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Class-6th,

Sub.-Social Science,

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Ch4-The First Civilisation in India (History)

Art and Craft

We find evidence of the practise of several art & craft forms by the Indus Valley Civilisation. These indicate the emergence of specialists, who are trained to do one kind of work such as sculpting, polishing beads & making seals. Copper & bronze were used for making vessels, ornaments, tools and weapons.

Bronze figurines

The people of the Indus Valley Civilisation demonstrated great skills in making the bronze figurines. The most striking of them is the bronze dancing girl.

Ornaments

The Harappan people also had the knowledge of metals like gold & silver. They used these metals to make ornaments like beads, pendants, armlets, brooches & bracelets. Apart from these precious metals, people also made extensive use of shells to make ornaments.

Bead-making

Bead-making was an important craft. People used precious metals & stones like carnelian, steatite, agate, chalcedony and jasper to make beautiful beads. We find evidences of the bead makers' shops at Chanhu-daro and Lothal.

Seal

The most notable artistic achievement of the people of the Indus Valley Civilisation was perhaps in their seal engravings, especially those of animals which looked very realistic. The best engravings are of the bull, rhinoceros, tiger, etc. Specimens of this art to be seen also in amulets, seals and other small objects. Around 2000 seals have been found in excavation at various Harappan sites.

Terracota

The Harappan people made clay models called terracotta. These were made of fire-baked earthen clay and were used either as toys or objects of worship.

Other Crafts

The Harappan people used numerous arts & crafts. Cloth weaving & pottery-making were important crafts. Fragments of glazed red pottery with black geometric designs on it have been found at several places. A woven cloth has been found at Mohenjodaro.

Raw material

The raw material for various crafts & art was either locally available or imported from other areas. Bronze was made by smelting by mixing tin with copper. Copper came from the khetri copper mines of Rajasthan & tin came from Afghanistan. Similarly, gold may have been imported from Afghanistan & Persia. Silver came from Afghanistan and Iran.

Social life

Class difference

The excavation at various sites of the Indus Valley Civilisation give us some indication of the social life of the people. Structural remains of the houses indicate that class differences were present in the Harappan society. The big houses would have been occupied by the rich, while smaller houses and two-room cottages would have been used by the poorer sections of the society.

Dress

For knowledge about dress & fashion, we depend on the statues and figurines excavated. People wore upper & lower garments. The former was worn over the left shoulder and under the right arm. Women wore a short skirt. Both men & women kept long hair & wore jewellery like necklaces, bangles or girdles. Some finds at Chanhu-daro also indicate the use of lipsticks.

Trade and Contacts

A well-organised commerce was the characteristic feature of the Indus Valley Civilisation. These people traded not only with other parts of India but also with many other countries. The Harappan trade links extended to the cities of Mesopotamia where some two dozen Harappan seals have been found. Several cylindrical seals of Mesopotamian origin have been found from the Indus Valley region.

Note: - Read the above topic carefully & write some hard word with their meaning with dictionary.

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