



HISTORY · CHAPTER 1

Bricks, Beads and Bones — The Harappan Civilisation

A 1-page guide for parents · 90-second read.

EXPECTED MARKS

7-8 out of 10 on this chapter's questions. Below 5 means specific facts (dates, sites, structures) are not memorised.

TIME TO MASTER

10-12 hrs

HELPLINE

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WHAT THIS CHAPTER IS, IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Your child is learning about the HARAPPAN CIVILISATION — one of the world's first urban societies (2600-1900 BCE), centred on what is now Pakistan and northwest India. The chapter covers how cities like Mohenjodaro, Harappa, and Lothal were planned, what people ate and traded, how their society was organised (we don't know much — script is undeciphered), what they believed (Mother Goddess, Pashupati seal), and why the civilisation declined. This is one of the most heavily-tested chapters in Class 12 History — the 8-mark urban planning question is annual.

5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CHILD

- What evidence do we have that Mohenjodaro was a 'planned city'?
- Why is the Harappan script considered enigmatic / undeciphered?
- Discuss the main theories for the decline of the Harappan civilisation.
- Why is the Aryan invasion theory now rejected?
- What is the significance of the Great Bath?

WEAK-SPOT INDICATORS

- Calls it the 'Indus Valley Civilisation' instead of 'Harappan' (NCERT uses Harappan).
- States the Aryan invasion theory as fact (it's been rejected).
- Cannot locate 5 major Harappan sites on a map.
- Treats Mohenjodaro as 'the capital' (no single capital — federation of urban centres).
- Confuses dates: Early Harappan 3300 BCE, Mature 2600 BCE, decline 1900 BCE.

WHEN TO WORRY — AND WHAT TO DO

Class 12 History rewards SPECIFICS — dates, place names, site features. Vague memorisation fails. Daily 15-minute fact-drill for 3 weeks is the proven fix.

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