

DR. R. N. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

UNDER THE AGIS OF S. S. SITARAMSINGH EDUCATIONAL AND CHARITABLE TRUST
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4. Exploring History: Timeline and Sources

Exercise Solutions

A. Choose and tick (✓) the correct option.

1. A historian is a scholar who:

Answer: a. reconstructs our past

2. The process of digging for old objects is called:

Answer: a. excavation

3. People who study ruins are known as:

Answer: b. archeologists

4. The word 'history' has been taken from the Greek word:

Answer: a. historia

5. The period for which there are no written records is called:

Answer: b. Prehistory

6. The years before year one are known as:

Answer: a. Before Christ or BC

7. Indika is written by:

Answer: c. Megasthenes

8. The old buildings or other old structures which are important for their historic connection or legacy are called:

Answer: a. monuments

9. It is the process of reading and understanding the script used in inscriptions:

Answer: c. Decipherment

10. Who wrote Rajatarangini?

Answer: a. Kalhana

B. Fill in the blanks.

1. Herodotus is considered as the 'Father of History'.
2. The study of inscriptions is known as Epigraphy.
3. Kalidasa wrote Abhijnanashakuntalam.
4. The word history has been derived from the Greek word historia.
5. Fa Hien and Hiuen Tsang were the two Chinese travellers who visited India and left their accounts.
6. The study of the old writing systems found on the inscriptions and other old records is called Palaeography.
7. Artefacts are man-made objects, such as pottery, jewellery, seals, tools, implements, etc.
8. Our ancestors wrote on birch bark or palm leaves, known as manuscripts.
9. Megasthenes was an ambassador in the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
10. Secular literature contains manuscripts which are not religious.

C. Match the following.

1. Anthropologists - E. Study human cultures and societies
2. Archaeologists - A. Explore ancient sites and artefacts
3. Paleontologists - D. Study fossils of ancient life
4. Numismatists - C. Study coins and currency
5. Geologists - B. Study Earth's structure and rocks

D. Very short answer questions.

1. Which year is regarded as YEAR ONE?

Answer: The year of the birth of Jesus Christ is traditionally considered as year one.

2. What are monuments?

Answer: Monuments are old buildings or structures which are important for their historic connection or legacy.

3. What is folklore?

Answer: Folklore consists of traditional beliefs, customs, and stories of a community, passed through the generations by word of mouth.

4. What kind of a source are rock-cut caves?

Answer: Rock-cut caves are archaeological sources (monuments).

5. Who are archaeologists?

Answer: Archaeologists are people who study ruins, explore ancient sites, and excavate to find old objects.

E. Short answer questions.

1. On what basis do we date historical events?

Answer: Historical events are generally dated on the basis of the birth of Jesus Christ. The years before his birth are referred to as BC (Before Christ) and the years after his birth are AD (Anno Domini).

2. Describe the shelter of early humans. Why did the early humans live a nomadic life?

Answer: Early humans took shelter in caves and rock shelters to protect themselves from harsh weather and wild animals. They lived a nomadic life moving from place to place in search of food, as they were hunters and gatherers.

3. What is the difference between Prehistory and History?

Answer: Prehistory is the period of the human past for which there are no written records available. History is the period for which written records are available.

4. Why do historians use timeline?

Answer: Historians use timelines to arrange historical events in chronological order, which helps in understanding the sequence of events and their relationships over time.

F. Long answer questions.

1. What are inscriptions? Why are they considered a reliable source of information?

Answer: Inscriptions are writings engraved on hard surfaces like rocks, pillars, metal plates, or clay tablets. They are considered reliable because they provide contemporary accounts of events, king's orders, or donations, and are not easily altered over time.

2. Why is archaeology an important source of information about prehistory?

Answer: Archaeology is crucial for understanding prehistory because there are no written records from that time. By excavating and studying physical remains like tools, weapons, pottery, and bones, archaeologists can reconstruct how prehistoric people lived.

3. What is numismatics? What information does this source furnish about the past?

Answer: Numismatics is the study of coins. Coins provide valuable information about the ruling kings, their reigns, the economic conditions of the period, trade relations, and even the religious beliefs and artistic skills of the time.

4. Who are the different people involved in the study of history?

Answer: Various scholars are involved in studying history, including historians (who

reconstruct the past using records), archaeologists (who dig up and study physical remains), anthropologists (who study human societies), epigraphists (who study inscriptions), and numismatists (who study coins).

5. How do paintings help us to understand the past?

Answer: Paintings, such as cave paintings or murals, give us a visual representation of life in the past. They show us how people dressed, the tools they used, their hunting practices, religious rituals, and social life, offering insights that texts might not provide.