

CBSE Class –VII Social Science
NCERT Solutions
Chapter 1 History
Tracing Changes Through A Thousand Years

Q1. Who was considered a “foreigner” in the past?

Ans: In the past, a foreigner was someone who was not part of a certain society or culture. A city dweller might have regarded a forest dweller as a foreigner, but two peasants living in the same village were not foreigners to each other, even if they had different religious or caste backgrounds.

Q2: State whether true or false:

- (a) We do not find inscriptions for the period after 700.**
- (b) The Marathas asserted their political importance during this period.**
- (c) Forest-dwellers were sometimes pushed out of their lands with the spread of agricultural settlements.**
- (d) Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban controlled Assam, Manipur and Kashmir.**

Answers: (a) False (b) True (c) True (d) False

Q3: Fill in the blanks:

- (a) Archives are places where _____ are kept.**
- (b) _____ was a fourteenth-century chronicler.**
- (c) _____, _____, _____, _____ and _____ were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.**

Answers: (a) Archives are places where manuscripts are kept.
(b) Ziyauddin Barani was a fourteenth-century chronicler.
(c) Potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.

Q4: List some of the technological changes associated with this period.

Ans: Some of the technological changes associated with this period were - the Persian wheel for irrigation, the spinning wheel in weaving and firearms in combat.

Q5: What were some of the major religious developments during this period?

Ans: Some of the major religious developments during this period were:

- the inclusion of new deities in Hinduism, the construction of temples by royalty and the growing importance of Brahmanas, the priests, as dominant groups in society.
 - the emergence of bhakti, of a loving personal deity that people could reach out to without the aid of priests or elaborate rituals.
 - Merchants and migrants introduced Islam to the subcontinent through the teachings of the Holy *Quran*. Many rulers were patrons of Islam and the *ulama*.
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Q6: In what ways has the meaning of the term “Hindustan” changed over the centuries?

Ans: Over the centuries, there has been a distinct change in the meaning of the term “Hindustan”.

- In the thirteenth century, the term stood for the lands under the Delhi Sultanate. It never stood for the region covering south India. It meant the areas of Punjab, Haryana and the lands between the Ganga and Yamuna.
 - The fourteenth century poet, Amir Khusrau referred to "Hind" for the culture and people of the Indus river.
 - In the early sixteenth century, Babur used the term to describe the geography, culture and fauna of the subcontinent.
 - Now, it represents the modern nation state of India.
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Q7: How were the affairs of jatis regulated?

Ans: The affairs of the jatis were regulated by an assembly of elders, known in some areas as the jati panchayat. But, jatis were also required to follow the rules of their village. Several villages were governed by a chieftain.

Q8: What does the term pan-regional empire mean?

Ans: The term pan-regional empire refers to an empire which stretches over many diverse

regions. The Mughal empire and the Chola empire are good examples of pan-regional empires.

Q9: What are the difficulties historians face in using manuscripts?

Ans: While using manuscripts, historians face a number of difficulties.

- Manuscripts were written with hand and as a result, there were small but significant differences between any two copies. Also, it was difficult to read handwritten manuscripts.
 - The scribes who copied them introduced changes. As a result, historians have to read different versions of the same text to guess what the authors had originally written. This discrepancy in different versions of manuscripts may lead to inaccurate historical information.
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Q10: How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problems in doing so?

Ans: Historians divide the past into periods based on the economic and social factors which characterize them. In doing so, they are faced with two problems. First, economic and social changes keep taking place hence, definite boundaries cannot be drawn. Second, these periods are compared with modernity. Modernity gives a sense of progress. This implies that there was no progress before, which is not true.