

Features of the Civilisation:

On the basis of the large excavations carried on in Harappa, Mohenjodaro, Kalibangan, Lothal, Swikotada, Dholavira, etc., the salient features of this civilisation can be studied under the following

1. Town Planning and Buildings - The most striking feature of the

Harappan civilisation was its own planning: The cities were built according to a well laid out scientific plan: There was an excellent uniformity in the planning and construction of the cities.

2. Mohenjodaro: A Planned Urban Centre → Harappa too, like Mohenjodaro was a planned urban centre and there were many similarities in the town planning of both the cities. However, it should be kept in mind that all the settlements of the Harappan civilisation did not have similar planning. For example, Dholavira and Banawali had only one mound surrounded by a wall. It had three or four walled sectors. The site of Lothal in Gujarat shows a different layout. It was a rectangular settlement surrounded by a brick wall. It was not divided into a citadel and the lower city. A brick basin was found in the eastern part of the city which has been identified as dockyard.

A large wooden plank just like the modern signboard has been found near the main gate of Dholavira. It has ten symbols each measuring approximately 37 cm high and 25 to 27 cm wide.

3. Arrangement of Streets → Another outstanding feature of the town planning of the Harappan civilisation was its well laid out of streets. The towns and cities were well planned. The road and streets ran straight and cut each other on the right angles.

The street were laid out from east to west and north to south dividing the city into many sectors. The width of the roads in Mohenjodaro ranged from 13.5 feet to 33 feet. The roads were laid out in such a manner that they cleaned automatically by the blowing winds. The streets were 9 to 12 feet in width.

4. Drainage System → The Harappan people were skilled in the construction of the drains. Every house had small drains made of burnt bricks connected with bathrooms and latrines. They carried the waste water of the houses to the medium sized drains built in the side street. The medium sized drains would further meet the series constructed along the main streets. Normally the drains were about 9 inches in width and 1 foot deep. But some of them were double their size. The drains were covered and made of

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burnt bricks.

5. The Great Bath → The most significant building of Mohenjodaro is its Great Bath, comprising the tank which is situated in citadel mound. Made of finely built burnt bricks it is a remarkable specimen of architecture. It measures 12m. by 7m and is about 3m deep. The floor of the bath is made of burnt bricks. There were rooms on three sides, in one of which was a large ~~was~~ well. It supplied water to the tank. There was a corrugated drain in order to discharge water from the tank.

6. The Large Granary → A large granary too, has been found in the mound of the citadel at Mohenjodaro. Its only lower bricks portions have been found as the upper portions, perhaps of wood, decayed long ago. Such a large granary has been found in Harappa too. It consisted of a series of brick platforms forming the base of two rows of six granaries. There were rows of circular platforms to the south of these granaries.