



BAL BHARATI PUBLIC SCHOOL, PITAM PURA, DELHI-110034

CLASS –VII

SUBJECT: - SOCIAL SCIENCE

CHAPTER- TRACING CHANGES THROUGH A THOUSAND YEARS (Part 2)

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>

RECAPITULATION FROM PART 1:

- ❖ 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 -

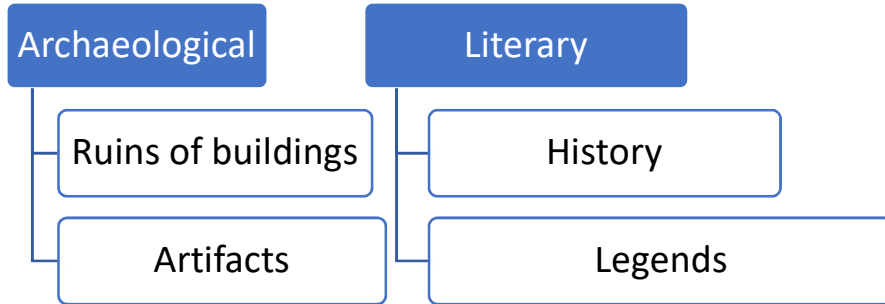
the context
in which it is produced.

the meaning and
language.

HISTORIANS AND THEIR SOURCES

The sources used by historians in the period 700 to 1750 (the Medieval Period) were similar as well as different from the ones used in the ancient period.

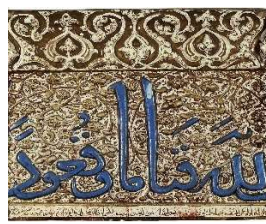
The two types of sources of history are:



There are some common sources used by the historians of both the ancient and medieval distinct periods for obtaining information. For example -



Coins



Inscriptions



Architecture

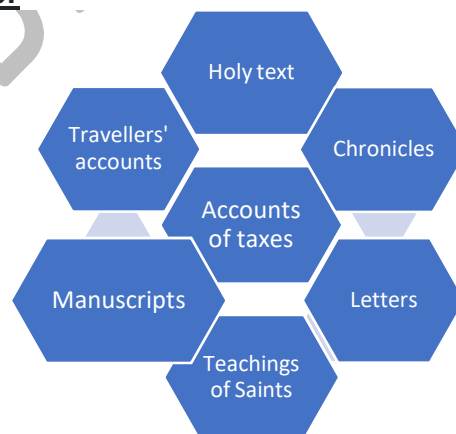


Textual records

But there is also a significant discontinuity in the sources used by the historians of both the distinct periods. Some of the changes in the sources are as follows:

- Dramatic increase in the number and variety of textual records. These slowly displaced other types of available information.
- Paper became cheaper and more widely available as opposed to the earlier periods when people used to write on barks of birch trees, hides, walls of caves.

❖ Use of Paper



- Manuscripts were collected by wealthy people, rulers, monasteries and temples. They were placed in libraries as well as archives (A place or collection containing records, documents, or other materials of historical interest).
- These manuscripts and documents were rich and vital sources of information for the historians. But they were difficult to use.

❖ Copying manuscripts



Manuscript

- Since printing press was not available in the ancient times, scribes (A professional copyist, especially of a manuscript) copied manuscripts by hand. This was a challenging task because there were instances where the handwriting is not very clear and legible. Hence, while copying, they were forced to guess what was written.
- Consequently, there are small but significant changes in the original record and the copied record. Over many rounds of copying, these small differences got accumulated and became big enough to bring about a substantial difference in texts.
- As we are dependent on the copies made by later scribes, historians have to read many copies of manuscripts, i.e. different versions of manuscripts before concluding what was originally written.

Revision of Chronicles:

Some authors revised their chronicles at different times.

- The fourteenth century chronicler Ziyauddin Barani wrote his chronicle first in 1356 and wrote another version two years later. Both the versions differ from each other.
- Historians were not aware of the existence of the earlier version till the 1960s because it remained lost in large library collections.

Summary

- The information about medieval period is derived from two sources: Archaeological and Literary.
- There are some common sources used by the historians of both the ancient and medieval distinct periods for obtaining information. But there is also significant discontinuity in the sources used by the historians of both the distinct periods.
- Manuscripts were collected by wealthy people, rulers, monasteries and temples. They were placed in libraries as well as archives.
- Two problems associated with the manuscripts.

Copying of manuscripts

Revision of Chronicles

Watch the video link given below

Video Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xqdWZE5VQ8E> (Till 1.36 min)

Chapter Link

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

Assignment

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

Q1. Why was there a dramatic increase in the variety of textual records between 700 to 1750 CE?

Q5. Why was copying of Manuscripts a challenging task?

Q6. Define the following: You can refer to the book.

i. Archive

ii. Manuscript

iii. Scribes