

# Tracing History through a Thousand Years

## Q1. Who was considered a “foreigner” in the past?

**Answer:** According to the medieval period, any stranger who did not belong to a certain society or culture and was not a part of that particular village was regarded as a foreigner. For example, a city - dweller, therefore, might have regarded a forest-dweller as a foreigner but if two persons are belonging to the same village they not foreigners in spite of their different religious or caste backgrounds.

## Q2. State whether true or false:

- a. We do not find inscriptions for the period after 700.
- b. The Marathas asserted their political importance during this period.
- c. Forest-dwellers were sometimes pushed out of their lands with the spread of agricultural settlements.
- d. Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban controlled Assam, Manipur and Kashmir.

**Answer:**

- a. False
- b. True
- c. True
- d. False

## Q3. Fill in the blanks:

- a. Archives are places where \_\_\_\_\_ are kept.
- b. \_\_\_\_\_ was a fourteenth-century chronicler.
- c. \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.

**Answer:**

- a. Archives are places where **manuscripts** are kept.
- b. **Ziyouddin Barani** was a fourteenth-century chronicler.
- c. **Potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee** were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.

## Q4. List some of the technological changes associated with this period.

**Answer:** Some of the technical changes associated with this period are the following:

- 1. Spinning wheel in weaving
- 2. Firearms in combat
- 3. Persian wheel in irrigation

## Q5. What were some of the major religious developments during this period?

**Answer:** Some important and major religious events that occurred during this particular period are as follows:

- 1. Worship of new deities
- 2. Construction of temples by royalty
- 3. Increasing importance of Brahmins; Priests, as dominant groups in society.
- 4. Rise of the idea of bhakti - is a loving, personal deity that can reach devotees without the aid of priests or elaborate rituals.
- 5. Many new religions took place during this period. During the 17th century, merchants and migrants introduced the teachings of the Holy Quran to India.

**Q6. In what ways has the meaning of the term “Hindustan” changed over the centuries?**

**Answer:** The meaning of the word 'Hindustan' has finally changed over the last centuries. Today, the term 'Hindustan' is used to refer to India, but during the 13th century, the term was used by Minhaj-i. Siraj, a chronicler in a political sense for the land belonging to the Sultan of Delhi. During 14th century, the term Hind was used by Amir Khusru to refer to the culture and people of the Indus River. Whereas, in the early 16th century, Babar used the term 'Hindustan' to describe the culture, geography, and fauna of the inhabitants of the sub-continent.

**Q7. How were the affairs of jatis regulated?**

**Answer:** During this period, many social and economic differences occurred among the people, which led to the introduction of Jatis or sub-castes, where people were ranked based on their occupations and backgrounds. In some areas, the affairs of the Jattas were regulated by a gathering of elders known as the caste panchayats. The Jatis were to follow the rules of their villages which were ruled by a chieftain.

**Q8. What does the term pan-regional empire mean?**

**Answer:** A pan-regional empire is referred to as an empire that extends into many areas of different cultures, geography, and religion. For example, the dynasties of Mughals, Cholas, Khaljis, and Tughlaqs.

**Q9. What are the difficulties historians face in using manuscripts?**

**Answer:** In the past, historians have faced many difficulties in using manuscripts. Due to the lack of printing presses during those periods, historians had to write manuscripts by hand, and copying manuscripts with new changes was not an easy task. The centuries of copying these small differences grew until manuscripts of the same text differed significantly from each other. As a result, we rarely find the author's original manuscript today.