

DR. R. N. INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL

UNDER THE AGIS OF S. S. SITARAMSINGH EDUCATIONAL AND
CHARITABLE TRUST

MOHANPUR, SITAMARHI- 843302

4.Exploring History: Timeline and Sources

Word Meaning:-

- **Events (घटनाएँ):** समय के साथ घटित होने वाली महत्वपूर्ण बातें या कार्य।
- **Occupation (व्यवसाय):** आजीविका कमाने के लिए किया जाने वाला मुख्य काम या पेशा।
- **Kingdom (साम्राज्य/राज्य):** किसी राजा या रानी द्वारा शासित क्षेत्र और उसकी प्रजा।
- **Society (समाज):** एक साथ रहने वाले और साझा नियमों से जुड़े लोगों का समूह।
- **Written Document (लिखित दस्तावेज़):** किसी जानकारी या इतिहास का लिखित या मुद्रित रूप।
- **Artefact (पुरातात्विक वस्तु):** अतीत में मानव द्वारा बनाई या उपयोग की गई कोई वस्तु।

- **Oral Tradition (मौखिक परंपरा):** कहानियों, रीति-रिवाजों और इतिहास का पीढ़ी-दर-पीढ़ी बोलकर पहुँचना।
- **Archaeologist (पुरातत्वविद्):** प्राचीन अवशेषों और स्थलों की खुदाई कर इतिहास का अध्ययन करने वाला।
- **Anthropologist (मानवविज्ञानी):** मानव के विकास, व्यवहार और संस्कृतियों का वैज्ञानिक अध्ययन करने वाला।
- **Palaeontologist (जीवाश्म विज्ञानी):** प्राचीन पौधों और जानवरों के जीवाश्मों का अध्ययन करने वाला विशेषज्ञ।
- **Geologist (भूवैज्ञानिक):** पृथ्वी की बनावट, चट्टानों और खनिजों का अध्ययन करने वाला वैज्ञानिक।
- **Epigraphists (पुरालेखवेत्ता):** प्राचीन शिलालेखों और अभिलेखों को पढ़ने व समझने वाले विशेषज्ञ।
- **Numismatists (मुद्राशास्त्री):** पुराने सिक्कों, पदकों और मुद्राओं का अध्ययन व संग्रह करने वाले विशेषज्ञ।
- **Significant (महत्वपूर्ण):** जिसका विशेष प्रभाव, अर्थ या अत्यधिक महत्व हो।
- **Dawn (भोर / आरंभ):** सूर्योदय का समय या किसी नए युग अथवा काल की शुरुआत।

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 (Xuanzang) 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 (or bhojpatras).
9. Megasthenes was an ambassador in the court of Chandragupta Maurya.
10. Secular literature contains manuscripts which are not religious.

C. Match the following

Column A	Column B (Correct Match)
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 estimated birth year of Jesus Christ is regarded as Year 1 (AD 1).

2. What are monuments?

Answer: Monuments are old buildings or structures (such as temples, forts, and palaces) preserved for their historical, cultural, or architectural significance.

3. What is folklore?

Answer: Folklore refers to the traditional beliefs, customs, stories, songs, and myths preserved and passed down orally through generations within a community.

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

Answer: Rock-cut caves are an archaeological source (specifically monumental/architectural sources).

5. Who are archaeologists?

Answer: Archaeologists are scholars who study past human life and activities by excavating and analyzing physical remains and artefacts.

E. Short answer questions

1. On what basis do we date historical events?

Answer: Historical events are dated using the timeline centered on the birth of Christ, categorized into BC/BCE (Before Christ / Before Common Era, counting backward) and AD/CE (Anno Domini / Common Era, counting forward), as well as scientific methods like radiocarbon dating.

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

Answer: Early humans took shelter in natural caves, rock shelters, and large trees for safety from wild animals and harsh weather. They lived a nomadic life because they were hunter-gatherers constantly searching for food, prey, and water sources.

3. What is the difference between Prehistory and History?

Answer: Prehistory refers to the earliest period of human existence before the invention of writing, where no written records exist. History is the period for which written records, scripts, and documents are available.

4. Why do historians use timeline?

Answer: Historians use timelines to arrange historical events in chronological order, making it easier to trace societal development and understand cause-and-effect relationships over time.

F. Long answer questions

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

Answer:

Inscriptions are words, edicts, or records carved into hard and durable surfaces like stone slabs, rocks, pillars, and metal plates. They are considered highly reliable because hard surfaces prevent easy tampering or decay, offering authentic firsthand accounts of rulers, conquests, laws, and administrative orders.

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

Answer:

Prehistoric societies lacked writing systems, meaning no written documentation exists. Archaeology is the sole method to reconstruct prehistoric life through the excavation and scientific analysis of physical remains such as stone tools, fossils, pottery, burial sites, and cave art.

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

Answer:

Numismatics is the study and collection of coins, tokens, and currency. Coins provide vital information on the names, titles, and dates of rulers, the economic prosperity of a kingdom (through metal purity), trade routes/foreign links, artistic skills, and religious beliefs.

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

Answer:

Key scholars and scientists include:

- Historians: Analyze written texts and archival records.
- Archaeologists: Excavate physical remains, artefacts, and ancient ruins.
- Epigraphists & Palaeographers: Decipher ancient scripts and inscriptions.
- Numismatists: Study ancient coins and trade tokens.
- Anthropologists & Paleontologists: Study human cultures, evolution, and ancient fossil remains.

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

Answer:

Paintings (such as prehistoric cave paintings or classical murals) visually capture everyday routines, hunting methods, clothing styles, rituals, and wildlife, providing direct insight into ancient cultural, artistic, and social life.