

Subject- SST

Class-VI

Topic- History

An Approach Towards Past

Fill in the Blanks.

- (i) We can know about prehistory through ____.
- (ii) The period for which written records are available is called ____.
- (iii) Writings that are not religious are known as ____ literature.

State True or False

- (i) Coins are valuable source of information.
- (ii) Long ago people wrote using paper and pen.
- (iii) Monuments provide important information regarding our heritage.

B. Short Answer Questions

1. What is the difference between prehistory and history?
2. What are monuments? What do we get to know from them?
3. How did the Northern Plains influence the history of India?

C. Long Answer Questions

1. How does the study of history help us?
2. How do historians find out about our past?
3. Write a short note on secular literature.
4. What are inscriptions? How do they help us to study the past?

- B. 1. Prehistory is the period of human development when writing had not been invented and of which we have no written records. Whereas history is the period for which written records are available.
2. Monuments are old buildings old settlements ruins of temples, stupas, mosques, tombs, palaces, etc. They provide important information about our past heritage.
3. The places along the rivers of the northern plains developed faster than any other part of the country. Rivers were not only used as a mode of transport but also were an important water resource. This helped agriculture and trade prosper.
- C. 1. By studying history, we come to know about kings, kingdoms and leaders of the past. We can also learn about the lives and activities of the common man. We can understand the past and the present, by studying history. What is today will be history tomorrow. History teaches us not to make mistakes that have been made in the past. We can also study the continuous development of man by studying literature, art, architecture, etc. We can study the basic nature of our society by studying history and that how and why people behaved in a particular way. Why they fought or lived peacefully? All these queries can be answered.
2. Historians find out about the past with the help of archaeological and literary sources.

Archaeological sources means artefacts or monuments. Artefacts are the objects made and used by man in the past. Metal objects,

pottery, jewellery, etc., give historians important clues and help them to understand their cultural lives, e.g., artefacts found at Harappa and Mohenjodaro. **Monuments** and **coins** are also valuable sources of information. Ruins of temples, palaces, forts, mosques, old settlements, etc., provide information about our past heritage. Coins tell historians about the economy and trade of the kingdoms in the past, about administration and qualities of kings. Historians find out dates of coronations, specimens of art and relations with neighbouring kings with the help of inscriptions engraved on rocks, pillars, copper plates, wall, etc.

They also depend on **Literary sources** to get the knowledge about the past. People wrote on barks of trees, stones, rocks or tablets. Handwritten records helped them gain information about customs, religious beliefs and cultures of people. Travellers wrote about their stay and other events, administrative set up, rules, declaration by kings, etc. The religious literature gave an account to historians about religious beliefs which were followed in ancient India.

3. Writings which are not religious are known as secular literature. These include biographies and historical accounts written by poets and foreign travellers. They were written to record happenings, events, administrative set up, rules and declaration by kings. '*Arthashastra*' by Kautilya gives us an account of Mauryan administration and society whereas, '*Indika*' by Megasthenes gives an account of the court life of Chandragupta Maurya.
4. Inscriptions are written records engraved on rocks, metal pillars, copper plates, temple cave walls and palaces. They provide important information about events, rulings and declaration of ancient rulers. They also reveal the state of administration and personal qualities of kings. They provide us with important dates of coronation, specimens of art and relation with neighbouring and distant rulers.

