

HISTORY

Chapter 9: Vital Villages, Thriving Towns



Important Questions

➤ Multiple Choice Questions:

Question 1. Shrenis were:

- (a) Associations of farmers
- (b) Associations of slaves
- (c) Associations of women
- (d) Associations of artisans and merchants.

Question 2. Mathura has been an important settlement for more than:

- (a) 5000 years
- (b) 4000 years
- (c) 3000 years
- (d) 2500 years

Question 3. Roman designs were found in:

- (a) Mathura site
- (b) Samath Site
- (c) Arikamedu site
- (d) Pataliputra

Question 4. Rules for spinning and weaving are mentioned in Arthashastra:

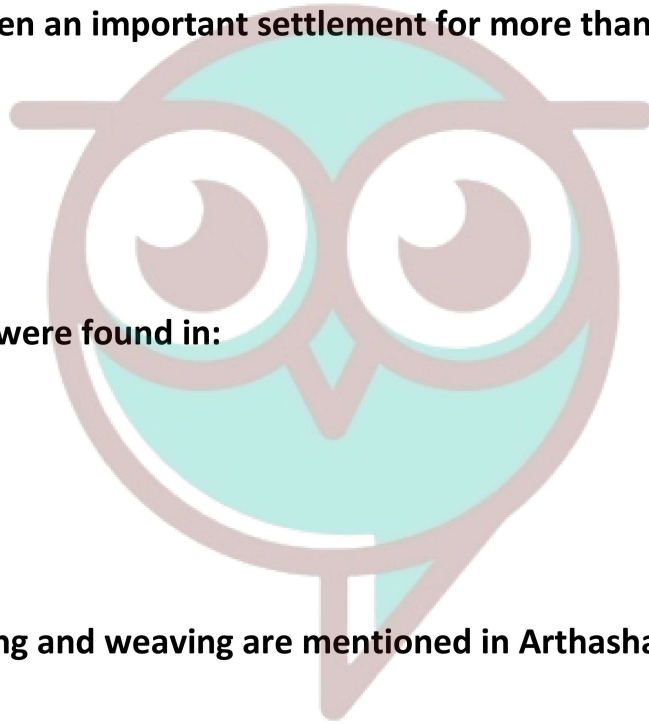
- (a) Chapter 8
- (b) Chapter 10
- (c) Chapter 12
- (d) Chapter 15

Question 5. What was not found in Arikamedu?

- (a) Bricks structure which may have been warehouse.
- (b) Pottery along with Roman pottery.
- (c) Small tanks for dyeing the cloths.
- (d) Making of beads from semi-precious stones and glass.
- (e) Emblem.

Question 6. There is evidence for the growing use of iron tools:

- (a) Around 2500 years ago



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- (b) Around 3000 years ago
- (c) Around 3500 years ago
- (d) Around 4000 years ago

Question 7. Canals, wells, tanks and artificial lakes specially contribute in:

- (a) Building houses
- (b) Irrigation
- (c) Animal bath
- (d) Rearing of animals

Question 8. Jatakas are:

- (a) Stories composed by ordinary people
- (b) Stories composed by Sangams
- (c) Text composed by Buddhist monks
- (d) Text composed by Kings

Question 9. Who described all the ports he visited?

- (a) Megasthenes
- (b) An Italian sailor
- (c) An unknown Greek sailor
- (d) None

Question 10. The design of earliest coins were:

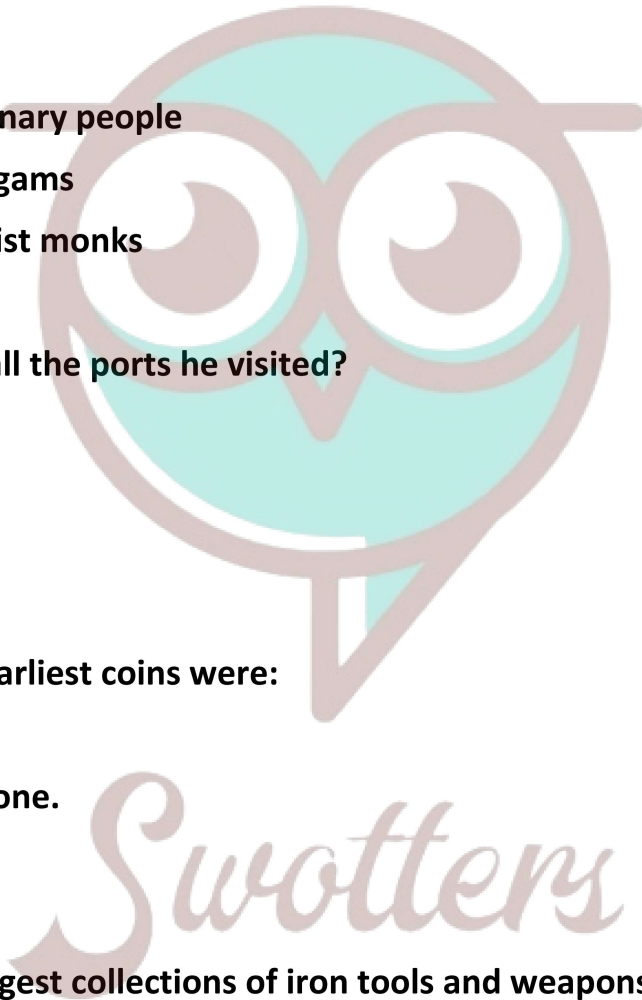
- (a) Punched to the metal
- (b) Engraved on the metal None.
- (c) Colouring on the metal
- (d) None

Question 11. Some of the largest collections of iron tools and weapons were found in the:

- (a) Sanchi stupas
- (b) Mehrgarh
- (c) Megalithic burials
- (d) Ring wells

Question 12. Which of the following was the means of irrigation that were built around 2500 years:

- (a) Canals



- (b) Wells
- (c) Artificial lakes
- (d) All of these

Question 13. An assembly of gathering of literacy persons:

- (a) Satembly
- (b) Satyam
- (c) Sangam
- (d) Sagar

Question 14. Archaeologists have found rows of pots, or ceramic rings arranged one on top of the other. These are known as:

- (a) Canals wells
- (b) Tank wells
- (c) Tube wells
- (d) Ring wells

Question 15. Mathura became the second capital of _____

- (a) Mauryas
- (b) Kushanas
- (c) Pallavas
- (d) Guptas

➤ Match The Following:

	Column-I		Column-II
1.	Ploughmen	A.	Vellalar
2.	Landless labourer	B.	Uzhavar
3.	Large landowner	C.	Kadaiyyar

➤ Fill in the blanks:

1. _____ was a word used for large landowners in Tamil.
2. The gramabhojaka often got his land cultivated by the _____ and _____.
3. Ploughmen were known as _____ in Tamil.
4. Most grihapatis were _____ landowners.
5. Punch marked coins were made of _____.

6. _____ are tall double-handled jars that contained liquids such as wine or oil.

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F):**

1. Grama Bhojaka also functioned as a judge, and sometimes as a policeman.
2. Mathura was an important centre for the worship of Lord Shiva.
3. The Tamil terms are found in Sangam literature.
4. Ring wells were used for bathing.
5. Stamped red-glazed pottery, known as Arretine Ware.

➤ **Very Short Questions:**

1. When did the use of iron begin in the subcontinent?
2. What does vellalar mean?
3. Why were Varanasi and Madurai famous?
4. Where were some of the largest collections of iron tools found?
5. How wealth is measured during early times?
6. What were Shrenis?
7. How did Dasa Karmakara earn a living?
8. Who was called Grama Bhojaka?
9. Who was Dasa Karmakara?
10. What is Sangam literature?
11. What was Arikamedu during ancient India?
12. What were aqueducts?
13. What do you understand by Jatakas?
14. What are ring wells?
15. Make a list of the occupations of people who lived in Mathura.

➤ **Short Questions:**

1. What were ring wells used for?
2. Why the earliest coins which were in use for about 500 years were called punch marked coins?
3. Why some of the earliest works in Tamil, known as Sangam literature?
4. List all the women who could be employed by the superintendent.
5. What kinds of inscription have been found in Mathura?

➤ **Long Questions:**

1. Who lived in the village?
2. What are the ways of finding out about early cities?
3. What has been found in the archaeological excavations at Arikamedu?
4. What were the functions performed by Shrenis?
5. Mathura has been an important settlement for more than 2500 years. Give reasons.
6. Write a short note on Grama Bhojaka.

ANSWER KEY –

➤ **Multiple Choice Answer:**

1. (d) Associations of artisans and merchants.
2. (d) 2500 years
3. (c) Arikamedu site
4. (a) Chapter 8
5. (d) Making of beads from semi-precious stones and glass.
6. (a) Around 2500 years ago
7. (b) Irrigation
8. (a) Stories composed by ordinary people
9. (c) An unknown Greek sailor
10. (a) Punched to the metal
11. (c) Megalithic burials
12. (d) All of these
13. (c) Sangam
14. (d) Ring wells
15. (b) Kushanas

➤ **Match The Following:**

	Column-I		Column-II
1.	Ploughmen	B.	Uzhavar
2.	Landless labourer	C.	Kadaiyyar
3.	Large landowner	A.	Vellalar

➤ **Fill in the blanks:**

1. Vellalar
2. Slaves and hired workers
3. Uzhavar
4. Smaller
5. Silver
6. Amphorae

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F):**

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. False
5. True

➤ **Very Short Answer:**

1. Use of iron in the subcontinent began about 3000 years ago.
2. In the Tamil region, large landowners were known as vellalar.
3. Both were famous centres for manufacturing of cloth.
4. These were found in the megalithic burials.
5. Wealth is measured in terms of coins.
6. Many crafts persons and merchants formed associations known as shrenis.
7. Dasa Karmakara had to earn a living working on the fields owned by others.
8. In the northern part of the country, the village headman was known as the grama bhojaka.
9. There were men and women who did not own land were known as the dasa karmakara.
10. Some of the earliest works in Tamil, known as Sangam literature, were composed around 2300 years ago.
11. Between 2200 and 1900 years ago, Arikamedu was a coastal settlement where ships unloaded goods from distant lands.
12. Huge aqueducts were the channels to supply water which were built to bring water to the city for the baths, fountains and toilets.
13. These were stories that were probably composed by ordinary people, and then written down and preserved by Buddhist monks.

14. In many cities, archaeologists have found rows of pots, or ceramic rings arranged one on top of the other. These are known as ring wells.
15. The main occupations of the people were goldsmiths, blacksmiths, weavers, basket makers, garland makers, perfumers.

➤ Short Answer:

1. These seem to have been used as toilets in some cases, and as drains and garbage dumps. These ring wells are usually found in individual houses.
2. They have been given this name because the designs were punched on to the metal — silver or copper.
3. These texts were called Sangam because they were supposed to have been composed and compiled in assemblies (known as sangams) of poets that were held in the city of Madurai.
4. Widows, young women who are differently abled, nuns, mothers of courtesans, retired women servants of the king, women who have retired from service in temples, may be employed by the superintendent.
5. Generally, these are short inscriptions, recording gifts made by men (and sometimes women) to monasteries and shrines. These were made by kings and queens, officers, merchants, and crafts persons who lived in the city.

➤ Long Answer:

1. There were at least three different kinds of people living in most villages in the southern and northern parts of the subcontinent. In the Tamil region, large landowners were known as vellalar, ordinary ploughmen were known as uzhavar, and landless labourers, including slaves, were known as kadaiyiar and adimai.
2. **Ways of finding out about early cities are:**
 - Sculptors carved scenes depicting peoples' lives in towns and villages, as well as in the forest.
 - Archaeologists' findings such as found rows of pots, or ceramic rings arranged one on top of the other.
 - Accounts of sailors and travellers who visited them.
3. **Findings in the archaeological excavations at Arikamedu were:**
 - A massive brick structure, which may have been a warehouse, was found at the site.
 - Other finds include pottery from the Mediterranean region, such as amphorae and stamped red-glazed pottery, known as Arretine Ware, which was named after a city in Italy.
 - Roman lamps, glassware and gems have also been found at the site.

4. Functions performed by Shrenis were:

- These shrenis of crafts persons provided training, procured raw material, and distributed the finished product.
- Then shrenis of merchants organised the trade.
- Shrenis also served as banks, where rich men and women deposited money. This was invested, and part of the interest was returned or used to support religious institutions such as monasteries.

5. Reasons:

- It was important because it was located at the cross roads of two major routes of travel and trade – from the northwest to the east and from north to south.
- There were fortifications around the city, and several shrines.
- Farmers and herders from adjoining areas provided food for people in the city.
- Mathura was also a centre where some extremely fine sculpture was produced.

6. Grama Bhojaka:

- In the northern part of the country, the village headman was known as the grama bhojaka.
- Usually, men from the same family held the position for generations. In other words, the post was hereditary.
- The grama bhojaka was often the largest landowner.
- Generally, he had slaves and hired workers to cultivate the land.
- Besides, as he was powerful, the king often used him to collect taxes from the village.
- He also functioned as a judge, and sometimes as a policeman.



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