

Lesson No.	Title of Lesson	Module No.
1	History and Appreciation of Art (From 3000 BC to 600 AD)	1

Brief introduction

- We see a gradual development in Art and Crafts from **Indus Valley Civilization** (2500 BC - 1750 BC) to **Mauryan** dynasty (Third Century BC).
- Artists of **Harappan** period were extremely skilled.
- Highly polished sculpted pillars from the **Ashokan** period are the precious treasure of Indian art.
- Great **Stupas** and Sculptures of **Sanchi** in Madhya Pradesh came into being during this period.
- Gupta period is regarded as the golden period in Indian Art History.
- **Mathura, Sarnath, Ujjain, Ahichhatra** and some other places became important centres during this period.
- The religious sculptures show a divine quality.
- Famous paintings of Ajanta were done during this period.
- Cave and temple architectures such as **Udaigiri** caves in Madhya Pradesh and **Nachna** and **Bhumara** are famous temple architectures of this period.

1.1

DANCING GIRL

Particulars

Title : *Dancing Girl*

Artist : *Unknown*

Medium : *Metal*

Finding site : *Mohan-jo-Daro*

Period : *Harappan period
(2500 BC)*

Size : *4"*

Collection : *National Museum, New Delhi*



Appreciation of the Sculpture

- The statue is made of Bronze.
- It is one of the finest examples of artistic and technical skills of Indus Valley Craftsmen.
- The figure is lanky, thin and rhythmic in character.
- She has been shown without clothes with bangles till almost her shoulders in her left hand like the tribals of Gujarat and Rajasthan of modern days.
- She stands in a resting posture with her right hand at her waist and her left hand on her left thigh having an elaborate contemporary hair style.
- It is 4" in height.

Develop your understanding about the Sculpture

- The craftsmanship and artistic skills have been blended very successfully in **Dancing Girl**.
- The casting shows accuracy of the artists in metal casting during that period.
- Fine skills of metal casting and artistic refinery are manifested in **Dancing Girl**.

Evaluate Yourself

- 1.1.1 Name the medium of the sculpture **Dancing Girl**?
- 1.1.2 Mention the height of the sculpture?

Answer

- 1.1.1 Bronze
- 1.1.2 4 inches (Approximate)

1.2

RAMPURVA BULL CAPITAL

Particulars

Title : Bull Capital

Artist : Unknown

Medium : Polished
sandstone

Finding Site : Rampurva

Period : Mauryan period
(3rd C.B.C)

Size : 7' (approx.)

Collection : Indian Museum, Kolkata



Appreciation of the Sculpture

- Bull capital is one of the most famous sculptures among the Ashokan capitals.
- It is also known as Rampurva Bull capital, after the name of the place from where it is found.
- This is comprises of a bell-shaped inverted lotus as the base, the abacus and on the top the animal part - a majestic bull.
- There are plant designs around the abacus.
- The figure of the bull dominates over the lotus and the abacus.

Develop your understanding about the Sculpture

- The scholars are of the opinion that the motifs of such sculptures had either come from earlier Middle East or Greek style.
- The design of such sculptures are very minutely and accurately carved.
- The carving of the Bull shows mastery of the Indian Sculptors over their subjects.
- The extremely polished quality of the Bull capital is unique.
- According to the scholars, the technique of high polish was learnt from the sculptors of Middle East.

Evaluate Yourself

- 1.2.1 From where was this Bull Capital found?
 - 1.2.2 What comprises as the base of the Bull Capital?
 - 1.2.3 What is there on the abacus of the Bull Capital?
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Answer

- 1.2.1 Rampurva
- 1.2.2 The base comprises a bell shaped inverted lotus.
- 1.2.3 Plant design.

Appreciation of the Painting

**1.3
BLACK PRINCESS**

Particulars

Title : *Black Princess*

Artist : *Unknown*

Medium : *Wall Painting (Mural)*

Finding Site : *Ajanta*

Period : *Gupta Vakataka Period (2nd C.AD to 6th C.AD)*

Size : *20ft × 6ft (approx.)*



- This painting is one of the best examples of the Ajanta Paintings.
- There is a lyrical quality in the painting.
- The softness of the body contour, subtle bending of the neck and the simplicity give an heavenly quality to the painting.
- The colours used are earthly and devoid of any loudness.

Develop your Understanding about Ajanta Painting

- The paintings were made in the caves of Ajanta which are situated near Aurangabad District of Maharashtra.
- The caves are 30 in number which served as **Chaityas** (worshipping places) and **Viharas** (monasteries).
- Ajanta paintings were done in two phases-**Hinayana** and **Mahayana**.
- Ajanta paintings have been done in tempera technique.
- The themes of paintings are religious as well as imaginative.

Evaluate Yourself

- 1.3.1 Identify the period in which most of the Ajanta Paintings were done.
- 1.3.2 Determine the phases in which the Ajanta Paintings were done.
- 1.3.3 Specify the type of colours used in the Black Princess.

Answer

- 1.3.1 **Gupta-Vakataka** period (2nd C.A.D to 6th C.A.D).
- 1.3.2 **Hinayana** and **Mahayana**.
- 1.3.3 Earthly colours devoid of any loudness.

Do You Know?

- The main sites of the Indus Valley Civilization are **Mohan-jo-Daro** and **Harappa**.
 - The **Dancing Girl** is 4 inches in height, yet looks much taller than her height.
 - The technique of high polish was learnt by **Mauryan** Sculptors from the sculptors of **Middle East**.
 - Ajanta Paintings occupy a unique position in the history of Indian painting because of its vibrant beauty, subtle grace and tempera technique.
 - Artists of **Harappan** period were extremely skilled.
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