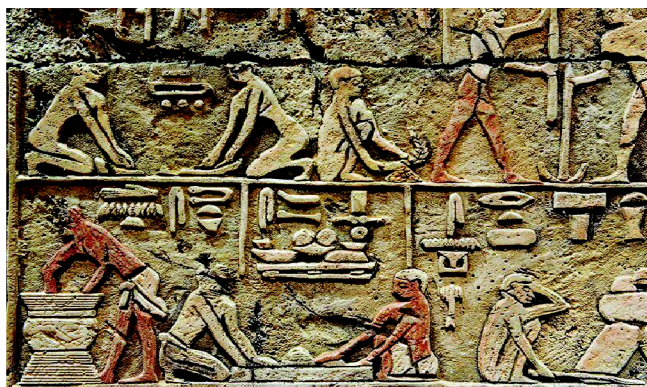


How, When And Where

Topic Covers

- ◆ **How Important Are Dates?**
Which Dates are important in History
Different ways to periodise History
Meaning of Colonial
- ◆ **How Do We Know?**
Administration produces records
Survys become important



How Important Are Dates?

Importance of Dates in History

- Dates hold an important place for the historians and history was synonymous with dates.
- History is not only about memorising dates but also about changes that occur over a period of time.
- Historical questions refer us back to notions of time.
- History is related with a string of dates because it is associated with a series of events having specific dates that continue to be important in history.

Which dates are important in History

- Dates in history are not important on their own but become important because we focus on a particular set of events as important.
- When history or a story is written, it is divided into chapters because each chapter has some coherence and to tell a story in a way that makes some sense.

Different ways to periodise history

- James Mill in his book 'A History of British India' divided Indian history into three periods – Hindu, Muslim and British.
- History is divided into different period to capture the characteristics of a time and the significance of the change from one period to the next.
- James Mill considered the Asian societies at a lower level of civilization than Europe because of prevalent religious intolerance, caste taboos and superstitious practices.
- Mill felt that the British rule could civilise India and for this it was necessary to introduce European manners, arts, institutions and laws in India.
- Apart from the British classification, historians have classified Indian history into 'ancient', 'medieval' and 'modern'.

Meaning of colonial

- Colonisation: When the subjugation of one country by another leads to political, economic, social and cultural changes, these process is called colonisation.

How Do We Know?

Administration produces records

- Historians use the official records of the British administration in writing the last 250 years of Indian history.
- British considered the act of writing to be very important. Every plan, policy decisions and agreements were clearly written up.
- The British also carefully preserved all important documents and letters.
- Record rooms were attached to all administrative buildings to preserve important documents.
- Institutions like archives and museums were also established to preserve important documents.
- The official documents were copied and beautifully written by calligraphists. Later, with the spread of printing, multiple copies of records were printed.

Surveys become important

- Surveying became common under the colonial administration because the British believed that for effective administration of the country it should be properly known.
- Surveys were carried out to map the entire country.
- Census was held every 10 years to prepare detail records of the number of people in all the provinces of India.
- The British carried out various surveys like the botanical surveys, zoological surveys, archaeological surveys, anthropological surveys and forest surveys.
- Information that are not provided by official records
- The official records tell us what the officials thought. These records do not help us understand what other people in the country felt.
- The diaries of people, accounts of pilgrims, autobiographies and popular booklets sold in the local bazaars provided information about the life of the ordinary people.

Printing was introduced and newspapers were published and issues were debated in public. Leaders and reformers wrote to spread their ideas, poets and novelists wrote to express their feelings. But, from these sources, history cannot be explained and how the tribals and the peasants, the workers in the mines or the poor on the streets, lived their lives.

ASSIGNMENT

Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Name the common method of writing history used by the historians in the earlier times.
2. Where was the National Museum and National Archives established?
3. What do you understand by the word 'history'?
4. What is the work of James Mill known as?
5. How many policemen declined to take food during the Delhi police strike of 1946?
6. What did the British historians associate with the modern period?

Short Answer Type Questions

7. How did the advent of the printing press prove useful in spreading news and information?
8. Who was James Mill? What did he think about the British rule?
9. James Rennel advocated British Rule in India. Discuss.
10. Write a brief note on the advertisement of Lipton tea created in 1922.
11. Write the characteristics of the modern era in Europe.
12. How was surveying considered important under the British?
13. What measures were taken by the British to preserve significant documents?

Long Answer Type Questions

14. Which sources apart from official sources can we depend on and refer to to know about historical events?
15. Explain why the British set up record rooms to all administrative institutions
16. Why the events associated to a period or persons are a necessary factor in reading and writing history rather than the dates?
17. What sources are used by the historians in writing modern Indian history?
18. Which periodization method was adopted by most of the English historians to write Indian history? State the drawbacks of this method.