

NEW HORIZON SCHOOL
SUPPORT MATERIAL
SESSION-2018-19
SUBJECT-S.ST
History-VII

Chapter-1 History (Tracing changes through thousand years)

- A map of the Indian sub-continent, made by a famous Arab geographer -- Al-Idrisi -- in 1154, shows south India in the north and Sri Lanka at the top. But another map of the same area made by a French cartographer (a person who makes maps) in 1720 is quite different from what Al-Idrisi made.
- Historians have to be very careful when they use old things to study history, because the methods of making maps and texts differ from time to time, and not everything written in the past was correct.
- Historical records, languages, and the meaning of words change with the time.
- In the Mughal era, 'Hindustan' was the most common term for India.
- In the 13th century, the term Hindustan was used by the Persians and Mughals to mean the areas around the Indus-river valley in north-west India (Punjab, Haryana, and the lands between the Ganga and the Yamuna rivers), but not south India.
- Babur also used the term Hindustan to explain the geographies and cultures of the subcontinent in the early 16th century, and that was similar to the way Amir Khusrau (a famous poet) did it in the 14th century.
- Historians have to check the meanings of the terms and words they use, as they change from time to time. For example, today we use the term 'foreigner' to mean someone who is not an Indian, but in the medieval period, it meant any stranger who was not a part of a society or culture.
- Historians rely upon old coins, inscription, architecture, and textual records for information for their studies.
- In the medieval period, gradually, paper became widely available and cheaper. People started using it to write holy texts, chronicles of rulers, letters and teachings of saints, petitions and judicial records, and for registers of accounts and taxes.
- Manuscripts provide a lot of information to historians; however, they are difficult to use as they manuscripts were handwritten.
- To know what the author had actually written, historians have to read different manuscript versions of the same text.
- The 1000 years between 700 to 1750 was a period of large-scale economic, political, social, and cultural changes.

- There were many developments in technologies. For example, the Persian wheel for irrigation, the spinning wheel for weaving, and powerful firearms for big fights were invented in that period.
- People who travelled in search of opportunities not only brought new ideas but also new foods and beverages with them.
- Many 'Rajputs' became famous in India before the rise of the Mughal empire; initially the term only included sons of rulers, but later it also included soldiers and commanders. Marathas, Sikhs, Jats, Ahoms, and Kayasthas also become important in the Indian subcontinent in that period.
- Many forests were cleared to make land for agriculture. Peasants became an important part of the society, and started receiving help from the rulers if they paid taxes.
- Different groups of *jatis* or sub-castes came into existence on the basis of occupation, and rules and regulations made by the *Jati panchayat* were enforced by an assembly of elder people.
- The Cholas and the Mughals controlled many parts of India, from Bengal to Afghanistan, and historians are still trying to find the reason why rulers kept claiming to have control over other regions.
- The Chola, Khilji, Tughluqs, and Mughal dynasties built big empires, known as pan-regions; however, all those empires were not equally stable, and often fought with each other.
- Mughal empire declined and the British Raj became more powerful in India in the 18th century.
- With the decline of the Mughal empire, many small rulers and kingdoms came up across India. But almost all of them continued to be influenced and affected by the major changes happening across the Indian sub-continent.
- In the thousand years between 700 and 1750, there were many changes in the religions and beliefs of people, and they were connected to the larger socio-economic trends across the world.
- Hinduism became stronger in India; many deities came to be worshiped, and royal families built huge temples.
- Brahmins mastered mathematics and Sanskrit, and the knowledge of astronomy and weather patterns won them the support of farmers and royal families alike, and higher positions in the society.
- The idea of an individual's *bhakti* (direct worship of a personal deity), without the need for priests, also became popular.
- New religions like Islam entered the Indian subcontinent through foreign merchants and migrants; many powerful rulers such as Akbar and Aurangzeb were great followers of Islam.
- Quran is the holy book of Islam, and it asks all Muslims to believe in one God - Allah; there are two main faiths in Islam: the Shia and the Sunni.

- Time is not simply the passing of hours, days, or years, but it is the reflection of changes that happen everywhere, all the time. But we can study time in an easier way by dividing it into periods or eras.
- A British historian divided the Indian history into three periods: Hindu, Muslim, and British, but no one follows that classification today because it is considered very narrow.
- Instead, the period between 700 and 1750 is called the 'medieval' period, meaning it was the time between the 'old' and the 'modern' periods.
- During the medieval period, India became very rich and powerful, and attracted even more merchants and governments from around the world, especially Europe.

Read the lesson and answer the following questions:

Question 1. Who was considered a "foreigner" in the past?

Question 2. List some of the technological changes associated with medieval period.

Question 3. What were some of the major religious developments during this period?

Question 4. In what ways has the meaning of the term "Hindustan" changed over the centuries?

Question 5. How were the affairs of jatis regulated?

Question 6. What was the term pan-regional empire mean?

Question 7. What are the difficulties historians face in using manuscripts?

Question 8. How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problems in doing so?

Question 9. Define the following

a. Cartographer b. Archive c. Habitat d. Patron

Question 10. Name the chronicler who used the term 'Hindustan' in the 13th century.

Question 11 The name Rajput is derived from which word?

Question 12. Name the famous 14th century chronicler.

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Civics-VII

Chapter-1Civics (On Equality)

There are three key elements of democratic government:

- people's participation
- resolution of conflict
- equality and justice for all

Of these three, equality has the greatest influence on how democratic governments work.

Equal Right to Vote

All Indians above the age of 18, irrespective of their religion, caste, education, language, poverty, are allowed to vote. This is known as universal adult franchise, and it is based on the idea of equality.

Recognizing Dignity

When people are discriminated against, this hurts their self-esteem and dignity, and they lose their self-respect and confidence to work and help the society; everyone in a democracy deserves equal respect so the society can progress together and no one is 'left behind'

Equality in Indian Democracy

The Indian constitution guarantees that:

- Every Indian, from the President to a domestic worker, follows the same laws.
- No Indian can be discriminated against on the basis of their religion, race, caste, place of birth, or gender.
- Every person can go to all public places such as hotels, pools, playgrounds, shops, etc.
- Untouchability has been abolished.

The government tries to implement equality :

- Through some laws- Banning untouchability
- Offering different programmes and schemes (such as mid-day meals) to spread awareness in the public

Issues of Inequalities in Other Democracies

- The problems of inequality and discrimination are not unique to developing countries such as India; even in advanced countries, people are discriminated against and they have to fight for their rights. An example of this is the recent African-American Civil Rights Movement in the USA, where black people who were treated as slaves had to come together and fight for their rights.

Challenges in Democracy

- Democracy is the most popular form of government around the world because it gives equal rights to all. But no country or society is fully democratic because of Poverty, Casteism, Religious intolerance, corruption and many such social evils. People all over the world must continue to work hard to spread awareness about the importance of full and fair democracies.

Read the lesson and answer the following questions:

Question 1. What do you understand by universal adult franchise?

Question 2. What are the ways through which government has tried to implement equality?

Question 3. What do you mean by equality?

Question 4. In a democracy why is universal adult franchise important?

Question 5. What are the various provisions mentioned in the constitution for establishing equality?

Question 6. What is the mid-day meal scheme?

Question 7. What are the positive effects of mid-day meal scheme?

Question 8. What was the Civil Rights Act of 1964?

Question 9. What does the term Dalit mean?

Question 10. Which movement was started by Rosa Park?

Question 11. Who is called the father of Indian constitution?

Question 12. Name the book written by Om Prakash Valmiki?

Question 13. Which article of the Indian Constitution bans untouchability?

Question 14. Name the famous writer who faced discrimination on the basis of his caste?