

# Chapter - 4

## Timeline and Sources of History

### Q.1 Facts that Matter

1. **What is Gregorian calendar :** The Gregorian calendar, now globally dominant, consists of 365 days in a year and 366 days every four years called leap year. It counts years using BCE (Before Common Era) and CE (Common Era).
2. **Time is broken into decades :** Time is further broken into decades (10 years), centuries together, and millennia (1,000 years).
3. **Sources of History :** Various sources used to reconstruct history are archaeological, literary, artistic and Oral sources.
4. **Importance of sources:** The sources help us to gain an insight into man's lifestyle, tools and communication, beliefs and art and how man transitioned and started living a settled life.
5. **Place of work of Palaeontologists:** They work in museums, universities, government-owned agencies, oil and mineral exploration industries.
6. **Ice age:** It is the geological period of reduced global temperature resulting in expansion of continental ice sheets.

### Q.2 Multiple Choice Questions

1. **How many months does the Gregorian Calendar contain used commonly worldwide?**  
c) 12
2. **Who studies the remains of plants, animals and humans?**  
d) Palaeontologists
3. **In the context of historical studies, the term "BCE" is used to indicate:**  
c) Years before the Common era.
4. **Modern humans also known as \_\_\_\_\_ have walked the planet for about 300,000 (three lakh) years.**  
c) Homo Sapiens
5. **What does the term 'decade' refer to?**  
a) 10 years
6. **What is the main source of information used by historians for studying recent history?**  
b) Newspapers

7. Which of the following statement is incorrect in relation to the early humans?  
d) They neither had beliefs about the natural elements nor notion of afterlife.
8. To calculate the number of years between a BCE date and a CE date, we\_\_\_\_\_.  
a) Add the dates but subtract 1
9. What is the starting point for the Gregorian calendar?  
b) The birth of Jesus Christ
10. Which of the following forms the Artistic sources?  
d) All of the above

### Q.3 Study the picture, and answer the questions that follow-

1. Which stage of human life- as a wanderer or beginning of settled life is depicted above?

It shows beginning of a settled life as man practising agriculture by the river side can be seen in the picture.

2. What conditions do you think facilitated practice of agriculture?

- i) Rise of temperatures
- ii) Settlements near water

3. Name any two activities man started practising along with agriculture.

Craftwork, trade (Any other relevant point)

### Q.4 Who am I?

- A. I study and write about the past. **Historian**
- B. I am curious about ancient inscriptions. **Epigraphists**
- C. My field of interest is physical features of earth. **Geologists**
- D. I study human societies and their cultures. **Anthropologists**

### Q.5 Write the correct statement for each incorrect statement given below.

1. **Early humans lived in permanent structures.**

Early humans lived in temporary camps, rock shelters or caves.

2. **Manuscripts, coins and old buildings are sources which help us to know the future.**

Past

3. **The branch of biology that studies how, in plants, animals or humans, certain features and characteristics get passed down from one generation to the next is called Zoology.**

The branch of biology that studies how, in plants, animals or humans, certain

features and characteristics get passed down from one generation to the next is called Genetics.

**4. Historians only rely on written documents for their study.**

Historians rely on written documents, oral, archaeological and artistic sources also for their studies.

**5. The term 'FD' is now called the Common Era.**

AD

**Q.6 Match the items given in Column A with their correct pair in Column B.**

Column A	Column B
1. A distinct period of time	c. Era
2. 21st Century	e. 2001-2100
3. Auspicious	d. Bringing luck
4. Impressions of footprints found in soil	a. Fossils
5. Place where objects of historical relevance are preserved	b. Museum

**Q.7 Assertion & Reason based Questions**

- a) Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.
- b) Both A and R are true, but R is not the correct explanation of A.
- c) A is true, but R is false.
- d) A is false, but R is true.

**Choose the correct option**

1. **Assertion** : Our ancestors believed in the natural elements and afterlife.

**Reason** : The first human civilization developed amidst the nature.

2. **Assertion** : Historians can be compared to detectives .

**Reason** : They investigate evidences from various sources, analyze critically, and piece together the narratives to uncover the past.

- 1. b) **Both A and R are correct but R is not the correct explanation of A.**
- 2. a) **Both A and R are true, and R is the correct explanation of A.**

**Q.8 Case Study Based Question**

**a. What is Ice Age?**

A time when it was very cold and much of the Earth was covered with ice is referred to as Ice Age.

**b. What was the duration of the last Ice Age?**

The last Ice Age lasted from over 100,000 (one lakh) years ago to around 12,000 years ago.

**c. What happened when the climatic conditions warmed up?**

When the climate warmed up, this ice partly melted, and the resulting waters swelled the existing rivers and eventually drained into the oceans.

**Q.9 Answer the following questions.**

**1. What is timeline?**

Timeline is a convenient tool to mark events as it shows a sequence of dates and events covering any particular period.

**2. Why are Panchanga important?**

A Panchanga is a book of tables which precisely predicts events like solar and lunar eclipses, timings for sunrise and sunset, etc.

**3. In which millennium are we currently living?**

Millennium is any period of 1,000 years. We are currently living in the 3rd millennium CE, which began in 2001 CE and will go up to 3000 CE.

**4. Why should we study history? Give reason.**

Understanding history helps us to comprehend the present. It provides insights into human development, cultural evolution, and societal changes.

**5. What is a hamlet?**

A small settlement or small village is called a hamlet.

**6. State the role of chieftains in the early human communities?**

In early human communities, chieftains played a key role in leadership and decision-making. They were responsible for settling disputes, organizing hunting or food gathering, and protecting the group from external threats. They also led religious or social ceremonies and managed resource distribution to ensure the well-being of their community.

**7. How are archaeological sources classified?**

The archaeological sources can be divided into three parts- Inscriptions which include manuscripts, copper plates and coins.

Structures which include monuments and mounds.

Excavations which include fossils, tools, weapons, figurines, ornaments, pottery, toys, habitations and burials.

**8. In the last 50 years or so, scientific studies have been contributing more and more to the reconstruction of the past. Discuss.**

Scientific studies of ancient climates, chemical studies of excavated materials and studies of the genetics of ancient people have provided fresh insights to the study of the past. When historians study recent history, they use newspapers and more recently electronic media like television, internet are also being used.

**9. The discovery of agriculture influence the life of early humans. How?**

After the last Ice Age, living conditions improved for humans as temperature rose, they started settling down and cultivating cereals and grains.

They also domesticated animals such as cattle, goats, etc.

With more food available, these communities grew in size and number, and often settled down near rivers because of the availability of water and fertile soil.

As communities grew, so did their social complexity. Leaders or 'chieftains' were responsible for the well-being of the people, and everyone collectively worked towards the community's welfare.

#### **10. How is time measured in history according to different cultures?**

Each society and culture has had its own ways of measuring time.

Major events, such as the birth of an important person or the start of a ruler's reign, have often marked the beginning of a new era.

At present, the Gregorian calendar is commonly used worldwide; side by side, Hindu, Muslim, Jewish, Chinese and other calendars are also used for calculating the dates of festivals and other auspicious events.

A timeline is a convenient tool to mark such events, as it shows a sequence of dates and events covering any particular period.

To understand longer durations of time we use the terms like decade(a period of ten years) ,century (any period of 100 years) and millennium (any period of 1,000 years).

#### **'Be a Historian'**

**Hint :** Children to discuss with their Grandparents and draw the coins accordingly in the space provided.

#### **'Monuments speak'**

**Hint :** Children to explore and write their findings in the space provided.