

AREA OF META DATA	CONTENT
THEME	Arikamedu – An Ancient port Town of India
SUBJECT	History
LINKAGE OF THEME WITH CHAPTERS(NAME)	
CLASS/LEVEL	Class VI
Target Audience	Students and Teachers
OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create awareness on archaeological findings in Arikamedu. • To derive important information from the findings in Arikamedu .
DESCRIPTION	<p>Arikamedu is an archaeological site near Pondicherry (currently Puducherry) in Southern India. The site was identified as the port of Podouke, known as an "emporium" in the Periplus of the Erythraean Sea. Extensive archaeological excavations have been conducted at this site since 1940, and have unearthed significant findings. They show that Arikamedu was a bustling trading centre. Excavations have found Amphorae, Arretine ware, Roman lamps, glassware, glass and stone beads, and gems at the site. The presence of celadon ware (green ware pottery that originated in China)</p>

	and Chola coins of eleventh century AD indicate that Arikamedu continued to be an important trading center, and that after the 9 th c., the people were trading with other lands as well.
Key Words	<i>Arikamedu, Amphora Jars, Terra Sigillata, Celadon ware, Indo-Roman trade, Chola coins</i>
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Imagine

A place in southern coast of India bustling with Roman people in their traditional costumes bargaining with local people; ships from Rome docked at the port; Roman wines, jars, glass beads, and olive oil being sold in the local market. This is what Arikamedu may have been in the ancient times. Today what remains are ruins of old structures of this otherwise busy port.



Remains of old brick structure in Arikamedu

MAJOR FINDINGS



Remains of a building



Quartz fragment



Blue glass bead



Black glass bead



Statue of a girl with bird



Clay Lamp



Grey pottery with engravings



Ancient Roman Pottery



Ancient Roman Bricks



**Roman Amphora Jars
(representation)**



Remains of a Warehouse



Remains of a well

Major Findings

- **Courtyards along with drains and tanks.**
- **Beads of glass, gold and semi-precious stones.**
- **Glass bowls and lamps made of clay.**
- **Different kinds of pottery from the Mediterranean region- Red decorated pottery known as Terra Sigillata and the other is called Amphora .**
- **Large quantities of shells and beads.**
- **Blue glazed Faience or decorated earthenware pottery.**
- **Celadon ware and Chola coins.**

What Excavations Tell Us

- **Arikamedu was a well established settlement even before trade with the Roman Empire started in 1st c. BCE.**
- **Discovery of large number of shells, beads and pottery clearly indicated the existence of indigenous craft traditions prior to the arrival of Romans.**
- **Presence of tanks and drain, pavements of large bricks suggest its possible use for industrial purposes.**
- **They were probably enclosures for storing food and other goods.**
- **It is not clear whether Roman traders actually lived at Arikamedu.**
- **Wine was a major item of import as suggested by remains of large**

number of Amphorae.

- The presence of celadon ware (green ware pottery that originated in China) and Chola coins of eleventh century AD indicate that Arikamedu continued to be an important trading center, and that after the 9th c., the people were trading with other lands as well.

ACTIVITY 1

Indicate whether True or False

CIET: True should be indicated with a Smile

1. Terra Sigillata is red decorated pottery .

(True/False)

2. Coins belonging to Mughal period were found in Arikamedu.

(True/False)

3. Large quantities of gold jewellery was found in Arikamedu.

(True/False)

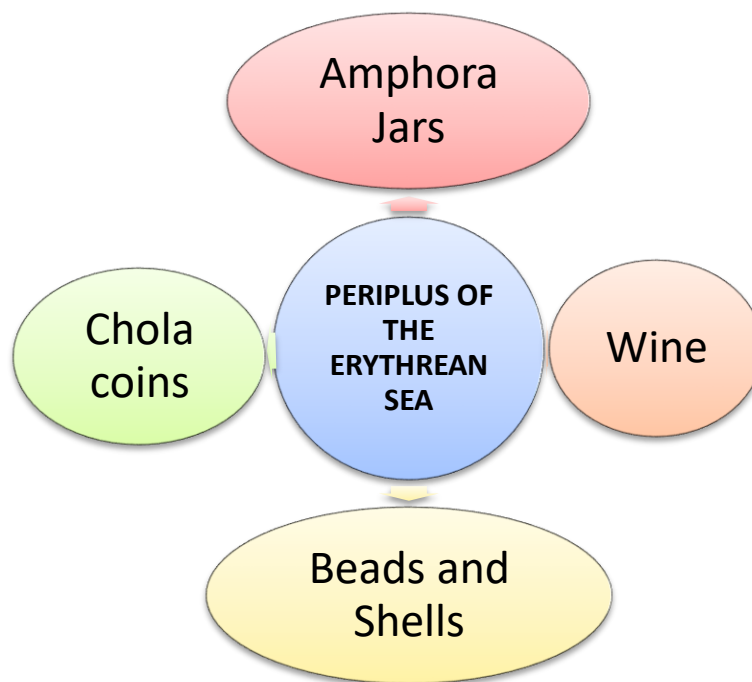
4. Celadon ware is green ware pottery that originated in China.

(True/False)

ACTIVITY 2

In the diagram given below tick the items which were excavated from Arikamedu.

CIET : The Correct answer should be indicated with a Green Tick Mark and Incorrect Answer in Red Tick Mark.



Correct Answer

Amphora Jars

Chola Coins

Beads and Shells

References

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