

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, JAMMU
SESSION (2020-21)
FOUNDATION WORKSHEET

Class-VII
TOPIC: MEDIEVAL INDIA

Subject- History

INTRODUCTION

VISITING THE PAST

Before we study about the grandeur of the medieval period of Indian history, let us quickly visit the past year to revise what we studied in class 6th. We studied that history is divided into three periods-ancient, medieval and modern. we studied about the ancient period last year. This year we will study about the medieval period.

What Does The Word Medieval Mean in History?

The word 'medieval' stands for something that is located in the middle. So, the period that lies between the ancient and the modern period of history is known as the middle or Medieval period. This division is not made on the basis of days or years or any mathematical calculations or measures but on the basis of changes in social, political and economic structure and in the ideas, faiths and beliefs that show a sharp contrast when compared to the ancient as well as modern times in history.

In India, the medieval period ranges from the beginning of the 8th century (700 AD) to the end of the 18th century(1750AD), that is for nearly 1000 years.

Historians say that the medieval period starts from the 8th century because important visible changes were observed in the society, polity, economic, religion and culture during this century.



For convenience historians have divided the medieval period into two :

- a) Early medieval period: this period dates from the 8th century to the 13th century ie., between 700 and 1200 AD. The powerful kingdoms of the Palas, Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas, Cholas and the Rajputs rule during this period.
- b) Late Medieval period : The Late Medieval Period date from the 13th century to the 18th century, ie. From 1200 to 1750 A.D.. The rule of the Turks, the Afghans and the Mughals comes within this period.

INDIA AND ITS DIFFERENT NAMES

We Need to know certain important facts before we set out on our journey to the medieval time. First our country was called by different names during different periods of

history. In ancient times, our country was known by names of jambudwipa and Bharata Varsha. The Purana is referred to Bharata Varsha as the country that was ruled by a tribe called Bharata the name Bharat Varsha is also mentioned in the rig Veda. India was also known as the land of the people who lived along the river Sindhu (known to us as rivers Indus).

Different languages have very pronunciation as phonic sounds may differ from one region to another. Old Persian language pronounce Sanskrit word Sindhu as Hindu. The word Hindu in French pronunciation became Inde .In English it became India. We need to thank people of many nationalities for giving our country so many names.

Babar, the founder of the Mughal Empire, went a step ahead to include the geography, culture and natural vegetation of the subcontinent to explain Hindustan.

It was only in the 19th century during the british Raj that Hindustan was with its territorial boundaries became identical with India. Post – independence, ie., with the end of the british Raj and the partition, India got its present territorial boundaries.

IMPORTANCE OF MEDIEVAL HISTORY...

- The later medieval period saw the rise of Muslim dynasties. This resulted in several cultural influences and exchanges. Interaction between north and south India also increased. This gave rise to a culture that was truly Indian. It was beyond regional and caste barriers.
- The Muslim rulers provided political stability for many centuries. As a result, there was an increase in trade and commerce. Common people were happy as they were well looked after.
- Overseas trade flourished. Export and import was given impetus, as the as the traders did business with other countries as well.
- Spread of Islam and the bhakti and Sufi movements but some of the important highlights of the medieval period.
- Art and architecture showcased a splendour like never before. Mughal architecture introduced domes, minarets, carvings and the use of red sandstone and marble. The rulers during the different phases of Medieval period were great patrons of literature.



SOURCES

There are two main sources of material history.

- a) Archaeological sources
- b) Literary sources

ARCHEOLOGICAL SOURCES

Archaeological sources, such as monuments like mosques, temples, tombs, ports, art and objects like paintings and sculptures, inscriptions and coins, tools, utensils, ornaments and Jewels of this period are available to us they give valuable information of the period to which they belong.

Monuments



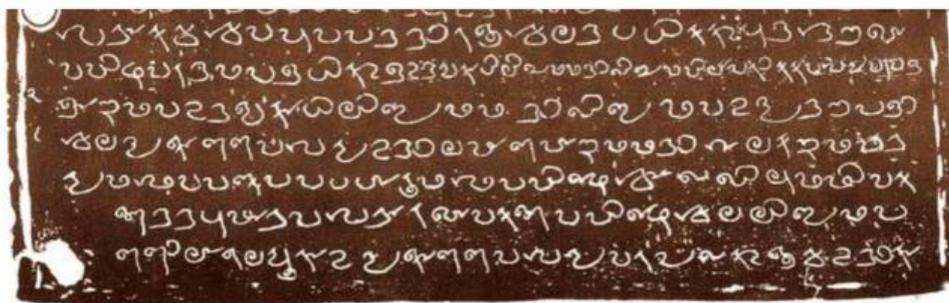
Under old temples, mosques, palaces, forts, tombstones on clock towers are called monuments.



The Taj Mahal and Fatehpur Sikri in Agra, Red Fort in Delhi and Brihadeeshwara temple in Thanjavur are some examples.

Inscriptions

Inscriptions consist of religious instructions or records of royal proclamation and gifts to temples and villages. We find a number of inscriptions for this period. They are found on the walls of Red Fort, Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri and the palace walls of the Rajputs.



COINS

Coins help us to identify the names and ruling period of kings. Coins also help us in knowing the extent of their empires and the presence of coins in foreign lands indicates trade with them.



LITERARY SOURCES

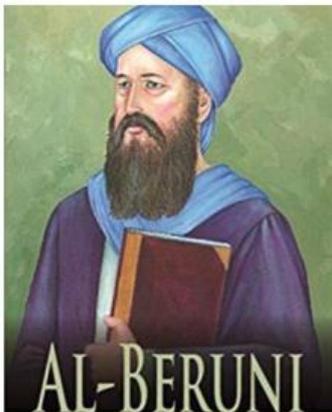
Literary sources or the written records like Chronicles of court, historians regular farmans or official notices or Royal letters on policies and important day to day matters of public interest, autobiographies, biographies, court records and travelogues.

TRAVELOGUES

During the medieval period many famous travellers visited India. The records they maintained give us first hand information of the period some of the famous visitors who wrote travelogues are–

- I) Al Beruni-He came from Central Asia. He gave a detailed account of Indian philosophy and culture in his book.He wrote Tarikh- Al-Hind.
- II) Abdul Razzaq- He visited the kingdom of Vijayanagara.

CHRONICLES



Chronicles are written records of events arranged in the order in which they happened.

Most chronicles are written in Turkish and Persian. Important Chronicles of medieval period are as follows

a) Rajatarangini by Kalhana is the history of the kings of Kashmir.

I) Tarikh-i-Ferishta by Ferishta is a record of the history of the Delhi Sultan's from the time of the Turks till the 17th century.

AUTOBIOGRAPHIES And BIOGRAPHIES

Autobiography is the story of a person's life written by the person himself or herself. Biographies a story of a person's life which is written by someone else.

The autobiographies of the medieval period are-

a) Baburnama by Babur.

b) Tuzuk-i-Jahangiri by Emperor Jahangir.

Important biographies of Medieval period are as follows:

a) Humayunama Written by Gulbadan begum gives detailed account of the reign of the Mughal Emperor Humayun

b) Akbarnama by Adul Fazl informs us about the events of Emperor Akbar's reign.

SOLVED QUESTIONS

Question 1:

Define the following terms: Inscriptions
Chronicles

Answer:

Inscriptions-religious instruction or are records of royal proclamation.
Chronicles-written records of the events arranged in order.

Question 2:

Name the two sources of medieval period?

Answer:

The two sources of medieval period are-Archaeological Source
Literary source

Question 3:

Who ruled during early medieval period?

Answer:

The powerful kingdoms of the Palas, Pratiharas, Rashtrakutas, Cholas and the Rajputs ruled during this period.

Question 4:

What are Travelogues?

Answer:

Accounts written by travellers visiting different countries.

Question 5:

What is autobiography?

Answer:

Autobiography is the story of a persons life written by the person himself or herself.

Question 6:

Who wrote Akbarnama?

Answer:

Abul Fazl wrote Akbarnama.

Question 7:

The medieval period in India extend from _____ to _____.

Answer:

8th century to 18th century

Question 8:
Humayunama was written by _____.

Answer:
Gulbadan Begum

Question 9:
The Muslim rulers provided _____ for many centuries.

Answer:
Political Stability.

Question 10:
Which is the medieval period of Indian history?

Answer:
The medieval period of the Indian history started from the 8th century and lasted up to 18th century. During this period, India witnessed considerable social, economic and political changes.

Question 11:
What is the difference between Autobiography and Biography?

Answer:
Autobiography-Autobiography is the story of a person's life written by the person himself or herself.
Biography-biography of the story of the persons life written by someone else

Question 12:
What are travelogues? Name two travelogues and give reason for them being important source of history.

Answer:
During the medieval period many famous travellers visited India. Their travelogues inform us about the places they visited, their observations and meetings with the royalty and the common people. The record they maintained give us first-hand information of the period.. Some of the famous visitors who wrote travelogues are-
Al Beruni-He came from central Asia. He gave a detailed account of Indian philosophy and culture in his book known as Tarikh-Al Hind.
Abdur Razzaq-He visited the kingdom of the Vijayanagar.

Practice Questions

Question 1:
Define the terms: Monument
Biography

Question 2:

Who visited the kingdom of Vijayanagar during Medieval period?

Question 3:

Who help us to identify the names and ruling period of kings?

Question 4:

The Late Medieval period stretch's from _____ to _____.

Question 5:

In ancient times our country was known by the names of _____ and _____.

Question 6:

Rajatarangini by _____ is the history of the kings of Kashmir.

Question 7:

What is the importance of monument as an important source of information?

Question 8:

How do archaeological source help in the study of history?