



CHAPTER- TRACING CHANGES THROUGH A THOUSAND YEARS (Part 1)

GUIDELINES:

- Read the notes and the Chapter 1 of History- 'Tracing Changes through a Thousand Years' and follow the instructions given below.
- Do not copy the notes in the notebook.
- All the activities and questions are to be done in the **Social Science notebook**.

Reference Book Our Past II (NCERT History book class VII)

Chapter Link - <http://ncert.nic.in/textbook/textbook.htm?gess1=1-10>

INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC:

The period from 8th to 18th century is known as the **medieval period** of Indian history. Over this period, the maps, information and texts about an area differed significantly due to differences in the historical backgrounds and the contexts in which this information was produced.

POINTS TO BE COVERED IN THIS CHAPTER:

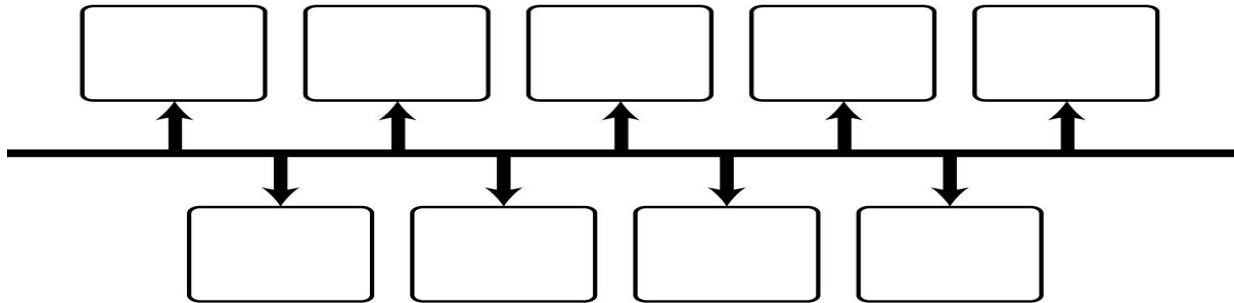
- Different Maps of India
- New and old terminologies
- Sources for Historians
- New Social and Political groups
- Old and new Religion
- Classification of historical period

DEFINING THE PERIOD

Medieval India refers to a long period of the history of the Indian subcontinent between the "ancient period" and "modern period". Definitions of the period itself vary widely. The period from 8th to 18th century is known as the medieval period of Indian history.

Activity: Create a timeline for the 'Medieval period' in the Indian subcontinent. Use the information giving in the chapter to add events to your timeline. A Template for the timeline is given below. Use your imagination and creativity for the activity.

Title _____ Date _____ Name _____



Sample of the timeline: <https://in.pinterest.com/pin/146507794100439642/visual-search/>

DIFFERENT MAPS OF INDIA

Activity: Observe the two maps given below and list the differences according to you. Enlist your response in your notebook.



Map 1



Map 2

- Over a period, the map of an area made by a person differs significantly from that made by another person.
- This is because of the changes in the information about that region. For example, consider the following points regarding the maps given above:

- This was made by the Arab geographer Al-Idrisi.
- It was made in 1154 CE (Christian era).
- In this map South India is where we would expect to find North India.
- Sri Lanka is an island at the top of India.
- The names of places are marked in Arabic and there are some popular places of Uttar Pradesh like Kanauj (spelt as Qanauj).

- It was made by a French cartographer (a person who makes maps).
- It was drawn in the 1720s, i.e. 600 years after Map 1.
- This map is more familiar to us, i.e. it is more similar to the map we know of than the map drawn by Al-Idrisi.
- The coastal areas in particular are detailed.
- It was used by the European sailors and merchants on their voyages.

- Another reason for difference in the maps of two distinct periods is the difference in the science of **cartography**. When documents, maps and texts from the past are read by historians, they have to keep in mind the differences in the historical backgrounds and the contexts in which the information about the past was produced. Hence maps and documents cannot be interpreted in absolute and independent terms.

Watch the video given below for further understanding:

Video Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD6uVO6mXF8>

NEW AND OLD TERMINOLOGIES

Information changes over a period of time-

- In terms of the context in which it is produced.
- In terms of meaning and language – For instance medieval Persian is different from modern Persian both with reference to grammar, vocabulary and meanings.

For examples-

❖ Meanings of Hindustan

The term 'Hindustan' is interpreted differently by different people, which are as follows:

Present Context	Thirteenth Century	Fourteenth Century	Sixteenth Century
<p>Today, this term refers to what we know as 'India', the modern <u>nation-state</u>. (An independent country, especially consisting of a single large group of people all sharing the same language, traditions, and history)</p>	<p>In this period, when this term was used by Mihaj-i-Siraj, a chronicler who wrote in Persian, it included:</p> <p>In the geographical sense: The areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between the Ganga and Yamuna were referred to as Hindustan.</p> <p>In the political sense: The lands that were a part of the dominions of the Delhi Sultan were referred to as Hindustan. The areas included in this term shifted with the extent of the Sultanate. It never included South India.</p>	<p>The term 'Hind' used in this period by the poet Amir Khusrau was somewhat similar to the way it was used in the sixteenth century.</p>	<p>This term was used by Babur to describe the geography, culture and fauna of the inhabitants of the subcontinent.</p>



Present Day



13th to 16th century

The term 'Hindustan' did not carry the political and national meaning that we associate with it today despite the existence of a geographical and cultural entity like 'India'.

❖ Meanings of 'Foreigner'

Present Context	Medieval Period
The term 'foreigner' means a person who is not an Indian.	<p>The term 'foreigner' meant a stranger who appeared in a given village, i.e. a person who was not a part of that society or culture.</p> <p>Thus, a city dweller would consider a forest dweller as 'foreigner' whereas two farmers of the same village even if they belonged to different castes, religion etc.; were not foreigners to each other.</p>

Activity: Find any one such word whose meaning has changed over the period of time. Write about your finding in your notebook.

Watch the video given below for further understanding:

Video Link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_kUe2zvoiQI

Summary:

- ❖ The period from 8th to 18th century is known as the medieval period of Indian history.
- ❖ Over a period, the map of an area made by a person differs significantly from that made by another person. This is because of the changes in the information about that region.
- ❖ Information changes over a period of time, in terms -

Of the context
in which it is produced.

Of the meaning and
Language.

Assignment

Guidelines: All the questions are to be done in the Social Science notebook.

Q1. Who was Al-Idrisi?

Q2. Explain how the term 'Hindustan' has changed over the period of time.

Q3. Define the following: (You can refer the book/ chapter link.)

- i. Nation state
- ii. Chronicler