

DELHI PUBLIC SCHOOL, JAMMU
FOUNDATION WORK SHEET
SESSION : 2020 –2021

CLASS: VI

SUBJECT: HISTORY

TOPIC : CH- 1 AN APPROACH TOWARD THE PAST

INTRODUCTION AND CONTENT

WHAT IS HISTORY? WHAT HISTORY TEACHES US?

The word ‘History’ comes from the Greek word ‘historia’ which means ‘knowing or learning by inquiry’. Knowledge that is gained from the study of past is called History.

History teaches us great lessons. It guides us what to do and what not to do. History also informs us about our rich past, how people lived, what they ate, what they wore and what types of houses they built.

- The people who describe the past are known as historians.
- Herodotus is known as the Father of History.

IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY

The study of history is important in many ways:

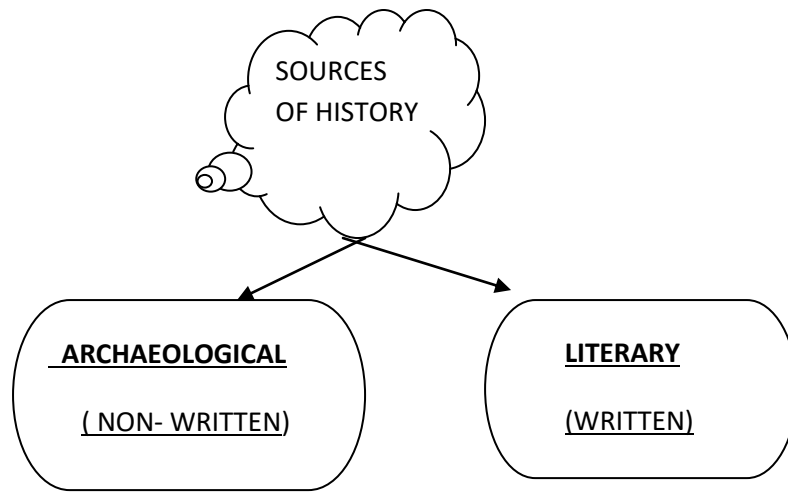
- We come to know about kingdoms, dynasties, kings and leaders by studying history. It also deals with the lives and activities of ordinary people.
- The knowledge gained from the study of history is important to understand both the past and the present. Whatever is happening today will be history tomorrow.
- History guides people to set goals and tells them not to make the same mistakes.
- We understand the continuous development of human beings by studying history.
- We can easily understand the basic nature of society by studying history.

DIVISION OF THE PAST

The past has been divided by historians into two periods

1) Prehistory: It is the period of human development when writing had not been invented and human beings did not know how to read and write. Hence there are no written records for this period.

2) History: It is the period for which written records are available. This covers the time period after the invention of writing. Early writing was done on the bark of birch trees, clay tablets, palm leaves, copper plates and rock pillars.



ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES

Archaeological sources are (direct) evidences. They are physical evidences that are available. For eg:

- **Artefacts**: The objects of different kinds made by humans in the past are called artefacts. For eg: things like metal objects, pottery, tools, ornaments and sculptures.
- **Monuments**: Old buildings, ruins of buildings, temples, stupas, mosques, tombs, caves, palaces and old settlements which are historically important and provide important information of our past heritage are called monuments. The archaeological excavations at Harappa and Mohenjodaro have proved that a planned civilization existed in the Indus valley 5,000 years ago.



A STUPA- AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCE

- **Coins**: Coins are valuable sources of information. These coins are made of gold, silver, copper and other metals.



**INDO-GREEK
COIN**

**MOHUR OF
AKBAR**

**PUNCH- MARKED
COIN**

- **Inscriptions**: Inscriptions are written records engraved on rocks, metal pillars, copper plates, cave walls, walls of temples and palaces and on clay tablets.



LITERARY SOURCES

Whatever our ancestors wrote is an evidence in the form of written records. These are literary sources. In the beginning when paper was not invented, people of that period used to write on *bhojpatra*, the dried bark of trees.

- They also wrote on solid rocks stone, copper plates, rock pillars and tablets.
- Handwritten records of the past, in the form of books are called manuscripts.

Literary sources can be divided into two types:

- Religious literature: Writings that deals with religion is called religious literature. The Vedas, The Brahmanas, The Upanishads etc are religious books that gives important information.
- Secular literature: Writings which are not religious are known as secular literature. These include the historical accounts and biographies written by poets and foreign travellers. For eg: Arthashastra written by Kautilya & Indika written by Megasthenes.

GEOGRAPHICAL IMPACT

The geography of a country plays a major role in its history. Similarly, the geographical features of India have greatly influenced its people and their history. Even the name of the country India has its origin in its geography. The Iranians and Greeks called River Indus as Hindos or Indos, and so the land of the east of the river was called India.

The physical features of India that have shaped Indian history are :

- The Great Himalayas
The Himalayas in the north of India are very high, so they work as a natural barrier for invaders from the north. Hence, very few invasions have taken place from this side.
- The Northern plains
The Northern Plains have determined the development of India. The places along the rivers have developed faster than any other part of the country. Rivers were the main mode of travel. They provided the important resource of water and made the areas around them highly fertile. As a result, agriculture became prosperous near the bank of the rivers and even trade could easily

flourish near the rivers. Some important rivers of North India are Beas, Ganga, Yamuna, Indus.

- **The Deccan Plateau**

The Deccan had always been a very strong and powerful military base. So, it was not easy for mighty powers of the north to win and control deccan for a long time.

- **The Coastal plains**

The Coastal plains of India were isolated by land. They were open to the sea to establish commercial relations with Europeans and south- east Asian and African countries.

THE CONCEPT OF DATES IN HISTORY

As we all know, we calculate our days and nights through a proper system of dates and years. We take the year of birth of Jesus Christ as zero. The years before Christ was born is called BCE (Before Common Era). All dates before the birth of Christ are counted backwards. On the other hand, anything that happened in the years after the birth of Jesus Christ are expressed in CE (Common Era).

Earlier historians were using the terms BC for BCE and AD for CE , Now,they use the terms BCE and CE . CE stands for ‘Common Era’ and BCE stands for ‘Before Common Era’.

SOLVED QUESTIONS

Q1. What is History?

Ans: It is the period for which written records are available.

Q2. Who wrote Arthashastra?

Ans: Arthashastra was written by Kautilya.

Q3. Who is regarded as the father of history?

Ans: Herodotus is regarded as the Father of history.

Q4. Define Bhojpatra.

Ans: Dried bark of bhoj tree used for writing in the past.

Q5. What is the full form of BCE?

Ans: The full form of BCE is Before Common Era.

Q6. What are Inscriptions?

Ans: Inscriptions are written records engraved on rocks, metal pillars, copper plates, cave walls, walls of temple and palaces and on clay tablets.

Q7. Religious literature is a literary source.

Q8. People who describe the past are known as historians.

Q9. Archaeological sources are direct evidences.

Q10 . What are monuments? What do we get to know from them?

Ans: Monuments are old buildings, ruins of old buildings, temples, stupas, mosques, tombs, caves, palaces and old settlements which are historically important. Monuments provide important information of our past heritage. The archaeological excavations at Harappa and Mohenjodaro have proved that a planned civilization existed in the Indus Valley 5,000 years ago.

Q11. How did the Northern Plains influence the history of India.

Ans: The Northern plains influence the history of India as they have determined the development of India. The places along the rivers have developed faster than any other part of the country. Rivers were the main mode of travel. They provided the important resource of water and made the areas around them highly fertile. As a result, agriculture became prosperous near the banks of the river and even trade could easily flourish near the rivers.

Q12. How does the study of history help us?

Ans: The study of history helps us in many ways:

- We come to know about kingdoms, dynasties, kings and leaders by studying history. It also deals with the lives and activities of ordinary people.
- The knowledge gained from the study of history is important to understand both the past and the present.
- History guides people to set goals and tells them not to make the same mistakes.
- We understand the continuous development of human beings by studying history.
- We can easily understand the basic nature of our society by studying history.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q1. MATCH THE COLUMN:

COLOUMN A

- a. Archaeological
- b. Manuscripts
- c. Indika
- d. Coins

COLOUMN B

- Hand written records
- Sources of information
- Non- written
- Megasthenes

Q2. Name any two important rivers of North India.

Q3. Define Secular literature and Artefacts

Q4. What is the difference between history and prehistory?

Q5. Name the two types of Literary sources and explain them.

Q6. How do historians find out about our past?

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