

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 8: In Chapter 8, Vital Villages, Thriving Towns from the CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Book, provides a comprehensive look into the structure and life of ancient villages and towns. This chapter is important for understanding the economic and social dynamics of historical settlements.

Students will gain insights into the social hierarchy of these settlements and how towns evolved into centers of commerce and culture. The chapter provides a glimpse into the daily lives, customs and living conditions of people in ancient times. Our detailed notes on this chapter help students build a strong foundation in these concepts, improve their comprehension of historical social and economic systems and prepare effectively for exams by focusing on important topics and essential details.

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 8 Overview

The notes for Chapter 8, Vital Villages, Thriving Towns are prepared by the subject experts of Physics Wallah to provide a clear and detailed understanding of ancient village and town life. These notes provide a thorough overview of the economic, social and cultural aspects of historical settlements.

By using these notes, students can learn about the daily lives, traditions, and living conditions of people from history. This will make it easier to understand the chapter and do well in your exams.

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 8 PDF

The PDF for Chapter 8 Vital Villages, Thriving Town is available for download. It covers important aspects such as the organization of villages, the roles of different occupations and the growth of towns. By referring to this PDF students can gain a thorough understanding of the chapter making it a valuable resource for studying and preparing for exams. You can access the PDF using the link provided below.

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 8 PDF

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 8 Vital Villages, Thriving Towns

Below we have provided CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 8 Vital Villages, Thriving Towns-

Iron Tools and Agriculture

Iron tools became significant around 2500 years ago, enhancing agricultural productivity. The use of iron tools like axes for clearing forests and ploughshares for farming marked a major advancement. These tools made it easier to cultivate land and increase agricultural yields.

Other Steps to Increase Production: Irrigation

To support the growth of kingdoms and their economies, effective irrigation methods were crucial. This period saw the development of various irrigation systems, such as canals, wells, tanks and artificial lakes. These irrigation works helped manage water resources, ensuring consistent agricultural production and supporting the flourishing of villages.

Who Lived in the Villages?

In the villages of the southern and northern parts of the subcontinent, different types of people lived and worked:

1. **Large Landowners:** In the southern parts, large landowners were called **vellalar**, while in the northern regions, they were known as **grama bhojaka**. The grama bhojaka held this position for generations, and it was often hereditary. They were the largest landowners in their area, had slaves, and hired workers to cultivate their land. They played significant roles, such as collecting taxes, acting as judges, and maintaining order in their villages.
2. **Ordinary Ploughmen:** Ordinary farmers who worked the land were known as **uzhavar** in the south. These individuals worked on their own or rented land and were crucial for agricultural production.
3. **Landless Laborers:** The landless laborers, including slaves, were referred to as **kadaiyyar** and **adimai**. They did not own land and earned their living by working on the fields of others.

Finding Out About Cities: Stories, Travellers, Sculptures and Archaeology

Understanding ancient cities involves examining various sources and types of evidence:

Jatakas: These are stories composed by ordinary people and preserved by Buddhist monks. They provide valuable insights into the daily life and beliefs of people in ancient times.

Sculptures: Sculptors created carvings that depicted scenes from daily life in towns, villages, and forests. These carvings were used to decorate important buildings like railings, pillars, and gateways, offering visual evidence of past life.

Archaeological Evidence: Early cities, which began to develop around 2500 years ago as capitals of mahajanapadas, were often fortified with massive walls. Archaeologists have discovered ring wells—circular pits used for toilets, drains, or garbage dumps—usually found in

individual homes. However, many remains of palaces, markets, and ordinary homes have not survived, possibly due to their construction materials like wood and mud, which decayed over time.

Travellers' Accounts: Accounts from sailors and travelers who visited these early cities provide detailed descriptions of the ports and urban life. For example, an unknown Greek sailor's records offer valuable information about the cities he visited.

Coins: Coins were a key measure of wealth. Archaeologists have found many coins from this period, including punch-marked coins, which were often rectangular, square, or round. These coins, made from metal sheets or flattened metal globules and stamped with symbols, were widely circulated until the early centuries CE.

Cities with Many Functions

Mathura, a city with a rich history spanning over 2500 years, stands out for its multifaceted role in ancient times. Strategically located at the crossroads of major travel and trade routes—connecting the northwest to the east and the north to the south—Mathura was an essential hub for commerce and movement. The city was fortified and had several significant shrines, reflecting its importance in both defense and religious life.

Farmers and herders from the surrounding areas supplied food to Mathura, supporting its large population. The city was renowned for its exquisite sculptures, which were created around 2000 years ago. Mathura also served as the second capital of the Kushana Empire, highlighting its political significance.

In addition to its commercial and political roles, Mathura was a prominent religious center. It housed Buddhist monasteries and Jaina shrines and was a key site for Krishna worship. Inscriptions on stone slabs and statues found in Mathura provide evidence of the city's religious and social activities. These inscriptions, made by kings, queens, officers, merchants, and craftspeople, recorded donations to monasteries and shrines, reflecting the city's vibrant cultural and spiritual life.

Crafts and Craftspersons

Craftsmanship played a significant role in ancient societies, with evidence of highly developed skills in pottery and textile manufacturing. Northern Black Polished Ware (NBPW) is a notable type of fine pottery commonly found in the northern regions of the subcontinent, showcasing the advanced pottery techniques of the time. Texts from this period highlight the importance of cloth manufacturing, with renowned centers like Varanasi in the north and Madurai in the south. Both men and women worked in these bustling craft centers, contributing to the region's vibrant artisan culture.

Craftspersons and merchants organized themselves into associations called shrenis. These shrenis were crucial for managing various aspects of the craft and trade industries. Shrenis of

craftspersons provided training, sourced raw materials, and distributed finished products, while those of merchants organized trade and functioned as banks. Wealthy individuals deposited money with these merchant shrenis, which was invested and used to support religious institutions, such as monasteries.

A Closer Look - Arikamedu

Arikamedu, located in Puducherry, was a key coastal settlement that played a pivotal role in ancient trade. It served as a major port where ships unloaded goods from distant lands. Archaeological findings at Arikamedu include a large brick structure identified as a warehouse, along with pottery from the Mediterranean region, such as amphorae used for storing liquids like wine or oil. The site also revealed stamped red-glazed pottery known as Arretine Ware, which was made using pressed clay molds and featured Roman designs.

Elsewhere

Rome, one of the oldest cities in Europe, developed around the same time as the cities in the Ganga valley. As the capital of a vast empire that spanned Europe, North Africa, and West Asia, Rome was a center of immense influence and power. Augustus, one of Rome's most significant emperors, ruled about 2000 years ago and transformed Rome from a city of brick into a city of marble. Under his leadership and that of subsequent rulers, Rome saw the construction of grand temples and palaces, as well as colossal amphitheaters where citizens could enjoy various public performances.

The city was also known for its impressive public baths, which had separate times for men and women, providing a space for socializing and relaxation. Additionally, huge aqueducts were built to supply water to the city, feeding into the baths, fountains, and toilets, showcasing Rome's advanced engineering and urban planning.

Important Questions for CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 8 Vital Villages, Thriving Towns

Here are the important questions and answers of Chapter 8 for Class 6 students:

Q.1. What were the tools that were used in the ancient Indian subcontinent?

Ans: Around 3000 years ago, iron tools began to be used extensively in the Indian subcontinent. These tools included iron axes and ploughshares. Axes were used for cutting trees and clearing forests, while ploughshares helped improve agricultural production. These tools played a crucial role in setting up villages and enhancing farming efficiency.

Q.2. What kind of people lived in the villages during the ancient period?

Ans: In ancient Indian villages, different kinds of people lived based on their roles and status. In the Tamil region, there were large landowners called Vellalar, ordinary ploughmen known as Uzhavar, and landless laborers including slaves called Kadaiyyar and Adimai. In the northern part, the Grama Bhojaka was the village headman and the largest landowner. Independent farmers, known as Grihapatis, owned smaller lands, while Dasa Karmakara were landless workers who worked on others' fields.

Q.3. What are the most reliable sources for learning about ancient Indian cities?

Ans: Reliable sources for learning about ancient Indian cities include stories like the Jatakas, which provide moral lessons and insights into daily life. Sculptures and inscriptions found on buildings, pillars, and roads reveal details about the past. Traveller accounts, such as those from an unknown Greek traveller, offer descriptions of ports and cities. Archaeological evidence also plays a crucial role in uncovering historical information.

Q.4. Why was Mathura considered an important city?

Ans: Mathura was an important city due to its strategic location at the crossroads of major trade routes and its significant religious role. It was surrounded by fortifications and featured many sculptures. The city was a hub for trade, with farmers and herders supplying food. Mathura was also a major religious center with numerous monasteries, shrines, and was known for Krishna worship.

Q.5. What kind of crafts and craftspersons lived in ancient India?

Ans: Ancient Indian crafts were highly developed, with craftspersons creating fine pottery, such as the Northern Black Polished Ware found in the north. Varanasi and Madurai were famous for their cloth manufacturing. Craftspersons and merchants organized into groups called shrenis, which helped in training, procuring materials, and distributing products. These shrenis also functioned as banks and supported religious institutions.

Benefits of CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 8 Vital Villages, Thriving Towns

Clear Conceptual Understanding: The notes simplify complex historical concepts making it easier for students to grasp the significance of ancient village life and urbanization.

Improved Exam Performance: By highlighting important facts and providing structured information, these notes help students in answering exam questions accurately and comprehensively.

Enhanced Retention: Simple explanations and organized content help in better retention of historical facts, which is important for exam preparation.

Foundation for Future Topics: Understanding the development of villages and towns provides a solid foundation for studying more advanced historical topics in higher grades.