the city.
 - People traveling to bring raw material, metal, precious stones, and other from distant places.
 - Scribes helping to prepare the seals, and perhaps wrote on other materials that have not survived.
 - crafts persons, making all kinds of things — either in their own homes, or in special workshops.

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❑ Life of the People

✓ Trade

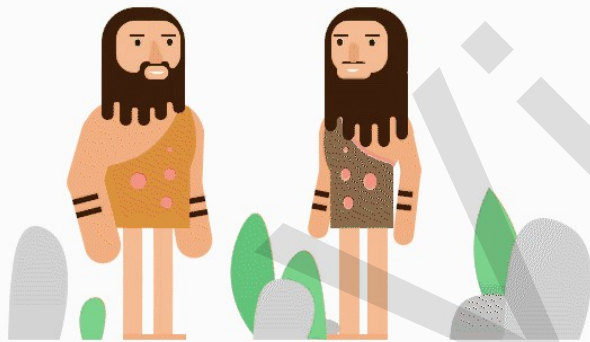


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✓ Farming



✓ Craft



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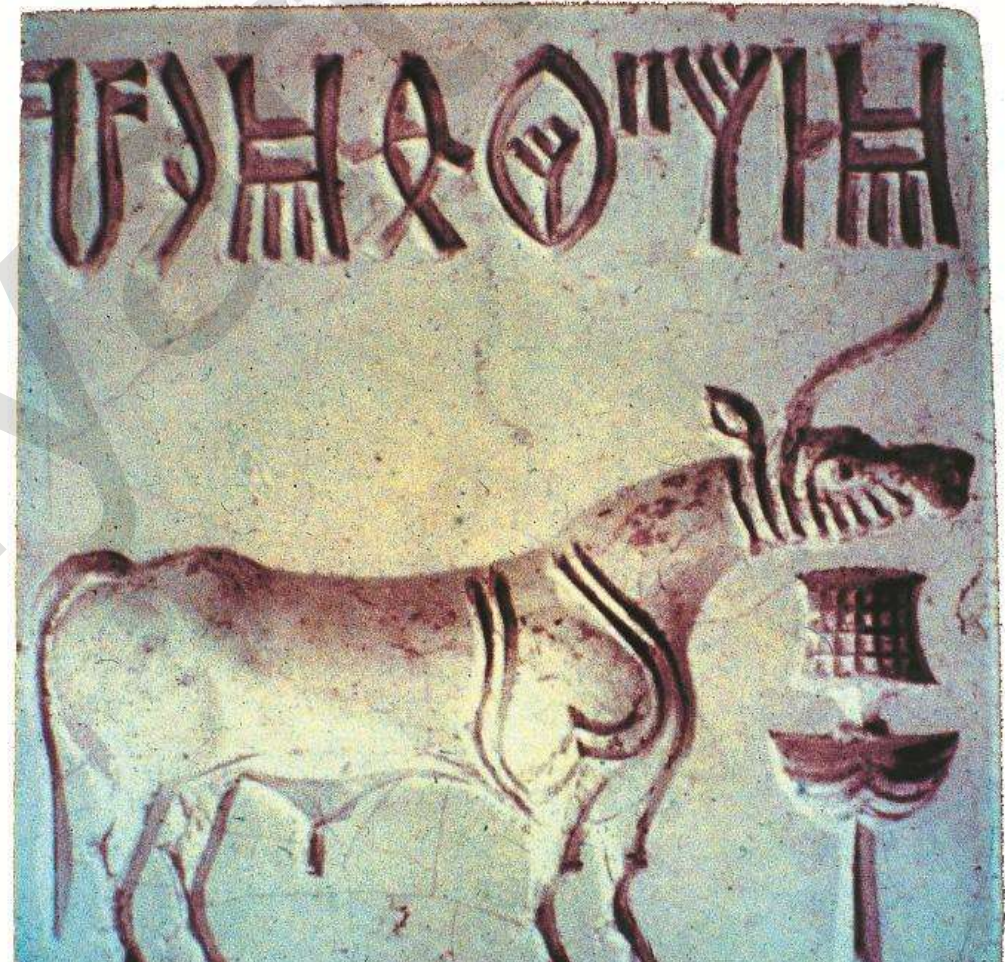
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New crafts in the city

- Most of the things that have been found by archaeologists are made of stone, shell and metal, including copper, bronze, gold and silver. Copper and bronze were used to make tools, weapons, ornaments and vessels. Gold and silver were used to make ornaments and vessels.
- Most striking finds are those of beads, weights, and blades.

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- Harappans also made seals out of stone. These are generally rectangular and usually have an animal carved on them.
- The Harappans also made pots with beautiful black designs.
- Many of the things that were produced were probably the work of specialists.
- We do not know whether only men were specialists or only women were specialists. Perhaps some women and men may have been specialists.

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specialist

A specialist is a person who is trained to do only one kind of work, for example, cutting stone, or polishing beads, or carving seals.

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- Evidence of clothing



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■ Evidence of clothing

- Cotton was probably grown at Mehrgarh from about 7000 years ago.
- Actual pieces of cloth were found attached to the lid of a silver vase and some copper objects at Mohenjodaro.
- Archaeologists have also found spindle whorls, made of terracotta and faience. These were used to spin thread.

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☐ In search of raw materials

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In search of raw materials

- Raw materials are substances that are either found naturally (such as wood, or ores of metals) or produced by farmers or herders. These are then processed to produce finished goods.
- While some of the raw materials that the Harappans used were available locally, many items had to be brought from distant places.
- this indicated trading ties of Harapan people with other civilization.

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- **trading ties:-**

- Copper from present day Rajasthan and Oman.
- Tin (mixed with copper to give bronze) – Afghanistan and Iran.
- Gold from Karnataka.
- Precious stone from Gujarat, Iran and Afghanistan.

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☐ Food for people in the cities

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❑ Food for people in the cities

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- Farmers and herders supplied food to crafts persons, scribes and rulers in the cities.
- The Harappans grew
 1. wheat,
 2. barley,
 3. pulses,
 4. peas,
 5. rice,
 6. sesame,
 7. linseed and
 8. mustard

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A Toy Plough

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- The Harappans reared cattle, sheep, goat and buffalo.
- Water and pastures were available around settlements. However, in the dry summer months large herds of animals were probably taken to greater distances in search of grass and water.
- They also collected fruits like ber, caught fish and hunted wild animals like the antelope.

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✓ New tool in farming

- A new tool, the plough, was used to dig the earth for turning the soil and planting seeds.
- While real ploughs, which were probably made of wood, have not survived, toy models have been found.

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✓ Irrigation

This region does not receive heavy rainfall, some form of irrigation may have been used. This means that water was stored and supplied to the fields when the plants were growing

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□ A closer look — Harappan towns in Gujarat



Dholavira



Lothal

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Dholavira

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- The city of Dholavira was located on Khadir Beyt (also spelled as Bet) in the Rann of Kutch, where there was fresh water and fertile soil.
- Dholavira was divided into three parts, and each part was surrounded with massive stone walls, with entrances through gateways.

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- There was also a large open area in the settlement, where public ceremonies could be held.
- large letters of the Harappan script that were carved out of white stone and perhaps inlaid in wood.

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Lothal

- The city of Lothal stood beside a tributary of the Sabarmati, in Gujarat, close to the Gulf of Khambhat.
- situated near areas where raw materials such as semi-precious stones were easily available.
- There was also a store house in the city.
- Many seals and sealings were found in this storehouse. A building that was found here was probably a workshop for making beads: pieces of stone, half made beads, tools for bead making, and finished beads have all been found here

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❑ Mystery over Decline of Harappa Civilization

- The Harappa Civilization suddenly declined around 3900 years ago. Broken roads and clogged drains indicate towards a decline in infrastructure.
- Historians have not yet identified the proper cause of the decline of the Indus Valley Civilization. Some guesses have been made which are as follows:

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- There is a possibility that the rivers dried up. It forced people to move to some other places.
- There were too many brick kilns and furnaces. It may have damaged the environment. This would have led to deforestation. Lack of green cover may have forced people to move to some other places.

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- Overgrazing by cattle and sheep may also have resulted in loss of forests. This would have led to desertification, i.e. formation of desert.
- There is also a possibility of large scale epidemic or natural calamity. It could have wiped off a major portion of the population.