

Social Science

(History)(Chapter – 8) (Vital Villages, Thriving Towns)

(Class – VI)

Exercises

Let's recall

Question 1:

Fill in the blanks:

- (a) _____ was a word used for large landowners in Tamil.
- (b) The *gramabhojaka* often got his land cultivated by the _____.
- (c) Ploughmen were known as _____ in Tamil.
- (d) Most *grihapatis* were _____ landowners.

Answer 1:

List of the occupations within Mauryan empire are:

- (a) *Vellalar* was a word used for large landowners in Tamil.
- (b) The *gramabhojaka* often got his land cultivated by the *dasa karmakara*.
- (c) Ploughmen were known as *Ujhavar* in Tamil.
- (d) Most *grihapatis* were *small* landowners.

Question 2:

Describe the functions of the *gramabhojaka*. Why do you think he was powerful?

Answer 2:

Gramabhojaka was the biggest landowner and his some of the functions were:

- Collection of taxes from the farmers.
- As judge
- As policeman

Question 3:

List the crafts persons who would have been present in both villages and cities.

Answer 3:

Some of the crafts persons were:

- Potter
- Blacksmith
- Carpenter
- Ironsmith
- Weaver

Question 4:

Choose the correct answer:

(a) Punch marked coins were made of:

1. silver
2. gold
3. tin
4. ivory

(b) Mathura was an important:

1. village
2. port
3. religious centre
4. forested area

(c) *Shrenis* were associations of:

1. rulers
2. crafts persons
3. farmers
4. herders

Answer 4:

(a) 4. drainage

(b) 1. silver

(c) 3. religious centre

(d) 2. crafts persons

Let's discuss

Question 5:

Which of the iron tools shown on page 73 would have been important for agriculture?
What would the other tools have been used for?

Answer 5:

- Sickle was used in agriculture.
- Axe was used for chopping wood.
- Tongs were used in Kitchen or by ironsmith.

Question 6:

Compare the drainage system in your locality with that of the cities mentioned in the lesson. What similarities and differences do you notice?

Answer 6:

The modern drainage system is made up of pipes. Pipes were made up of plastic, metal or ceramic. While the drainage system in this chapter was made up of rings and those rings were stacked together to make a tube like structure.

Similarity: Use of ceramic and tubes.

Difference: Use of rings in those cities.

Let's do

Question 7:

If you have seen craftsperson's at work, describe in a short paragraph what they do. (Hint: how do they get the raw materials, what kind of equipment do they use, how do they work, what happens to the finished product).

Answer 7:

Craftsperson's at Work:

(a) Different crafts persons work in villages and cities. For example, blacksmiths, goldsmiths, carpenters, potters, weavers, etc.

(b) Craftsmen get the raw material from villages, nearby cities, and even import from far regions of India as well as from other countries.

(c) Crafts persons use different types of equipment, as required for their crafts. For example, a potter uses potter's wheel, spade, a stick, a spin-thread, a bright-fire burning or furnace, heating, and beating metal rods.

A blacksmith uses iron and other metals, a furnace, a hammer, a big-iron rod, etc. A weaver uses a spinning wheel, cotton, needle, scissors, dye-colors, dying-vessels, etc. A carpenter uses wood, iron, a hand-ax, borer, iron-blade, nails.

(d) How do/did they work?

Most of the craftsmen worked at their own cottage or home. Other family members used to help him. Many craftsperson's formed associations known as Shrenis. Shrenis of crafts persons provided training, procured raw material, and distributed the finished product.

(e) What happened to the finished products?

After keeping a small part by the craftsperson's for their own or their family's use, they took the remaining part of production (or surplus production) to local markets or neighbour-merchants. These merchants or traders used to take the products to those parts of the country or to other countries where they were demanded by the people or foreign traders or nationals.

Question 8:

List the functions performed by men and women who live in your city or village. In what ways are these similar to those performed by people who lived in Mathura? In what ways are they different?

Answer:

In our city (or in our village) different types of functions such as domestic, officials, related with government posts or departments are performed by men and women as their daily routine.

Mathura. It was (and even today) an important religious city about 2500 years ago. It was also important because this city was located at the two main trade and travel routes. The city is known for several temples and shrines. Farmers and herders from adjoining areas provided food items etc. to the citizens who lived in the city.

Similar. In our city or village, people work as traders or merchants or farmers, as the men of the old city of Mathura performed. The women did a lot of work at home as the domestic wives or ladies perform in modern cities and villages.

Differences. People in Mathura did work for the kings and their family-members but now in cities or villages people do work to meet their daily needs or expenses.

Question 9:

List five things that you buy from the market. Which of these are made in the city/village in which you live, and which are brought by traders from other areas?

Answer:

The list of five things we bought from the market:

- (i) Books : Used by students for reading and others.
- (ii) Notebooks : Used by students for writing and others.
- (iii) Food grains : Grown in villages.
- (iv) Vegetables : Grown in villages.
- (v) Garments : Made in cities.