

### 1) What are the three periods of the Stone Age?

The first period is the Palaeolithic, and 'palaeo' means old, that's why you get people like 'palaeontologists' who study very old things. So the Palaeolithic literally means the 'Old Stone Age' – the first part of the Stone Age. After that you get the Mesolithic, and 'Meso' simply means 'middle', so the 'Middle Stone Age' and finally you have the Neolithic, and 'Neo' means new, so the 'New Stone Age', the last little bit of the Stone Age.

### 2) How long did the Stone Age last?

So the Stone Age goes from the very earliest stone tools ever found right the way through to when people started to use metal. So this most of human history, and it happens at different times in different places. In Britain, the earliest stone tools we've ever found date to about 900,000 years ago, and they were found in Norfolk. And the Stone Age ends, around about 4,500 years ago, when the Bronze Age began.

### 3) What is Artefact?

An artefact is an object made by a human being. Artefacts include art, tools, and clothing made by the people of any time and place. The term can also be used to refer to objects, such as a shard and broken pottery or glassware. Artefacts are in scholars who want to learn about a culture.

### 4) What is Indus Valley Civilization?

Indus Valley Civilization, also known as Harappan Civilization, is a Bronze age civilization that existed through its early years of 3300-1300 BCE, and its mature period of 2600-1900 BCE. The area of this civilization was spread along the Indus River from what today is northeast Afghanistan into Pakistan and northwest India.

### 5) Chronology of Indus Valley Civilization

The three periods of the Indus Valley Civilization—the Early Harappan Phase, which lasted from 3300 to 2600 BCE, the Mature Harappan Phase, which lasted from 2600 to 1900 BCE, and the Late Harappan Phase, which lasted from 1900 to 1300 BCE—are frequently distinguished.

- Period 1: Pre-Harappan Period (3300 BC – c. 2800 BC)
- Period 2: Early Harappa Period (c. 2800 BC – c. 2600 BC)
- Period 3: Harappa Period
  - Period 3A Harappan Phase A (c. 2600 BC – c. 2450 BC)
  - Period 3B Harappa Phase B (c. 2450 BC – c. 2200 BC)
  - Period 3C Harappa Phase C (c. 2200 BC – c. 1900 BC)
- Period 4: Harappa/Late Harappa Transitional Period (c. 1900 BC – c. 1800 BC)
- Period 5: Late Harappa Phase (c. 1800 BC – < 1300 BC)

### 6) Town Planning of Indus Valley Civilization

Small Early Harappan villages had grown into sizable urban centres by 2600 BCE. These cities are Dholavira, Kalibangan, Rakhigarhi, Rupar, and Lothal in contemporary India, and Harappa, Ganeriwala, and Mohenjodaro in contemporary Pakistan. Over 1,052 towns and communities have been discovered in total, mostly around the Indus River and its tributaries.

- Grid system(Chess-board) of town planning
- Rectangular houses with brick-lined bathrooms and wells together with stairways are found
- Use of Burnt bricks
- Underground drainage system
- Fortified citadel

#### **7) Technology and Crafts**

- Bronze (Copper + tin) tools were widely used.
- Stone implements were still in vogue.
- Potter's wheel was put to full use.
- Bronzsmiths, Goldsmiths, Boat-Making, Brick-laying etc were other occupations commonly found.

#### **8) Trade of Indus Valley Civilization**

- The presence of granaries, weights and measures, seals and uniform script signifies the importance of trade.
- The barter system was widely prevalent.
- Lothal and Sutkagendor were port cities used for conducting trade.
- Trade destinations – Afghanistan, Iran and Central Asia. Contacts with Mesopotamia civilization are also seen.

#### **9) Indus Valley Civilization Religion**

The religion of Harappa is still up for debate. There is widespread speculation that the Harappans revered a mother deity who represented fertility. The Indus Valley Civilization does not appear to have had any temples or palaces that would have provided obvious proof of religious practices or individual deities, in contrast to Egyptian and Mesopotamian civilizations. A swastika sign, used in later Indian faiths including Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism, is shown on a few Indus Valley seals.

- Terracotta figure of Mother Goddess.
- Phallu and Yoni worship.
- Pashupati Mahadev seal was found with the elephant, tiger, rhino and a bull surrounding him with two deer near his feet.

#### **10) Causes for Indus Valley Civilisation Decline**

Around 1800 BCE, climate change and migration caused the Indus Valley Civilization to fall. Mohenjo-Daro and Harappa, the two major cities of the Civilization, finally vanished. Because it was the earliest city of the civilisation that contemporary archaeologists found, Harappa gives the Indus Valley people their name.

Archaeological data suggests that commerce with Mesopotamia, which is mostly located in present-day Iraq, seems to have ceased. The large cities' sophisticated drainage systems and baths were covered up or stopped. Standardized weights and measurements that were used for commerce and taxes started to vanish, along with writing.

11) What was the Sabha and Samiti during Vedic period?

Ans. It was an advising assembly of the king. It was the council of elders who used to give advice to the king. It was an advising assembly of the king and it was the national assembly of the whole people.

12) Which were the most popular deities of the early Aryans? Which gods became prominent during later Vedic age?

Ans. The most popular deities of the early Aryans were Indra and Varuna. Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Rama and Krishna became prominent during later Vedic age.

13) What was the position of women during the Vedic Period?

Ans. The women enjoyed a high status in society. There was no children marriage. Widow Remarriage was allowed. During the later Vedic period women lost much of their position and privileges enjoyed during early Vedic period.

14) Who were the Indo-Aryans? Why Vedic Civilization is also known as Aryan- Civilization?

Ans. The Aryans who came to India, are known as Indo-Aryans, Because the Aryans were the maker of this civilization.

15) Who did compose the Ramayana and Who wrote the Mahabharat?

Ans. Rishi Valmiki. This epic describes the life and the great deeds of Lord Rama, Rishi Vyas wrote the Mahabharat, this epic describes the war between the Pandavas and the Kauravas.

**DR. AMIYA GHOSH**  
**SURI VIDYASAGAR COLLEGE**

