

World History

HARAPPA: EVIDENCE, INFERENCE AND ARGUMENT

In the Indus River Valley region, archaeologists have discovered a written language consisting of at least 400 symbols. Unfortunately, no one has been able to decode this language. Therefore, we must speculate about what the society may have been like based on archaeological evidence. The following are some of those pieces of evidence. Using this evidence, make inferences about what Harappan government, economy and culture was like, and what happened to them.

EVIDENCE	INFERENCE
1. Bricks found at three of the major sites of cities are all uniform in their size and shape	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- They had sharp tools that could cut through stone in order to shape the edges uniformly.- They had mortar to bind the rocks together in order to form buildings.- There was a system of supervision in place by the government to make sure the bricks or rocks were good to be used.- The government created a set of rules for each thing built using the bricks.- Food surplus because they could build bricks and allow manpower to build buildings.- Advanced technology from the time such as having uniform bricks.
2. They created thousands of seals with animals and writing many of these seals have been found in Mesopotamia	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- They had a system of writing and communication so they could communicate amongst each other.- They had sharp tools in order to carve animals and write into stone or wax.- Animals played an important role and had different symbolisms as we can see different animals carved into the wax.- The seals could represent different social classes within <u>Mesopotamian (Harappan)</u> culture.- Different seals found in Mesopotamia show that there were different social classes in Harappa, which probably also holds true for mesopotamia.- Since there were seals created, we can infer that there was trade between different groups within Harappa.- From the seals found in Mesopotamia, we can infer there was trade between neighboring Harappa and Mesopotamia through a water based route.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food surplus as people had time to create writing and had time to worship gods, and create seals. - Advanced technology between Harappa and Harappa in which the seals were used, and boats. - Division of labor as there are people that trade with others and people that make seals.
<p>3. An artificial mound was discovered 50 feet high, surrounded by a brick wall. Some rooms were used for ammunition. A large bath was connected, as well as storage space for grain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a division of labor and specialization, as there are rooms meant for different people to use, and different jobs such as baths and storage space. - Ancient people had the resources in order to build these buildings, and they had the skills. - People within these cities had a food surplus because they had places to store space, and they had time for leisure such as bathing. - The government was organized as they had planned for places to store things, ammunition to protect the people and places for people to relax. - There were supervisors usually sent by the government to make sure that nothing went wrong, and also setting building codes. - There were wars as there was a need for a room for ammunition. - Well resourced government.
<p>4. Cities are all laid out with major roads running north and south.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They were technologically advanced as they had the skills to build major roads between places. - Shows that there is a food surplus as there are people that have time to build roads. - There is a division of labor as there are people that build these roads and build the houses these roads lead to. - There is a supervisor to tell the laborers where people should build the roads. - The city is quite prosperous as they have the resources, manpower and time to build roads leading from place to place. - The people have a concept of trade, as the roads show they could commute from place to place without struggle.

<p>5. Many of the government seals have pictures of bulls on them</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This shows that animals play a huge part in Mesopotamian culture as the government being the most prominent part of the social pyramid still uses an animal on its seals. - This shows that bull's in ancient Harappa most likely symbolizes wealth and power as the government used it on the seals. - Shows that the Harappan society was organized and structured as they didn't just use random seals, but instead had each seal represent something different. - Shows that there was a food surplus as people had time to make seals and people had time to figure out a religion, and what animals symbolize what. - The government is trying to convey that they are strong and powerful, so the people should listen to them. - Shows the fauna around the Harappan area.
<p>6. Houses are often 30 feet square and may have been more than one storey. They had indoor toilets and showers with underground sewer systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Harappan people were technologically advanced as they had the skills to build 2 story houses that were quite large for that time. - The Harappan people had a division of labor as there were people that built these houses and people that built the toilets and people who maintained the underground sewer system. - The Harappan people have a food surplus as they had time to build toilets, showers and sewer systems. - The Harappan people had an organized government as they planned what houses to build and how to build them.
<p>7. Many toys and games have been found</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Mesopotamian people were technologically advanced as they had the resources and skills to build toys and games. - There is a food surplus as if people were unfed, they wouldn't have time to build games or have fun playing games. - There was a division of labor because there were people that specialize in making toys and games. - Fairly wealthy society as they have invented games to fill their free time. - The toys may actually represent how people moved around.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a food surplus as if people didn't have

<p>8. Some pots, weapons and a few sacrificed animals have been found in graves.</p>	<p>enough food, they wouldn't have time to sacrifice animals, or dig graves.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Division of labor because there are people that make pots, weapons, dig graves, and even people that sacrifice animals. - The people were highly religious as they used animals for sacrifice, showing that they wanted to please the gods. - The Harappan people had enemies, as weapons do exist in the culture. Plus, if weapons were found in graves, that most likely means a person was buried with them, so the person could have the weapons in the afterlife to protect them against enemies as well. - Harappan people had believed in the afterlife. - The people were well off as they could put resources in graves.
<p>9. At one of the major cities, Lothal, docks were constructed that could adjust with the tides</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Harappan government was structured and organized as they controlled how the cities were built, and they probably also made the rules for those cities. - The Harappan people were technologically advanced as they had the skills to build a city and docks. - The Harappan people had a food surplus because they had time to build entire cities, and make things such as docks. - There is a division of labor because there are builders that build cities, and people that design the docks. - The Harappans lived near water and rivers as they needed to build docks to prevent flooding. - They had trade as their cities are near water.
<p>10. A bead factory was discovered over 5,000 square feet of building space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a food surplus as people had enough time to build a bead factory. - Division of labor as there are people who make beads. - Beads are important to harappan culture as the building is not only big, there are a lot of people working in the building, plus there are people guarding the beads. - Beads could be used for trade.
<p>11. Later excavation shows that cities started to allow garbage to build up in</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The government is slowly becoming less strict on people, and they started to not care about people.

<p>the streets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No system for collecting trash. - Not enough places to hold the trash, so everything builds up. - The government maybe doesn't know how to deal with the problem of trash disposal, or they just don't want to deal with it. - Something bad is happening as a government that originally planned everything began to ignore trash.
<p>12. Some skeletons were found in dead end streets in Mohenjo-Daro, in positions that suggest that they were running or hiding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Could be thieves or slaves who are running away from the city. - Maybe people didn't like their life and wanted to flee away from their home. - Sudden bad things as people are running away instead of using their weapons for fighting off the people. - The government can no longer guarantee basic needs as they are taking away the safety from people. - Possibly a government revolt, as maybe the people weren't happy. - Where things go south because there is chaos and people are hiding and dying.
<p>13. Some city walls were 40 feet thick and 35 feet tall</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There is a food surplus as the people can spare manpower and resources to create a city wall. - Division of labor as there are people that build these walls. - Used to possibly refrain citizens from getting out of the city. - Used to deflect enemies, and protect the city's citizens. - The government is trying to give its citizens a sense of security. - The government is trying to assert that it's powerful and mighty.
<p>14. Hordes of jewelry were found.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Food surplus as people had enough time to make jewelry. - Division of labor as there were people that specialized in making jewelry. - Things are not going well as they are hoarding their valuables, which shows that people are scared that these valuables are going to be taken. - Government might slowly be falling apart once again as people are scared that things are being

	stolen away, and can no longer guarantee safety.
15. Some later houses were not built as sturdily as the original houses they appeared to be built up on platforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There might have been floods, which explains why the houses were beginning to be built on platforms. - There is a food surplus as people are building houses and migrating their houses around, which requires food. - There is a division of labor as there are people that build these houses. - There might have been attacks from neighboring civilizations, so people built their houses higher for more protection. - Advanced technology as they knew how to build houses on platforms. - The government may not be able to provide for the people anymore as the houses are being built more unstable.
16. Lots of silt has been deposited on the sites of some of the cities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - There was a lot of flooding, which shows why the dirt from the river appeared in the city.
17. Mesopotamian literature refers to a land to the east, where they traded wool, leather, and olive oil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Most likely is trade with Harappa as they are one of the largest civilizations near Mesopotamia that can be traded with through sea routes. - Food surplus because people had a lot of resources in order to trade for things. - Advanced technology as they could make wool, leather, and could even press olives into olive oil. - Domesticated animals as there is wool and leather that is traded.

Making an Argument: The Basics

You will now make two arguments about how this civilization collapsed. They will follow this format:

Argument (your main point; a broad, general reason why Harappa collapsed)

Evidence (2 pieces of evidence from the chart that support your argument)

Analysis (explanation of HOW your evidence proves your argument)

Here is an example of an argument about the economy of Harappa and the Indus Civilization:

Argument: The Indus River Valley civilization was able to produce large surpluses of agriculture.

Evidence:

1. At Harappa, archeologists have found a large number of toys.
2. They have unearthed a 5000 square foot bead factory.

Analysis: Devoting so many craftsmen to luxury items indicates that the basic needs of the people were met. There was a division of labor into several areas. Only large agricultural surpluses can free workers

from food production and allow them to take on crafts such as bead and toy production.

Now using the evidence from the exercise, build two arguments about why the Indus River Valley Civilization collapsed:

<p>Argument (1 point):</p>	<p>Internal conflict and incompetent government resulted in Harappa collapsing from the inside.</p>
<p>Evidence (2 points; at least 2 pieces of evidence):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In number 11, we know that trash is building up within the city in the later parts of the civilization. 2. In number 12, there are skeletons that seem to be running or hiding from something. 3. In number 13, city walls are built up to 40 feet thick and 35 feet tall. 4. In number 14, people are beginning to hoard their jewelry. 5. In number 15, the houses were not built as sturdy as before, and became platformed.
<p>Analysis (2 points; explain how each piece of evidence proves your argument):</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A government that originally cared so much about how their houses were built, are now allowing their streets to pile up with trash. The government wanted the people to think they were powerful, but seeing the trash, people could potentially begin to lose trust. 2. Maybe a riot occurred within the city, which resulted in many people running away from the chaos, or attempting to hide completely from it, but are still caught in the end. 3. The city walls not only are used to keep people out, but can also be used to keep people in. If the government thought they were beginning to lose control of their citizens, they would do everything in their power to keep the people within the city. So building the walls would prevent some people from escaping. 4. As people begin to see that there might be chaos within the city, they would begin to fear that something would be stolen from them, and their houses would be broken into, so they decide to hoard all of their valuables to try and protect them. 5. The government losing support would significantly decrease their funding, so they would not care as much about how houses were built, but instead about how they could control the people. <p>Summary: From the government building un-sturdy houses to seeing trash piling up in the city. The people would have had enough, and decide to start mass riots, from the riots, many people run and hide their valuables, but in the end, everybody ends up injured or dead, and the civilization of Harappa would fall forever.</p>

Argument (1 point):	Outside invasion from neighboring countries, which killed off the entirety of Harappa.
Evidence (2 points; at least 2 pieces of evidence):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. In number 3, we see there are ammunition rooms and there are armed people. 2. In number 11, we know that trash is building up within the city in the later parts of the civilization. 3. In number 12, there are skeletons that seem to be running or hiding from something. 4. In number 13, city walls are built up to 40 feet thick and 35 feet tall. 5. In number 14, people are beginning to horde their jewelry.
Analysis (2 points; explain how each piece of evidence proves your argument):	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. People knew they had enemies, so they stockpiled weapons possibly to try and prevent themselves from getting killed, though from their civilization falling, we know that most likely didn't work. 2. A government that originally was organized and structured slowly began to not care whether trash would pile up, showing that they might have been at the brink of an invasion. 3. People were running away and hiding, most likely from invaders that came and were attacking the entire city, though most of the harappan people were wiped out. 4. The city walls are built very thick and tall, so most likely to try and keep invaders out as the harappan people were wary of being attacked again. 5. As people begin to see that they are under attack and might end up deciding to hoard all of their valuables so the enemy does not get their hands on them. <p>Summary: The people of Harappa knew they had hostile neighbors, so they stockpiled weapons and also made tall and thick city walls to try and keep invaders out. But the invasion still came, people were scared and ordered their jewelry, and tried to run and hide, though in the end, it was all futile, and the Harappan civilization fell.</p>

-1=25/25 great job! Very detailed, well-written and logical inferences from evidence. Outstanding arguments: plethora of evidence, detailed and well-written analysis. Shows awesome effort, attention to detail and attention during class discussion.