

# NCERT - CLASS 6 - CHAPTER 3: IN THE EARLIEST CITIES

## Harappa

150 years ago while laying railway lines in Punjab - Quality bricks found on mound → used for laying railways

80 years ago → Archaeology discovery

4700 years ago → Oldest city → Harappan → all other sites

## Characteristics - Harappa

Cities → 2 or more parts

West → smaller, higher → Citadel

East → larger, lower → Lower Town

Baked brick wall around each part → made with skill → interlocking pattern

## Mohenjo-daro - Great Bath

Lined bricks → Plaster → Natural Tar

Steps leading down → two sides → rooms all sides

Water → well → drained after use

Dip → special occasions

## Other finds - Harappan

Kalibangan, Lothal → Fire altars

Mohenjo-daro, Harappa, Lothal → store houses

## Houses, Drains, Streets

Houses:

- one or two storey
- Rooms around courtyard
- Separate bathing area
- Wells

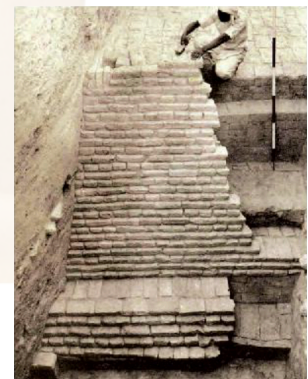
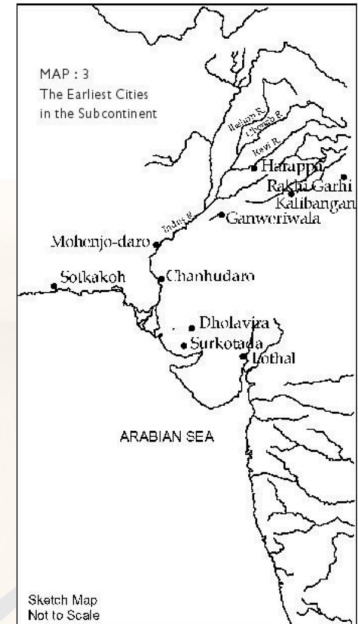
Drains:

- Covered - inspection holes
- Straight lines
- Slope

Streets:

- Straight
- Drains all connected

Planning - same time → construction



### City Life

Rulers → planning → special building → sent people → metal, stones → valuable objects

Scribes → seals

Crafts person → home, workshop

People → various objects, stories

Children → terracotta toys



### Crafts

Stone → shell → metal:

- Copper, bronze → tools weapons, ornaments, vessels
- Gold, silver → ornaments, vessels

Beads → Carnelian

### Stone weights:

- Precise
- Chert
- Weigh precious stones, metals



### Seals:

- Stone - animal carved
- Script - undeciphered



Pots → black designs

Blades → stone

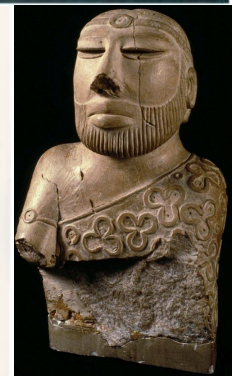
### Embroidered Cloth

Stone statue → Mohenjo-daro

Cotton → Mehrgarh

Cloth → Silver vase

Spindle whorls → Faience → terracotta



### Faience

- Artificial
- Gum- sand, quartz
- Glaze - blue, sea green
- Beads, bangles, earrings, vessels



### Specialist

Trained →

- Cutting stone
- Polishing stones
- Carving seals



### Raw Materials

Natural - Produced → available locally - brought from distant place



Copper - Rajasthan, Oman  
Tin. - Afghanistan, Iran  
Gold - Karnataka  
Precious stone - Gujarat, Iran, Afghanistan



### Food for the City

Farmers & Herders → village → farming: wheat, barley, pulses, peas, rice, sesame, linseed, mustard

- plough → wood, toy model
- no heavy rainfall → irrigation system

Craftsmen, scribe, rulers → city → rearing: cattle, sheep, goat, buffalo

- water, pastures
- dry season → distant place
- collected fruits, fishing, hunting

### Dholavira

- Khadir Beyt, Rann of Kutch, Gujarat
- Fresh water, fertile soil
- Divided into 3 parts - others 2 parts
- Each part - stone walls - entrance gateways
- Open area - public ceremony
- Harappan script - white stone - wood

### Lothal

- River Bhogwa, tributary of River Sabarmati, Gujarat
- Close to Gulf of Khambat
- Semi precious stones
- Centre for craft making
- Store house - seal, sealing
- Dockyard
- Beads workshop:
  - Pieces of stone
  - Half made beads
  - Tools for bead making
  - finished beads



### Seals

- Stamp goods
- Wet clay
- Sealing

### Mystery of End

3900 years ago → Major change

- Many cities vacant
- Writing, seals, weights - stopped usage
- Import of raw materials - rare

- Mohenjo-daro
  - garbage pile
  - draining broke
  - new, ugly houses - over streets

### **End - Hypothesis & Findings**

- Dry rivers
- Deforestation → fuel - smelting, baking bricks; over grazing
- floods
  - Rulers lost control
  - Sind, west Punjab abandoned
  - Many moved to east and south
  - New cities emerged 1400 years later



Book  
Scribe