

ANCIENT WORLD

L.No	Title of Lesson	SKILLS	Activity
1	Ancient World	Critical Thinking, Creative Thinking Problem Solving	Understanding Harappan culture by visiting Museums, showing Harappan artifacts and visiting Harappan sites like Rakhigarhi, Kalibanga etc.

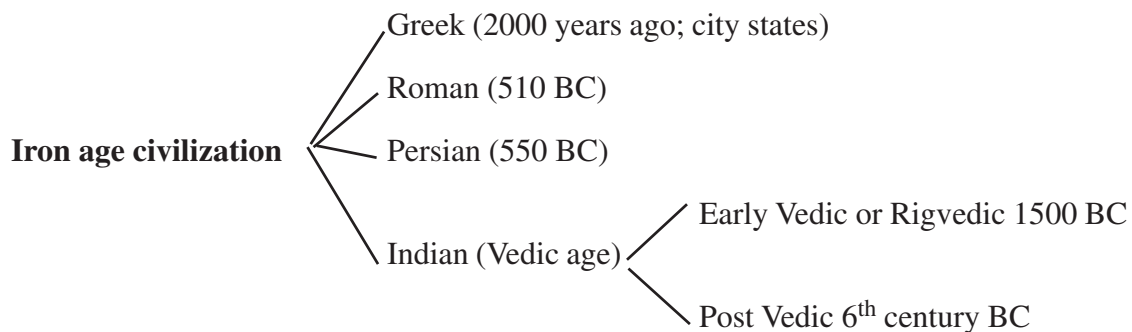
Meaning

Discovery of metal led to human civilisation becoming highly evolved. Copper was the first metal used by human beings; the cultures based on use of both copper and stone are called **Chalcolithic Cultures**. An alloy of copper and tin i.e. bronze which replaced stone, wood and bones to some extent for making weapons and implements. Town based civilization came up for first time in Mesopotamia, Egypt, India and China.

Different Chalcolithic Cultures of the World

S.No.	Name of → civilization	Mesopotamia	Egypt	China	India
	Characteristic feature ↓				
1.	In which river valley	Between Tigris and Euphrates	Nile	Hwang Ho	Indus
2.	Modern city	Iraq	Egypt	North China	Harappa (West Punjab) Sindh, Gujarat, Rajasthan
3.	Crafts Developed in addition to agriculture	Smiths, Potters Masons, Weavers Carpenters	Stone cutters carpenters	Bronze workers	Tools and weapons of copper and bronze; ornaments of gold, silver, precious stones
4.	Transport	Carts, wagons, boats, ships	both land and water	Silk route	both land and water
5.	Script and language	Cuneiform	Hieroglyphics	Common chinese language	Harappan script (Not deciphered yet)
6.	Religion	Worshipped sky Sun, Moon fertility	Temples dedicated to particular Gods in each town	worshipped number of deities, ancestors nature and spirits	Mother Goddess, lingam worship

7.	Ruling class	Priests, kings, aristocrats	Priests, Pharaohs, ministers (kings)	Shangs (1523-1122 BC) Zhou (1122-221 BC) Chun (221 BC - 220 AD)	Kings 2500 BC-1500 BC
8.	Other classes of society	Merchants, slaves, ordinary people	Peasants, traders, craftsmen and merchants	Peasants, merchants, and craftsmen	Peasants Merchants
9.	Famous Monuments	–	Pyramids, mummified bodies	Great wall of China	Great Bath
10.	Miscellaneous	–	Knowledge of weights and measures	Confucius emphasised society, government, and family emphasised good moral character	Decline due to floods or drying up of rivers or decline of overseas trade



Buddhism

Gautam Buddha was born at Lumbini in 563 BC and at the age of 29 attained enlightenment; gave four noble truths and eight fold path.

Jainism

- Rishabh Nath, the first tirathankara founder of Jainism, Parshvanatha 23rd tirathankar and Vardhamana Mahavira, the 24th tirathankar.
- Mahavir was born in 540 BC at Kundegam near Vaishali; became ascetic at the age of 30, died at Pavapuri in 468 BC near Rajagriha.

Mauryan Age (322 BC-184BC)

- Magadha, the powerful Mahajanpada expanded considerably under Bimbisara, Ajatshatru, Mahapadman and Chandragupta Maurya. In 322 BC defeated Nanda dynasty kings Chandragupta (322-297BC) followed by Bimbisara (297BC-272BC) and Ashoka (272-236BC).

Sangam age 300 BC-200AD)

- Sangam assembly of scholars and literary figures held under the royal patronage of Pandyan kings of Madurai. Early Tamil

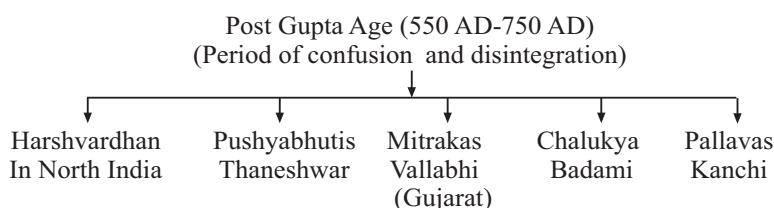
literature comprised work such as Tolkappiyam, Eight Anthologies (Ettutogai), the ten Idylls (Pathupattu), Eighteen minor works and three epics (Shilappadikaram, Manimekalai and Sivaga Sindamani).

Kushana Age

- Kushana were a branch of Yue-chi tribe of central Asia. The greatest ruler of the Kushana dynasty was Kaniska and he was a devoted Buddhist.

Gupta Age (319 AD-550AD)

- Period of high material prosperity mentioned by Fahien (4th-5th AD). Maharaja Shri Gupta founder of Gupta dynasty, succeeded by Ghatotkach Gupta and Chandragupta I (319-315AD)
- Samudra Gupta (his account available in Allahabad pillar inscription) performed Ashwamedha Yagna, a symbol of imperial authority. His son Chandragupta II (415-455 AD) had brought peace and prosperity.



Indian Civilization - An Overview

- Tremendous progress in philosophy and various branches of science.
- Indian contribution to the field of Mathematics, Astronomy, Chemistry, Metallurgy and Medicine remarkable.
- Aryabhatta and Varahmihira, both mathematicians and astronomers of great repute. Charak and Sushurata are great physicians
- Nagarjuna, famous chemist and pharmacist.
- Concept of zero and decimal system evolved in India.
- Great skill in Art, Architecture, Painting and sculpture, Ashokan pillar
- Caves of Ajanta, Ellora, South Indian Temples Stupa of Sanchi.

Evaluate Yourself

- Q. Compare Mesopotamian culture with that of Chinese.
- Q. Give three characteristic features of Roman and Persian civilization.
- Q. Enumerate ancient Indian contribution to the world civilization.