

Social Science

(History)(Chapter – 1) (Tracing Changes Through a Thousand Years)
(Class – 7)

Exercises

Let's recall

Question 1:

Who was considered a “foreigner” in the past?

Answer 1:

A person who was a stranger or who was not a part of the society or culture was considered as a ‘foreigner’ or ‘pardeshi’ or ‘ajnabi’. In this sense a forest-dweller was a foreigner for a city-dweller. But two peasants living in the same village were not foreigners to each other, even though they may have had different religious.

Question 2:

State whether true or false:

- (a) We do not find inscriptions for the period after 700.
- (b) The Marathas asserted their political importance during this period.
- (c) Forest-dwellers were sometimes pushed out of their lands with the spread of agricultural settlements.
- (d) Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban controlled Assam, Manipur and Kashmir.

Answer 2:

- (a) We do not find inscriptions for the period after 700. **False**
- (b) The Marathas asserted their political importance during this period. **False**
- (c) Forest-dwellers were sometimes pushed out of their lands with the spread of agricultural settlements. **True**
- (d) Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban controlled Assam, Manipur and Kashmir. **False**

Question 3:

Fill in the blanks:

- (a) Archives are places where _____ are kept.
- (b) _____ was a fourteenth-century chronicler.
- (c) _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.

Answer 3:

- (a) Archives are places where *manuscripts/records/documents* are kept.
- (b) *Ziyauddin Barani* was a fourteenth-century chronicler.
- (c) *Potatoes, corn, tea, coffee* and *chillies* were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.

Question 4:

List some of the technological changes associated with this period.

Answer 4:

Some of the technological changes associated with this period:

- Persian wheel in irrigation.
- Fire arms in combat.
- Spinning wheel in weaving.
- New foods and beverages like potato, corn, chillies, tea and coffee.

Question 5:

What were some of the major religious developments during this period?

Answer 5:

The major religious developments during this period:

- Some of the major significant religious developments occurred in the Hinduism which included the worship of new deities.
- Hindus started the construction of temples by royalty.
- Importance of Brahmanas and the priests grown and they became dominant groups of the society.
- There was also the emergence of the idea of bhakti i.e. of a loving, personal deity.
- During this period, new religions like Islam appeared in the subcontinent who brought the teachings of holy Quran.
- Many rulers were patrons of Islam and the ulama.
- The merchants and migrants brought with them the teachings of Quran, the holy book of Muslims.

Let's understand

Question 6:

In what ways has the meaning of the term "Hindustan" changed over the centuries?

Answer 6:

The meaning of the term 'Hindustan' changed over the centuries in various ways. In the 13th century Muihaj-i-Siraj used the term 'Hindustan' to mean the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the area lying between Ganga and Yamuna. He used this term in a political sense that was a part of the dominion of Delhi Sultan.

In the 16th century Babar used the same term to describe the geography, the fauna and the culture of the inhabitants of this subcontinent. In 14th century Amir Khusaru used the term 'Hind' in the same sense as Babar did in 16th century.

But the term 'Hindustan' never carried the political and national meanings as the term 'India' does today.

Question 7:

How were the affairs of *jatis* regulated?

Answer 7:

The affairs of *jatis* were regulated in the following ways:

- *Jatis* formed their own rules and regulations.
- There was an assembly of elders called *Jati panchayat* which used to enforce the rules etc.
- *Jatis* were also directed to follow the rules of the village.
- Several villages were governed by a chieftain.

Question 8:

What does the term pan-regional empire mean?

Answer 8:

Pan-regional Empire means the empire crossing its region and spreading over several other regions. The dynasties like Cholas, Khaljis, Tughluqs and Mughals extended their empires pan-regional. Most of the regions across the subcontinent were left with the legacies of the big and small states that had ruled over them.

Let's discuss

Question 9:

What are the difficulties historians face in using manuscripts?

Answer 9:

The historians faced the following difficulties in using manuscripts:

- Manuscripts are in dilapidated condition sometimes even too bad to touch.
- Their copies have been distorted by the scribes - sentences and words here and there.
- Some of these are written in Shikaste (illegible) script.

Question 10:

How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problems in doing so?

Answer 10:

Historians divide the past into periods on the basis of continuity as well as economic and social factors to characterise the major elements of different moments of the past. This continuity is further based on – Coins, Inscriptions, Architecture, Textual records.

- The historians faced a lot of problems because time itself reflects changes in social and economic, organisation, in the persistence and transformation of ideas and beliefs.
- Therefore, describing the entire period as one historical unit is not without its problems.
- "Modernity" also carries a sense of material progress and intellectual advancement.
- The study of time is made somewhat easier by dividing the past into large segments periods which possess shared characteristics.

But they had to face difficulties in doing so as discontinuity did exist. Textual records increased heavily.

Let's do

Question 11:

Compare either Map 1 or Map 2 with the present-day map of the subcontinent, listing as many similarities and differences as you can find.

Answer 11:

Map 1 and Map 2 are representing two different times. Map 1 was made in 1154 CE by an Arab geographer. This section is a detail of the Indian subcontinent from his larger map of the world. Map 2 was made by a French cartographer in 1720.

Both maps are quite different from each other, even though they representing the same area.

Map 1: We find south India at the place where we would expect to find north India and Sri Lanka is the island at the top. The place names are in Arabic. Some similar places like Kanauj in Uttar Pradesh (India) have been spelt as Qanauj.

Map 2: It was made nearly 600 later after Map 1. By that time information about the subcontinent had changed a lot. The coastal areas and other places are being shown in more detailed. So, this map appears to be more familiar to us.

Question 12:

Find out where records are kept in your village or city. Who writes these records? Is there an archive? Who manages it? What kinds of documents are stored there? Who are the people who use it?

Answer 12:

- In our village, records are kept in the Panchayat house.
- Gram Sevak (a government employee) writes these records.
- Yes, there is a room contains so many old records about our village.
- All the records are managed by Sarpanch (the head of the village).
- Documents related to land of village, dates of birth and deaths, data of health centre, counting of public properties in the village, etc. are stored in archive.
- The villagers use it as per requirement. According to need, the certificates are issued to the villagers on the basis of these records.