

**INFORMATION BOOKLET**

History is generally divided into three periods- the ancient, the medieval and the modern. In Class-VI, we have studied about the ancient history-the period from pre-historic times to seventh century CE. In Class-VII, we are going to study about the history and civilisation of medieval period in India and the world.

In Europe, the period from fifth to fifteenth century CE is known as the medieval period. In India, the period from eighth to eighteenth century CE marks the beginning and the end of the medieval period. During this period, several important changes took place in the social, economic and political structures of Europe, America and Asia.

Though in the ancient period, Indian culture had remained aloof from the outside world, during the medieval period Indian culture was highly influenced by changes that took place in other countries. These influences are evident in the culture, administration, economy, language and religious beliefs of the people even today.



Marco Polo



Chand Bardai

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION**

The main sources of information of the medieval period are literature and archaeological findings. The literature of this period consists of religious works and commentaries (based on Puranas, Smritis, etc.). We get a lot of information about the social, economic, political and military conditions of that period from non-religious works on medicine, astronomy, dramas, stories and other literature.

The autobiographies, orders of the rulers and letters written during that period also help us to understand the life of the people during the medieval period. For example, “Prithviraj Raso”

written by Chand Bardai throws light on the administration and the life of the people in north India during the reign of Prithviraj Chauhan. Muslim rulers encouraged the writing of historical accounts.



Abul Fazl



Al Biruni

The well-known works of history of this period are Tahqiq-i-Hind (Al-Biruni), Ain-i-Akbari (Abul Fazl), etc., which were written mainly in Persian. The travel accounts of foreign visitors, like Ibn Battutah, Marco Polo and Bernier, are also important sources of information about that time.

The significant achievement of this period was the popularity and availability of paper, which encouraged the writing of records.

Though manuscripts provide a lot of useful information to historians, yet the fast pace of development during this period makes their job quite tough. The movement of people in search of opportunities resulted in exchange of ideas regarding agriculture, weaving, food, etc. Many ranks and differentiations emerged in the society. This was also a period of great technological developments like the Persian wheel, spinning wheel, etc.

Manuscript: handwritten text or document.

Sarais: inns for travellers.

Scribe: a person who copied out documents.

Excavation of medieval towns, sarais and villages along with paintings, monuments, sculptures, coins and inscriptions, also give us a lot of information about the different aspects of the society and culture. The National and State governments keep all records, documents and manuscripts in the Archives. The National Archives of India is located in New Delhi.

NAME : \_\_\_\_\_ ROLL No. \_\_\_\_\_ SECTION \_\_\_\_\_

GRADE : \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of the Evaluator \_\_\_\_\_.

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I. TICK THE CORRECT OPTION:

1. The period from eight to eighteenth century CE is known as-
  - a. Prehistoric Period
  - b. Ancient Period
  - c. Medieval Period
  - d. Modern Period
2. The handwritten texts or documents were known as-
  - a. Manuscripts
  - b. Sarais
  - c. Scribes
  - d. Archives
3. "Prithviraj Raso" was written by-
  - a. Arya Bhatta
  - b. Tulsidas
  - c. Chand Bardai
  - d. Abul Fazl
4. Name the languages in which "Tahqiq-i-Hind" was written-
  - a. Arabic
  - b. Urdu
  - c. Persian
  - d. Hindi
5. A book written by Abul Fazl was-
  - a. Tahqiq-i-Hind
  - b. Rajtarangini
  - c. Ain-i-Akbari
  - d. Prithviraj Raso

II. FILL IN THE BLANKS:

1. History is generally divided into three periods- the ancient, the \_\_\_\_\_ and the modern.
2. Marco Polo was a foreign \_\_\_\_\_
3. Underground digging is known as \_\_\_\_\_
4. Inscription is a source of \_\_\_\_\_
5. The National Archives of India is located in \_\_\_\_\_

III. ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

1. Which period is known as the medieval period in Indian history ?

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2. "History is divided into three parts"-What are they?

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3. Which period is known as the medieval period in European history?

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4. Define a Manuscript.

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5. Who is a Scribe?

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6. Name the foreign visitors who wrote travel accounts of medieval period of India.

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7. What are inscriptions?

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8. List the technological developments of the medieval period.

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9. What was the most significant achievement of the medieval period?

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10. What are the literary sources of information of the medieval period?

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