



History is the study of past events in chronological order.

Mother: What is your name?

Tamilini: Tamilini.

Mother: Tell me your mother's name.

Tamilini: Mrs. Sumathi.

Mother: Father's name?

Tamilini: Mr. Adhiyaman.

Mother: Tell me the name of your father's father?

Tamilini: You mean grandpa?
Mr. Chidambaram.

Mother: Do you know the name of great grandpa.

Mr. Chidambaram's father?

Tamilini: Grandma always used to tell me about one 'great grandpa'.

You want that great grandpa's name, amma? mmm...

Info Bits

The term history has been derived from the Greek word "**Istoria**" which means 'learning by enquiry'.

Mother: Yes, Your great grandpa's name is Mr. Ramasamy. OK.

Often your father shows proudly a very old wooden pen and used to tell us that it was his grandpa's pen. Do you remember it?

Tamilini: Yes, amma! Normally he keeps it in a beautiful wooden case on his table. Is that the one?

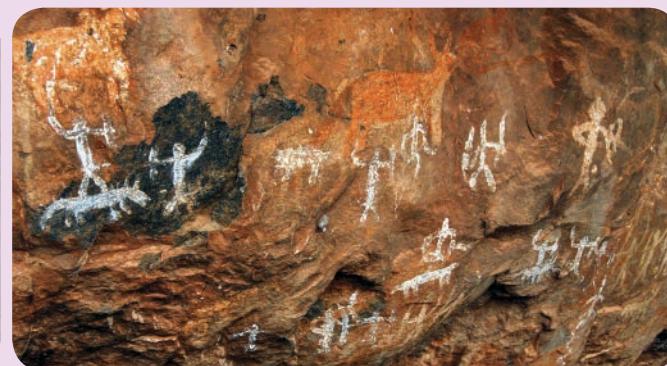
Mother: You are right, Tamilini. We cannot write with that pen now. But, father has kept it as a treasure. If you ask your father about that, he will show you the diary written by your great grandpa with that old pen. From that diary, we come to know that your great grandpa was a literate, while most of his villagers were illiterates. Further, we can understand the lifestyle of that period and also about activities from his diary writings.

Tamilini: Can this small diary record so much of news, amma?

Mother: Yes, Tamilini. We understand the period and lifestyles of people of Old Stone



Age from used stone tools, like what you understand about your grandpa and his time from his diary writing.



In ancient period, the people lived in caves, used to draw paintings in rocks called Rock Painting. They might have wished to record their activities through these paintings.



Tamilini: What are the other sources that help us understand the lifestyles of Stone Age people?

Mother: We came to know their hunting style through their paintings on the rocks and the walls of the caves.

Tamilini: Rock paintings? It sounds really surprising. Why did they draw these paintings?

Info Bits

Numismatics – The study of Coins
Epigraphy- The study of inscription

Mother: Some would have stayed back, without joining the hunting team. So for their benefit, these pictures could have been drawn. They might have done it as a part of their passtime.

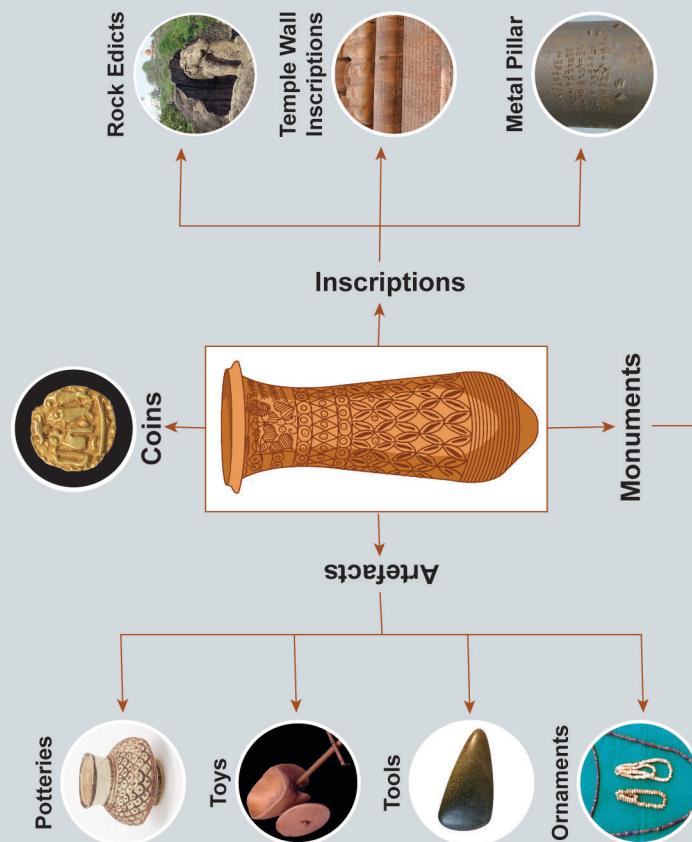
Tamilini: Certainly amma. That's how we identify their lifestyles. Isn't it, amma?

Mother: Well said, Tamilini. The period between the use of first stone tools and the invention of writing systems is pre-history. Stone tools, excavated materials and rock paintings are the major sources of pre-history.

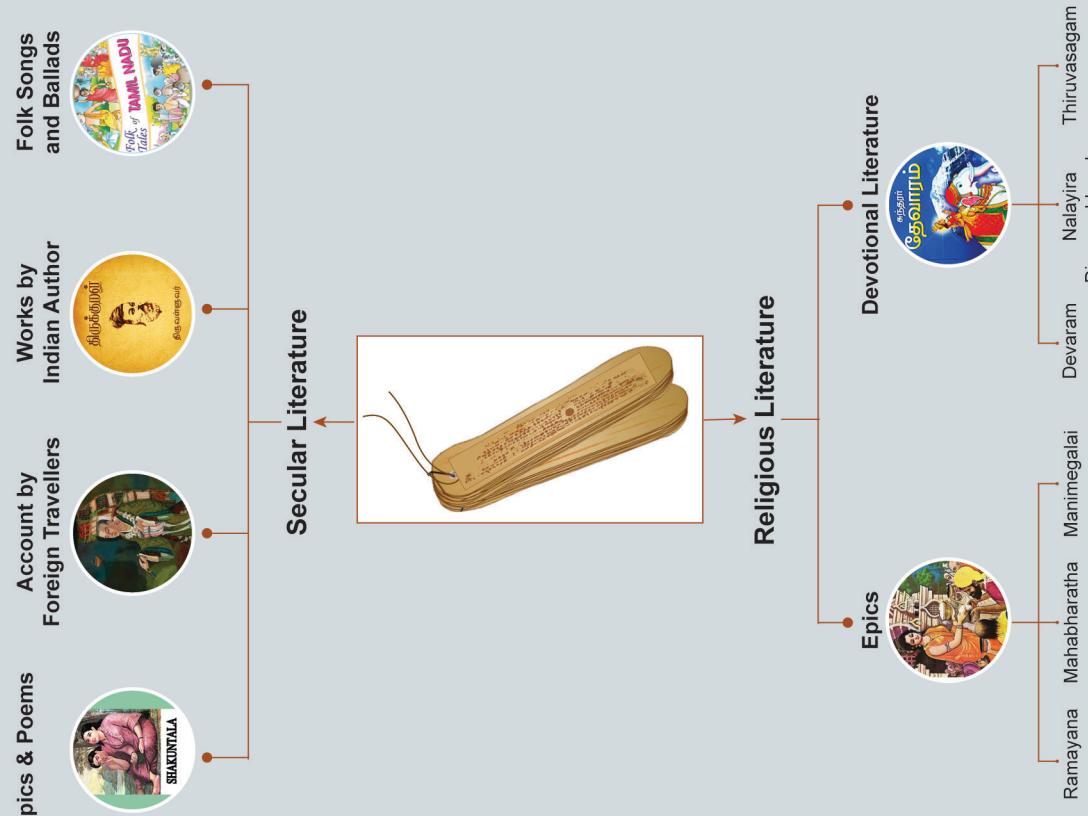


Sources of History

Archaeological Sources



Literary Sources





CASE STUDY

A Mighty Emperor Ashoka

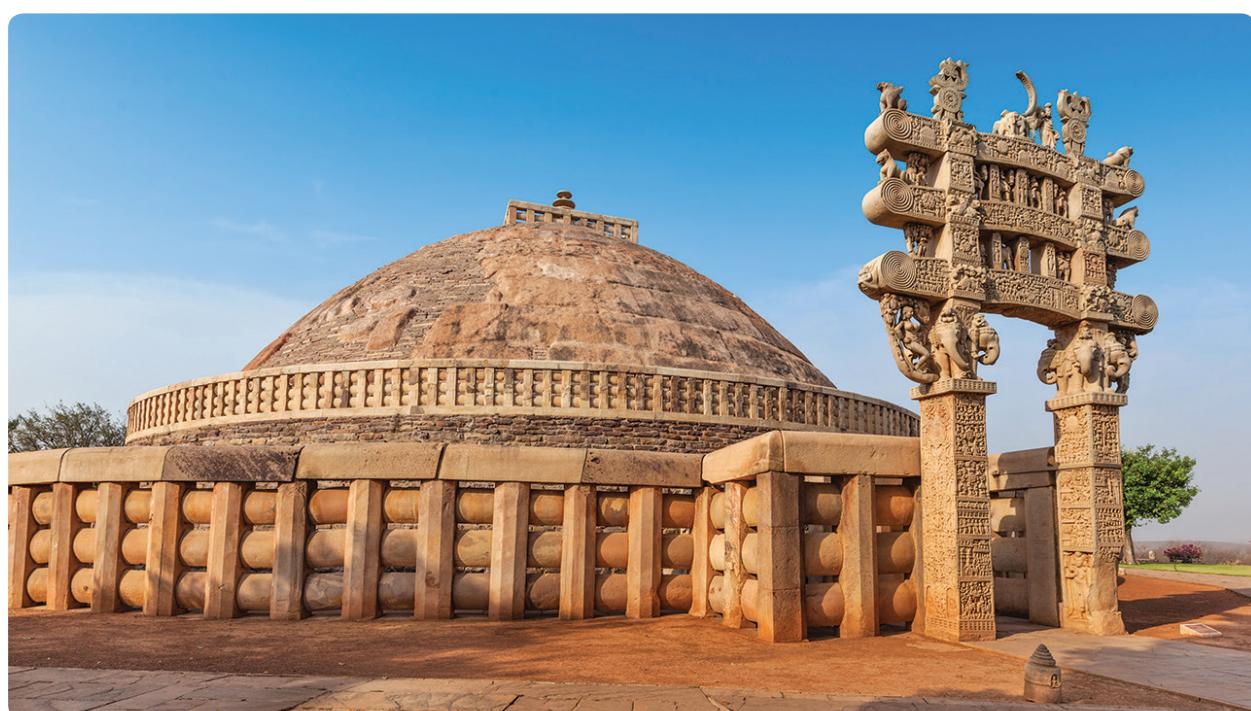
The most famous ruler of ancient India was Emperor Ashoka. It was during his period that Buddhism spread to different parts of Asia. Ashoka gave up war after seeing many people grieving death after the Kalinga war. He embraced Buddhism and then devoted his life to spread the message of peace and dharma. His service for the cause of public good was exemplary. He was the first ruler to give up war after victory. He was the first to build hospitals for animals. He was the first to lay roads. Dharma Chakra with 24 spokes in our national flag was taken from the Saranath Pillar of Ashoka.

Even though Emperor Ashoka was great, his greatness had been unknown until 20th century. The material evidence provided by William Jones, James Prinsep and Alexander Cunningham revealed the greatness of Emperor Ashoka.

Based on these accounts, Charles Allen wrote a book titled *The Search for the India's Lost Emperor*, which provided a comprehensive account of Ashoka. Many researches made thereafter brought Ashoka's glorious rule to light. These inscriptions were observed on the rocks, Sanchi Stupa and Saranath Pillar and helped to understand the greatness of Ashoka to the world.



Saranath Pillar



Sanchi Stupa



Now one can understand the importance of historical research. But for the efforts of scholars, the greatness of Emperor Ashoka would not have come to light.

Mother: Do you know what proto history is?

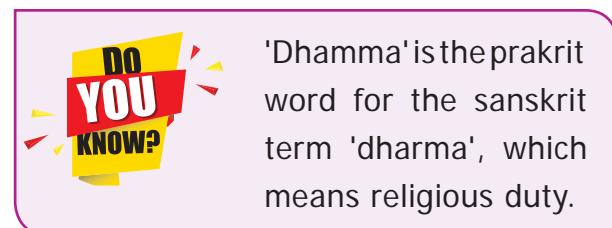
Tamilini: That is the period between pre history and history.

Mother: Exactly. The period for which records in writing are available but not yet deciphered is called proto history. Today, we are leading a safe life with all modern equipment. But our ancestors did not live in such a safe environment. There might have been chances of wild animals entering their caves. But, they realised that dogs could help them prevent the entry of such dangerous animals by its sniffing skill. Hence they started domesticating dogs for their protection and hunting activities.

From this, we also know how inscriptions, monuments, copper plates, accounts of foreigners or foreign travellers and folk tales play a vital role in constructing and reconstructing history.

Tamilini: Now, I completely understand what history is, amma.

Thank you, amma.



'Dhamma' is the prakrit word for the sanskrit term 'dharma', which means religious duty.

Summary

- ❖ The life styles of pre historic people can be understood from the stone tools, rock paintings, fossils and other excavated materials.
- ❖ Proto history is the period between pre-history and history.
- ❖ Early humans domesticated dogs for their protection and hunting activities.
- ❖ Mighty Emperor Ashoka followed the path of peace and dharma.
- ❖ Dharma Chakra with 24 spokes in our national flag was taken from Saranath Pillar of Ashoka.



A-Z
GLOSSARY

- | | | |
|----------------|--|---|
| 1. Sources | - a place, person, text or object from which some data can be obtained | b. Statement and reason are correct. |
| 2. Ancestor | - a person related to you who lived a long time ago | c. Statement is wrong, and reason is correct. |
| 3. Dharma | - righteousness | d. Both statements and reasons are wrong. |
| 4. Monument | - a statue, building or other structure built by a notable person | |
| 5. Inscription | - written records engraved on stones, pillars, clay or copper tablets, caves and walls of temples. | |
| 6. Historian | - A person who studies or writes history | |

Exercises

I. Choose the correct answer

1. What was the step taken by the early man to collect his food?
- a. Trade b. Hunting
c. Painting d. Rearing of animals

II. Match the statement with the Reason. Tick the appropriate answer:

1. **Statement:** Pre historic man went along with the dog for hunting.

Reason: Dogs with its sniffing power would find out other animals.



- a. Statement is true, but reason is wrong.

2. **Statement:** The objects used by the early man are excavated. They are preserved to know the lifestyle of the people.

Find out which of the following is related to the statement:

- a. Museum b. Burial materials
c. Stone tools d. Bones

3. Find out the wrong pair:

- a. Old stone age - Stone tools
b. Rock paintings - Walls of the caves
c. Copper plates - A source of history
d. Cats - First domesticated

4. Find the odd one:

- a. Paintings were drawn on rocks and caves.
b. There were paintings depicting hunting scenes.
c. It was drawn to show his family members about hunting.
d. The paintings were painted by using many colours.