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Harappan Technologies

The Harappan civilization, also known as the Indus Valley Civilization, was an ancient urban civilization that existed in the Indus River Valley in what is now modern-day Pakistan and northwest India. It flourished from around 3300 BCE to 1300 BCE, making it one of the world's earliest urban civilizations. Although much of its written language remains undeciphered, archaeologists have uncovered a variety of artifacts and archaeological sites that provide insights into their technologies and way of life.

Here are some of the notable technologies and features associated with the Harappan civilization:

1. **Urban Planning:** Harappan cities were meticulously planned, with well-organized streets laid out in a grid pattern. The cities had advanced drainage systems, with underground sewers that carried waste away from the houses, contributing to sanitation and hygiene.
2. **Brick-Making:** The Harappans were skilled in brick-making and used uniform-sized fired bricks in their construction. The bricks were often used to create multi-story buildings, providing evidence of advanced architectural techniques.
3. **Harappan Script:** The Harappans developed a script that is found on various seals and artifacts. However, it remains undeciphered, so the precise details of their writing system and the information it contains are not yet fully understood.
4. **Trade and Transportation:** The presence of standardized weights and measures across different sites suggests a well-organized system of trade. They had access to a variety of raw materials, including metals like copper, bronze, and gold, which were likely obtained through trade networks.
5. **Craftsmanship:** The Harappans were skilled craftsmen, producing a range of artifacts such as pottery, beads, jewelry, and figurines. They created intricate pottery with unique designs and decorations.
6. **Agriculture and Irrigation:** The Harappans practiced agriculture, relying on a sophisticated system of irrigation to cultivate crops. They built extensive canal systems to divert water from rivers to their fields, contributing to agricultural productivity.
7. **Domestication of Animals:** The Harappans domesticated animals like cattle, sheep, and goats, which provided them with not only food but also materials like wool, leather, and dairy products.
8. **Metalworking:** Evidence suggests that the Harappans were skilled metalworkers, using copper and bronze to create tools, ornaments, and other items. They also engaged in bead-making using materials like carnelian, steatite, and lapis lazuli.
9. **Art and Seals:** Intricately carved seals made from materials like steatite have been discovered, often depicting animals and mythical creatures. These seals might have been used for trade, administrative purposes, or as amulets.
10. **Social Organization:** The standardized city layouts, uniform brick sizes, and consistent weights and measures suggest a level of centralized planning and administration, which implies a complex social and political organization.

While our understanding of the Harappan technologies and way of life has grown over the years, there are still many aspects of this civilization that remain a mystery due to the limited decipherment of their script and the challenges of archaeological research.