

6

The Beginnings of Indian Civilisation

A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs).

- Which of the following is NOT a characteristic of civilisation?

a) Urbanism	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Hunting and gathering	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Productive agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Some form of writing	<input type="checkbox"/>
- The earliest civilisation began in Mesopotamia about:

a) 1,000 years ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) 4,000 years ago	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 2,000 years ago	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) 6,000 years ago	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Which river made the plains of Punjab and Sindh fertile?

a) Indus	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Ganga	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Sarasvatī	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Yamuna	<input type="checkbox"/>
- The transition of villages into cities happened around:

a) 4000 BCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) 1500 BCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 2600 BCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) 1000 BCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
- The Sarasvatī River is known today as:

a) Ravi	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Sutlej	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Ghaggar–Hakra	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Ganga	<input type="checkbox"/>
- What material was used to waterproof the Great Bath?

a) Clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Sandstone	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Natural bitumen	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Cement	<input type="checkbox"/>
- In Mohenjo-daro, people drew water mainly from:

a) Rivers	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Brick wells	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Ponds	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Tanks	<input type="checkbox"/>
- The Harappans were the first in Eurasia to grow:

a) Rice	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Sugarcane	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Maize	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Cotton	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Harappan seals were usually made of:

a) Steatite	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) Iron	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) Clay	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) Bronze	<input type="checkbox"/>
- Around which year did the Sindhu–Sarasvatī civilisation begin to decline?

a) 2600 BCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	c) 1900 BCE	<input type="checkbox"/>
b) 2200 BCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	d) 1500 BCE	<input type="checkbox"/>

B. Fill in the Blanks.

1. Civilisation is considered an _____ stage of human society.
2. The management of raw materials and production of goods is known as _____.
3. The Harappan civilisation began in the _____ region of the Indian Subcontinent.
4. The Sarasvatī River used to flow from the foothills of the _____.
5. The Harappan city of _____ is in Haryana.
6. Rivers enriched the soil and made it suitable for _____.
7. The Harappans had no evidence of keeping an _____ or weapons of war.
8. Although the cities disappeared, Harappan _____ and technology survived.
9. The _____ River dried up, leading to the decline of many Harappan cities.
10. Reduced _____ after 2200 BCE made agriculture harder.

C. True or False.

1. Civilisation must have some form of government and administration.
2. Writing was not necessary for early civilisations.
3. Ancient Egypt's civilisation started before Mesopotamia.
4. Harappa and Mohenjo-daro were cities on the Indus River.
5. The Yamuna is a tributary of the Sarasvatī.
6. The Indus–Sarasvatī civilisation is one of the oldest civilisations in the world.
7. The Great Bath was used only as a public swimming pool.
8. Warehouses were used for storing goods in Harappan cities.
9. The largest reservoir at Dholavira measured 73 metres.
10. The Lothal dockyard shows the importance of maritime trade.

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D. Match the Following.

Column A	Column B	Ans.
1. Mesopotamia	i. Harappa	1. ____
2. Indus–Sarasvatī Civilisation	ii. Kalibangan / Banawali	2. ____
3. Sacred text mentioning Sarasvatī	iii. Dholavira	3. ____
4. First discovered Harappan city	iv. Iraq and Syria	4. ____
5. Six large stone reservoirs	v. Ṛig Veda	5. ____
6. Abandoned due to drying of the Sarasvatī	vi. Harappan Civilisation	6. ____

E. Short Answer Questions.

1. Why is productive agriculture important for civilisation?

Ans. _____

2. What names did archaeologists give to this civilisation?

Ans. _____

3. What are the two main parts of a Harappan city?

Ans. _____

4. Describe the construction material used in Harappan houses.

Ans. _____

5. Mention two Harappan cities outside the Indus valley.

Ans. _____

6. How did Harappans maintain cleanliness in their houses?

Ans. _____

7. Name the main food crops of the Harappans.

Ans. _____

8. What evidence do we have about Harappan diet from cooking pots?

Ans. _____

9. How did Harappans make and use ornaments?

Ans. _____

10. Why was the civilisation first called the “Indus Valley civilisation”?

Ans. _____

F. Long Answer Questions.

1. Explain the main characteristics of a civilisation.

Ans. _____

2. Compare the beginning of civilisation in Mesopotamia, Egypt, and India.

Ans. _____

3. Describe the growth of villages into towns and cities in the Indus–Sarasvatī region.

Ans. _____

4. Explain the importance of the Sarasvatī River in the civilisation.

Ans. _____

5. Describe the main features of Harappan town-planning.

Ans. _____

6. Describe the water management system of the Harappans.

Ans. _____

G. Give Reasons.

1. Give reason why Punjab and Sindh were favourable for agriculture.

Ans. _____

2. Give reason why the civilisation is also called Indus–Sarasvatī Civilisation.

Ans. _____

3. Give reason why the Harappan civilisation is called the First Urbanisation of India.

Ans. _____

4. Give reason why Harappan civilisation is considered highly advanced in town-planning.

Ans. _____

5. Give reason why Harappans built drains under the streets.

Ans. _____

6. Give reason why Dholavira had several large reservoirs.

Ans. _____

7. Give reason why Lothal is considered important for trade.

Ans. _____

8. Give reason why Harappan culture is called a “new beginning.”

Ans. _____

H. One-Word Answer.

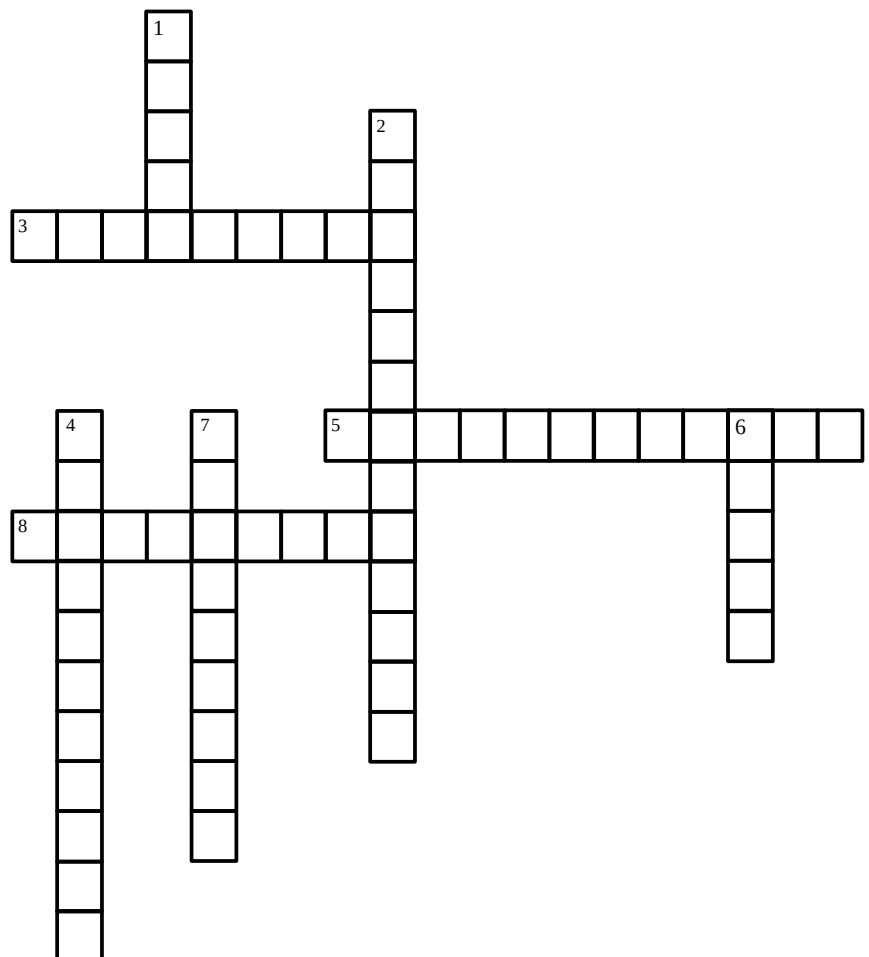
1. A science which is related to the extraction and study of metals. :- _____
2. Name the river valley region where civilisation first began. :- _____
3. A river that flows into a larger river is called. :- _____
4. Inhabitants of the Indus–Sarasvatī civilisation. :- _____
5. A massive protective wall around a city. :- _____
6. The higher layers of society such as rulers and priests. :- _____
7. The Harappan site in Gujarat with a dockyard. :- _____
8. A large place, natural or artificial, where water is stored. :- _____
9. Small clay model of a farming tool used by Harappans. :- _____
10. Reddish semiprecious stone used for ornaments. :- _____

I. Solve the crossword.**Across:-**

3. A large natural or artificial place where water is stored
5. An advanced stage of human society with cities, writing, trade and crafts
8. Harappan site in Gujarat noted for large stone reservoirs

Down:-

1. The higher layers of society (rulers, officials, priests)
2. A massive wall surrounding a settlement for protection
4. Harappan city famous for the Great Bath and many brick wells
6. River that made the plains of Punjab and Sindh fertile
7. Ancient river known today as Ghaggar–Hakra (mentioned in the R̥g Veda)



Answer**A. Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs)**

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. c) Hunting and gathering | 5. b) Ghaggar–Hakra | 9. a) Steatite |
| 2. d) 6,000 years ago | 6. b) Natural bitumen | 10. c) 1900 BCE |
| 3. a) Indus | 7. c) Brick wells | |
| 4. b) 2600 BCE | 8. d) Cotton | |

B. Fill in the Blanks

- | | | |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1. advanced | 5. Rakhigarhi | 9. Sarasvatī |
| 2. crafts | 6. agriculture | 10. rainfall |
| 3. northwest | 7. army | |
| 4. Himalayas | 8. culture | |

C. True or False

- | | | | | | | |
|---------|----------|----------|---------|----------|---------|----------|
| 1. True | 2. False | 3. False | 4. True | 5. False | 6. True | 7. False |
| 8. True | 9. True | 10. True | | | | |

D. Match the Following

- Mesopotamia → iv. Iraq and Syria
- Indus–Sarasvatī Civilisation → vi. Harappan Civilisation
- Sacred text mentioning Sarasvatī → v. R̥ig Veda
- First discovered Harappan city → i. Harappa
- Six large stone reservoirs → iii. Dholavira
- Abandoned due to drying of the Sarasvatī → ii. Kalibangan / Banawali

E. Short Answer Questions

- It provides enough food not only for villages but also for city populations, ensuring survival and growth.
- Indus, Harappan, Indus–Sarasvatī, or Sindhu–Sarasvatī Civilisation.
- The Upper Town (where the elite lived) and the Lower Town (where common people lived).
- Houses were built with bricks; both large and small houses used the same quality of bricks.
- Dholavira (Gujarat), Rakhigarhi (Haryana).
- They built separate bathing areas in their homes, connected to underground drains that carried away waste water.
- Wheat, barley, millets, rice, pulses, and vegetables.
- Remains of dairy products, turmeric, ginger, and bananas have been found, showing a diverse diet.

9. They made beads of carnelian, shell bangles, and ornaments using advanced drilling and decoration techniques.
10. Because the first sites discovered, Harappa and Mohenjo-daro, were located in the Indus plains.

F. Long Answer Questions

1. A civilisation has several key features:
 - Government and administration for managing society.
 - Urbanism – growth of planned cities with water and drainage systems.
 - Variety of crafts – making ornaments, tools and goods.
 - Internal and external trade to exchange goods.
 - Writing system for keeping records.
 - Cultural expressions through art, architecture, traditions and customs.
 - Productive agriculture to feed both villages and cities.
2. Civilisation began first in Mesopotamia about 6,000 years ago.
 - Ancient Egyptian civilisation developed a few centuries later.
 - In the Indian Subcontinent, the Harappan (Indus–Sarasvatī) civilisation arose around 2600 BCE in the northwest region.
 - These civilisations laid the foundation for the progress of humanity through agriculture, trade, writing, and culture.
3. Around 3500 BCE, villages in Punjab, Sindh, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Gujarat began to grow due to fertile land and agriculture. Trade and exchanges increased, which led to towns. By 2600 BCE, these towns became well-planned cities such as Harappa and Mohenjo-daro. This period is called the First Urbanisation of India.
4. The Sarasvatī River supported many Harappan sites. Though it is seasonal today, in ancient times it flowed fully and enriched the land. It is mentioned in the Ṛig Veda as a sacred river flowing from mountains to the sea. Later, when the river dried up, many Harappan cities along it were abandoned, contributing to the decline of the civilisation.
5. Cities were built on precise plans with wide straight streets.
 - Streets were aligned to cardinal directions.
 - Cities had fortifications for protection.
 - There were two parts — Upper Town (elite) and Lower Town (commoners).
 - Houses had standard construction with bricks.
 - Large public buildings such as warehouses and the Great Bath existed.
 - Good drainage systems connected houses to city drains.

6. Harappans gave great importance to water and cleanliness.

Homes had separate bathing areas connected to underground drains.

Drains ran below streets, carrying away wastewater.

In Mohenjo-daro, people used hundreds of brick wells for water.

In other regions, water came from ponds, streams, and reservoirs.

Dholavira had large reservoirs (one 73 m long), made of stone or cut into rock, connected through underground channels for efficient water harvesting and distribution.

G. Give Reasons

1. Because the Indus River and its tributaries watered the plains, making the soil fertile and suitable for crops.
2. Because important settlements were found not only along the Indus but also along the Sarasvatī (Ghaggar–Hakra) River.
3. Because it was the first time villages grew into organised towns and cities with planning, trade, and administration.
4. Because it had well-planned streets, separate upper and lower towns, fortifications, uniform brick houses, public buildings, and advanced drainage.
5. To carry wastewater away from houses and keep the city clean.
6. Because it was located in a dry region (Rann of Kutch) where water storage and harvesting were essential.
7. It had a huge dockyard used to send and receive boats, proving the Harappans conducted overseas trade.
8. Because although the cities declined, Harappan culture, technology, and traditions survived and influenced later Indian civilisation.

H. One-Word Answer

- | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|--------------|--------------|------------------|
| 1. Metallurgy | 2. Mesopotamia | 3. Tributary | 4. Harappans | 5. Fortification |
| 6. Elite | 7. Lothal | 8. Reservoir | 9. Plough | 10. Carnelian |

I. Crossword (One-Word Answer)

Across:

3. Reservoir
5. Civilisation
8. Dholavira

Down:

1. Elite
2. Fortification
4. Mohenjo-daro
6. Indus
7. Sarasvati