

FAQ's

1. What are the natural and man-made determinants that influence human settlements?

Natural Determinants

Topography

Climate

Natural Resources, building materials availability

Man-Made Determinants

Trade

Political power

Religion

Defense

Mobility

2. What is the role of climate in deciding the pattern of human settlements?

Man generally gravitated towards plains, as it afforded him a chance towards agriculture and farming and also more importantly because the climate was moderate- neither too cold or too hot.

Though later on there were settlers in mountain ranges who chose to settle there due to other reasons like topography, natural defense and safety and food available. In the mountains the climate was more erratic- cool to very cold.

3. Discuss town planning concept of Indus Valley Civilization.

Urban Cities: The Indus civilization flourished around cities. The ruins of the cities, so far unearthed, show remarkable town planning, and excellent system of drainage and sanitation of the Indus Valley Civilization. The city was the heart of the civilization. The life in the Indus cities gives the impression of "a democratic bourgeois economy" like that of ancient Crete.

Large cities divided into two parts: Both at Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro and also at Kalibangan, the city was divided into two main parts. The higher and upper portion of the city was protected by a construction which looks like a fort. The ruling class of the towns perhaps lived in the protected area. The other part of the towns was lower in height than the former and common men lived in this area. The lower area of the towns generally spread over one square mile.

Streets

The main streets of Indus Valley ran from north to south and east to west intersecting one another at right angles. The streets were broad varying from 9 feet to 34 feet. They ran straight to a mile. They were suitable for wheeled traffic. Lanes were joined with the streets. Each lane had a public well. Street lamps were provided for welfare of public.

Drainage System

The elaborate drainage system was a remarkable feature of the civilization. According to D. D. Kosambi, the drainage plans of the Indus cities definitely establish the separate identity or independent character of the Indus civilization. No ancient civilization before the Roman civilization had such an advanced drainage and sanitation system. Each house had horizontal and vertical drains. There were underground drains for the streets. These drains were covered by stone slabs. The soak pits were made of bricks. The house drains were connected with road drains.

4. Discuss the details of Harappa.

Harappa was a city in the Indus civilization that flourished around 2600 to 1700 B.C.E. in the western

part of South Asia

The city is believed to have had as many as 23,500 residents and occupied about 150 hectares (370 acres) with clay sculptured houses at its greatest extent during the Mature Harappan phase (2600–1900 BC), which is considered large for its time. Per archaeological convention of naming a previously unknown civilization by its first excavated site, the Indus Valley Civilization is also called the Harappan Civilization.

Remains of many travelling house have been discovered in the big city. They range from two-roomed house to large buildings which five feet in length and ninety seven feet in width. Houses were built in rows on both sides of the road. Burnt bricks were used for building. There was no road obstruction by house-building. There were houses in lanes also. The houses of rich people were large with several rooms. The poor people, however, lived in smaller houses.

The Town Planning of Indus Valley Civilization very much systematic. The civic organizations of two cities were highly developed. Roads, dwelling houses, forts or large buildings confirmed to the same pattern. This compels the conclusion that the system of centralized administration had been in vogue in the cities for ages.