**11th May, 2020 JESUS AND MARY SCHOOL & COLLEGE MODULE 1**

**CLASS- 9**

**HISTORY**

**Harappan Civilization**

**Explanation**–

Civilization is said to be an advanced stage of human cultural development. It implies the use of superior technology complex economic relationships. Some of traits which mark a civilization are:

1-Evolution of cities2- Surplus food

3-Division of labour

4-System of writing

5-Public buildings

6-Development of technology

The period between 4000 and 3000 B.C. saw remarkable progress. Man acquired greater knowledge and skill in mastering the forces of nature. He took to agriculture and made more efficient tools and started living a settled life on the banks of rivers. The river valleys had the agricultural potential to support a dense population and produce surplus food. The surplus food freed some people from the task of producing their own food.

**Bronze Age civilization**

During this age man gradually came to know the use of metals. Metals were more durable than stone &could be used for making a variety of tools, implements & weapons. The first metal to be discovered was copper. This metal when man used both stone & copper tools is known as the Chalcolithic Period.

Later on, man learnt the art of mixing copper with tin or zinc to produce the alloy called Bronze. Because ofthe importance of Bronze in the growth of the first civilizations; these civilizations are known as the Bronze Age

**The Harappan Civilization**

The discovery of Indus valley civilization in the 20th century was an important event in the history of India. The Indus Valley Civilization is best known as the Harappan Culture or the Harappan Civilization. Our knowledge of the Harappan civilization is based on the archaeological remains found after excavations.

By now 250 sites have been discovered. Chief among them are Harappa,Mohen-jo-daro, Kalibangan etc.Harappa and Mohen-jo-daro are considered to be the first sites. Other important things included archaeological remains such as buildings, pottery, sculpture, seals and cemeteries. This is so because no adequate written records are available. A number of seals were discovered with a few letters engraved on each, but the script has not been read yet. The major sources of our information about the Harappan Civilization are:

**1.The Great Bath:**

It is one of the largest public buildings at Mohen-jo-daro. It has a large rectangular tank in a courtyard surrounded by a corridor on all four sides. There are two flights of steps one in the north and the other in the south leading in to the tank. To make the pool watertight, burnt bricks and mortar lined with bitumen and gypsum were used for construction. The water for the bath was provided by a well in an adjacent room. Surrounding the bath were porticos and sets of rooms, the great bath is an important source of information that throws light on the life of the people and culture of the Harappan Civilization.

**2.Urban Planning**

1. Cities were built according to a well designed plan. The cities were divided into two main sections,

the citadel and the lower town. They were used as a protection against flood.

2. Indus people were primarily urban and their cities were designed skilfully.

3. The main streets were wide and straight and intersected each other at right angles.

4. Fire burnt bricks were used for paving the streets.

5. Houses were not allowed to encroach upon the streets.

**3. The Drainage system**

1. Drainage system was elaborate.

2. The house drains were connected to the underground main drains, which opened into large brick-

culverts on the outskirts of the city.

3. There were manholes at regular intervals.

4. A systematic drainage system in every city shows that the people paid great attention to sanitation and

health**.**

**4. The Dwelling Houses:**

1. They were made of burnt bricks of higher quality.

2. They were situated on either side of the streets.

3. The Houses had wells and bathrooms and were provided with covered drains connected with street

drains**.**

**5. The Great Granary**

The Great Granary has been discovered at Harappa.It was used for storing grains.

1. It was built on raised platforms for pounding grains to protect it from floods.

2.Each block had six halls with corridors and ventilation to prevent grains from becoming mildewed.

**6. Assembly Hall**

1. It was a pillared hall with long corridors and low benches.

2. It was perhaps used to carry on the business of the state or for different public purposes.

**7. Civic Organisation:**

The Indus Valley people lived in well-planned towns. The towns had adequate arrangements for water supply. The discovery of lamp post at intervals reveals the existence of street -lighting. Sanitation was also properly looked after. Rubbish was thrown into the dustbins. The sweepers kept the cities neat & clean. There were inns for travellers. The system of watch and ward at night also existed. All these things indicate the existence of some civic organisation whose authority was well-respected by the people.

**Social Life or Social Organisation**

1. Society was based on class division. Rulers &Priests formed the highest class.

2. Government officials, merchants, businessmen formed the middle class.

3. Labourers formed the lowest class.

4. The diet of the people consisted of fruits, vegetables, wheat, barley, milk, date palms, meat of

animals etc.

5. Gold, silver, copper and other well-known metals and precious stones were used.

6. Dicing was a popular game. But hunting & fishing were also popular.

**ECONOMIC LIFE:**

**A.** Agriculture was the main occupation of the people.

1. Food crops like wheat, barley, millet, peas and lentils were grown by the farmers.

2. Cotton was the principal cash crop.

3. Ploughs drawn by bullocks were used to fill the land.

**B.TRADE**

1. The people of the Indus Valley had trade relations with southern & eastern India, Kashmir and with other countries of Asia.

2. They had trade with Egypt and Crete.

3. They imported various metals, precious stones and others articles.

4. The people of Indus Valley used weights and measures in their business transactions.

5. Bullock carts with or without the roof were the chief means of conveyance.

**ARTS AND CRAFT:**

1. The discovery of statues and figurines in terracotta, stone and even metal shows a high degree of development in art of sculpture.

2. Bronze figure of a dancing girl is shown wearing necklaces and bangles made of ivory or bone indicates that people were fond of jewellery.

3. The stone figure of a shawl-clad yogi is also a fine example of their art & craft.

4. More than 2,000 seals have been discovered from various sites in the Indus Valley shows that Indus Valley people were well-versed in the art of carving.

5. The art of pottery had reached its height during Indus valley civilisation. Craftsmen’s produced plain, coloured and glazed pottery. It was made on the wheel that is why it was regular in shape.

**RELIGION:**

Stone images, figurines’ and engravings on seals help us to know the religious ideas and beliefs of the Indus Valley people. The discovery of many statues and figurines of the Mother Goddess or Shakti shows that the worship of the divine-mother was very common. Among the Male gods Shiva was the most prominent and he was worshipped as “Shiva Pashupati”. No temples have been discovered among the ruins of the Indus Valley.

**DECLINE OF THE CIVILISATION:**

The Indus Valley Civilisation lasted about a thousand years. It disappeared by about 2000 B.C.Scholars have given various reasons for its collapse. It might have been destroyed by regular floods. An epidemic or some terrible disease might have killed the people. The climate also began to change and the region became more and drier like a desert. Perhaps the Aryans attacked their cities and destroyed them.

**WORKSHEET**

**Short Answer Questions.**

1. What is meant by the term ‘Civilization ‘?

2. What are known as Bronze Age Civilization?

3. Name any two important sites of the Indus Valley.

4. Give any two features of the town- planning of the Indus Valley people.

5. Name any two features of the Great Bath.

6. Name two things which throw light on the dress of the Indus Valley people.

7. Give two main occupations of the Indus Valley people.

8. How can you say that civic Organisation of the Indus Valley people was well-organized?

9. Name one important public building of Indus valley civilization and its importance?

10.Describe any stone object of sculpture recovered from the ruins of the Indus Valley cities.

11. What was the purpose of Great Granary and Assembly Hall.

12. State any two causes that led to the decline of the Harappan Civilization.

13. In what two respects is Harappan Civilization our greatest heritage?

**NOTE: Please do all this work in your old copies which will be checked when the school**

**reopens. Please consider this important.**