

E-Resources for April 2016

HISTORY (Upper Primary: VI-VIII)

Resource No.1

Title : Our Clues to the Past : Importance of Sources (Chapter I- What, Where, How and When)

Subject: History

Level: Upper Primary (class VI)

Target Audience: Students

Language : English

Tags/Key words: Sources, Clues, Archaeological Remains, Inscriptions, Coins, Literature, Travellers Accounts

Description:

Studying about the past is like playing a game of a treasure hunt. There are clues hidden in different places and when you find one clue, it leads you to the next and slowly you discover at the treasure. In History the hidden treasure is trying to understand what happened in the past, how it happened and when it happened, long before we were born. How do we know about the life and times people who lived in those times? We learn about them from the evidence left behind by them at different points of time. These remains of the past are known as sources and historians use a variety of sources to decipher what happened in the past. It is thus a challenging task to rediscover India's rich past.

Today we are surrounded by printed material in terms of books, magazines and newspapers. But do you know there was a time when printing was not known and records were written by hand on paper? Yet earlier still, paper was not known, records were written on dried palm leaves, the bark of birch tree and on plates of copper and, in some cases they were inscribed

on large rocks, pillars or clay/stone tablets. There was a time still when even writing was unknown. Our knowledge of the life of people in those ancient times comes from objects which they have left behind such as their utensils, ornaments, pottery and weapons. Sources can be divided into two main groups: Archaeological and Literary.

Sources can be categorised into:

(1) Archaeological Remains and Monuments, Inscriptions and Coins



The bathroom-toilet structure of houses in Loth



A variety of tools belonging to the Stone Age



Brihadeshwara Temple dedicated to Shiva located in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu is an example of Dravidian architecture during the Chola period.



Badami Chalukya pillar inscription in Old Kannada, Virupaksha Temple, 745 CE, Pattadakal



Silver coins of Chandragupta II, minted in his Western territories



Gold coins of Chandragupta II.



A Jain palm leaf manuscript from Rajasthan.

(2) Literary Sources: Religious Literature, Non-Religious Literature and Travellers Accounts



A portrait of Xuanzang

Xuan Zang was a Chinese Buddhist monk, scholar, traveller, and translator who described the interaction between China and India in the early Tang dynasty. He came to India about 1400 years ago and visited places associated with the life of Buddha. He left an account of his journey in India.

Resource No. 2

Title : An Activity for Chapter I- What, Where, How and When

Subject: History

Level: Upper Primary (class VI)

Target Audience: Students

Language : English

Tags/Key words: Inscription, Archaeologist, Historian, Rosetta

Description: The theme *What, Where, How and When* attempts to instil a sense of curiosity amongst students about how people lived in the past. **What** people ate, clothes they wore, animals they domesticated, houses they lived, toys children used, **Where** did people live whether in hilly areas or along river banks or along sea coasts, **Why** did kings, hunters, farmers, artisans, musicians, women, priests, scientists, etc. form an integral part of political, social, economic and cultural developments from time to time ? When did significant developments or changes occur and which aspects of these continued along with the changes?

How do historians find out about the past, **What** do dates mean?

Below is an activity which will enable students to identify the appropriate meanings of terms/words that are generally used .

Match the following:

1. Palm-leaf manuscript	a. Name given to river Indus by Iranians and Greeks.
2. Inscription	b. Before Common Era
3. Archaeologist	c. A powerful kingdom on the Ganga valley.

4. Historian	d. A town in Egypt where an inscribed stone containing three different languages and scripts were found.
5. Magadha	e. A person who studies remains of the past.
6. Rosetta	f. A person who studies the past through information found from monuments, inscriptions and archaeology.
7. B.C.E	g. Writings on hard surfaces like stone and metal.
8. Hindos	h. Writings on palm leaves

Resource No. 3

Title : Importance of Coins

Subject: History

Level: Upper Primary (class VI and VII)

Target Audience: Students

Language : English

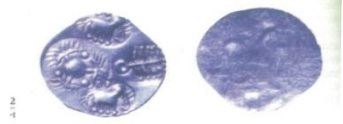




Tags/Key words: Coins, Medium of Exchange, Barter, Numismatics, Numismatist, Silver and Gold Coins

Description:

Some of the facets of social and economic life of the people can be understood through the study of coins. Availability of large number of coins like silver and gold having high intrinsic value is an indicator of political stability and economic growth. Coins are sources of information of ruling dynasty, their ruler, regnal year etc. Do you know that the coins that we use for buying food items, dresses and paying our bills and other miscellaneous expenses have a very interesting past ? The use of coins facilitated exchanges. Before coins were introduced people exchanged commodities with one another. For example two sacks of wheat for five jars of oil. This form of exchange was known as the barter system. Barter system was of a very limited nature as it could not help in facilitating large scale transaction of goods and commodities. Numismatics is a study of coins, including visual elements such as scripts and images, metallurgical analysis and the contexts in which they have been found. A Numismatist is a person studies coins to reconstruct the past.

The following timeline depicts the coins used in the Indian sub continents from the earliest times.

Timeline of Coins 6th c BCE to 17th c CE

 <p>Silver and Copper</p>	<p>Earliest available coins 6th c BCE onwards.</p>
 <p>Indo Greek</p>	<p>2nd c BCE Indo Greek coins. 1st coins carrying images and names of rulers who issued them.</p>
 <p>Kushan</p> <p>Yahudheyas</p>	<p>1st c CE first Gold coins issued by Kushans. In the same period the tribal republics of the Yahudheyas also issued coins.</p>
 <p>Gupta</p>	<p>4th CE Gupta coins were known for the purity of their gold content.</p>
 <p>Mughal</p>	<p>13th-17th c CE the popular currency in circulation were Jital, Tanka, Bahloli and Rupia.</p>



Jahangir's mohur

Coins of Jahangir

Jahangir took a personal interest to develop his coinage. He included his innovative qualities in issuing coins and later those became the characteristic of his coinage. Jahangir issued an attractive series of gold and silver coins representing the twelve signs of the Zodiac.

Resource No.4

Title: Seals as an Important Source of Study of Harappan Civilisation

Subject: History

Level: Upper Primary (class VI), Chapter 4 - On the Trail of the Earliest Cities

Target Audience: Students

Language: English

Tags/Key words: Seals, Steatite, Undeciphered, Unicorn, Pasupati Seal

Description:

There are several ways of knowing about the Harappan Civilization. One such important archaeological source is seals. Seals have fascinated and intrigued archaeologists and historians. Made of steatite seals often contain animal motifs and signs from a script that remains undeciphered. Religious beliefs and practices can be ascertained by examining seals. Some of them seem to depict, ritual scenes. Others, with plant motifs, are said to indicate nature worship. Some animals – such as the one-horned animal, often called the “**Unicorn**” – depicted on seals seems to be of composite creatures. In some seals, a figure shown seated cross legged in a ‘**yogic**’ posture, surrounded by animals, has been regarded as a depiction of “**proto-shiva**”.

Placed below are pictures of some seals belonging to the Harappan Civilisation.



Unicorn seal of Indus Valley, [Indian Museum](#)

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/a/a8/Indus_civilisation_seal_unicorn_at_Indian_Museum%2C_Kolkata.jpg/220px-



Elephant seal of Indus

Valley, [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c0/Elephant_seal_of_Indus_Valley%2C_Indian_Museum%2C_Kolkata.jpg/220px-](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c0/Elephant_seal_of_Indus_Valley%2C_Indian_Museum%2C_Kolkata.jpg/220px-Elephant_seal_of_Indus_Valley%2C_Indian_Museum%2C_Kolkata.jpg)

[Elephant seal of Indus Valley%2C Indian Museum%2C Kolkata.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/c/c0/Elephant_seal_of_Indus_Valley%2C_Indian_Museum%2C_Kolkata.jpg)



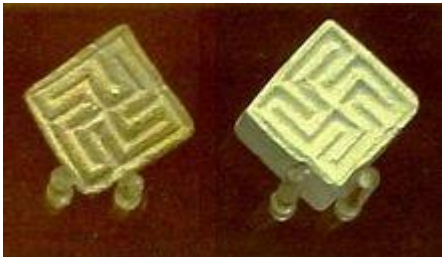
The *Pashupati seal*, showing a seated and possibly tricephalic figure, surrounded by animals.

[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/2f/Shiva_Pashupati.jpg/220px-](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/2/2f/Shiva_Pashupati.jpg/220px-Shiva_Pashupati.jpg)
Shiva_Pashupati.jpg



Indus valley seal with [Bull](#), [Elephant](#), and [Rhinoceros](#), 2500–1900 BC

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/4/43/W8naf5_aic000005ap.jpg/220px-W8naf5_aic000005ap.jpg



Seals of Indus Valley Civilization in [British Museum](#)

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/01/IndusValleySeals_swastikas.JPG/220px-IndusValleySeals_swastikas.JPG

Study the above pictures and answer the following-

- a) Identify the animals engraved on the seals?
- b) Are they similar to the animals found in your area?
- c) Try and describe the figure in a yogic posture represented on a seal? Give an appropriate name to the figure.
- d) Are the trees worshipped even today? Identify some trees, those which are worshipped even today.
- e) What was the purpose of seals in the Harappan Civilisation?

Resource No.5

Resource No.5

Title: Pre- Historic Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka

Subject: History

Level: Upper Primary (class VI), Chapter 2 - On the Trail of the Earliest People

Target Audience: Students and Teachers

Language: English

Tags/Key words: Rock Shelters, Human Evolution, Palaeolithic Period, Mesolithic Period , Chalcolithic potteries, Tools and Implements, Paintings

Description:

The Rock Shelters of Bhimbetka is a natural art gallery and an archaeological treasure. They are located near Bhopal in the state of Madhya Pradesh, inside the Ratapani Wildlife Sanctuary. The site houses more than 700 rock shelters, of which over 400 have paintings by early humans as early as about 15,000 years ago in vivid and panoramic detail. The earliest human activities are known from the numerous stone tools including hand axes, cleavers and also pebble tools. The rock shelters provide clear evidence of continuity of human evolution from the Lower Palaeolithic Period, the Middle Palaeolithic Period, the Upper Palaeolithic Period to the Mesolithic Period which is noticed by the size and typology of tools and implements. For instance the Upper Palaeolithic Period had newer tool types like blades, borers and burins while the stone tools of the Mesolithic Period were most often of chalcedony. The stone tools of this period include blades, triangles, trapezes, crescents besides quern and muller. The Mesolithic culture at Bhimbetka continued much longer as understood by the presence of Chalcolithic potteries. By the Early Historic times it appears that interaction with the surrounding cultures became more pronounced. This is evidenced by the presence of rock-cut beds in a rock shelter.

However it is the rock paintings of Bhimbetka that are really intriguing. Of particular interest are the Auditorium Rock Shelter, Zoo Rock and Boar Rock in Bhimbetka Cluster. The rock paintings have numerous layers belonging to various periods of time ranging from the Upper Palaeolithic, Mesolithic Age to the proto-historic, early historic and medieval periods. The most ancient scenes here believed to be commonly belonging to the Mesolithic Age. These

magnificent paintings can be seen even on the ceiling of the rock shelters. The dense forest and vegetation protected these rocks paintings. Executed mainly in red and white, with the occasional use of green and yellow with themes taken from the everyday events, the scenes usually depict hunting, dancing, horse and elephant riders, animal fights, honey collection, decoration of bodies, disguises, masks and different type of animals etc. It depicts the detail of social life during the long period of time, when humans used to frequent these shelters. Animals such as bison, tiger, rhinoceros, wild boar, elephants, monkeys, antelopes, lizards, peacocks etc. have been abundantly depicted in the rock shelters. Popular religious and ritual symbols also occur frequently. The colours used by the cave dwellers were prepared by combining manganese, hematite, soft red stone and wooden charcoal. Perhaps, animal fat and extracts of leaves were also used in the mixture.



The sprawling caves



Entrance of Bhimbetka

http://asi.nic.in/images/wh_bhimbetka/images/001.jpg



Mythical Boar, Boranwali, Bhimbetka

http://asi.nic.in/images/wh_bhimbetka/images/005.jpg



Rock paintings at Zoo-rock, Bhimbetka

http://asi.nic.in/images/wh_bhimbetka/images/006.jpg



Green paintings at Boranwali, Bhimbetka

http://asi.nic.in/images/wh_bhimbetka/images/003.jpg



Paintings in the Shelter

http://whc.unesco.org/uploads/thumbs/site_0925_0001-750-0

Resource No. 6

Title : The Coming of the British

Subject: History

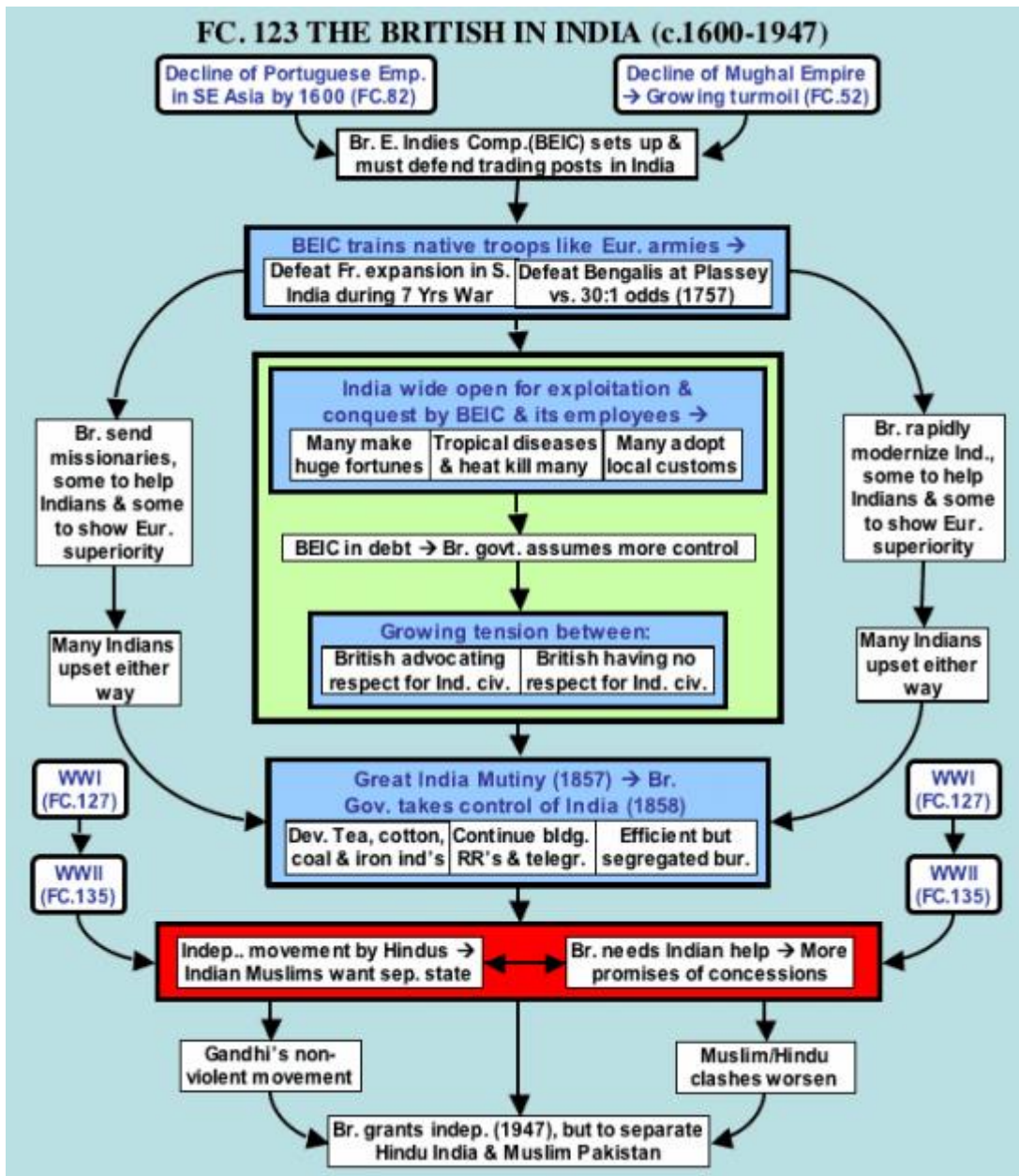
Level: Upper Primary (class VIII)

Target Audience: Students

Language : English

Tags/Key words : East India company/Vasco De Gama/Calcutta/ Madras/ Bombay/factories/ French/ Portugese/Mercantile/Robert Clive/

Description: It has been said that the British Empire was picked up in a "fit of absence of mind." Nowhere was this more true than in the case of India which gradually came under British rule, not by the efforts of Britain's government, but by those of the British East Indies Company, founded in 1599 by a group of merchants in search of nothing more than "quiet trade." However, circumstances would thwart these peaceful intentions, and over the next 250 years the British would find themselves more and more in the role of conquerors and governors than traders. Not only would the British have a profound effect on India's history, but the "crown jewel of the British Empire" would also affect Western Civilization. This is reflected in such English words as bungalow, verandah, punch, dungarees, and pajamas, such customs as smoking cigars, playing polo, and taking showers, as well as more profound influences in the realms of religion and philosophy.



SOURCES: 1.East India Company-History (Mocomi Kids)(3.52 minutes)

2. Battle of Plassey (3.06minutes)

3.Revolt of 1857(9.11minutes)



Submitted by

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