

AREA OF META DATA	CONTENT
THEME	Harappan Sites
SUBJECT	History
LINKAGE OF THEME WITH CHAPTERS(NAME)	In the Earliest Cities – Chapter 4
CLASS/LEVEL	Class VII
OBJECTIVES	<p style="text-align: center;">To help the learner understand the important aspects of the Harappan civilization with site specific details</p>
DESCRIPTION	<p>Harappan sites have showed significant finds that throw important information on life of the Harappans. The first site is Harappa, in present day Pakistan. Here the highlights are the Seals. They were used to make an imprint on the goods being traded. They were made on ceramics or on clay tablets used to seal the rope around the bundle of goods being traded. This was probably for identification of the trader and also to ensure the safety of the goods being delivered. Numerous Indus seals have been found in Mesopotamia and many Mesopotamian seal have been found in Indus valley sites indicating that these two regions had a flourishing trade via sea route or land routes. The signs on the top of the seal are part of a script which is the earliest known form of writing in the subcontinent. Their meanings however remain to be deciphered. The second site, Rakhigarhi, is the largest Indus Valley site and town in the world. Presence of various toys like mini wheels, miniature lids, sling balls and figurines indicate a prevalence of toy culture. Archaeologists have found pits surrounded by walls which are thought to be for sacrificial or religious ceremonies and also indicates that fire was used extensively for religious ceremonies. The third site is Kalibangan. It was a major provincial capital of the civilization. It is distinguished by its unique fire altars and the worlds earliest attested ploughed field. The fourth site, Mohenjodaro, literally means the ‘mound of the dead men’. It was the most advanced city of that time with remarkably sophisticated civil engineering and urban planning displayed by its planned layout based on a street grid of rectilinear buildings. The fifth site is Dholavira. Archaeologists believe that Dholavira was an important centre of trade between settlements of south Gujarat, Sindh, Punjab and western Asia. The most striking feature of the city is that unlike other Harappan sites, all of its buildings are built of stone. The last site is that of Lothal. Lothal had a well-developed bead making</p>

	industry. Its beads, semi-precious stones and gems were in great demand from the west.
KEY WORDS	Sites, trade, seals, jewellery, fire altars, urban settlements, scripts, compound, planned cities.
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SOME IMPORTANT RHARAPPAN SITES

A: HARRAPA – (Sahiwal district, Punjab, current day Pakistan)



Seals were used to make a sealing or positive imprint on the goods being traded. They were made on ceramics or on clay tags used to seal the rope around the bundle of goods being traded.

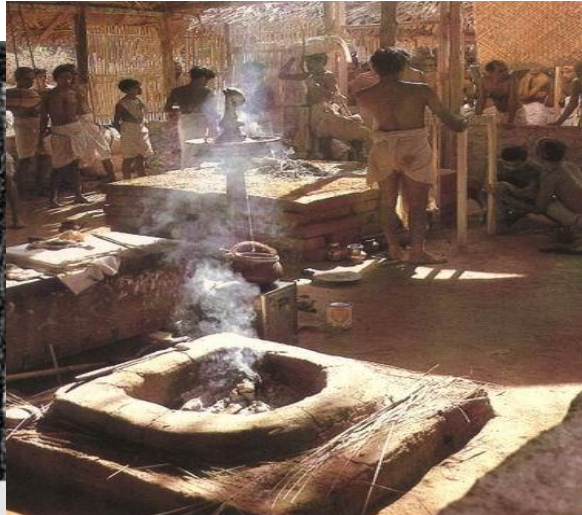
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B – RAKHIGARHI – (Hisar district – Haryana, India)



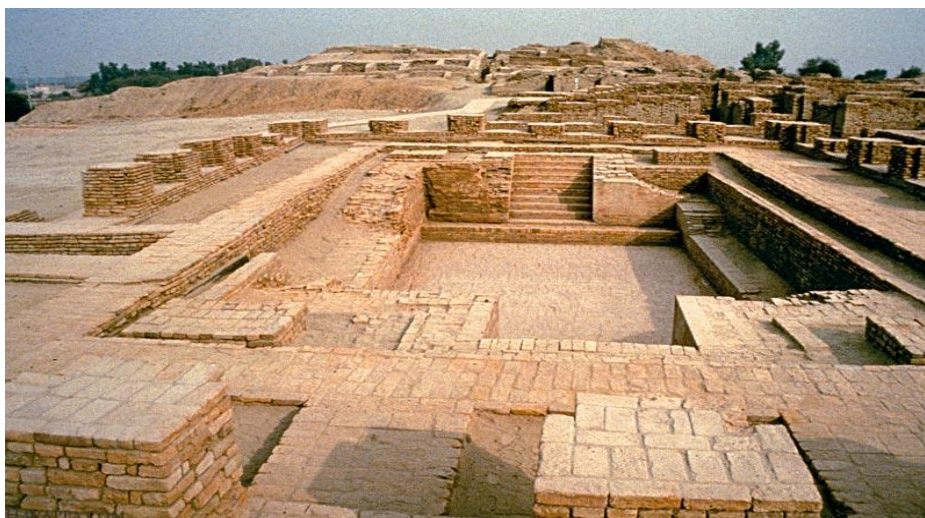
Rahigarhi has been deemed to be the largest Indus Valley Civilization site and town in the world. In April 2015, four complete human skeletons were excavated from mound RGR-7; a site in Rakhigarhi. These skeletons belonged to two male adults, one female adult and one child. Pottery with grains of food as well as shell bangles were found around these skeletons.

C – KALIBANGAN – (Hanumangarh district – Rajasthan, India)



The fire altars excavated at Kalibangan reveal that the people were ritualistic and believed in the worship of fire. The charging bull which is considered to signify the “realistic and powerful folk art of Harappan age” has also been found at Kalibangan. The most important discovery of Kalibangan is a ploughed field. A wooden furrow has been found, 7 fire altars in a row have been found and they suggest the practice of sacrifice.

D – MOHENJODARO – (Larkana district – Sindh, Pakistan)



The Great Bath:

The "great bath" is without doubt the earliest public water tank in the ancient world. Two wide staircases lead down into the tank from the north and south and small sockets at the edges of the stairs are thought to have held wooden planks or treads. People coming down the stairs could move along a ledge without actually stepping into the pool itself. The floor of the tank and the side walls were water tight due to finely fitted bricks laid on edge with bitumen. A series of rooms are located along the eastern edge of the building and in one room is a well that may have supplied some of the water needed to fill the tank. Rainwater also may have been collected for this purposes. Most scholars agree that this tank would have been used for special religious functions where water was used to purify and renew the well being of the bathers.

E – DHOLAVIRA – (Kutch district – Gujarat, India)

Some specimens of indus valley civilization jewellery and beads are below:



F – LOTHAL – (Ahemdabad district – Gujarat, India)



Lothal is situated in Gujarat. Lothal's dock—the world's earliest known—connected the city to an ancient course of the Sabarmati river on the trade route between Harappan cities in Sindh and the peninsula of Saurashtra when the surrounding Kutch desert of today was a part of the Arabian Sea. It was a vital and thriving trade centre in ancient times, with its trade of beads, gems and valuable ornaments reaching the far corners of West Asia and Africa.

ACTIVITY

Unjumble the following letters so as to reveal the names of the Harappan sites.

CIET : Child should be able to Unjumble by shifting letters

1. **OLAHTL**
2. **IRRKIGHAAH**
3. **OEMHODJRANO**
4. **OARVIDALH**
5. **PPARHAA**

Correct Answers.

1. **Lothal**

2. Rakhigarhi

3. Mohenjodaro

4. Dholavira

5. Harappa