



Social Science

Class 6

Chapter 4: Timeline and Sources of History



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Questions, Activities & Projects

Q 1. As a project, write the history of your family (or village if you live in one), using sources of history at your disposal. Ask your teacher to guide you.

Ans:

Project Topic: History of my village and family

Introduction: History is not limited to the stories of kings and emperors, but common people and their life events are also a part of history. Under this project, I tried to know the history of my village and family.

Name and location of the village: My village Rampur is located in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh. This village is full of natural beauty and greenery. Mainly agriculture work is done here and people follow a traditional lifestyle.

History of the village: According to the elders of the village, this village is about 200 years old. Earlier only a few families lived here, who settled by clearing the forest. Gradually more people started coming and settling in the village. The main temple of the village "Shiv Mandir" is about a hundred years old, which was built during the time of my great grandfather. Earlier, travel in the village was done by bullock cart and on foot, but now roads have been built and people travel by motorcycle and bus.

History of the family: My family has been living in this village for four generations. My great grandfather was the village head during the freedom struggle and participated in movements against the British. My grandfather was a teacher in the village school along with farming. He spread the importance of education in the village. My father still does farming but also uses modern technology, like tractors and mobile apps to get agricultural information.

Sources of History: I used the following sources for this project:

1. Conversations with my grandparents and parents
2. Discussions with village elders like Harinath Chacha and Mishrilal Baba
3. Old photographs and land documents
4. Inscriptions and old stones near the temple

Conclusion: While doing this project, I realized that our history is all around us – we just need to understand and know it. Knowing the history of my village and family makes me feel proud and it is a source of inspiration for me.

Q 2. Can we compare historians to detectives? Give reasons for your answers.

Ans: Yes, historians can be compared to detectives because both work to uncover the truth by finding clues.

1. Searching for information – The detective looks for clues related to the crime, while the historian examines evidence from the past.
2. Analyzing evidence – Both draw conclusions by examining true and false facts.
3. Searching for reasons – The detective finds out the motive behind the crime, the historian investigates the causes of historical events.
4. Revealing secret truths – Both bring out hidden or forgotten information.
5. Reaching conclusions – They draw logical conclusions by combining information from different sources.

However, the detective works on current events, while the historian investigates the past. In this way, historians can be called "detectives of the past."

Q 3. A few exercises with dates:

(i). Place these dates chronologically on the timeline: 323 CE, 323 BCE, 100 CE, 100 BCE, 1900 BCE, 1090 CE, 2024 CE.

Ans:

The dates in chronological order (from oldest to latest) will be as follows-
1900 A.D. → 323 A.D. → 100 A.D. → 100 A.D. → 323 A.D. → 1090 A.D. → 2024 A.D.

(ii). If King Chandragupta was born in 320 CE, which century did he belong to? And how many years was that after the Buddha's birth?

Ans:

Chandragupta Maurya was born in 320 B.C.

To find the century of any year, if the year is in B.C. (BC), divide it by 100 and add 1.

$$320 \text{ B.C.} \div 100 = 3.2$$

On rounding it to the nearest integer is 3, and add 1 it will be 4th century B.C.

Answer: Emperor Chandragupta belonged to the 4th century B.C.

Gautam Buddha was born in 563 B.C.

Chandragupta was born in 320 B.C.

$$\text{Difference: } 563 - 320 = 243 \text{ years}$$

Answer: Chandragupta Maurya was born 243 years after Gautam Buddha.

(iii). Rani of Jhansi was born in 1828. Which century did she belong to? How many years was that before India's Independence?

Ans:

Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi was born in 1828 A.D.

To find the century of any year, divide the year by 100 and add 1.

$$1828 \div 100 = 18.28$$

Rounding it off to the nearest integer will give 19th century.

Hence, Rani of Jhansi belonged to 19th century.

India got independence in 1947 A.D.

Rani of Jhansi was born in 1828 A.D.

$$\text{Difference: } 1947 - 1828 = 119 \text{ years}$$

Hence, Rani of Jhansi was born 119 years before India got independence.

(iv). Turn '12,000 years ago' into a date.

Ans:

If we consider the current year as 2025 C.E., then to find the date of 12,000 years ago:

$$2025 - 12,000 = -9975$$

Since negative year represents BC, the dating of 12,000 years ago will be: 9975 BC.

Q 4. Plan a visit to a nearby museum: the visit should be prepared with some prior research on the kind of exhibits the museum holds. Keep notes during the visit. Write a brief report afterwards, highlighting what was unexpected / interesting / fun about the visit and the exhibits.

Ans:

Museum Visit Plan

Name of the Museum: National Museum, New Delhi.

Location: New Delhi

Date of Visit: 10 April 2025

Objective of Visit: To know, understand and feel the historical heritage and cultural heritage.

Exhibition Details (Pre-Information):

1. Ancient Indian History Section: Indus Valley Civilization, Mauryan period, Gupta period sculptures and utensils.
2. Medieval India Section: Mughal period swords, paintings, inscriptions.
3. Modern India Section: Objects related to the freedom struggle like Gandhiji's pictures, old documents, letters.
4. Folk Culture Section: Folk arts of Uttar Pradesh, costumes, folk music instruments.
5. Natural History Section: Wildlife models, information on birds and animals.

Notes during the visit:

1. The clay statues of the Indus Valley looked very beautiful and lifelike.
2. History came alive on seeing the replica of Ashoka's inscription on a wall.
3. Mughal swords had fine carvings in their designs.
4. In the freedom struggle section, I was filled with pride to see Bhagat Singh's original documents.
5. For the first time, I saw the dholak and sarangi used in folk music so closely.

Brief report after the visit:

1. On 10 April 2025, our class visited the Government of India Museum in New Delhi. This visit was very interesting and educative in terms of historical information and cultural understanding.
2. In the museum, we saw glimpses of different periods of India. The most impressive were the remains of the Indus Valley Civilization. Seeing the pottery, seals and statues, it was understood how advanced our civilization was even thousands of years ago.
3. In the folk culture section, we got to see the colorful traditions of the country. A video of artists playing folk instruments was also shown, which was very attractive.
4. The most memorable moment was when we saw Gandhiji's original glasses and documents. The whole atmosphere was very inspiring.

Interesting things/incidents:

1. One of our companions tried to read Ashoka's inscription in Brahmi script, which was fun.
2. The guide told us that some of the things in the museum are more than 2000 years old, which surprised everyone.
3. While taking a selfie in front of a statue, a student's glasses fell down, which was later found behind the statue.

Conclusion: This museum visit was not just an educational trip but a lively experience of connecting with the past and understanding the heritage of our country. It inspired us to know, understand and respect our history.

Q 5. Invite to your school an archaeologist or a historian and ask them to speak on the history of your region and why it's important to know it.

Ans:

Invitation letter

[Name of the school]

[Address]

[Date]

To,
Shri Jaspal Singh
Department of Archaeology
New Delhi

Subject: Invitation for Lecture on Local History

Sir/Madam,

We are very happy to inform you that a special lecture is being organized in our school for the educational development of students. The main theme of this program is "Local history and why it is important to know it".

We want to benefit our students with your experience and knowledge. Therefore, we cordially invite you to visit our school and deliver an inspirational lecture on the above topic.

Your experience will help students understand the importance of history, especially the need to preserve and study local history.

Regards,

[Your name]

[Name of the school]

[Contact number / email]