

Chapter 1. What where how and When?

Very Short Q&A:

Q1: Name a important river along which People lived for several hundred thousand years.

Ans: Narmada

Q2: According to the given inscription in the chapter, the word 'bird' stands for_____.

Ans: A

Q3: According to the given inscriptions, the word 'lion' stands for_____.

Ans: L

Q4: What is Cartouche?

Ans: Scholars who could read Greek figured out that the names of king and queen were enclosed in a little frame called Cartouche

Q5: List the number of languages inscribed on the stone of Rosetta.

Ans: Three

Q6: Where is Rosetta located?

Ans: Rosetta is a town on the north coast of Egypt

Q7: What is the full form of BCE?

Ans: Before Common Era

Q8: What is the full form of AD?

Ans: Anno Domini

Q9: What is the full form of CE?

Ans: Common Era

Q10: All dates before the birth of Christ are counted backwards and are usually referred as BC

Ans: True

Q11: What was the source of food for most of the people living in Andaman Islands?

Ans: Fishing, forest products and hunting

Q12: What is an inscription?

Ans: Inscriptions are writings on relatively hard surface such as stone or metal.

Q13: Name the leaf on which Manuscripts in Ancient period were usually written?

Ans: Palm leaf

Q14: Define Archaeology.

Ans: Archaeology is the study of the remains of buildings (made of stone and brick), of paintings and sculpture.

Q15: Name the language which was not used in the Ancient Period.

Ans: Hindi

Q16: How can we say that the Hindi language which was not used in the Ancient Period?

Ans: Mostly epics, poems and plays in Ancient period were written in Sanskrit or Prakrit.

Q17: Rig veda contains the earliest compositions in Sanskrit, dated about 3500 years ago. True/False

Ans: True

Q18: What do we call to the area along the river Ganga and its tributary rivers in the ancient time?

Ans: Magadha

Q19: Where did women and men first began to cultivate crops such as wheat and barley?

Ans: In Sulaiman and Kirthar hills

Q20: The manuscripts are preserved in _____.

Ans: temples

Q21: Many manuscripts were eaten away by insects, some were destroyed. True/False

Ans: True

Q22: What does the inscription discovered from Rosetta square denotes?

Ans: Alphabet p

Q23: What evidences do we get from Bones of animals?

Ans: Bones of the animals helped to know the eating habits of the people.

Q24: How many languages are there in Inscription of Rosetta?

Ans: three languages

Q25: Name the two tributaries of the Indus.

Ans: Ravi and Jhelum

Q26: Name the emperor whose inscription has been found from Kandahar.

Ans: Ashoka

Q27: Name the language in which most of the manuscripts were written.

Ans: Sanskrit

Q28: What do we call the information gathered by the historians from inscriptions, manuscripts and archaeology?

Ans: A source

Q29: River Indus was addressed as Indos or Hindos by the _____ and _____.

Ans: Iranians and Greeks.

Q30: Name the place where Sulaiman and Kirthar ranges are located.



Ans: Pakistan

Q31: What do we call the tributary of the Ganga river?

Ans: Son

Q32: Inscriptions were not used for keeping records of victories in battle. True/False

Ans: False

Q33: Why People of this age travelled from place to place?

Ans: To develop agriculture and basic things

Q34: Which is the best successful example in understanding history through decipherment?

Ans: The history of Egypt.

Q35: Name the direction towards which Rice was first grown in the Vindhya.

Ans: North

Q36: One can figure out the specific year of any historical event on the basis of birth of_____.

Ans: Jesus

Q37: The times of kings could be known due to the availability of _____.

Ans: Records

Q38: Why River basin of river Indus is called sapta sindhu?

Ans: Because it consists of the basin of seven rivers altogether.

Q39: What do we call specially prepared bark of tree on which manuscripts were written?

Ans: Birch

Q40: In the inscription discovered from Rosetta alphabet 'L' is denoted by the image of _____.

Ans: Lion

Q41: In the inscription discovered from Rosetta alphabet 'A' is denoted by the image of a _____.

Ans: Bird

Q42: From where do we get the evidence of rice production for the first time in India?

Ans: northern part

Q43: What is the meaning of the term "Indus" in Sanskrit?

Ans: Hindu

Q44: Who is an archaeologist?

Ans: The people who study the objects of the past

Q45: What is the meaning of Indus in Sanskrit?

Ans: Sindhu

Q46: Who were hunter-gatherers?

Ans: The people, who hunted wild animals, caught fish and birds and gathered fruits, roots, nuts, seeds, leaves and eggs for their food were called hunter- gatherers.

Q47: How do people living in the Andaman Islands manage their living?

Ans: People living in the Andaman Islands get their own food by fishing, hunting and by collecting forest produce.

Q48: What are the different names of our country?

Ans: India, Bharat, Jambudweep and Hindustan.

Q49: Where did people live in pre-historic times?

Ans: In the pre-historic times people lived along the rivers and in the areas with ample plant and animal life

Q50: What were the occupations of the people in early days?

Ans: People in early days were hunters, herders, farmers, rulers, musicians, merchants, priests, craftsmen, artists & scientists.

Short Q&A:

Q1: Why did the Magadh Empire flourished on the banks of river Ganga and river Son?

Ans: This was possible because the rivers facilitated quick transportation system and hence quite effectively helped the trade to flourish. This encouraged the rural people to come to these areas and settle down. Moreover rivers provided a kind of natural defence and the kingdom was able to strengthen its position due to the availability of iron ore in the region.

Q2: Define archaeology.

Ans: Archaeology is the science that studies human cultures through the recovery, documentation, analysis and interpretation of material remains and environmental data, including architecture, artifacts, features, biofacts and landscapes.

Q3: How did India get its name?

Ans: India got its name from river Indus by Persians and Iranians. Indus is called Sindhu in Sanskrit. While the Arab traders gave the name Hindustan to the land beyond Indus.

Q4: What are tributaries? Give example.

Ans: Tributaries are smaller rivers that flow into a larger river, e.g. river Son is a tributary of river Ganga.

Q5: Discuss why it is important to study our past?

Ans: It is important to study about our past. It gives a lot of information regarding the political, social, economic and cultural life of the people in the earlier days. By studying about our past:

- We can find about the eating habits, the clothing and housing pattern of the people of the earlier times.
- We can gather information about the different occupations of those people. We can find about the lives of hunters, farmers, merchants, priest, craftsmen, musicians, poets and scientists.
- We can learn about the lives of children; the songs they sang, the plays they saw, the games that they played and the kind of toys with which they played.

Q6: list some items that archaeologists have found?

Ans: Archaeologists have found tools, weapons, pots, pans, ornaments & coins of earlier people.

Q7: What do AD and BC stand for?

Ans: AD stands for two Latin words, 'Anno Domini', meaning 'in the year of the Lord' (i.e. Christ) . The year 2007, also written as AD 2007, means 2007 years after the birth of Christ. BC stands for 'Before Christ', meaning before the birth of Christ. For example, a time period written as 200 BC means 200 years before the birth of Christ. BC runs into countdown format as 10.,9.,8.,7.,.....1.. upto the time of Jesus Christ's birth and after his birth it started to run in today's date format, i.e., 1.,2.,3....,onwards.

Q8: Who are archaeologists and what do they do?

Ans: The people who systematically study things that were made and used in the past through process of exploration and excavation are called archaeologists. They study the remains of buildings made of stone & brick, paintings & sculpture. They also explore and excavate (dig under the surface of the earth) to find tools, weapons, pots, pans, ornaments, coins and various other articles used by them. Then they analyse their findings to give a new theory.

Q9: Why did ancient men & women move to different places?

Ans: Men & women travelled from one place to another for the following reasons:

- In search of livelihood.
- To escape from natural disasters like flood or drought.
- Sometimes men marched in armies, conquering other's lands.
- Merchants travelled with caravans or ships, carrying valuables.
- Religious teachers walked from one place to another to offer instructions and advices on religion.
- Some people travelled to new & exciting places for adventure purposes.

Q10: What was the occupation of the people who lived on the banks of the river Narmada?

Ans: People have lived along the banks of river Narmada for several hundred thousand years. They were skilled gatherers. They were aware of the vast wealth of the forest around them. They collected roots, fruits and other forest products for their food from these surrounding forests. They also hunted animals.

Q11: What is a source? What is its importance to the historians?



Ans: The word source refers to the information found from the manuscripts, inscriptions, coins and monuments. It helps the historians in the reconstruction of our past. These sources give a lot of information about the kings, their coronation, their extent of the empire, the battles they fought, their welfare measures etc. because they kept records of all what they did.

Q12: How do the scholars understand what is written in the inscriptions?

Ans: The scholars understand what is written in these inscriptions through the process called decipherment. Most of these inscriptions were written several hundred years ago and languages and the script used in the inscriptions have changed with time. One good example of decipherment is of the Rosetta stone found in Egypt which was used to decipher ancient Egyptian using Greek language.

Q13: What was the advantage of writing on a hard surface?

Ans: In the earlier times, writings were done on relatively hard surface such as baked clay, stone or metal. Since these objects were imperishable these writings usually survived for a long time.

Q14: Why is South Asia often called a sub-continent?

Ans: South Asia is often called a sub-continent because although it is smaller than a continent, it is very large and is separated from the rest of Asia by seas, hills and mountains. It is a home to over one-fifth of the world's population.

Q15: What language and script is used in the inscriptions found from the Rosetta town?

Ans: Three different languages and scripts were used in the inscriptions found from the Rosetta town. These were Greek and two forms of Egyptian.

Q16: Where did the earliest cities flourish?

Ans: The earliest cities flourished on the banks of the river Indus. Later, about 2500 years ago, cities developed on the banks of the river Ganga and its tributaries and along the seacoasts.

Q17: How did the archeologists find out about the eating habits of the people in the past?

Ans: Archaeologists studied the bones of animals, birds and fish to identify the eating habits of the people in the past. Although plant remains survive far more rarely. But if seeds of grains or pieces of woods would have been burnt, they would have survived in a charred form. So finding charred seeds give information that they ate plant produce also.



Q18: Write a short note on manuscripts?

Ans: Manuscripts are a very important source to know about our past. They were usually written on the palm leaf or on the bark of a tree, by hand. The palm leaves or the bark of a tree were cut into pages and tied together to make books. These books deal with varied subjects such as, science, medicine, religious beliefs and practices and lives of kings. Besides, there were epics, poems and plays. The language used in the manuscripts was Sanskrit, Prakrit and Tamil.

Q19: Why is the plural word 'Pasts' used in the title of this book, 'Our Pasts'?

Ans: The word 'Pasts' is used in plural to draw attention to the fact that the past was different for different groups of people. For example, the lives of kings and queens were different from those of peasants and herdsmen, the lives of traders were different from those of crafts persons and so on. This fact is true even in the modern times. The life of people living in the Andaman Islands is very different from those living in the cities. Secondly, we know a lot about the kings and battles they fought because they recorded all their victories. We know very little about the lives of the ordinary people because they did not keep any record of what they did.

Q20: How do we know a great deal about the kings and the battles they fought?

Ans: We know a great deal about the kings and the battles they fought because they kept records of what they did, such as, about their lives, victories, marriages, coronation to the throne etc.

Q21: State an important difference between a manuscript and an inscription.

Ans: An important difference between an inscription and a manuscript is the surface on which they are written. Inscriptions are engravings on hard surfaces while manuscripts are hand written books, which are usually written on palm leaves or the bark of a tree.

Long Q&A:

Q1: List the skill and knowledge that was required in hunter- gatherer communities?

Ans: The skills and knowledge needed in hunter - gatherer communities were:

- There were several animals that ran fast so they need was to run faster.
- To hunt animals or catch fish and birds, people needed to be alert, quick and have a good presence of mind.
- To collect plant produce – they needed to find out which plants or parts of plants were edible (that can be eaten) as many plants or their parts were poisonous.
- They needed to know the seasons when the fruits would ripen.



- They needed the skills and knowledge to make weapons and arms for hunting animals easily.
- They needed the skills to use their weapons effectively.

Q2: Why do historians and archaeologists use various sources to study about our past?

Ans: Archaeologists and historians are scholars who study things that were made and used in the past through the process of excavation. Manuscripts, inscriptions, tools, coins, monuments are the source of information used by these scholars to know about the past of the people. Once these sources are found, learning about the past becomes an adventure, and gradually history is reconstructed. That is why historians and archaeologists use various sources to study about our past.

