life in Harappan civilization
My name: ............................................
Age: .............................................
Who have I come with ............
....................................................
The Journey you are about to take!

About 5000 years ago, a highly advanced urban civilization called the Indus Valley or Harappan Civilization, existed along the river Indus.

Their towns were well planned and they had brick houses which were situated along the roads. Every house was furnished with stairs, a kitchen and several rooms. Their courtyards had wells, bathrooms and they had proper drainage systems.

The harappans wore ornaments made of gold, silver, ivory, shell, clay, semi-precious stones and others. They made figurines and toys and a variety of seals. They farmed the land near their cities, and grew wheat, barley, cotton, dates and other fruits. They traded with other world civilizations like Mesopotamia in Iraq & Iran.

Get ready to sail on the Indus river as this trail leads you on a voyage to discover the ancient Harappan people and treasures in National Museum.

Enjoy your visit!
Can you write the names of the present day countries where these 3 ancient civilizations originated?

Names of the Countries:

- Nile Valley Civilization
- Yellow River Civilization
- Mesopotamian Civilization
Can you arrange the names of Indus Valley sites which you have come cross in the gallery?

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**Indus Valley Sites**

The area covered by the Indus Valley Civilization extended from Sutkagendor on the Makran coast about 500 km west to Karachi (now in Pakistan) to Alamgirpur on the Hindon, near Delhi and from Manda in Jammu to Daimabad in Maharashtra.

Indus Valley Sites

*Answers:* Dholavira, Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Lothal, Rakhigarhi.
The Harappan civilization was known for its accurate town planning and roads that were wide and straight.

Can you find 2 objects in the gallery which were part of a Harappan building in the Citadel area?

When you find them, try to draw and name the objects in the space provided below.

Can you guess which part of the building it must have been?

Clue: It is round in shape, big in size & is made of stone.
Farming

Can you locate the showcase in the gallery which shows crops and fruits that were grown by Harappan people?

Now look at the crops, fruits and vegetables below. Are any of them from Harappan times? Tick if yes and cross if no.
Tools and Metallurgy

Bronze, copper, gold and silver were the metals known to Harappan people. Their agricultural implements and many of the household utensils were made of copper and bronze.

Find the showcase in the gallery with objects shown below. Think & discuss what could have been the use of each object.

Write your answers in the boxes.

- Axe
- Double sided Axe
- Spear
- Spear Head
Dancing Girl

She gets the name ‘dancing girl’ because of her posture. She is shown in her elaborate bangles and her expression looks confident.

Imagine that you are an archaeologist and have found this object in an excavation at Mohenjodaro.

What other title would you like to give to this masterpiece?
Harappan children and their toys

The gallery has showcases with little toys and animal figurines which were made for children and decoration. These toys were representations of animals found in the Harappan civilization.

Now, look around the gallery to spot at least 7 toys/figurines of different animals. Identify the animals represented and write their names on the leaves.
Harappan Women

Objects excavated and preserved in this gallery are links which tell us about the daily life and responsibilities of the Harappan people.

Now go around the gallery and spot objects that tell you about the activities of Harappan people.

Can you try to sketch these activities? You can continue doing this at home too! but do try one or two now.
Tasks

Weaving shawls

Cooking delicious food

Decorating household objects

Storing grains and collecting water.

Religious activities

Grinding wheat

Pottery

Find the storage jar shown here.

The jar is painted with animal and floral designs. It was probably used to store grains and other things. These huge jars were made in two separate parts on potter’s wheel. These jars were often used in burials or to make offerings to the dead.

With this image as reference, find the following jars and think what could have been its possible use.

A long perforated jar.
Possible use ......................................

A flat bottom Jar with and a small opening with beautiful designs
Possible use .................................
The Harappan people often made Terracotta jars and painted them with a red slip. They were then decorated with concentric circle patterns and motifs of the Peepal leaf, peacocks, animal figures and others.

A harappan potter has left this jar unfinished. Can you complete it?
The Harappan economy was based on trade. Traders used seals to represent their guilds which they belonged to. Seals were used for transaction of trade and also as official stamps issued on their behalf.

Exlore around the gallery and sketch 3 different shapes of seals and identify their materials in the boxes.

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<th>Shape</th>
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Trade and granary

Imagine that you own a big dockyard in the Harappan city. You are going to receive a consignment of grains from Mesopotamia. How will you bring the grains from the port in Lothal, Gujarat to the city granary and then to the Harappan market?

Find the image shown here and number the boxes as per the steps.

Steps

Storing in the shops
Loading on the bullock cart
Unloading from the cart and storing in the godowns
Grinding the grains in stone mortars
Distributing in portions and handing over to the Merchants.
Husking the grains
Unloading from the boats
Burial and tradition

The people of Harappan Civilization probably believed in life after death, as they offered materials as grave offerings. The offerings buried with the dead included things that they used in their lifetime. Look at the skeleton of a woman that was found wearing ornaments like bangles, necklaces and others.

Can you list 3 objects that were used by the woman?
Archaeological evidence & material life span

With the help of objects collected from archaeological excavations we are able to record, study and know about the civilization which is 5000 years old.

Make a list of 6 different materials that the objects are made of?

______________________
______________________
______________________
______________________
______________________
______________________
Tell us how you found this activity book

- It was Informative
- I had Fun
- I want to do more activities?
- I know a little more about Harappans now

I am ................ yrs old
Life in Harappan Civilization

This activity and trail book is designed to support the history, visual art curriculum in Indian schools and for general interest.

The trail explores a selection of objects from this ancient civilization to understand the life in the Indus Valley.

Time: 50 minutes

Suitable for: 11+ years

Access: The Trail begins on the Ground Floor in the Harappan Gallery. To complete the trail follow instructions in the book. Make sure you have a pencil and eraser with you. Enjoy!

National Museum
Janpath
New Delhi-110011

Download this book in PDF from www.nationalmuseumindia.gov.in