

## Chapter 8 Vital Villages Thriving Towns

### Q.1 Fill in the blanks:

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

Solution:

(a) Vellalar was a word used for large landowners in Tamil.

(b) Slaves and workers.

(c) Uzhavar

(d) Smaller

### Q.2 Describe the functions of the grambhajka. Why do you think he was powerful?

**Solution:** Gramabhajaka was the village headman and often the largest landowner. He used the slaves and hired workers to cultivate his lands. He collected taxes from the villagers on behalf of the king. He was powerful village personnel, sometimes he functioned as a judge and sometimes as a policeman.

### Q.3 List the crafts persons who would have been present in both villages and cities

**Solution:** Craftsmen like carpenters, weavers, potters, blacksmith etc. were presumably present in both villages and cities. These were important workers and provided good and services for day to day functioning of any settlement.

### Q.4 Choose the correct answer:

a. Ring wells were used for:

1. Bathing
2. Washing clothes
3. Irrigation
4. drainage

b. Punch marked coins were made of:

1. Silver
2. Gold
3. Tin
4. Ivory

**c. Mathura was important:**

1. Rulers
2. Craftspersons
3. Religious centre
4. Forested area

**d. Shrenis were associations of:**

1. Rulers
2. Craftspersons
3. Farmers
4. Herders

**Solution:**

a. Drainage

The archaeologists found rows of pots or ceramic rings arranged one on top of the other, known as ring wells. They were used as toilets in some cases, and as drains and garbage dumps, and were usually found in individual houses.

b. Silver

The punched marked were given this name because the designs were punched on metals like silver or copper.

c. Religious centre

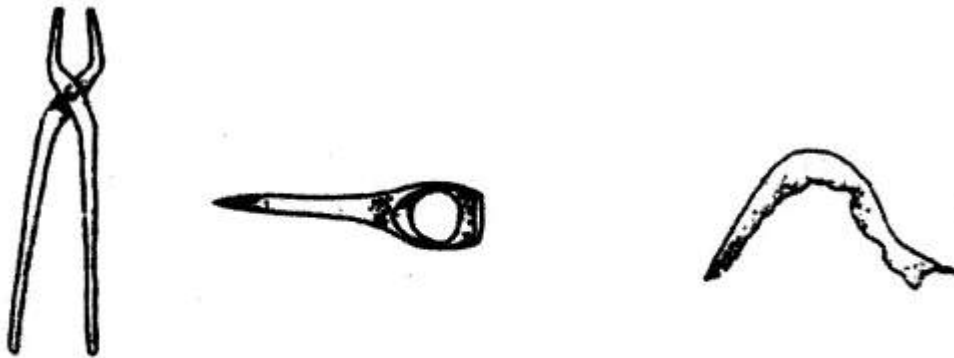
Mathura has been an important settlement for more than 2500 years with several shrines within the fortified city. There were Buddhist monasteries, Jain shrines and it was an important centre for the worship for Lord Krishna.

d. Craftspersons

Shrenis was an association of craftsmen and merchants. These shrenis of craftspersons provided training, procured raw material, and distributed the finished product. Then shrenis of merchants organized the trade.

**Q.5 Which of the iron tools shown on page 79 (of the NCERT textbook) would have been important for agriculture? What would the other tools have been used for?**

**Solution:** The iron tools on page 79 are tongs, axes, and sickle as shown in the picture below respectively. Of these, sickle would have been important for agriculture, axe would have been important for chopping trees and tongs would have been used by a blacksmith for making tools from hot iron.



Iron tools (i) Tongs (ii) Axe (iii) Sickle

**Q.6 Compare the drainage system in your locality with that of the cities mentioned in the lesson. What similarities and differences do you notice?**

**Solution:** The drainage system in our locality is the advanced version of the drainage system in the old cities that were read about. In the old times, mud bricks and thatch were used which could not be sustained for long, while in modern times more durable building material like concrete and metal pipes are used.

**Q.7 If you have seen craftsmen 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)**

**Solution:** I have seen craftsman like cobblers, carpenter, and blacksmith in the city and villages. In cities, cobblers are a common sight and one could be found sitting at almost every corner. He mends shoes by stitching the torn leather or pasting the flapping sole. In villages, they produce handmade shoes and chappals from leather and sell them in urban markets for a good price.

**Q.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?**

**Solution:** This project should be done under the supervision of your subject teacher.