

History-When, Where and How

Exercises

Short answer questions:

- 1.** What do you understand by the term Medieval Period of history?
- 2.** State the main changes that took place during this period.
- 3.** Why India is called Hindustan?
- 4.** Give reasons for the following:
 - (a) India's long coastline has been an advantage to the country.
 - (b) Monuments are an important source of history.

Solutions

Short-answer questions:

1. The medieval period of Indian history stretches from the 8th to the 18th century CE. This is further divided into early and later medieval periods. The early medieval period is from 8th to the 13th century CE. The 13th to 18th century CE is considered to be the later medieval period.
2. Some of the major changes that took place during this period are:
 - Many Rajput kingdoms came up.
 - India saw many invasions during this period.
 - The first Muslim empire in India was established by Muhammad of Ghor.
 - The invaders brought in new ideas, new religion and new ways of thinking.
 - The economy of India flourished
 - Many new technologies were introduced like the Persian wheel and the spinning wheel
 - Many forests were cleared for agriculture.
 - The Bhakti and Sufi movements spread in India.
 - The Europeans came to trade and gradually established a strong foothold in India.
3. India was also referred to as Hindustan. This is a Persian word meaning 'land of the Hindus'. River Indus was called Sindhu and the Persians pronounced it as Hindu. During the times of Persian invasion, the region came to be known as Hindustan and the inhabitants as Hindus. However, the term Hindustan was first used by Minhaj-i-Siraj, a Persian writer. According to him, Hindustan included northern India only. Today, the term is applied to India as a whole and sometimes to the Hindi speaking part of the country.
4. (a) The long coastline has been an advantage because it led to the rise of numerous ports which facilitated commerce.
(b) Monuments are an important source of history because they tell us about the architectural skills of that time. The materials used give an idea about the craftsmanship and mining. Numerous temples and mosques exhibit the skills and religious beliefs of the people.