

Chapter - 1 History

What, Where, How and When

- **History:** History is a chronological account of events as they took place in the past.
- **Why should we study History:**
 - (i) We should study history as it tells us about our past.
 - (ii) It gives us understanding about our ancient culture and lifestyle.
 - (iii) It helps us to solve the problems of the present day world.
- **Time frames of History:**
 - (i) Historians use chronological sequence for a better understanding. Birth of Jesus Christ has been taken as year zero.
 - (ii) Any event before Christ is called Before Christ (BC) and any event after the birth of Jesus is called Anno Domini (AD).
 - (iii) Timeline of history is divided into three stages – prehistory, protohistory and history.
- **Where did people live:**
 - (i) People lived near river valleys. This was because rivers provided water for all purposes.
 - (ii) Traces of life were found near Sulaiman and Kirtar hills in North West.
 - (iii) Traces of life even existed along Ganga. Mahajanpadas like Magadha, Kashi, Vajji, etc. flourished 2500 years ago.
 - (iv) The Himalayan mountain has acted as natural barrier between India and Central Asia since ages.
- **How was the name India Derived:**
 - (i) Our country is called India and Bharat.
 - (ii) Bharat was used by the people of North India in the Sanskrit composition Rigveda.
 - (iii) The word Indus traces its roots from the river Indus which is called Sindhu in Sanskrit.
- **How do we know about the past:**
 - (i) Archaeologist and historians study several sources to tell us about the past. There are two sources - archaeological and literary.

- (ii) **Archaeology:** The study of human history and prehistory through the excavation of sites and the analysis of physical remains.
 - (iii) Archaeologists use sources like monuments, artefacts, inscription and coins.
 - (iv) Handwritten or any other written record of the past is known as a literary source.
 - (v) Literary sources include two types of literature - religious literature and secular literature.
- **Why studied sources of History:**
 - (i) There were two groups of people who studied history. One was called archaeologist and the other group was called historians.
 - (ii) Archaeologists studied remains of buildings made of stones, bricks, paintings and sculptures.
 - (iii) The other group called historians were the people who studied the past and used information found in inscriptions, seals and scripts.