



Thirsty For History

Ancient builders created
beautiful stepwells -
that stored water
year-round

Swipe to know all about
The Inverted Pyramid
of Water



Places like **Gujarat and Rajasthan** have long dry seasons and unpredictable rainfall.

So storing water for long periods is very important.

Ancient communities built **stepwells**, which were designed like inverted pyramids.

When water levels dropped, people simply walked farther down the steps to reach it.





Over time, stepwells evolved from practical water structures to elaborate **underground monuments**.

One of the most spectacular examples is the ***Chand Baori*** in Rajasthan. From above, it looks like a giant geometric puzzle carved into the earth.

With over 3,500 perfectly aligned steps dropping nearly 13 storeys, it is an architectural marvel built over 1,000 years ago by **King Chand of the Nikumbh dynasty**.



And just when you think
stepwells couldn't get **more impressive...**

Gujarat reveals one of its most breathtaking iconic
monuments, the **Rani-ki-Vav in Patan.**

It was built over 900 years ago by
Queen Udayamati of the Solanki
dynasty.

The walls of this **UNESCO
World Heritage site** are
adorned with hundreds of
sculptures depicting deities,
apsaras, yoginis, and other
figures.

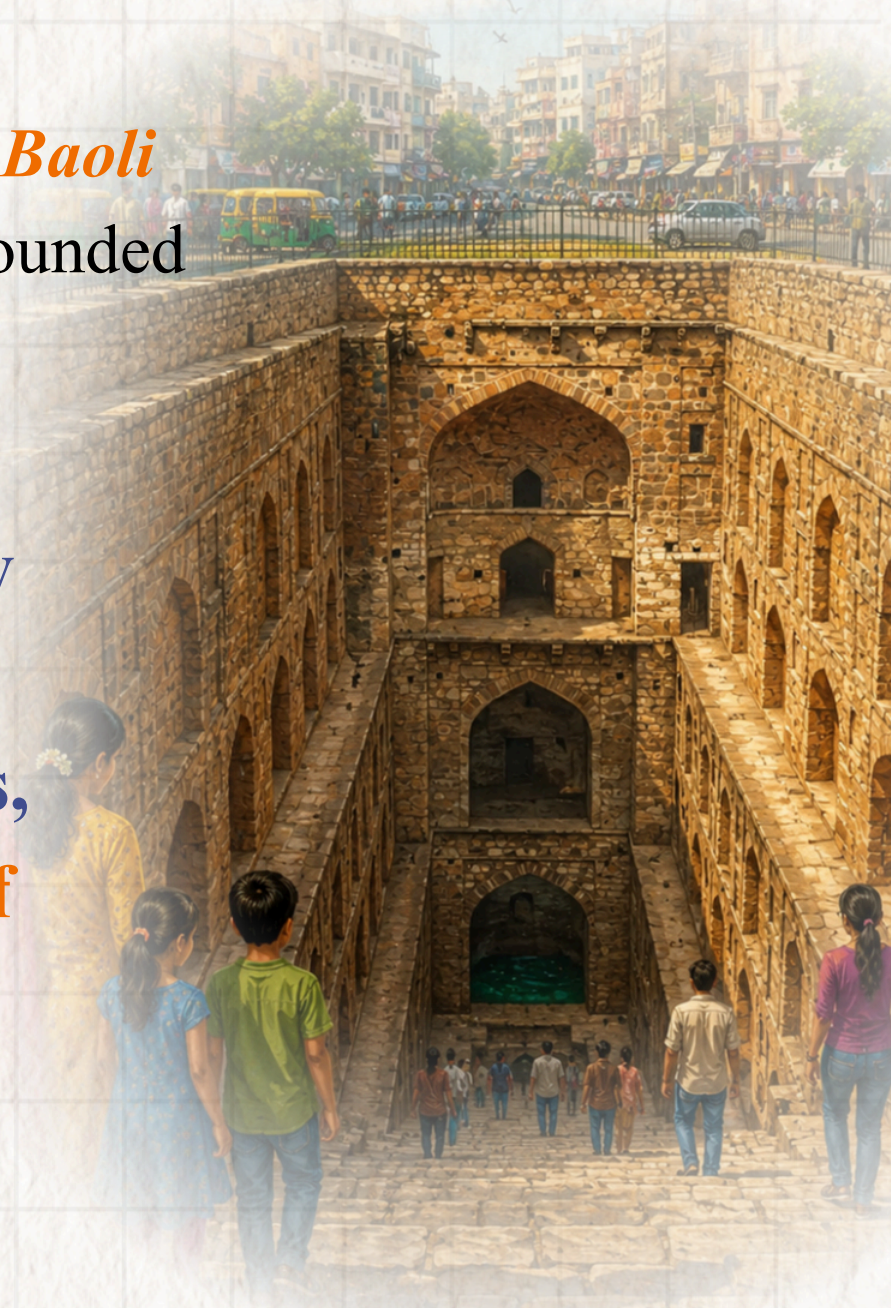


But stepwells were **not limited** to Gujarat or Rajasthan.

Across ***northern India***, similar structures appeared in villages, towns, and cities, each adapted to its local landscape.

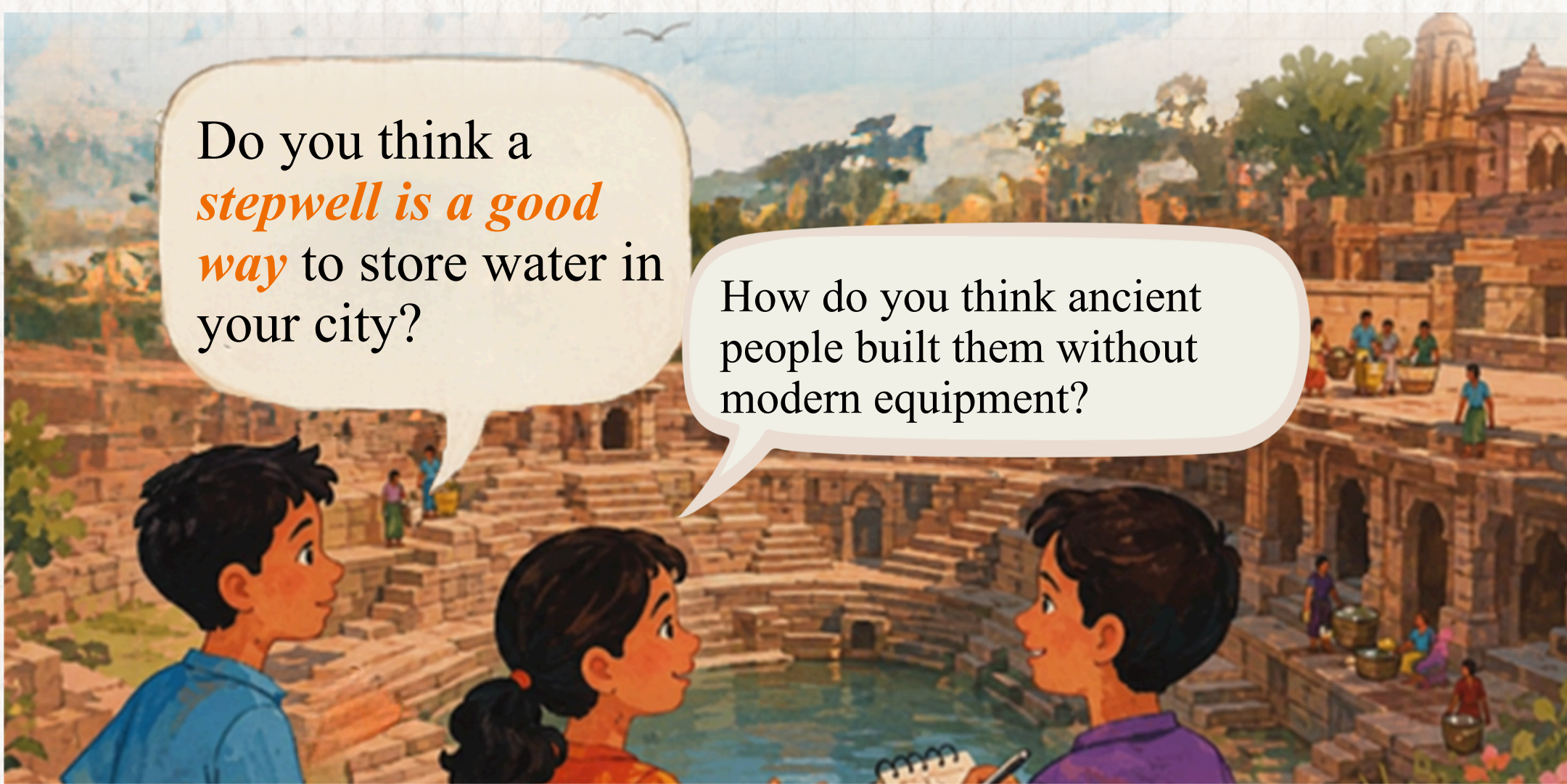
A striking example is the ***Agrasen-ki-Baoli in Delhi***, a historic stepwell now surrounded by the bustle of the modern city.

Standing at the top, you see only a staircase. But as you walk down, the city slowly disappears, and you reach **the cool depths of clean water.**



Stepwells were places where art & architecture, and everyday life came together.

*They stored rainwater and groundwater, supported daily life, and helped people survive harsh climates. At the same time, they also became social spaces, where **people gathered, rested, prayed, and escaped the summer heat.***

The background of the bottom half of the page is a colorful illustration of an ancient stepwell. In the foreground, three children—a boy in a blue shirt, a girl in an orange shirt, and another boy in a purple shirt—are looking towards the stepwell. The stepwell itself is a large, multi-tiered stone structure with many steps leading down to a pool of water. Several people are visible on the steps and near the water. In the background, there are trees and a large, domed building, possibly a temple or palace, under a blue sky with a few birds.

Do you think a **stepwell is a good way** to store water in your city?

How do you think ancient people built them without modern equipment?