

# BIJENDRA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Class - 6

Subject - SOCIAL STUDIES (HISTORY)

Chapter - 1 WHEN, WHERE AND HOW

I. Tick (✓) the correct option.

1. Herodotus was from

- a. Greece
- b. Chine
- c. England

Ans. a. Greece

2. The two epics of India are the

- a. Iliad and Odyssey
- b. Panchatantra and Kathasaritsagar
- c. Ramayana and Mahabharata

Ans. c. Ramayana and Mahabharata

3. Who wrote the Arthashastra?

- a. Kautilya
- b. Megasthenes
- c. Vishakhadatta

Ans. a. Kautilya

4. The earliest coins in ancient India were the

- a. Gold Coins
- b. Silver Coins
- c. Punch-marked Coins

Ans. c. Punch-marked Coins

5. Earlier, manuscripts were written on

- a. Caves
- b. Wooden tablets
- c. Palm leaves

Ans. c. Palm leaves

II. State whether the following statements are true or false and rewrite the incorrect statements to correct them.

1. Herodotus is regarded as the 'Father of History'.

Ans. True

2. Arthashastra and Indica are the two great epics of ancient India.

Ans. False

3. Inscriptions are handwritten accounts of the ancient times on metal plates.

Ans. True

4. Faxian was a traveller who wrote an account of his visit to India.

Ans. True

5. Secular literature includes the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Ans. False

III. Answer the following questions in one sentence.

1. What is the difference between history and prehistory?

Ans. The main difference between history and prehistory is the existence of records.

2. What is the role of a historian or an archaeologist in the study of history?

Ans. Historians and archaeologist, who specialise in the field of studying the past help us solve the mysteries of the past.

3. Why are inscriptions important to us?

Ans. Inscriptions are important because this helps us to know about the past, form an idea and gain knowledge about the history.

4. How are manuscripts different from inscriptions?

Ans. Manuscripts were written on palm leaves and on bark of birch tree, while inscriptions were made on stone slabs and pillars.

5. What are chronicles?

Ans. A written record of historical events describing them in the order in which they happened.

IV. Answer the following questions in brief.

1. Why is the study of history important? Give any four reasons.

Ans. Studying the past is important because we get to know the following.

- i. By studying the past, we understand how our ancestors lived.
- ii. By studying history, we come to know about many great kings / queens, leaders as well as ordinary people.
- iii. Studying history is also necessary to know how scripts evolved and how the languages that we speak have come into being.
- iv. Studying the past help us solve the mysteries of the past.

2. Why are coins important to historians?

Ans. Coins are important as they help in determining the dates of several dynasties and also tell us about the religious and cultural practices of the people who issued them. Coins provide information on the kind of metals used in the period.

3. What are the important sources of history?

Ans. We learn about our ancient past (history) from two groups of sources -

- i. Archaeological sources (for example : physical remains, artefacts, monuments, coins, inscriptions)
- ii. Literary sources (Such as religious literature, secular literature, biographies, traveller's accounts, chronicles)

4. What are the main literary sources of ancient history?

Ans. The main literary sources of ancient history are: books, religious texts, accounts of foreign travellers, biographies and chronicles.

5. Why did people in ancient times choose to live near rivers?

Ans. In the ancient times, people chose to live near rivers such as the Indus, Ganga and Narmada. This was because the rivers provided water for peoples' needs, the land near them was fertile for irrigation, and they also served as a means of transport.

V. Answer the following questions in detail.

1. Why do we study the past? Who studies the past?

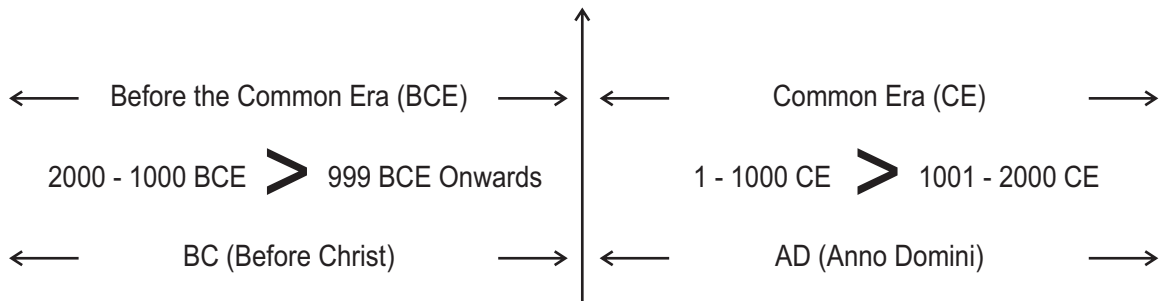
Ans. Studying the past is important because we get to know the following:

- i. By studying the past, we understand how our ancestors lived.
- ii. By studying history, we come to know about many great kings / queens, leaders as well as ordinary people.
- iii. Studying history is also necessary to know how scripts evolved and how the languages that we speak have come into being.

Many people such as historians and archaeologists, who specialise in the field of studying the past help us solve the mysteries of the past.

2. What do you know about the dates that we use in history? Explain with the help of a timeline.

Ans.



In history, you see dates written as BC or AD. The date of birth of Jesus Christ is taken as the reference point, which was more than 2000 years ago. All dates before the birth of Christ are counted backwards.

Therefore, the date 650 BC means  $-2000 + 650 = 2650$  years ago. Now historians use BCE and CE in place of BC and AD respectively. Dates before the years ICE are indicated by the use of BCE. The dates in BCE are always counted backwards from 0. This means that 80 BCE comes after 90 BCE.

3. How do scholars study the past?

Ans. Many experts and scholars - historians, archaeologists, anthropologists, zoologists, geologists and physicists - help us to know about things that happened long ago. Historians and archaeologists are scholars who study our past using various sources of history. The archaeologists excavate sites of ancient and medieval civilisations and examine the remains of buildings, tools and other objects and interpret them for us.

4. What are archaeological sources? How do they help us in studying the past?

Ans. Archaeological sources or material remains of people who lived in the past - such as buildings, houses, pots and pans, monuments, coins, tools, jewellery, writings on stone walls and pieces of metal plates and food remains. They help us in reconstructing the past, even in the absence of written records.

5. How does the geographical location of a place influence its history?

Ans. Geography has played a vital role in shaping the history of the world and India.

It determines how a particular area develops. India and its neighbours are together known as the Indian subcontinent because the combined topography of all these countries is almost as vast as that of a continent.

There are numerous rivers, fertile river valleys, high mountains, desert and plains in India. Many nations have used sea routes along the coast of India for trade as well as for social and cultural interaction.

As you progress in your study, you will understand how the geography of India brought about some of the most significant events in our history.