

Contents

SECTION-I

HISTORY

Chapter - 1. When, Where and How	H-5
Chapter - 2. Early Humans	H-10
Chapter - 3. Early Farmers	H-18
Chapter - 4. The First Cities	H-24
Chapter - 5. Stories in Ancient Books and Burial Sites	H-32
Chapter - 6. Janapadas and Mahajanapadas	H-38
Chapter - 7. New Ideas and Religions	H-45
Chapter - 8. The First Empire—Mauryas	H-54
Chapter - 9. Life in Villages and Towns	H-64
Chapter - 10. Growth of Knowledge	H-70
Chapter - 11. New Empires and Kingdoms	H-77
Chapter - 12. Our Heritage	H-86

SECTION-II

GEOGRAPHY

Chapter - 1. The Earth in the Solar System	G-92
Chapter - 2. Latitudes and Longitudes	G-101
Chapter - 3. Rotation and Revolution	G-107
Chapter - 4. Maps	G-113
Chapter - 5. Realms of the Earth	G-119
Chapter - 6. Earth Movements and Major Landforms	G-127
Chapter - 7. India—Location and Physical Features	G-133
Chapter - 8. Climate and Natural Vegetation	G-143

SECTION-III

CIVICS

Chapter - 1. Diversity	C-152
Chapter - 2. Diversity and Discrimination	C-160
Chapter - 3. Understanding Government	C-166
Chapter - 4. Key Elements of a Democratic Government	C-171
Chapter - 5. Panchayati Raj	C-176
Chapter - 6. Rural Administration	C-181
Chapter - 7. Urban Administration	C-183
Chapter - 8. Rural And Urban Livelihoods	C-187

When, Where and How

What is History?

In this section of the book you are going to study history. You may ask, 'What is history?' History is the fascinating story of human growth from the beginning of times to the present day. It's a record of people, places, and events of the past that have been arranged in a chronological manner. It is through history that you can get a glimpse of what happened in the past, which allows you to then draw inferences and learn. You may see patterns, continuation, change, repetition while studying history that you can perhaps even see happening now! Initially, the study of history was mainly limited to only the stories of kings, the wars they fought, and their empires, but now the scope has widened and it includes the social, religious and cultural aspects of the past too. Both the rich and the ordinary are included in history.

Why Study History?

Now some of you must be wondering, why should we even study history?

Firstly, history tells us about people. It tells us of great people like kings, poets, saints, painters, and their lives, achievements and glory, and also helps reconstruct the lives of the ordinary people. Knowing the lives of those who lived

before us helps us in turn to lead better lives where we can be inspired by their successes and learn from their mistakes.

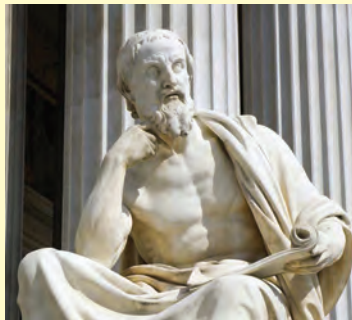
Secondly, we learn about cultural developments which are key to our lives. The development of languages, customs, traditions, food, dress, and ornaments took place throughout the past can be studied from history.

Thirdly, we cannot understand our present without knowing our past. Everything we see around us and how we live had a beginning that took place in the past, whether they were cultural processes or scientific discoveries or the result of political developments. History helps connect the present with the past.

Did You Know?



Ancient Greek historian, Herodotus is regarded as the father of history. According to him, history meant the 'study' or the 'investigation of the past.'



Herodotus

information about the economy, trade, materials available, symbolic meaning, cultural significance, political situations, and skill of the people. Monuments not only remind us of the past, but are also our heritage and it is important that we protect these monuments to the best of our abilities.

- ◆ Inscriptions are engravings made on solid objects like rocks, inside of caves, pillars, metal and stone tablets. These give us information about rulers, important events, and the politics of the time as well as the religious and cultural life of that time. The study of inscriptions is called **epigraphy**.



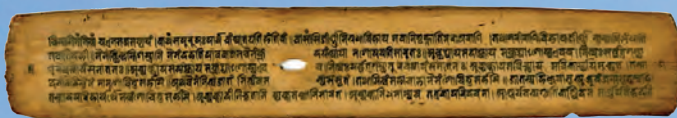
Can You Find Out

What are some archaeological sources that have been found or exist currently in Meghalaya?

Literary Sources

Handwritten records in the form of books, from the past, are called manuscripts. These were written on dried palm leaves, the bark of birch trees, and eventually on paper. Many literary sources have survived the ravages of time. Historians use the existing literary works or books which were written by the people of a particular time as the source of information for that period of time. There

are primarily two types of literary source material – religious, and secular.



A page from a palm leaf manuscript

- ◆ Religious literature includes those works that dealt with religion and religious topics. From Ancient India, the Vedas, the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas are examples of Hindu religious literature. The Jain Angas and the Buddhist Tripitakas are important religious sources.
- ◆ Secular literatures are those literary works that are non-religious. These include biographies, poems, plays, works on science and politics, and accounts of foreign travellers. The Arthashastra by Kautilya, Megasthenes' Indika, the Ain-i Akbari by Abu'l Fazl, and the accounts of Chinese travellers Fa Hien and Hieun Tsang are all examples of secular literature.

The last 150 years of our history are the recent past. Written and printed records are available for this period. Newspapers, magazines, books, etc. written during this time provide us with information about the period. Many of these are preserved in the archives of government. There are many documents of the government and

