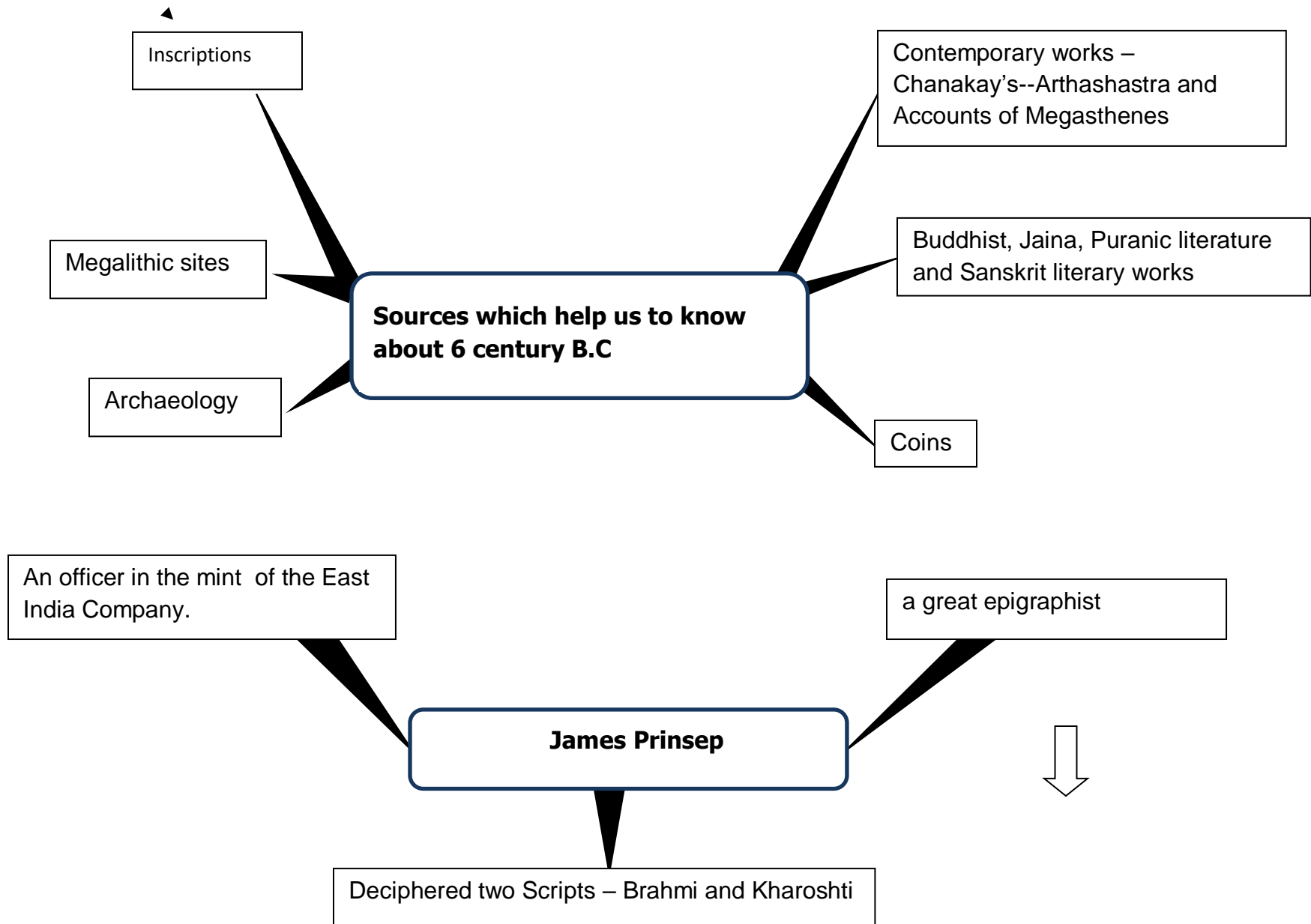


Theme II - Kings, farmers and Towns



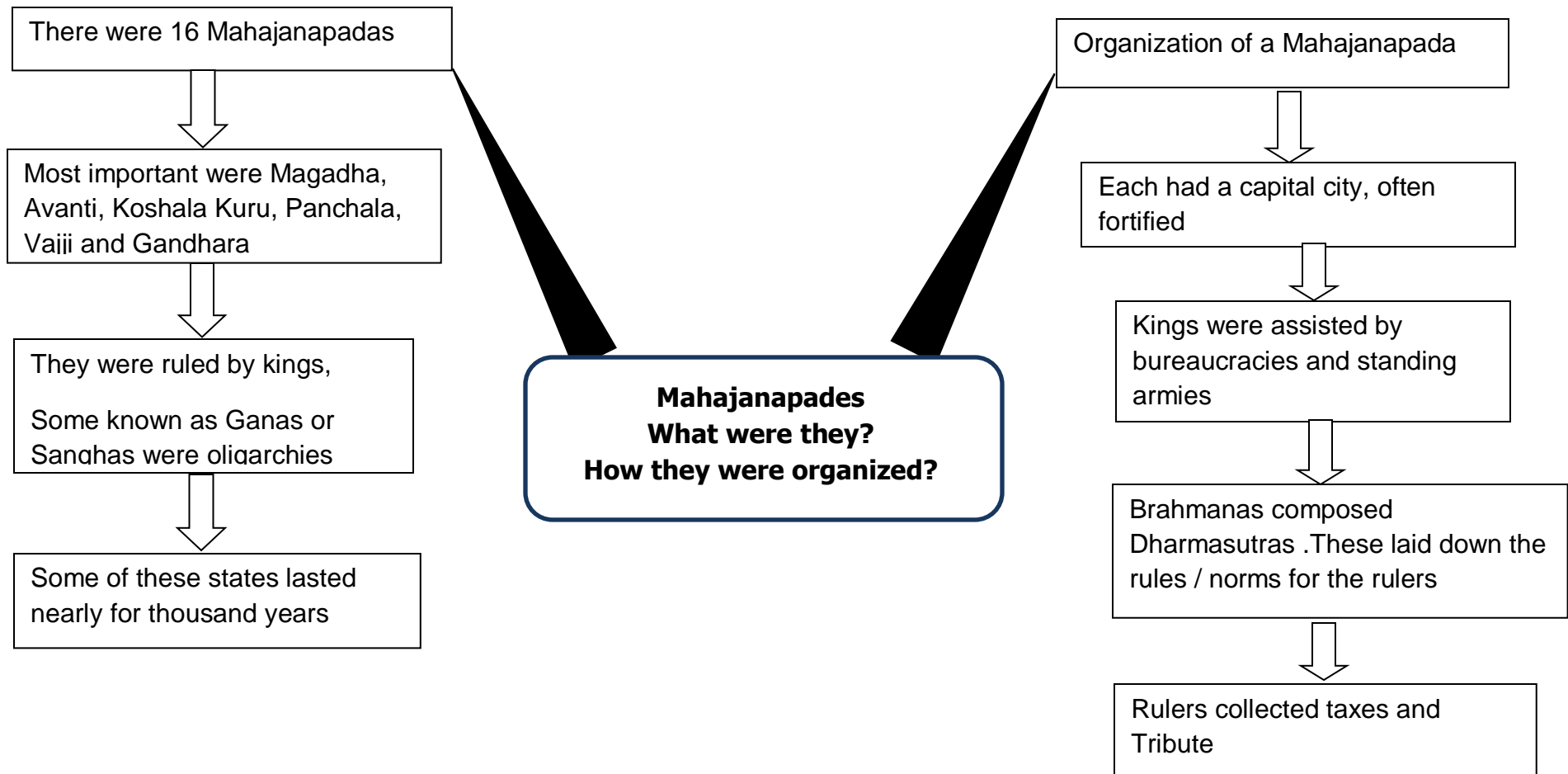
It was an era associated with early states (Mahajanaapads) and cities

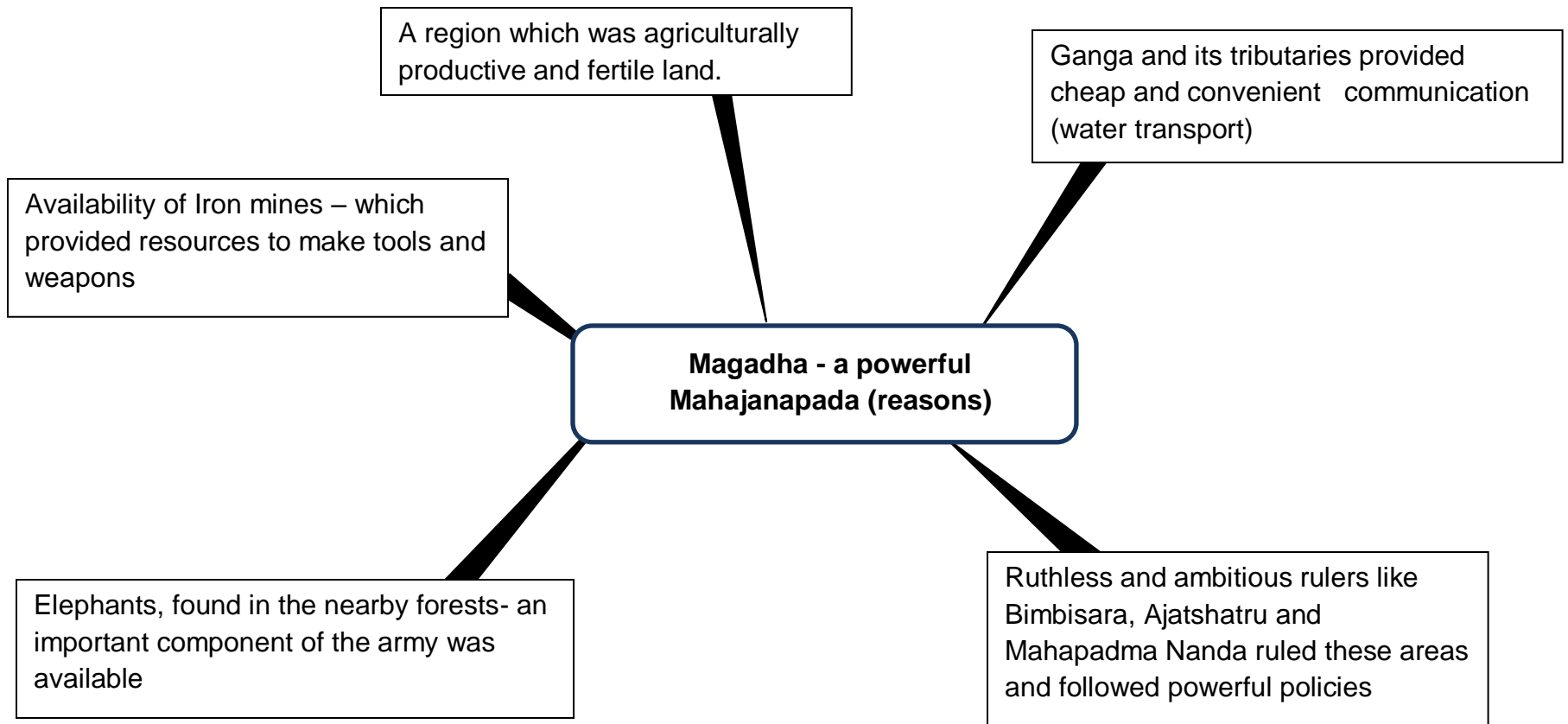
The development of coinage

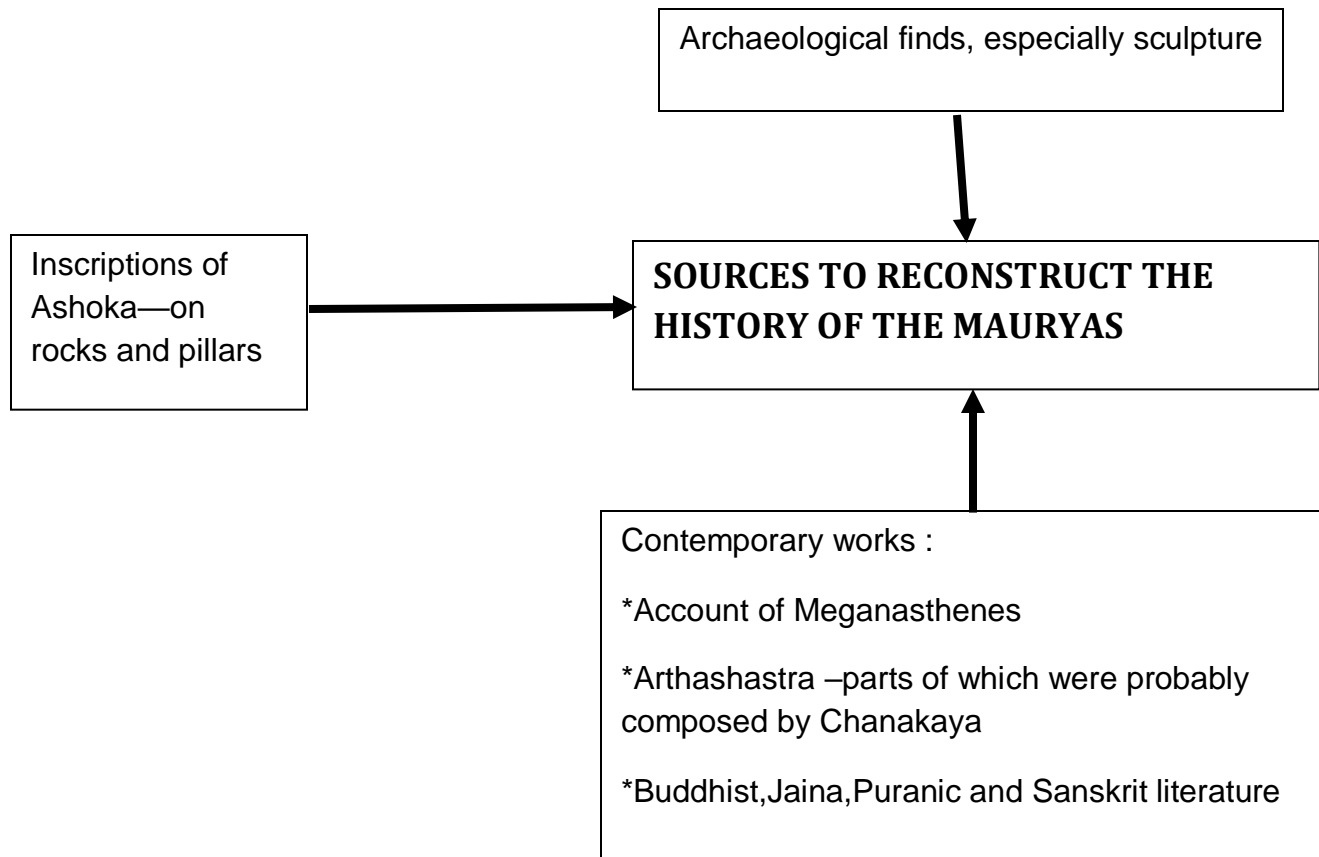
6th century B.C. regarded as a turning point in Indian History

Growth of diverse system of thoughts -Buddhism and Jainism

It was a period which saw the use of iron to a great extent







Ashoka, the first ruler inscribed his messages to his subjects and officials- called as Dhamma

Inscribed on stone surfaces-natural rocks and polished pillars

Ashoka's Dhamma

The Rules were:

- * Treating slaves and servants kindly
- * Respect towards elders
- * Respect for religious tradition other than one's own
- * Generosity towards those who renounced the worldly life
- * Generosity towards Brahmins

Emergence of the Mauryan Empire - regarded as a major land mark, Indian History

It was a challenging and exciting empire

Mauryan and administration, was well organized into different levels

Every level had a committee

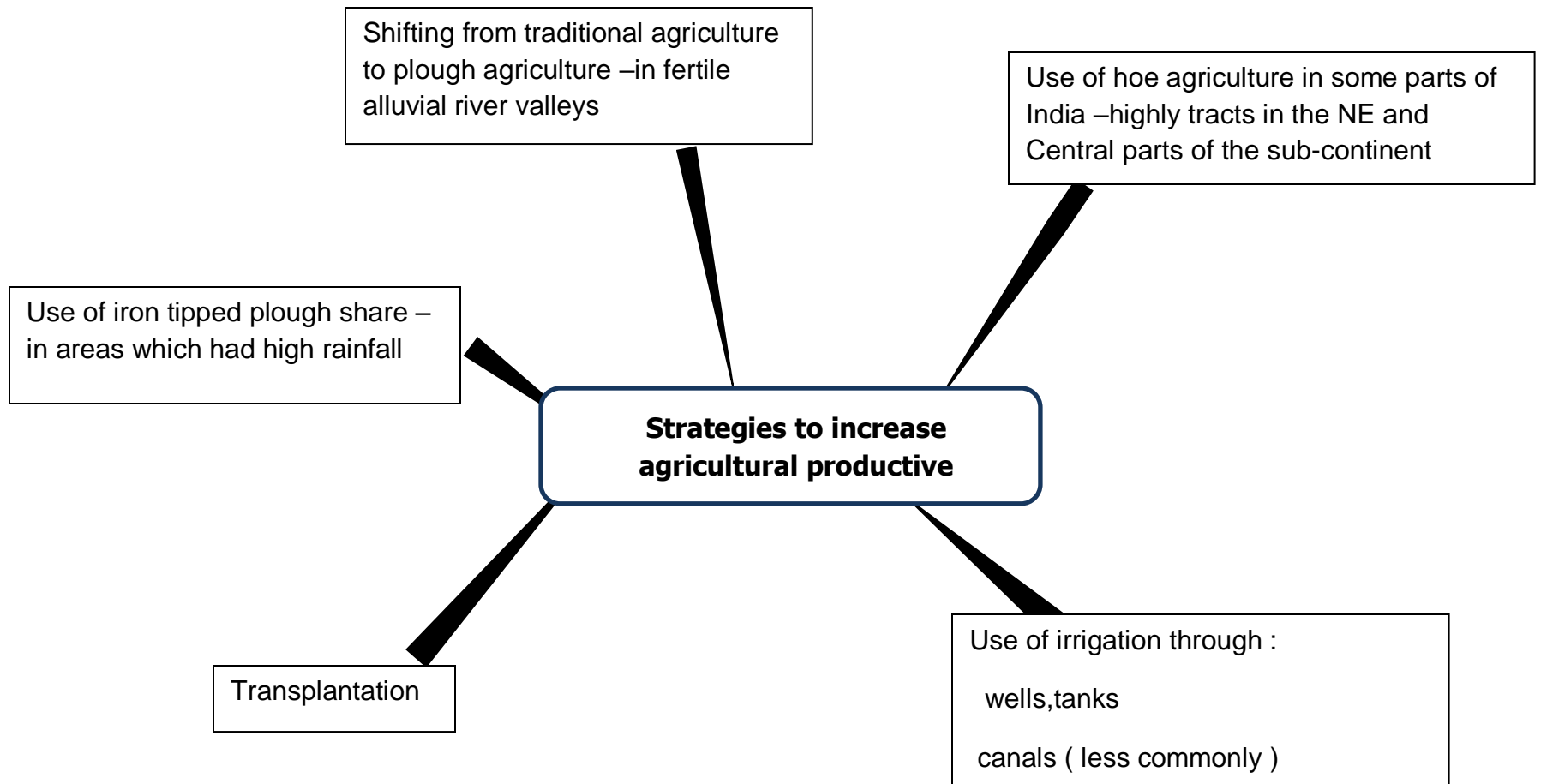
There was well organized army

The principle of non-violence ,ahimsa - has inspired our leaders in the 20th century.

The message of Ashokan Empire was different

Ashoka was more powerful and industrious

Humble ruler



LAND GRANTS

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graph TD; A[LAND GRANTS] --> B[FEATURES]; A --> C[IMPACT];
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FEATURES

- *Part of land given to the done
- *Recorded in inscription-stone /copper plates (transaction)
- *Records that have survived –grants to religious institutions or to Brahmanas
- *Most inscriptions in Sanskrit. Some in local languages-Tamil,Telugu
- *Women were not supposed to have independent access to property, exception Prabhavati Gupta
- *The inscriptions also gives an idea of rural population
- *Regional variations in the sizes of land donated

IMPACT

- Is a subject of debate among historians?
- *Some feel –land grant was a strategy by elite to extend agriculture to new areas
 - *Some feel –land grants were indicative of weakening political power (they were losing control over samantas)
 - *Some feel –because the kings were losing control, they were presenting a façade of power

They record gifts made to religious institutions

They mention the name of their donor and his / her occupation

Votive Inscriptions

They tell us about the people who lived in the towns, like kings, goldsmiths, carpenter, merchants etc.

They procure raw materials

Regulate production

Shrenis – Guilds (organization of craft producers and merchants)

Market the finish products

