

## CLASS :-11<sup>TH</sup>,ACTIVITY WORK

### THEMES IN WORLD HISTORY

#### The Significance of Urbanism

Cities and towns are not just places with large populations. It is when an economy develops in spheres other than food production that it becomes an advantage for people to cluster in towns. Urban economies comprise besides food production, trade, manufactures and services. City people, thus, cease to be self-sufficient and depend on the products or services of other (city or village) people. There is continuous interaction among them. For instance, the carver of a stone seal requires bronze tools that he himself cannot make, and coloured stones for the seals that he does not know where to get: his 'specialisation' is fine carving, not trading. The bronze tool maker does not himself go out to get the metals, copper and tin. Besides, he needs regular supplies of charcoal for fuel. The division of labour is a mark of urban life. Further, there must be a social organisation in place. Fuel, metal, various stones, wood, etc., come from many different places for city manufacturers. Thus, organised trade and storage is needed. There are deliveries of grain and other food items from the village to the city, and food supplies need to be stored and distributed. Besides, many different activities have to be coordinated: there must be not only stones but also bronze tools and pots available for seal cutters. Obviously, in such a system some people give commands that others obey, and urban economies often require the keeping of written records.

#### The Warka Head

This woman's head was sculpted in white marble at Uruk before 3000

**BCE. The eyes and eyebrows would probably have taken lapis lazuli (blue) and shell (white) and bitumen (black) inlays, respectively.**

**There is a groove along the top of the head, perhaps for an ornament. This is a world-famous piece of sculpture, admired for the delicate modelling of the woman's mouth, chin and cheeks. And it was modelled in a hard stone that would have been imported from a distance.**

**Beginning with the procurement of stone, list all the specialists who would be involved in the production of such a piece of sculpture.**

**The earliest cities in Mesopotamia date back to the bronze age, c.3000 BCE.**

**Bronze is an alloy of copper and tin.**

**Using bronze meant procuring these metals, often from great distances.**

**Metal tools were necessary for accurate carpentry,**

drilling beads,  
carving stone seals,  
cutting shell for  
inlaid furniture,  
etc. Mesopotamian  
weapons were also  
of bronze –

### **ACTIVITY**

Discuss

whether city  
life would have  
been possible  
without the  
use of metals.