

NCERT SOLUTIONS

CLASS - 7TH



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Class : 7th

Subject : History

Chapter : 1

Chapter Name : Tracing Changes Through A Thousand Years 1

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

Answer. 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.

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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.

Answer. (a) False

- (b) True
- (c) True
- (d) False

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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.

Answer. (a) Archives are places where manuscripts are kept.

- (b) Amir Khusrao 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.

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

Answer. Some of the technological changes associated with this period are — the Persian wheel, the spinning wheel and firearms in combat.

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

Answer. Major religious developments of this period are the inclusion of new deities in Hinduism, emergence of bhakti and the introduction of Islam.

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Q6 In what ways has the meaning of the term “Hindustan” changed over the centuries?

Answer. Over the centuries there has been a vast change in the meaning of the term "Hindustan". Today it is understood as India, the modern nation state. In the thirteenth century the term stood for the lands under the Delhi Sultanate. Babur used the term to describe the geography, culture and fauna of the subcontinent.

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Q7 How were the affairs of jatis regulated?

Answer. The affairs of the Jatis were regulated by an assembly of elders, known in some areas as the jati panchayat.

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Q8 What does the term pan-regional empire mean?

Answer. The term pan-regional empire is applied to an empire which stretches over many regions. The Mughal empire is a good example of such an empire.

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Q9 What are the difficulties historians face in using manuscripts?

Answer. While using manuscripts, the historians face a number of difficulties. Manuscripts were written with hand and as a result there were small but significant

difference between any two copies. The scribes who copied them introduced changes. As a result historians have to read different manuscript versions of the same text to guess what the authors had originally written.

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Q10 How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problems in doing so?

Answer. 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.

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Q11 Compare either Map 1 or Map 2 with the present-day map of the subcontinent, listing as many similarities and differences as you can find.

Answer. Map 1 and Map 2 given in the NCERT Textbook represent two different times. Map 1 was made in 1154 CE by al-Idrisi, an Arab geographer. This section is a detail of the Indian subcontinent from his larger map of the world. Map 2 was made by a French cartographer in 1720. Both maps are quite different from each other, even though they represent the same area. In Map 1 we find south India at the place where we would expect to find north India and Sri Lanka is the island at the top. The place names are in Arabic. Some familiar places like Kannauj in Uttar Pradesh have been spelt as Qanauj. In comparison to this Map 2 was made nearly 600 later after Map 1. By that time information about the subcontinent had changed a lot. This map appears to be more familiar to us. The coastal areas, particularly, are more detailed.

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Q12 Find out where records are kept in your village or city. Who writes these records? Is there an archive? Who manages it? What kinds of documents are stored there? Who are the people who use it?

Answer. In our village, records are kept in the Panchayat office. Gram Sevak who is a government employee writes these records. There is no archive in our village. Sarpanch manages it. The documents stored there include the record of the land of the village, data of births and deaths, the number of public properties, data of health centres, etc.

Villagers use these records. The certificates are issued to the villagers on the basis of these records.

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