**CLASS-VI**

**SUBJECT:SOCIAL SCIENCE**

**EXPLANATION AND NOTES OF CHAPTER 1 (HISTORY)**

**OUR PASTS**

**Note: Worksheet of this chapter is attached at the end of the explanation.**

**INTRODUCTION:** Every student must have an old album at their home. if you will flip photo album that will tell you so much about the past history of your family i.e about your Parents, Grand parents and Great Grand Parents.

Let us take one more example: we and our parents might be familiar with a means of transport like Aeroplane.

Our Grand Parents are familiar with means of transport like Trains and Buses.

Our Great Grand Parents are familiar with a means of transport like Bullock cart.

so what has happen over the years? Over the years the means of transport has evolved and therefore in history what ever we study is basically the changes that take place during the time.

When the past events are studied carefully and systematically on the basis of available material, remains and record it is called **HISTORY**.

So in this chapter we are going to learn about

* History
* Pre-history
* Why we study History ?
* How to count Years
* How Geography Shapes History
* Sources of History
* One Past or Many

**1.1** **HISTORY**

History tells us the story of our past. It is the study of people and their lives, their actions and belief across the ages.

It tells us what ancient people did for their living, what they ate, what they wore, the language they spoke, the books they read and wrote ,the battles they fought and the religion they followed.

The person who carries out such studies and record the finding is called a **Historian** or Historians are the scholars who study the past.

**1.2 PRE-HISTORY**

At the beginning , man did not lead a settled life but wandered from place to place. He didn’t know how to read and write. So the period of man’s existence for which we have **no written records** is called **Pre-History**.

And that period of time for which we have **written records** is known as **History.**

**Proto-History:** A time period between Pre-history and History is refers to as Proto-History.

**1.3 WHY WE STUDY HISTORY?**

The study of History is important for many reasons:

1. It shows us how things happened in the past have influenced our present.
2. It helps us to understand our roots. It tells about different types of cultures and societies that formed our pasts.
3. It tells about the social evils like slavery, caste-system, hunger and poverty that were the part of our societies in the past.
4. We come to realise the mistakes committed by different people in the past. It helps us to avoid making the same mistakes.
5. It form an idea about how human cultures and civilisations have changed and developed over time.

**1.4 HOW TO COUNT YEARS**

Do you know how Historians arranges the events? They do it in the chronological order.

**CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER**: Means events first followed by events that happened later.

In History, we find dates with BC or AD.

* BC is the short form of Before Christ .BC is written generally after the number .For eg 250 BC. The years are counted **backward** in the period before Christ.
* AD means Anno Domini i.e.in the year of the lord.AD is usually written before the number. For eg AD 150 which means 150 years after the birth of the Christ. In recent times we usually do not put AD before the year. The years are counted **forward** in the period after the birth of Christ.

**HOW TO CALCULATE THE NUMBERS OF YEARS BETWEEN BC AND AD.**

To calculate the number of year between a date in BC and one in AD, the two should be added together.

For e.g 250 BC and AD 150 means

250+150=400 years.

NOTE : Historians some times use CE (Common Era ) in place of AD and BCE (Before Common Era) in place of BC. If the exact date of an event is not known, the word “circa” is added before the date.

**1.5 HOW GEOGRAPHY SHAPES HISTORY**

The physical features of a land can greatly influence the lives of people. They can affect the food people eat, the houses they build, how well they defend their border and the trade they conduct. The history of India , too has been shaped by its geographical feature.

1. **The Great Himalayas:** These ranges stretch across the north of India, acting as barriers to invasions from the north. However they could not stop all invaders. Beside invaders, many travellers and traders also entered the country through passes bringing about an exchange of goods, ideas and cultures.Large empires, such as the Mauryas, the Guptas, and the Mughals, flourished there.
2. **The Great Indian Desert:** The harsh condition in the Thar Desert kept people away from settling there in large numbers. It also act as a barrier to outside influence.
3. **The Deccan Plateau:** The Deccan Plateau served as a strong base for many kingdoms of the south, such as the Cholas and the Chalukyas.
4. **The Coastal Plains:** India’s long coastlines act as a natural barrier to invasions and also helped the southern powers establish trade with many far-off countries like Egypt and Rome.

**1.6 SOURCES OF HISTORY**

Historians study two types of sources to find out about the past. They are

* Archaeological sources
* Literary sources

**ARCHAELOGICAL SOURCES:** There are many archaeological sources that help the historians to know about past:

1. **Inscriptions**- Writing engraved on rocks, pillars, metal plates, clay tablets, walls of temples houses and so on are called Inscriptions. They provide a lot of information about ruler, their reign, their administration or governance and language they use. For eg The Ashokan inscriptions on caves,pillars and stones.
2. **Coins**- Archaeologists found a large number of coins made of gold, silver, copper and other metals. These coins tell us about the kings, languages and life in the periods. For eg Samudragupta’s coins tell us that he played the Veena. The study of coins is known as **numismatics.**
3. **Monuments**-Temples, palaces, fort and other structure built for special purpose are called Monuments. They too give information about the occasion on which they were built and artistic skills of that time. For eg. Sanchi Stupa in Madhya Pradesh.
4. **Artefacts-** When Archaeologists dig around areas where civilisations flourished, they often find sculptures, paintings, pottery, jewellery and other man-made objects. Such objects are called Artefacts. It tells us about the religious and social customs, clothing, food habits of a particular period.

**LITERARY SOURCES**

Literary source refers to all written records of the past. Most of the available Literary sources are hand written document i.e. **MANUSCRIPTS** written on Bhojpatra and Palm Leaves. Literary sources can be the following:

1. **Religious Literature**- Literature on religious themes is called Religious Literature. Eg. Vedas, Pitakas and Angas
2. **Secular Literature**- Literature not connected with religion is called Secular Literature. Eg. Kautilyas’s Arthashastra and Kalidasa’s Abhynanashakuntala. A **chronicle** is a written record in which events are described in the order they happened.
3. **Accounts of foreigners**- it tells us what people from other countries thought of India. Travelogues written by people who travelled around India provide valuable information about Indian History.

**1.7 ONE PAST OR MANY?**

All people did not share one common past. Instead, different groups of people experienced the past differently. That is why historians say we have not one, but many pasts.

**NOTE** **: On the basis of understanding of this chapter try to solve this worksheet. You can write answers in any rough copy or pages whichever is available easily at your home.**

**WORKSHEET**

1. History/Pre-history is the study of that period for which there is no written record. (Select the correct option)
2. The period before the year Christ is believed to have been born is known as:
3. AD (ii) BC (iii) CE (iv) Circa
4. The years are counted **forwards/backwards** in the period before Christ. (Select the correct option.)
5. Expand AD\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. Which of these act as natural barriers to invasions?
7. The Great Himalayas
8. The Great Indian Desert
9. Coastal plains
10. All of these
11. The study of coins is known as\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
12. Historians study \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ sources to find out about the past.
13. Which of these can be classified as archaeological sources?
14. Inscriptions (iii) Artefacts
15. Manuscripts (iv) Both (i) and (iii)
16. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ are writings or drawings found on stones.
17. Artefacts are man-made objects. True or false?
18. A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ is a written record in which events are described in the order they happened.
19. Manuscripts (iii) Play
20. Chronicle (iv) Memoir
21. Buildings of historical importance are known as \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
22. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ was written by Kalidasa.
23. We have one past not many. True or false?
24. Answer the following questions.
25. What is history?

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1. Why is it important to study History? Write any two points.

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1. What are the two main sources of History?

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1. Differentiate between religious and secular literature. Give example of each.

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