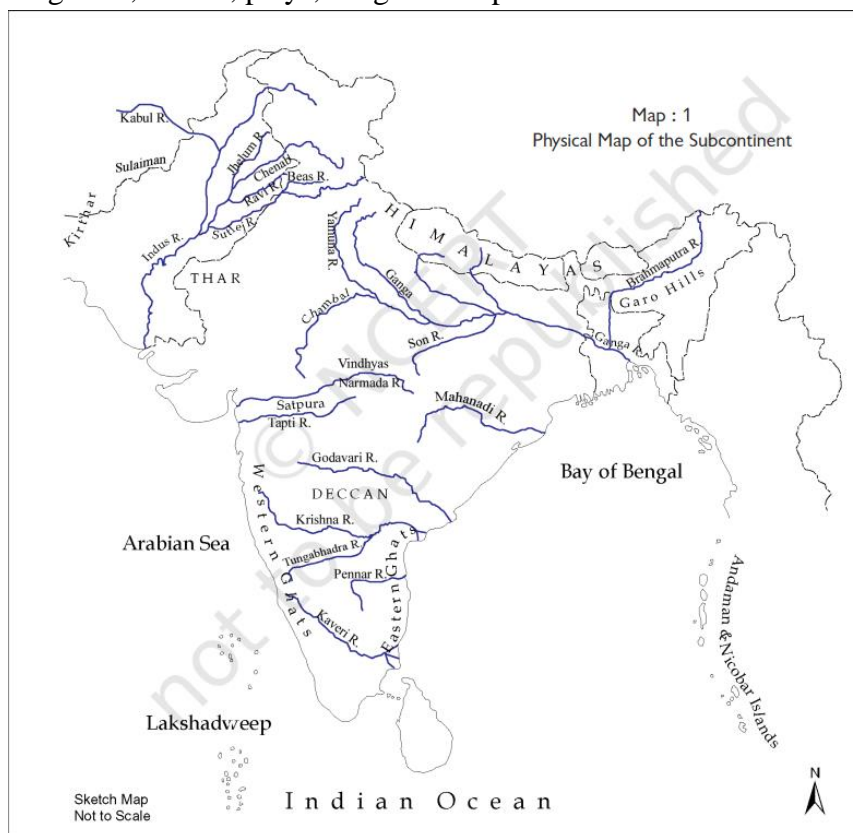


Chapter – 1: Introduction – What, Where, How and When?

- Finding out what happened?
 - Yesterday – radio, T.V., newspaper
 - Last year – somebody who knows
 - Long, long ago – say, a 100 years – let's find out

What can we know about the past?

- Several things – what people ate, what clothes they wore, houses they lived in
- Find out about lives of – hunters, herders, farmers, rulers, merchants, priests, craft persons, artists, musicians, and scientists
- Also find out – games, stories, plays, songs of the past



Where did people live?

- River Narmada
 - Lived on banks – several 1000 years
 - Earliest people – skilled gatherers – knew – vast wealth – nearby forests – collected roots, fruits and other forest products – also hunted animals
- Sulaiman and Kirthar hills in the northwest
 - Some areas – men and women – grew crops – 8000 years ago
 - Began rearing animals – sheep, goat and cattle – settled villages
- Garo hills in the north-east and Vindhya in the central India
 - Areas – agriculture developed
 - Places – rice 1st grown – north of Vindhya

- River Indus and tributaries
 - Tributaries – small rivers – flow into a larger one
 - 4700 years ago – some – earliest cities – flourished (developed) on the banks
 - Later – 2500 years ago – cities developed on banks of Ganga and its tributaries and along sea coasts
- Ganga and its tributary ‘Son’
 - Ancient times – area – south of Ganga – Magadh – present day Bihar
 - Rulers – very powerful – large kingdoms
- Throughout history – people travelled from one part to another
- Hills and high mountains like Himalayas, desserts, rivers and seas – made journey dangerous
- Why did people travel?
- Men and women – move – search for livelihood – escape natural calamities
- Sometimes – men marched in armies – conquering others’ land
- Merchants – travelled with caravans or ships – carrying goods
- Religious teachers – travelled – offer instructions and advices
- Some people – travelled – adventure – discover new places
- Hills, mountains, seas – natural frontiers (boundaries)
- Difficult to cross frontiers – who wanted to cross – actually crossed them
- Movement – enriched (improved) – culture
- Shares new ways – carving stones, composing music, doing everyday things

Names of the land

- Two common word for our country – India and Bharat
- India – comes from Indus – Sindhu in Sanskrit
- Iranians and Greeks – came from northwest – 2500 years ago- familiar with Indus – called it Hindos or Indos
- Land to the east of Indus – India
- Bharata – group of people from northwest – mentioned in *Rigveda* – earliest composition in Sanskrit (around 3500 years ago) – later used for our country

Finding out about the past

- Several ways – finding about past
- One of the ways – **manuscripts**
 - Read books – written long ago – *manuscripts* – written by hand
 - Written on pal leafs – usually – OR – on bark of ‘birch’ tree – grows in Himalayas
 - Over years – many manuscripts – eaten by insects or destroyed by other means
 - Some survived – often preserved in temples and monasteries
 - All kinds of subjects – religion, lives of kings, medicine and sciences
 - Also – epics, poems, plays
 - Many written in Sanskrit – others in Prakrit and Tamil
- Another way – **inscriptions**
 - Writings on hard surfaces – stone or metal
 - Sometimes – kings – orders inscribed – people – see, read and obey

- Other inscriptions – men and women (including kings and queens) – recorded what they did
 - Kings – recorded – victories in battles
- Another way – **archeological findings**
 - Things – made and used in past
 - Archeologists – study these things
 - They study – remains of buildings, paintings, sculptures
 - Explore and excavate (dig up earth) – find tools, weapons, pots, ornaments, coins
 - Some objects – made of stone, bones, baked clay or metal
 - Objects – hard substance – last longer
 - Look for bones – animals, birds and fish – what people ate
 - Plant – survive rarely – seeds of grain / pieces of wood – burnt – survive in charred (burnt) form
- *Historians* – study history – use word *source* – refer to information – manuscripts, inscriptions, archeology
- Archeologists and historians – detectives – use source as clues – find out about past

One past or many?

- Title of book – ‘Our Past’
- Past – different for different people
- Lives of herders and farmers – different from lives of kings and queens
- Lives of merchants – different from lives of craftspersons
- People followed – different practices and customs – different parts of country
 - People in Andaman Islands – get food by fishing, hunting and collecting forest produce
 - People living in cities – depend on others
- Kings – their lives and battles – they kept records
- Ordinary people – did not keep records – archeology – find about their lives – YET – lot to be known

What do dates mean?

- Date – day, month and year – counted after birth of Jesus Christ – founder of Christianity
- All dates – before birth of Christ – counted backwards – BC (Before Christ)
- All dates – after birth of Christ – counted forward – AD (Anno Domini – in the year of lord)
- Sometimes – CE (Common Era) instead of AD and BCE (Before Common Era) instead of BC