

Chapter – 1

What, Where, How and When

2marks:

1.You have to interview an archaeologist. Prepare a list of five questions that you would like to ask her/him.

Answer:

1. What is Archaeology?
2. What does an Archaeologist do?
3. What is the process involved in excavation?
4. How do archaeologists determine the age of any of the objects discovered from excavations?
5. Why are symbols important in the field of Archaeology?

2.How can we find out about the past according to the introduction?

Answer: We can learn about the past by studying various aspects such as what people ate, their clothing, houses, and the lives of different

groups like hunters, herders, farmers, rulers, and more. This information can be obtained from sources like manuscripts, inscriptions, and archaeological findings.

3. Give an example of an area where people have lived for several hundred thousand years, according to the text.

Answer:

People have lived along the banks of the river Narmada for several hundred thousand years, as mentioned in the text.

4. Explain the significance of the names "India" and "Bharat" mentioned in the text.

Answer:

The word "India" comes from the river Indus (Sindhu in Sanskrit), and the name "Bharat" was used for a group of people in the northwest, later adopted for the entire country. The Greeks and Iranians referred to the Indus as Hindus or Indos, leading to the name "India."

5. What are some ways in which historians and archaeologists gather information about the past?

Answer:

Historians use sources like manuscripts, inscriptions, and

archaeological findings to reconstruct the past. Manuscripts were written by hand, inscriptions were on hard surfaces, and archaeologists study objects such as buildings, tools, pottery, and bones.

6.How are dates typically counted, and what do the abbreviations BC, AD, BCE, and CE stand for?

Answer:

Dates are usually counted from the birth of Jesus Christ, with BC (Before Christ) for years before and AD (Anno Domini, 'in the year of the Lord') for years after. BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era) are used as secular alternatives. BC and BCE denote years before the common era, while AD and CE indicate years within or after.

7.Why is the term "pasts" used in the title "Our Pasts," and what does it emphasize?

Answer:

The term "pasts" is used in the plural form to emphasize that the past was different for various groups of people. It recognizes the diversity in the experiences of different social groups, such as kings, farmers, herders, and merchants, highlighting that there isn't a singular past experience for all.

4marks:

1.Explain the significance of the river Narmada in understanding human history, as mentioned in the text.

Answer:

The river Narmada is significant in understanding human history because people have lived along its banks for several hundred thousand years. Early inhabitants were skilled gatherers, relying on the rich plant life in the surrounding forests for food. They also engaged in hunting, providing insights into early human lifestyles and survival strategies.

2.Describe the geographical areas where the cultivation of crops such as wheat and barley began about 8000 years ago, according to the text.

Answer:

The cultivation of crops like wheat and barley began in areas northwest of the subcontinent, specifically around the Sulaiman and Kirthar hills. People in these regions started growing crops, rearing animals like sheep and goat, and established villages, marking the transition to agriculture.

3.Explain the role of rivers, including the Indus and the Ganga, in the development of ancient civilizations.

Answer:

About 4700 years ago, some of the earliest cities flourished on the banks of the Indus and its tributaries. Later, approximately 2500 years ago, cities developed on the banks of the Ganga and its tributaries. Rivers played a crucial role in providing water for agriculture, transportation, and establishing urban centers, contributing to the growth of ancient civilizations.

4.Investigate the historical significance of Magadha in ancient India and its rulers.

Answer:

Magadha, located to the south of the Ganga, was a significant region in ancient India. Its rulers, powerful and influential, established a large kingdom. The area is now part of the state of Bihar. The rulers of Magadha played a key role in shaping the political landscape of ancient India.

5.Explore the impact of geographical features like hills, mountains, deserts, and seas on ancient travel and communication.

Answer: Geographical features such as hills, mountains, deserts,

rivers, and seas influenced ancient travel. While these features posed challenges, they did not make journeys impossible. People traveled across the subcontinent for livelihood, to escape natural disasters, for conquests, trade, and adventure. The interactions between regions facilitated the exchange of ideas and cultures.

6.Elaborate on the origin and usage of the names "India" and "Bharat" and their historical connections.

Answer:

The name "India" originated from the river Indus (Sindhu in Sanskrit). The Greeks and Iranians, familiar with the Indus, referred to it as Hindus or Indos, leading to the name "India." "Bharat" was initially used for a group in the northwest, mentioned in the Rigveda, and later adopted for the entire country, signifying a historical connection between language, culture, and nomenclature.

7.Discuss the different ways historians gather information about the past, highlighting the importance of sources like manuscripts, inscriptions, and archaeology.

Answer:

Historians use various sources to reconstruct the past. Manuscripts, written by hand on materials like palm leaves or birch bark, provide insights into religious beliefs, practices, and daily lives. Inscriptions, on hard surfaces like stone or metal, offer information on orders,

victories, and personal records. Archaeology involves studying remains, including buildings, tools, pottery, and bones, offering a tangible understanding of ancient civilizations.

8. Analyze the challenges and advantages of deciphering ancient scripts and languages in historical research.

Answer:

Deciphering ancient scripts and languages, as seen in inscriptions like the one found in Kandahar, involves challenges. Scholars face difficulties due to the erosion of materials and changes in language over time. However, decipherment is crucial for understanding historical records, as seen in the example of the Ashoka inscription in Kandahar, which was inscribed in both Greek and Aramaic languages. The use of different scripts and languages reflects cultural interactions and historical complexities.

7marks:

1.Elaborate on the archaeological evidence mentioned in the text, such as buildings, tools, pottery, and bones. How do these artifacts contribute to our understanding of ancient civilizations?

Answer:

Archaeological evidence, including buildings, tools, pottery, and bones, provides tangible insights into ancient civilizations. Buildings reveal architectural styles, urban planning, and societal structures. Tools and pottery offer clues about technological advancements and daily life. Bones, whether human or animal, aid in understanding dietary habits, social structures, and burial practices. Together, these artifacts form a comprehensive picture of the material culture and lifestyles of ancient societies.

2.Explore the significance of geographical features in shaping ancient travel and trade routes. How did natural frontiers like hills, mountains, and seas influence the movement of people and the exchange of goods and ideas?

Answer:

Geographical features acted as both barriers and conduits for ancient travel. Hills, mountains, and seas formed natural frontiers, making journeys challenging but not impossible. These features shaped trade routes, with merchants navigating through perilous terrains. The

exchange of goods and ideas was facilitated by overcoming geographical obstacles, leading to cultural interactions and the enrichment of traditions across different regions.

3.Discuss the impact of ancient scripts and languages on historical research. How did the use of different scripts and languages, as seen in the Kandahar inscription, reflect cultural interactions and historical complexities?

Answer:

Ancient scripts and languages play a pivotal role in historical research. The Kandahar inscription, inscribed in both Greek and Aramaic, illustrates cultural interactions in the region. Different scripts and languages signify historical complexities, possibly indicating diverse populations or rulers with connections to multiple cultural spheres. The decipherment of these scripts unveils historical narratives, emphasizing the importance of linguistic diversity in understanding the past.

4.Analyze the variety of sources used by historians, including manuscripts, inscriptions, and archaeology. How do these sources complement each other in reconstructing historical narratives?

Answer:

Historians employ diverse sources to reconstruct historical narratives. Manuscripts provide textual insights into religious practices, epics,

and societal norms. Inscriptions offer official records and edicts from rulers. Archaeological findings contribute material evidence, uncovering structures, tools, and artifacts. The synergy between these sources allows historians to cross-verify information, providing a more comprehensive and nuanced understanding of the past.

5.Explore the challenges faced by ancient travelers, considering factors such as natural disasters and geographical barriers. How did individuals overcome these challenges in their pursuit of livelihood, escape, conquest, and adventure?

Answer:

Ancient travelers faced numerous challenges, including natural disasters like floods and droughts, and geographical barriers such as mountains and deserts. Despite the risks, people moved for livelihood, escaping disasters, conquests, and adventure. While these challenges made journeys perilous, the determination to overcome them demonstrates the resilience and resourcefulness of ancient individuals in pursuit of their goals.

6.Evaluate the role of rivers, particularly the Indus and the Ganga, in the development of ancient civilizations. How did these

rivers contribute to agriculture, urbanization, and cultural exchange?

Answer:

Rivers like the Indus and the Ganga played a pivotal role in the development of ancient civilizations. They provided fertile plains for agriculture, supporting the growth of crops and settlements. The availability of water facilitated urbanization along riverbanks, leading to the establishment of cities. Moreover, rivers served as conduits for cultural exchange, enabling trade and the spread of ideas across different regions.

7.Discuss the diversity of historical practices among different social groups in ancient times. How did the lives of hunters, herders, farmers, rulers, merchants, and crafts persons vary, and what challenges did historians face

Answer:

In ancient times, different social groups, such as hunters, herders, farmers, rulers, merchants, and crafts persons, had diverse lifestyles. Hunters relied on gathering and hunting, while farmers settled in villages and practiced agriculture. Rulers engaged in conquests, and merchants facilitated trade. Crafts persons contributed to art and technology. However, the experiences of ordinary people are challenging to document as they often did not keep records.

Historians rely on archaeological evidence and other indirect sources to reconstruct the lives of these groups.

8. Investigate the role of religious teachers and their journeys in ancient India, as mentioned in the text. How did these teachers contribute to cultural interactions, and what impact did their travels have on the dissemination of religious and philosophical ideas?

Answer:

In ancient India, religious teachers played a significant role in cultural interactions through their journeys. Religious teachers traveled from village to village and town to town, offering instruction and advice along the way. Their travels facilitated the exchange of religious and philosophical ideas, contributing to the rich tapestry of cultural traditions. These teachers played a crucial role in disseminating spiritual knowledge, guiding communities, and fostering a shared understanding of religious principles. The impact of their travels transcended geographical boundaries, leading to the integration of diverse beliefs and practices across different regions of the subcontinent. The journey of religious teachers exemplifies the interconnectedness of ancient Indian communities and the role of itinerant scholars in shaping the spiritual and cultural landscape of the time.

Let's Recall:**1.Match the following**

Narmada Valley	The first big kingdom
Magadha	Hunting and gathering
Garo Hills	Cities about 2500 years ago
Indus and its tributaries	Early agriculture
Ganga valley	The first cities

Answer:

Narmada Valley	Hunting and gathering
Magadha	The first big kingdom
Garo Hills	Early agriculture
Indus and its tributaries	The first cities
Ganga valley	Cities about 2500 years ago

2. List one major difference between manuscripts and inscriptions.

Answer:

Manuscripts – They were written by hand. These were usually written on palm leaves or on the specially prepared bark of a tree known as the birch, which grows in the Himalayas.

Inscriptions – These are writings engraved on relatively hard surfaces such as stone or metal.

3. Return to Rasheeda's question. Can you think of some answers to it?

Answer:

One can think of 4 different ways

1. Inscriptions
2. Manuscripts
3. Tools and weapons
4. Reading the books written in the past.

4. Make a list of all objects that archaeologists may find. Which of these could be made of stone?

Answer:

The findings of Archaeologists could be of 9 different types.

1. Buildings made of stone and brick
2. Painting
3. Sculpture

4. Tools

5. Weapons

6. Pots

7.Pots

8.Ornaments

9.Coins

The objects that could be made up of stones are given below.

1. Buildings

2. Tools

3. Weapons

4. Ornaments.

5. Why do you think ordinary men and women did not generally keep records of what they did?

Answer:

Unlike the present day, record keeping was not easy in the past.

Records were usually maintained by Kings to describe their victories in battles. Those records were maintained by inscribing on stones, which was not an easy task for ordinary men and women to do.

6. Describe at least 2 ways in which you think the lives of kings would have been different from those of farmers.

Answer:

1. Kings had absolute power over all their subjects, irrespective of their profession. Farmers had no such powers.
2. Kings lived in palaces. Farmers had no such opportunities.
3. The King was responsible for protecting his kingdom by waging battles, whereas the farmers' responsibilities were to grow crops.

Fill in the blanks:

1. People along the banks of the _____ have lived for several hundred thousand years.

Answer:

Narmada

2. Some of the earliest cities flourished on the banks of the _____ about 4700 years ago.

Answer:

Indus

3._____ and Kirthar hills were areas where people first began to grow crops like wheat and barley around 8000 years ago.

Answer:

Sulaiman

4.The ancient region of _____, now part of Bihar, was known for its powerful rulers who set up a large kingdom.

Answer:

Magadha

5.The names "India" and "Bharat" have historical connections to the river _____, known as Sindhu in Sanskrit.

Answer:

Indus

6.Manuscripts were written by hand on materials like palm leaves or _____.

Answer:

birch bark

7.The Ashoka inscription in _____, dated about 2250 years ago, was inscribed in Greek and Aramaic languages.

Answer:

Kandahar

8.Geographical features like hills, mountains, and seas form natural _____, influencing ancient travel.

Answer:

frontiers

9.The use of different scripts and languages in ancient inscriptions reflects cultural _____ and historical complexities.

Answer:

interactions

10.BCE stands for "Before _____," while CE stands for "Common Era."

Answer:

Christ

Multiple choice:

1.What river has been a site of early human habitation for several hundred thousand years?

- a. Ganges**
- b. Yamuna**
- c. Narmada**
- d. Indus**

Answer:

c. Narmada

2.Where did some of the earliest cities flourish about 4700 years ago?

- a. Nile**
- b. Euphrates**
- c. Indus**
- d. Yangtze**

Answer:

c. Indus

3.About 8000 years ago, people first began to grow crops such as wheat and barley around which hills?

- a. Himalayas**
- b. Sulaiman and Kirthar**
- c. Rocky Mountains**
- d. Alps**

Answer:

- b. Sulaiman and Kirthar

4.Magadha, an ancient region in India, is now part of which modern-day state?

- a. Maharashtra**
- b. Uttar Pradesh**
- c. Bihar**
- d. Rajasthan**

Answer:

- c. Bihar

5.The name "India" comes from which river?

- a. Ganges**
- b. Yamuna**
- c. Brahmaputra**
- d. Indus**

Answer:

- d. Indus

6.What materials were often used for writing manuscripts?

- a. Stone**
- b. Metal**
- c. Palm leaves or birch bark**
- d. Papyrus**

Answer:

- c. Palm leaves or birch bark

7.The Ashoka inscription in Kandahar was inscribed in which languages?

- a. Sanskrit and Prakrit**

b. Greek and Aramaic

c. Latin and Persian

d. Chinese and Tibetan

Answer:

b. Greek and Aramaic

8.Geographical features like hills, mountains, and seas served as natural what?

a. Boundaries

b. Highways

c. Bridges

d. Tunnels

Answer:

a. Boundaries

9.BCE stands for:

a. Before Common Era

b. Before Christian Era

c. Before Contemporary Era

d. Before Cultural Exchange

Answer:

a. Before Common Era

10.CE stands for:

a. Common Event

b. Christian Era

c. Contemporary Era

d. Cultural Exchange

Answer:

c. Contemporary Era

Summary:

The provided text introduces readers to the exploration of ancient history, emphasizing the methods used to uncover information about the past. Focusing on diverse aspects such as geography, early human habitation along the Narmada River, and the development of agriculture around the Sulaiman and Kirthar hills, the text delves into the intricacies of ancient civilizations. It highlights the role of rivers like the Indus and the Ganga in the growth of cities and the establishment of powerful kingdoms like Magadha.

The significance of religious teachers, cultural interactions, and the challenges and advantages of deciphering ancient scripts are also discussed. The text underscores the importance of multiple sources, including manuscripts, inscriptions, and archaeological findings, in reconstructing historical narratives. Overall, it provides a comprehensive overview of the varied elements that contribute to our understanding of ancient times.