



**CLASS –VI**

**Social Science**

**Date:-20/04/2020**

➤ Read the Chapter for 2 times and underline new words.



Please see below chapter :

## OBJECTIVES

## In this chapter we will learn about:

- Why do we need to understand the past
- Sources of information regarding the past
- The people who help us know about the past
- An important dating system in the study of the past
- Pre-history, history and the ancient period
- Literary sources — religious or secular



## The past

Many of us have heard our parents or grandparents talking about something that happened 'many years ago'. Sometimes they also tell us how things were very different during 'those days'.

What they are doing is remembering 'the past'. In other words, they are talking of something that has happened many years ago. They are speaking of an earlier period in time.

## Studying the past

When we try to know or understand the past, we say we are studying history. The word 'history' refers to knowledge or information regarding past events.

Why do we need to understand the past? Is it not more important to understand what is happening now? Understanding the past is important for a number of reasons.

- Suppose you were allowed to watch only the last five minutes of a TV show or a movie, would you still enjoy it? Would you be able to understand what is happening in the last few scenes if you had not watched from the beginning?.

Similarly, one cannot completely understand many things that are happening today without knowing what has happened before or in the past.

- Very often, events that are taking place in the present may have been caused by something that had happened in the past. What happens in the future may also be affected by something that is happening today.

So our past, our present and our future are all interconnected. Knowing our past helps us to deal better with the present and be better prepared for the future.

- History tells us about many important people who have made a difference to the world. We learn about great rulers, explorers, inventors, scientists and artists. Studying about these personalities can inspire us.
- History also tells us about certain unfortunate events that took place in the past. By learning about such events, we can try our best to make sure that they do not happen again. For example, in 1945, powerful nuclear bombs destroyed the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and killed many people. This has been recorded in history. When people read about it they get to know the negative effects of nuclear bombs. Many governments and international bodies have tried to make sure that nuclear weapons are not used again.



Alexander the Great is one of the best known rulers in history. He is respected for his courage and intelligence.

- Technology has become a very important part of our daily lives. We see people using mobile phones. We spend a lot of our time watching television or using the computer. Most parts of our country have electricity supply. We travel by cycle, car, bus or by an aeroplane. However, life was not always like this. Can you believe there was a point in time when none of these things mentioned above existed? Can you imagine living without them? History is interesting because it tells us of a life we never thought would be possible. It is fascinating because it tells us of people and cultures that are quite different from us.

Dr B R Ambedkar worked hard to improve society. He worked towards ensuring that all people are given equal rights and due respect in society.



Dr B R Ambedkar

### Activity-1



Find out about two other personalities other than Dr B R Ambedkar who are recognised in society for their immense contributions to the betterment of people. Write a few lines about each of them.

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### Quick Facts



When man first began to grow crops, he usually did so by living close to rivers. Some of the earliest crops were grown around the following places:

- Mehrgarh, which lies in the region of the Sulaiman and Kirthar hills, near the river Indus.
- The Vindhya Hills which lie close to the river Narmada.
- The Garo Hills which lie close to the river Brahmaputra.



Map 1: Important rivers and hills of the Indian subcontinent

### Clues to the past

Since it is impossible to meet or talk to people of the past. However, there are many other ways of knowing about them. Some of the objects that they used still exist. These could be jewellery, cooking vessels, weapons and other

stone implements and tests. Some of the houses and buildings they constructed still exist. We often find them buried deep under the ground, underneath a lot of mud, stones and other debris. These objects and buildings give us a lot of information about the people who used them and their life.

## Archaeologists

Ordinary people cannot go around digging up places to see what objects or buildings are buried underneath. However, there are people who do this kind of work, and they are called **archaeologists**. Their work is to find objects, buildings and other clues that provide some kind of information about the past. When archaeologists dig up places to find out about the past, it is called **excavation**. The place which they dig is called the **excavation site**.



Archaeologists at work at an excavation site

## Historians

**Historians** are people who study history and have done extensive research on the subject. They often may write books about the people and events of the past. They also make use of information collected by archaeologists in order to understand and explain the past.

Looking into The Past

## Important sources of information

Artefacts, monuments, biographies that provide us with information about the past are called **sources of history**.

**Objects of daily use found at excavation sites:** These include cooking utensils, tools for grinding and cutting, jewelry, weapons for hunting and toys. They give us an idea of what the people ate, how they dressed, what kind of work they did, what their daily life was like and what kind of entertainment they had.

### Archaeologists and Historians – Similarities and Differences

The similarity between archaeologists and historians is that both are involved in studying and understanding the past.

So, what is the difference? The work of an archaeologist is collecting 'material evidence' about the past. When we say material evidence we mean objects like tools, books, statues, jewellery, houses, which we can actually see, touch and feel.

A historian, on the other hand, studies the past with the help of interesting evidence. Therefore, during the course of his work he makes use of material evidence that has been gathered by archaeologists. He examines primary sources — texts, artefacts and other material from the time period.

**Coins and seals found at excavation sites:** Coins and seals provide us information about the people. They often have engravings of important people like kings and rulers. Some of them show pictures of gods, which tell us about the religious beliefs of the



A seal from the Indus Valley Civilisation

people. The writings on the coins and seals tell us about the language that these people used.



A seal from the Mesopotamian civilisation

Some people who lived in the past used different kinds of seals to label the products they sold to others. So, seals can also give us information about the trade and commerce between different groups of people.

**Monuments:** One major source of information are the monuments of the ancient period. The copper statue of Gautam Buddha in Nalanda and the brick temple in Kanpur provide us information about the art and culture in ancient India.

**Houses, buildings, monuments, cities:** Different groups of people through the ages have had different ways of constructing their houses, buildings and cities. The way they planned their structures and the materials they used tell us of their lifestyle. It also gives us an idea of what kind of raw materials and tools were available.

### Activity-2



Some people have a hobby of collecting coins. Coins from the past can also be seen at some museums. If you can get a chance to look at any of these coins from the past. Observe them carefully and note what similarities or differences they have with the coins that are used in the present day. Also, try to find out which period in history these coins belong to.

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The remains of the Indus Valley Civilisation at Mohenjo Daro show that town planning was excellent. Houses were built along well-laid roads. The rooms of the houses were built around the courtyard. Each house was connected to the main drain. The houses were made of mud bricks. These bricks were so well-made that even after thousands of years they are as good as new.

**Manuscripts:** In archaeology, the term manuscript refers to information that is handwritten. Before paper was invented, people used to write on materials made from the leaf or bark of trees. Some people wrote down information on papyrus which is a paper-like material made from the papyrus plant. Manuscripts made from dried palm leaf have also been found. After paper was invented, manuscripts came to be in available the form of paper scrolls and books.

Manuscripts contain a lot of information on wars, rulers and life in the courts of kings. Some deal with subjects like medicine, science and religion. Some manuscripts even contain poetry and stories.

### What is a monument?

A monument is usually a large structure which is associated with an important person, event or activity. Monuments were built as a mark of respect for a certain person or event. Some monuments are of religious importance. Certain monuments are also famous for the beautiful or unique manner in which they have been constructed.

### Activity-3



Ask your parents or grandparents about some of the monuments they have visited and what were their feelings and emotions about them.



### Quick Facts

In Latin, the term 'manus' means 'hand'.

**Inscriptions:** Writings or symbols that has been carved on cave walls, rocks, stone slabs, seals or metal surfaces are known as inscriptions. Since they have been carved on hard surfaces, inscriptions are not easily destroyed and last for centuries. They can give us information about kings who lived very long ago.

Some inscriptions contain edicts which are important orders, announcements or commands, usually from a king or a ruler.



Edicts of an emperor called Ashoka can be found on many rocks and pillars in India.

Ashoka's edicts give a detailed description of his views on *Dhamma*. Through these edicts, Ashoka spread Buddhism throughout his kingdom.

**Paintings and sculptures:** These are often found on walls and ceilings of caves and monuments. They depict animals, people, gods, nature and many other things.

**Oral history:** Information regarding the past that has not been written down is called **oral history**. This information has been passed on from one generation to another by word of mouth. For example, your grandparents may tell you something about their grandparents. You may take this information and tell your grandchildren. In this way information about the past is passed on through many generations.

Folk songs and folk tales are also important forms of oral history because they use music and stories to tell us about the past.

## Languages of the past

Information recorded in manuscripts, inscriptions and edicts can be used only if one can read and understand the language in which they have been written. So there are many archaeologists and historians who work very hard to learn the languages of the people who lived in the past.

### Important terms

**Script:** As you know, language can be spoken or written. The written form of any language is called the script.

**Decipherment:** The process of learning in order to understand the alphabets, words and meanings of unknown scripts is called decipherment.

When archaeologists first come across an ancient script they may not be able to read or understand it. Once they learn to read and understand it we can say that the script has been 'deciphered'.

### Ancient Indian languages

Sanskrit, Prakrit and Tamil are some of the ancient languages used by the people of India. We know this because many of the ancient Indian inscriptions and manuscripts that have been found by archaeologists have information written in these languages. Most of the Ashokan edicts found in India have the edicts written in Prakrit language using the Brahmi script.



### Quick Facts

The period before historical information began to be written down and recorded through manuscripts, inscriptions and edicts is called 'prehistory'.

## Dating system

**AD** and **BC** are frequently used in archaeology and history to identify the period to which certain objects, buildings, events and people belong to.

What is the purpose of these abbreviations? The full form of **AD** is **Anno Domini**. **Anno Domini** is a Latin word which means 'in the year of our lord'. It is associated with the birth of Jesus Christ.

If a battle was fought in 1500 **AD**, it means it was fought 1500 years after Jesus was born.

The full form of **BC** is **Before Christ**. It refers to the period before the birth of Jesus. So if a person belonged to 500 **BC**, what we mean is that he lived 500 years before Jesus Christ was born.

### Quick Facts

- Jesus Christ was born about 2000 years ago.
- Sometimes we use **CE** instead of **AD**. The full form of **CE** is **Common Era**. **BCE** is used in place of **BC**. It stands for "Before the Common Era."

## Travel in the past

We have all travelled when we go out of town to meet friends or relatives, or travel to attend weddings or other functions. We even travel in order to see a new place and experience its beauty, food, monuments and culture. For example, many people travel to Agra to see the Taj Mahal.

People in the past also travelled. Early Man often travelled in search of food. Moreover, when their homes were struck by natural calamities like floods and droughts, they were forced to move to new areas. In later times, people started travelling for other reasons as well. Traders travelled to sell their goods to other people living far away. Religious leaders travelled to preach about their religion. Kings and rulers travelled to conquer other nations.

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Today, we can choose to travel by bus, car, train or aeroplane but travel in the past was not that simple. People often had to travel on foot, and sometimes even across mountains. Sometimes, they had to travel by ship across vast seas. During their travels, they did not have much protection from the sun or rain. They did not have hotels to stay in for the night. They had to brave tough conditions in order to travel. However, through their travels, they learnt about other people and other cultures that existed in lands far away from them.



Christopher Columbus discovered America by mistake. He was trying to discover the sea route from Europe to Asia.

### Activity-4

Form 3-4 groups. Each group has to come up with a skit to show why and how people travelled in the past.

## India

Have you ever wondered how our country came to be called 'India'?

In ancient times, some of the Greek and Iranian people referred to the River Indus as 'Indos'. Soon, the areas that lay to the east of river Indos began to be called 'India'.

With time, the country as a whole came to be called India.

### Quick Facts

- An ancient Sanskrit book called the Rig Veda refers to certain people as 'Bharata'. Today, the word 'Bharata' is another name for India.
- The Sanskrit word for the River Indus is 'Sindhu'.
- India and some of its surrounding countries are together known as the 'subcontinent'.

Go for Social Science-6

## Around this Time

- Between 6,000 to 5,000 years ago ancient civilisations in various parts of the world, most importantly in Egypt and Chile had perfected the techniques to preserve the bodies of their dead kings, queens and other important people of their respective societies. There are also instances of animal bodies being preserved.
- Mummified bodies have provided man with invaluable knowledge about the ancient civilisations, the people and their lives, their societies, the rituals and customs followed in those societies.
- People in ancient Egypt had developed an annual calendar that had 365 days and was further divided into 12 months of 30 days each. These 30 days were further divided into weeks of 10 days each.

## Summary



- **History** is the study of the past. Studying history helps us to understand the world around us in a better way.
- Some of the earliest crops were grown near rivers like the Indus, Narmada and Brahmaputra.
- Things that provide us with information regarding the past are called **sources** of history.
- Cooking utensils, tools, weapons, jewellery, coins, seals, manuscripts, inscriptions, edicts and paintings found at excavation sites are important sources of history. Monuments, folk songs and folk tales are also important sources of history.
- **Archaeologists** and **historians** are people who help us to study history.
- Archaeologists dig up places to find objects relating to the past. This is called **excavation**. The location of the excavation is called a **site**.
- The objects found at excavation sites are known as **material evidence**.
- In order to understand the writing on inscriptions and manuscripts, we need to decipher the script in which it is written.
- The **script** is the written form of any language.
- When archaeologists or historians come across an unknown script and gradually learn how to read and understand it, we say that the script has been **deciphered**.
- **AD** and **BC** are dating systems used to understand the past. The full form of AD is **Anno Domini** and the full form of BC is **Before Christ**. Nowadays, BCE is used in place of BC and CE is used in place of AD.
- India get its name from the word '**Indos**'. India is also called **Bharat**.



## Exercises

### 1. Choose the correct option.

- (a) The Garo Hills lie close to the  
(i) River Indus (ii) River Narmada (iii) River Brahmaputra
- (b) Some of the earliest crops were grown  
(i) in the desert (ii) underground (iii) near rivers
- (c) The process of digging up or searching a place in order to find out about the past is called  
(i) examination (ii) exercise (iii) excavation
- (d) Handwritten information regarding the past is called  
(i) manuscript (ii) edict (iii) seal
- (e) Information that has been carved on a hard surface is called  
(i) book (ii) inscription (iii) monument
- (f) The full form of AD is  
(i) After Death (ii) After the Date (iii) Anno Domini
- (g) People who collect objects and materials that help us study the past are called  
(i) detectives (ii) archaeologists (iii) engineers
- (h) The location of an excavation is called  
(i) site (ii) tower (iii) park

### 2. Answer the following questions in one line or one word.

- (a) What is the Sanskrit word for the River Indus?  
(b) What word did the Greeks use to refer to the River Indus?  
(c) What does Anno Domini mean?  
(d) What is the full form of CE?  
(e) What do we mean by 'prehistory'?

### 3. Fill in the blanks.

- (a) History tells us about the \_\_\_\_\_ . (present/past)  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_ is considered to be one of the greatest rulers in history. (Alexander/Columbus)  
(c) The Vindhya hills lie close to the River \_\_\_\_\_ (Indus/Narmada).  
(d) \_\_\_\_\_ are an important source of information regarding the past. (Manuscripts/Coins)  
(e) \_\_\_\_\_ is one of the ancient languages used in India. (Sanskrit/Swahili).

#### 4. Match the columns.

	Column A	Column B
(a)	Mehrgarh	(i) Written form of a language
(b)	King Ashoka	(ii) About 2000 years ago
(c)	Excavation	(iii) Searching for hidden objects and buildings from the past
(d)	Script	(iv) Used in conducting business
(e)	Historians	(v) Edicts on rocks and pillars
(f)	Seals	(vi) Expert knowledge regarding the past
(g)	Manus	(vii) Where crop cultivation first began
(h)	Birth of Jesus	(viii) Passed on by word of mouth
(i)	Papyrus	(ix) Latin word for 'hand'
(j)	Oral history	(x) Used to make manuscripts

#### 5. Put a (✓) mark if the statement is correct and (X) if incorrect.

- (a) The full form of BC is Birth of Christ. ( )
- (b) History is the study of the future. ( )
- (c) Manuscripts were sometimes made from palm leaf. ( )
- (d) Some seals have pictures of kings and gods on them. ( )
- (e) There was more use of technology in the past as compared to the present. ( )

#### 6. Project

Organise a class trip to a famous monument from the past that is in your city. Collect as much information you can about this monument and present it in class in the form of a chart with pictures, drawings and other interesting facts.

#### 7. Group Discussion

Discuss the importance of the study of history and how it is useful to us.

#### 8. HOTS

- (a) 'Man learns from past mistakes.' How does the study of history prepare us for the future. Give at least three references to validate this statement. (For example, we can learn to avoid war by studying the causes and results of the two World Wars)
- (b) Which ancient sources provide us with information about the level of Sciences and Mathematics in India?

## 9. Short answer questions.

- (a) Mention any two important sources of history.
- (b) What is the difference between an archaeologist and a historian?
- (c) Write a short note on the dating system.
- (d) What do you understand by 'material evidence'?
- (e) What do we mean when we say that a script has been deciphered?

## 10. Long answer questions.

- (a) Imagine that you are living in the past and there are no phones, television, computers, cars or bikes. Describe how would you feel and how you would spend your time.
- (b) What are the many reasons why people travelled in the past? What are the difficulties they faced while travelling?
- (c) Briefly explain the work of an archaeologist.



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