

SARALA BIRLA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Birla Knowledge City, Mahilong, Ranchi

CLASS-VI (2020-21)

Sub: HISTORY

ASSIGNMENT-1

Ch 1- Introduction to History

All the stories about what we are, where we come from, where we lived, what our families and their families did in the past – is called HISTORY.

Our textbook reads “History maybe defined as a careful and a systematic study of past events on the basis of available material remains and records”

It simply means – that we know about the things that happened in the past because of materials available – you might think what materials- wall paintings, buildings, carvings on the wall. You all must have heard about Ajanta and Ellora caves, the Red Fort, St. Peter’s Basilica at Vatican City. All of these were made many many years ago- and they tell us the story of how it was built, who built it, with what materials, in which year, what did people eat, wear, do during those times.

This is History. Just a story about everyone’s past: how did we discover fire, what was the first metal, which was the first kingdom, who was the king/ queen, how beautiful were their palaces, what kind of army did they have, what plants and vegetables they grew, what kind of clothes and jewellery they wore, etc. and a person who studies these past events is called a “*Historian*”

You must have often read the alphabets “BC” and “AD”. What do they really mean?

We all have heard of Jesus Christ. The calendar that we use is the “Gregorian Calendar” – which is used all over the world and BC and AD are used to number the years. BC means “Before Christ” it means before Jesus Christ was born and AD means “Anno Domini” which is Latin for – in the year of lord – or the year when Jesus Christ was born. So in literal words we are all in AD today.

You might think how do we know about history, well there are two ways:

1. Things: also called “Archaeological Source Material”
2. Written records of the past: called, “Literary Source Material”

Archaeological source materials are things- like tools, materials, buildings, some paintings, etc that are found around the globe. And the study of these material remains of the past human existence is called “*Archaeology*”. And a person who studies it is called “*Archaeologist*”.

There are three things that come under Archaeological Materials:

- a. Artefacts- which means articles like weapons, pottery, toys, coins, etc.
- b. Inscriptions – writings that are carved on the rocks or pillars or any walls of the temples.
- c. Monuments- are buildings like forts, palaces, temples, etc.

All these things tell us a story. For example a coin would tell us what it is made of, the kind of metal will tell us if the kingdom was rich or poor, the carving on the coin might tell us the date, which ruler issued it, the time period of his reign, or have a picture of an animal or a plant or the portrait of the king and some even might have the ancient language. Similarly writings carved on walls tell us the name of the kings, their achievement, who did they fight with, what places they conquered, etc. Monuments tell us why they were built, by whom, were they good architects, what materials they used, etc.

Now literary source materials on the other hand, means books or any handwritten documents – like our Vedas or Kautilya's Arthashastra – these books or reading material tell us about how did the people think, who was helping them make the political decisions, which god did they pray, how did they pray etc. In India, many of the literary sources on ancient India are *Manuscripts*, which means handwritten documents. In ancient India, before paper came into use, manuscripts were written on materials such as 'Bhojpatra' (birch bark) and 'Palm leaves'.

They are further divided into:

- a. Religious Literature- like Vedas of Hindus, the Pitakas of Buddhists, etc. which talks about religion.
- b. Secular Literature – many travellers and learned men and women travelled the world and whenever they came across something interesting like how a king ruled, any scientific discovery – they would write about it.

History is nothing but a really long and interesting story about our ancestors.

Please answer the following questions based on what we have read:

1. What do we call a person who studies past event?
2. What is the full form of BC and AD?
3. Name three types of archaeological source materials.
4. Give two examples of artefacts.
5. What are literary sources?
6. What are two main types of literary sources?
7. Define the term History.
8. Define the term Archaeology.
9. Mention three types of information that coin provides.
10. What is a manuscript? Mention two materials on which manuscripts were written in Ancient India.

