

Vidya Bhawan Balika Vidyapith, LKR.

Class-6th, Sub. -Social Science, Date-12-04-2021

Sub. Teacher-Punit Kumar

Ch1 History-When, Where and How

Sources of History

Sources are clues that help in putting the past together. We learn our past from two group of sources- **archaeology** and **literary**.

Archaeological sources:- Archaeological sources or material remains of people who lived in the past-such as buildings, houses, pots and pans, monuments, coins, tools, jewellery, writings on stone walls and pieces of metal plates, food remains etc. help in reconstructing the past. These sources have no written records.

Archaeological sources are divided into the following:

- Inscriptions and edicts
- Monuments
- Coins, artefacts, and other objects

Inscriptions and Edicts:- Inscriptions are writings engraved on rocks, pillars, cave walls of forts, palaces and temples, and on clay and copper tablets. They tell us names and dates of kings, extent of their empires, and important events during their reign. They also provide information about religious and cultural practices of people such as the Ashokan inscriptions help in ascertaining the principles of his dhamma and extent of his empires. The study of inscription is known as epigraphy.

Monuments:- Old buildings of historical importance are known as monuments. The ruins of temples, forts, palaces, stupas and residential complexes are some monuments that make the past come alive. The stupas and temples built by Ashoka and the Gupta dynasty are important sources of history.

Coins, Artefacts, and other objects:--Coins are important as they help in fixing dates of several dynasties and also tell us about the religious and cultural practices of the people who issued such as coins issued by Samudragupta tell us that he was a devotee of Vishnu and that he was fond of music. The metal or alloy used to make these coins tell us about scientific advancement made during that period. Coins were made of gold, silver, copper etc.

Artefacts means works of art made by humans such as pottery, statues, tools, ornaments etc. These artefacts also give a lot of information about the cultural life of the people. The specimens of Sculpture found at Takshssila that belonged to the period of Kanishka throw light on the beauty of the Gandhara school of Art and its influence on Indian art.