



ACADEMIC WORLD SCHOOL™

BEMETARA

Class- VI

Subject- Social Studies

## History



### Chapter 1 When, Where and How

#### Learning Objectives

- To understand the specific nature of the discipline
- To understand why we study History
- To understand the significance of time in the study of History
- To learn about the significance of Geography in the study of History
- To understand and identify the different sources that are used to reconstruct History

#### Set Sail

Time present and time past  
Are both perhaps present in time future  
And time future contained in time past.

—T.S. Eliot

Do you agree or disagree with this statement? Now read through the chapter and at the end reconsider your opinion.

#### What is History?

History is the study of past events set in a chronological order. It deals with what people did and how they lived in the past. It also informs us about the economy, occupations, clothing and eating habits of our ancestors. History explains how the past events have affected our lives.

In History, we study about early societies, how societies and cultures have evolved over time. History is the account of human race from the earliest period to the present day. History helps us

#### Vocab Help

**Chronological:** arranged in order in which events happened;  
**Derive:** to come from or be developed from something

to understand change and how the society we live in came into being.

The word 'history' has been derived from the Latin word *historia*. It means narration of the past events.

#### Info Capsule

Herodotus is regarded as the 'Father of History'. He was the first historian.



The scholars who help us to reconstruct the stories of the past are called historians. The events of the past are like tessellating pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. Historians methodically study the clues and then put together the pieces to reconstruct a past event or era. Thus the role of historians is very crucial in the study of History. They first collect information from the sources, sort them, study them, analyse them and then put them together to recreate the past.



### Importance of Studying the Past

- The study of our past will help us:
- To understand people and societies better. Study of History helps us to understand why certain cultures and societies have survived till today and why others have vanished.
  - To survive difficult times. Study of historical figures who endured adversity inspires us.
  - To know our own roots. Study of History gives us information about who our ancestors were.
  - To develop an objective perspective. Knowledge of History helps in interpreting data and information objectively.

### Task 1

Look at this picture. How have things changed since the time shown in this photograph? Together with your friend, find as many differences as you can between this picture and today's streets. Write the differences in your notebook.

#### Pictures Talk



### Time and Dates

Historians have divided the past into three broad time periods to make the study more convenient: Prehistory, Protohistory, and History.

#### Visual Help

Tessellating: connecting together in a pattern with no space in between. Endeavour to suffer something difficult. Perspective: the way we think or see things, resemble a situation which is similar to what is feared or expected, but is not exactly as hoped for.

### Dating the Events of History

You have just read that History is the study of past events set in a chronological order. So it is necessary to arrange past events in their order of occurrence in time. Since there is no agreement on when time began, historians adapted the convention of recording dates in terms of whether they occurred before or after the beginning of the year of the birth of Jesus Christ. So, the year of Jesus' birth was assigned as 'year one'. The years before year one are known as Before Christ or BC and the years after that are known as Anno Domini or AD, which in Latin means 'In the year of our Lord'. In recent years, the terms BC and AD are often replaced with Before Common Era (BCE) and Common Era (CE). We use the term circa (or c.) in short when the date of an event is not known for sure.

We often talk about events having occurred in different centuries. How do we name the centuries? A century is 100 years. Therefore, the years between year 1 to year 100 is referred to as 1<sup>st</sup> century CE. Similarly, you count every subsequent hundred years as the next century.

For instance, the years from 1900 to 1999 come under twentieth century. Therefore, we say that India became independent in the twentieth century, though the year was 1947.



### Applying Geography to Interpret the Past

An understanding of Geography is essential for a good understanding of History.

Geography is helpful in understanding the location of settlements, the movement of people and the creation of states.

Why did the earliest cities flourish near the banks of rivers? Answering such a question requires a geographic approach to the study of History. Early cities flourished near the banks of rivers because the early inhabitants of the river valley civilisations depended heavily on farming. Their close proximity to the river provided them easy access to water that was needed for the crops. In addition, in the absence of roads, rivers were often the only means of transportation in ancient times.

The monsoon was another geographical phenomenon which shaped India's history. In ancient times, when irrigation techniques were not known, agriculture was primarily rain fed. In the first century CE, when the direction of monsoon was discovered, traders sailed along with the south-west monsoon from West Asia and the Mediterranean Sea region and reached India and South East Asia. Thus the discovery of monsoon enabled our ancestors to carry out trade and establish cultural relationships with countries in West Asia and along the Mediterranean Sea.

Geography also tells us that India has a long coastline with many harbours and natural ports. These harbours and ports helped our ancestors to trade with people of distant places like Rome, Mesopotamia, Egypt and South Asia.

Geography also tells us how the mountain passes in the Himalayan range made it possible for people from Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia to enter India. These people were either invaders or immigrants. The passes also helped in trade between India and Central Asia, and West Asia during the ancient times. The seas and the mountains acted as natural barriers.

We must study the past from both spatial and chronological points of view to develop a greater understanding of past events.

#### Visual Help

Enable: make it possible. Immigrant: someone who comes to live in a different country. Frontier: border. Spatial: relating to, occupying, or having the character of space.

### Timeline

To make it easier for us to remember the dates, historians use a tool called a timeline. A timeline is a way of displaying a list of events in chronological order.

### Sources of History

How do we study the past? Historians use various sources to reconstruct the past. By piecing together the sources of the past, historians can form an impression of a historical event. The sources of History are broadly divided into two categories:



Gold coins of Gupta King Samudragupta

### Archaeological Sources

Archaeological sources include buildings, houses, pottery, seals, coins, monuments, writings and paintings on stones or walls, tools, jewellery, bones, left-overs, pieces of metals and other artefacts. The study of the past by examining these material remains is called archaeology. The people who study these remains are known as archaeologists. Occasionally these sources are buried under the ground and can be recovered by digging up the ground. This process of digging is called excavation. Archaeological sources are particularly useful in the study of prehistoric cultures since prehistory is concerned with periods for which there are no written records. The plant and animal remains indicate the climatic conditions and vegetation that existed at that time. The study of the bones of animals excavated help historians to understand the pattern of animal domestication of a particular period.

### Task 2

Imagine it is the year 2200. An archaeologist is excavating the area of your neighbourhood. What would you expect the archaeologist to find? What are the objects you think will survive and that tell about our past and categorise them as archaeological or literary.

#### Time Travel

**Monuments:** Monuments are old buildings or other old structures which are important for their historic connection or legacy.

#### Info Capsule

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was established in 1861 during the British rule in India.

**Monuments include:** temples, mosques, forts, churches, castles, forts, palaces, step-wells and rock-cut caves. Monuments could also be any building of the past as well as ancient mounds and sites which represent the remains of ancient habitation. Monuments reveal to us the architectural innovations of our ancestors. They provide us with information about the political, social, cultural and religious lives

of the people of the times in which they were built. For example, the Taj Mahal is a monument that tells us about the affluent conditions that prevailed during the Mughal times. It also throws considerable light on the artistic sensibilities prevalent during the Mughal Emperor, Shah Jahan's reign.

**Inscriptions:** Inscriptions are writings on seals, temple walls, stones or pillars, wooden tablets, bricks and images.



**Taj Mahal:** The Taj Mahal is a white marble mausoleum located in Agra, India. It was built by the Mughal Emperor Shah Jahan, in memory of his wife, Mumtaz Mahal.

#### Info Capsule

The Harappan inscriptions have not yet been deciphered.

Some of the inscriptions convey royal orders and decisions. For instance, the Ashokan inscriptions throw light on the social, religious and administrative conditions of the time. The study



**Pillar edicts of Ashoka:** The Mauryan Emperor Ashoka, issued a series of edicts based on the teachings of Lord Buddha. He used them for governance.

#### Visual Help

Monument: a building in which bodies of dead people are buried.

### Info Capsule

The study of the old writing system found on the inscriptions and other old records is called palaeography.

### Global Connect

Inscriptions of ancient times were written in many scripts and languages. The Egyptians developed one of the earliest scripts in history, called hieroglyphs. Hieroglyph involved pictographic representation of objects. Each object denoted a letter of the alphabet. For example, a lot denoted the letter R, while the lion stood for the letter L. The historians gradually deciphered their script and read their inscriptions.



of inscriptions is known as epigraphy. These writings can also be found on metal plates like copper plates. Inscriptions inform us about the life and reign of the kings. Some inscriptions are also eulogies which highlight the achievements of the kings. For instance, the Allahabad Inscription of Samudragupta informs us about Samudragupta's military conquests. Inscriptions were written for various other purposes too. Can you think of other purposes for which inscriptions were engraved?

**Coins:** Coins from the past shed light on different aspects of life as it existed then. The study of coins is called numismatics. Hundreds of coins have been recovered from different parts of the country. The coins discovered were made of various metals like copper, bronze, gold and silver. Some of the earliest coins have symbols punched on them. The later coins depict the images of kings, and gods and goddesses. These coins also mention the names of the kings and the dates of their reign. Thus, coins help historians

to reconstruct the unknown history of several ruling dynasties. The religious symbols and legends on the coins throw light on the art and religion of the time. The coins mainly reflect the economic conditions of the times they belong to. They also tell us about trade, technology and commerce. For example, many Indian coins have been unearthed from the ruins in Rome and many Roman coins have been found at various ancient ports of India.



The Froese Hoard, a pot-bellied jar containing 52,503 Roman coins, was discovered at Somerset, England.

**Artefacts:** Artefacts are old pieces of things or belongings of people. They include pottery, jewellery, toys, seals, pieces of cloth and other remains which the people used during the course of their lives. These again tell us a lot about the social, cultural and economic life of the people. A vast hoard of artefacts including jewellery, seals, pottery, terracotta toys and bronze images was unearthed from the Indus Valley. This discovery helped archaeologists and historians to conclude that there existed a well-developed urban civilisation in the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent during the Bronze Age, which we know as the Indus Valley Civilisation.



#### Visual Help

Eulogies: written high praises of a historical personality, usually a king.

## I. Fill in the blanks:-

- \_\_\_\_\_ has no written record.
- Magesthenes wrote \_\_\_\_\_.
- \_\_\_\_\_ has no written record.
- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are the two sources of history.

## II. Answer the followings in very short (one sentence):-

- Which year is regarded as year one?
- What is the full form of CE?
- Name two Buddhist pilgrims who left behind travel accounts.
- What kind of a source are rock –cut caves?

## III. Answer the followings in short (two to three sentences):-

- What is the difference between prehistory and history?
- What is archaeology? Name any two archaeological sources of information.
- What is history? On what basis do we date historical events?
- Why should we study history? Give reason.
- Why is archaeology an important source of information of prehistory?

## IV. Answer the followings in detail (three to four sentences):-

- Find out the Archaeological Survey of India and their work in maintaining historical buildings in our country.
- What are inscriptions? Why are they a reliable source of information?
- How do paintings help us in reconstructing the past?

**Geography**

**Chapter 1**  
**The Earth in the Solar System**

**Learning Objectives**

- To learn about our universe and galaxy
- To understand why Earth is a unique planet
- To learn about our solar system
- To learn about the Moon and its phases

**Sec-Sail**

Go out to see stars at night and observe the sky. What do you see? Identify the Moon and the stars twinkling in the sky. Did you know that each beyond what our eyes can see with the help of a telescope is a galaxy and it keeps floating in the universal cloud. Let us know more.

**Introduction**

The universe comprises all existing matter and space taken together as a whole. The universe is approximately 93 billion light years in diameter. It has been expanding since its creation during the Big Bang about 14 billion years ago. It contains millions of galaxies. A galaxy is a large group of stars and associated matter that are found throughout the universe. Our solar system is a member of a galaxy called the Milky Way or Akash Ganga. It appears as a band of gas, dust and stars arching across the night sky. It is only one of the billions of galaxies in the universe.

Stars are huge, hot bodies of gases which have their own heat and light. They are very big in size but as they are very far from us, they look like tiny dots in the sky. Our Sun is also a star. If you gaze intently at the night sky, you will notice that stars make certain patterns which look like mythological figures. Such patterns made by stars are known as constellations.

**Weak-Link**

**Light year:** The distance that light travels in one year

**More about Our Galaxy**

- If you could travel at the speed of light (186,000 miles per second) it would still take 100,000 years to cross our galaxy! This means that it takes 100,000 light years to cross our galaxy.

**Info Capsule**

The Big Dipper constellation has different names and meanings in different cultures. In Hindu astronomy, it is referred to as Sapta Rishi, meaning 'The Seven Rishis', while in Mongolia it is known as the 'Seven Gods'. In the UK and Ireland, the Big Dipper is known as the 'Plough' or 'The Butcher's Cleaver', while in some cultures, such as Romania and Germany, it is known as the 'waggon' or 'cart'. In the USA and Canada, it is known as the Big Dipper because the major stars seem to follow the rough outline of a large ladle or dipper.

**Task 1**

**Step 1.** Gather a few items and wait for a clear night. What you'll need:

- Star chart
- Flashlight
- Piece of red cellophane

**Step 2.** On a clear night, go outdoors and see if you can find the constellations in the sky that are similar to the ones given in the star chart. The stars move throughout the year, so you will see different constellations at different times of the year.

**Step 3.** Once you've located the North Star, try to locate the other constellations. Use a flashlight to refer to your star chart.

**More about Stars**

- Sirius is the brightest star and is much brighter than the Sun.
- The second closest star to Earth after the Sun is Proxima Centauri, located 4.2 light years away.
- One of the largest known stars is VY Canis Majoris. This star is believed to be 1,540 times the size of our Sun.
- Every star would explode if the gravity did not hold its material together.

**Solar System**

In ancient times, the early astronomers thought that the Earth was stationary and the Sun, the Moon, the stars and the planets revolved around it. This is known as the geocentric theory and it was supported by scholars like Aristotle and Ptolemy. In the sixteenth century, Nicolaus Copernicus presented the new model of the solar system, with the Sun at the centre and the Earth, the Moon and the other planets revolved around it. This is known as the heliocentric theory.

**Info Capsule**

The Kuiper Belt, discovered in 1992, is also called the 'frost frontier' of our solar system. It is a disk-shaped region containing a mass of icy bodies, lying way beyond Neptune.

Our solar system comprises the Sun and the various celestial bodies like the planets and their satellites, asteroids, comets and meteors. The term solar is derived from the Latin word Sol, meaning sun. The solar deity in Ancient Rome was also known as Sol.

**Sun**

The Sun is called the head of the solar family because its gravitational power holds together other members of the solar system. It is a gigantic

**Weak-Link**

Devised to help, motivate, or obtain materials from a specified



Planets in our Solar System

forming ball of extremely hot gases, held together by gravity, producing energy in the form of heat and light. It is almost perfectly spherical in shape. It has a diameter of about 1,392,000 km, about 109 times more than the diameter of the Earth, and its mass is about 333,000 times that of the Earth. It accounts for about 99.86 per cent of the total mass of the solar system. The eight planets

revolves around the Sun on elliptical paths called orbits.

### Planets

Planets are celestial bodies which do not have light and heat of their own but appear to shine in the darkness of space because they reflect the Sun's light. The International Astronomical Union (IAU) set the following conditions for any solar system body to qualify as a planet:

- It must be a celestial body orbiting around the Sun.
- It must have enough weight for its self-gravity.
- It must have a nearly round shape.
- It must have cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit.

Planets are celestial bodies that orbit around the Sun. In the order of their distance from the Sun, they are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. All the planets are spherical

### More about the Sun

- The Sun is about 5 billion year old star and is expected to remain in existence for another 5 billion years.
- The Sun is constantly losing mass at the rate of about 4 million tonnes per second. This is the amount of hydrogen gas that the Sun turns into energy every second.

in shape but are of different sizes. Mercury is the smallest planet while Jupiter is the largest.

The planets are generally divided into two main categories – large, low-density gas giants and smaller, rocky terrestrials. The four terrestrials are Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars. The four gas giants are Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune. Each planet spins on its own axis. This movement is called rotation. One rotation makes one planet day. One complete movement around the Sun is called a revolution or a planet-year.

### Dwarf Planets

They are tiny planets within our solar system and are classified according to the following features:

- They should be in orbit around the Sun.
- They must weigh enough for their self-gravity.
- They must have an almost round shape.
- They should not be satellites.
- They must have not cleared the neighbourhood around their orbits.

Dwarf planets in the solar system are Eris, Dysnomia, Pluto, Makemake, Haumea, and the big asteroid Ceres.

Volcanic mountain found in the solar system. The mountain stands about 27 kilometers high with a crater 81 kilometers wide.

- Jupiter is the largest planet, but it spins very fast on its axis. A day on Jupiter lasts only 9 hours and 55 minutes.
- Saturn is the second largest and is made up of gases, especially hydrogen and helium. Its rings are made up of bits of ice, dust and rocks.
- Uranus was the first planet to be discovered by a telescope. Uranus spins lying on its side (like a barrel). Since Uranus takes 84 Earth years to go around the Sun, each of its poles is in daylight for 42 years and in darkness for the next 42 years. Like Venus, it also spins from east to west.
- Neptune is nearly four times the size of Earth. One Neptune year lasts 165 Earth years. It has the most violent weather. Freezing winds blow about ten times faster than hurricanes on Earth. This makes it the windiest planet.
- Pluto is not a planet, although it orbits the Sun and is round. It is because Pluto hasn't cleared the neighbourhood around its orbit. This was the reason that the International Astronomical Union chose to demote it from a planet to a dwarf planet in 2006.

### More about the Planets

- Mercury orbits around the Sun once in 88 Earth days. Mercury's Caloris Basin is one of the largest known craters in the solar system.
- Venus is the brightest and the hottest planet in our solar system. Its atmosphere is mainly made up of carbon dioxide. Unlike other planets in the solar system, Venus spins not from west to east, but from east to west.
- Earth is the only habitable planet which is home to humans and a huge variety of living organisms.
- Mars is called the Red Planet because its surface is red. It is the home of 'Olympus Mons', the largest

### Task 2

In 2006, Pluto was stripped of its status as a planet and classified as a 'dwarf planet', leaving just eight planets in the solar system. Explore the Internet for more information on this development and prepare a file report detailing of the factors that led to Pluto's reclassification. Some aspects you can work upon are:

- When was Pluto discovered?
- Which organisation reclassified Pluto as 'dwarf planet'?
- On what grounds was Pluto removed from the planets' list?

### Word Help

**Axis** An imaginary line about which a body rotates. **Orbit** The curved path through which objects in space move around a planet or star.

## Earth

Earth is the third planet from the Sun. It is the fifth largest planet in the solar system. It is also the largest of the solar system's four terrestrial planets. It is sometimes referred to as the Blue Planet, or called by its Latin name, Terra. It is spherical in shape, slightly bulging at the Equator and a bit flattened at the poles. **It lies at a distance of about 150 million kilometres from the Sun.** It spins on its tilted axis at the speed of 1600 kilometres an hour. It takes 365 days and six hours for the Earth to complete one revolution around the Sun and 24 hours to complete one rotation on its axis. Together, these movements affect the temperatures and the weather on the planet, and thus we experience the various seasons.

The physical characteristics of the Earth and its position relative to the Sun have made it habitable. The Earth is the only planet in the solar system that supports life. Its distance from the Sun is perfect for maintaining a suitable temperature and conditions for life to exist. If our planet were closer to the Sun, the oceans would have dried up and if it were further away, the water bodies would have frozen.



Earth: The Blue Planet

### Earth: A Unique Planet

What makes our planet so special? Let's find out.

The physical characteristics of the Earth and its position relative to the Sun have made it habitable. It is the only planet in the solar system where humans beings and large varieties of other species exist. Its distance from the Sun is perfect for maintaining a suitable temperature and conditions for life to exist. If our planet were closer to the Sun, the oceans would have dried up and if it were further away, the water bodies would have frozen.

The Earth is surrounded by a layer of air, composed of life supporting gases, called the atmosphere. The atmosphere helps in maintaining the temperature on the Earth and protect us from the harmful rays of the Sun.

### Moon

A natural satellite is a celestial body that orbits a planet. The Moon is the Earth's only natural satellite. Some planets have multiple natural satellites and some have none. **Saturn has 62 moons; Jupiter has 47 moons; Uranus has 27 moons; Neptune has 14 moons and Mars has 2 moons. Jupiter's moon, Ganymede, is one of the largest in the solar system.**

### Global Connect

The Moon is the only celestial body where humans have successfully reached. On July 16, 1969, the Apollo 11 was launched from the Kennedy Space Centre. On July 20, 1969, Commander Neil Armstrong became the first man to step on the Moon.

### Info Capsule

The Moon is one-fourth the size of the Earth, so the Moon's gravity is lesser than the Earth's gravity. It is 83.3 per cent less to be exact. So you would weigh much less on the Moon. Imagine how far you could jump on the Moon!

As its orbit around the Earth is elliptical, the moon is at an average distance of 384,403 km from the Earth. The Moon completes an orbit around the Earth in 27 days and 8 hours. It takes the same time to rotate on its own axis. That is the reason why we always see the same side of the Moon.

Its surface area is less than one-tenth of the Earth's surface area and its volume is about 2 per cent of the volume of the Earth. The Moon is kept in its orbit by the gravitational pull from the Earth.

The Moon's surface is marked by craters which formed when asteroids and comets collide with its surface. There are about half a million craters with diameters greater than 1 km on the Moon. The largest crater on the Moon is the South Pole-Aitken basin, which is also one of the largest known craters at the solar system.

### Phases of the Moon

Have you ever wondered why the Moon seems to change its shape? As the Moon revolves around the Earth, it appears as if it is changing shape in the sky. Sometimes we see the Moon glow from a thin crescent to a full disk (or full Moon) and then shrink back to a thin crescent before vanishing for a few days. These are the phases of the Moon.

The phases of the Moon are the different ways the Moon looks from Earth over about a month. As the Moon orbits around the Earth, the half of the Moon that faces the Sun will be lit up. The different shapes of the lit portion of the Moon that can be seen from Earth are known as phases of the Moon.

### Word Help

**Crescent** Happening in a smooth, gradual and regular manner. **Crescent** a curved shape that is narrow at each end and wider in the middle. **Shrink** become or make smaller in size.

The different phases are named after the different appearances. The term 'waning' is used when the Moon grows in size and the term 'waxing' is used when the Moon shrinks in size.



Phases of the Moon

### More about the Moon

- **New moon:** The side of the moon facing the Earth is not illuminated. Additionally, the moon is up through out the day and down through out the night. For these reasons we can not see the moon during this phase.
- **Full moon:** When we can observe the entire face of the moon, we call it a full Moon.
- **Waxing phase:** It is the period during which the Moon grows, i.e. from new moon to full moon.
- **Waning phase:** It is the period during which the Moon becomes smaller, i.e. from full moon to new moon.

### Info Capsule

Halley's Comet is the most famous comet, named after an English astronomer, Edmond Halley. It comes close to the Earth every 76 years. The Barringer Meteor Crater in Arizona was created by a meteorite about 40,000 years ago.

## Other Members of the Solar System

- Asteroids are irregular shaped rocks and debris lying between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. Scientists believe they were formed some 4,600 million years ago when an early planet broke up in the solar system.
- Meteors, also called shooting stars, are space particles that may have been left behind by comets or broken off from asteroids. They

appear as bright trails speeding through the Earth's atmosphere.

- Meteorites are meteors that do not completely burn up but come crashing down to the Earth's surface.
- Comets are frozen lumps of rock, dust and gas appearing to be like dirty snow balls or icy mud balls. They are brightest near the Sun and can be seen at sunrise or sunset.

### I Learnt

- The universe comprises all existing matter and space taken together as a whole.
- The distance between the heavenly bodies in the universe is measured in light years.
- Stars are huge, hot bodies of gases which have their own heat and light.
- The solar system has the Sun, eight planets and their satellites, asteroids, meteors and comets.
- The Sun is our main source of heat and light.
- The eight planets are Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune.
- All planets rotate on their axis and revolve around the Sun from west to east, except for Venus and Uranus which rotate from east to west.
- The Moon is the only natural satellite of the Earth.

### A. Fill in the blanks:-

1. Democracy is the most popular form of \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is called the head of the solar family
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is also called shooting star.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a largest group of stars and associated matter that are found throughout the universe.

### B. Answer the followings in very short (one sentence):-

1. What is a light year?
2. Who gave the heliocentric theory of the solar system?
3. Define planets?
4. Write the name of the Earth's natural satellite.

### C. Answer the followings in short (two to three sentences):-

1. Explain the main feature of a planet.
2. What is a celestial body? Give two examples.
3. What is the universe made up of?
4. Why is the earth known as a unique planet?
5. Draw the diagram of URSA minor constellation.

### D. Answer the followings in detail (three to four sentences):-

1. Make a model to show the phases of the moon by using thermocol and balls.
2. **Draw a lable diagram of the solar system.**
3. Write a note on the other minor members of the solar system.



## Chapter 3 Government

### Learning Objectives

- To find out why we need a government
- To learn about the different types of government
- To study the functions, levels and organs of the government

### Set Sail

Imagine that your parents are away and your siblings and you have full control of the house. What would you do? You might watch the television the whole day or fight with your siblings and do all such things that your parents don't allow you to do.

Now imagine that in school your teacher is on leave and there is no substitute in class. There is no authority and the children do what they want to do. What would the situation be like? Would your home or your class be in order in the absence of your parents and teacher?

### Introduction

A country is just like a big house or a big class. Just like we fight with our siblings at home and classmates in school, we end up squabbling with the members of the society. And in a society as diverse as ours, such **confrontations** happen more often than not. Therefore, to monitor its people, every country has a guardian or teacher called the government. In the absence of this guardian or teacher, **anarchy** and confusion would prevail in the country.

### What is Government?

Government is a group of people that come together to handle the daily affairs of the country. The group is sometimes elected by the citizens of the country

and sometimes selected by the ruler, depending upon the form of government the country has. Every country needs a government to make rules, regulate the society and formulate policies for the welfare of the people.

### Need For Government

Life of the early man as hunter-gatherers was simple and easy. However, as man started practicing agriculture and settlements and societies emerged, life became complicated. Interactions and dependencies on one another often led to conflicts and disputes. The need was felt for an organized system of authority which would ensure security, resolve disputes among people and regulate the society. This was the origins of the government.

### Vocab Help

**Confrontation:** a fight or argument; **Anarchy:** a situation when there is no organisation and control

Over time, the scope of governments expanded to include not just providing security to the people and formulating laws for the country, but also to take up welfare functions for the people.

### Types of Government

In the beginning, monarchy was the most prevalent form of government. Most countries had a monarch, who was the ruler of a country or region. The monarch, in consultation with a few of his or her hand-picked members of the society, would make rules for the people. The people had no say in the decision-making process and had to follow these rules. Since monarchy is hereditary, the decision-making power stayed in one family for generations. This form of government is known as absolute monarchy, where the monarch exercises ultimate authority. Saudi Arabia is an absolute monarchy.

Eventually, people became more aware of their rights and demanded participation in the day-to-day functioning of the government. As a result, most monarchs are now advised by a government which is elected by the citizens of the country. The power of the monarchs is not absolute and they are bound by the constitution of the country. This is known as constitutional monarchy. The United Kingdom is an example of constitutional monarchy.

The other form of government is democracy, which is the most popular form of government in the world. In a democracy, the citizens elect their representatives who then form the government.



#### Vocab Help

Monarchy: a country which is ruled by a king or queen. Democracy: a country in which power is held by elected representatives.

These representatives work for the betterment of their people and are answerable to them. In a democracy, the government derives its power from the people. With a population of over a billion people, India is the largest democracy in the world.

#### Info Capsule

The word 'democracy' is derived from the Greek words 'demos', meaning 'people' and 'kratos', meaning 'rule'.

Another form of government, in stark contrast to democracy, is dictatorship. In a dictatorial government, a single person or a small group of persons rule the country. The dictators are not elected and usually seize power. They work for self-interest and not concerned about the welfare of the people. Adolf Hitler was the dictator of Germany during 1934-1945.

#### Task 1

If you were made the class monitor, what rules would you make for the class? List down five rules.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Task 2

Write three similarities and three differences between a democratic and a monarchical form of government.

Similarities	Differences
1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____

### Levels of Government in India

India is a vast country. In order to administer the country efficiently, it has been divided into twenty nine states and seven union territories. Each state is further divided into various small districts. As per the districts, we have three levels of government in India — local, state and central.



Levels of Government in India

#### They Said It!

Democracy is the government of the people, by the people and for the people.

— Abraham Lincoln

#### Local Self Government

At the district level, people choose the local self-government, which takes care of the day-to-day needs of the people. Local self-governments handle situations and matters that concern the people of their district or village only. For example, the cleanliness of the district, and the supply of water and electricity works, etc. are handled by the local governing bodies.

#### State Government

India has twenty nine states, and each state has its own government. Each state government is elected by the people of that state. It is responsible for the welfare of the people, and makes rules and regulations for the people of that particular state only. Decisions such as whether a multinational company should invest in the state or not, the items that should be bought from other states, maintenance of roads, bridges, etc. of the state are taken by the state government. The head of the state government is the Chief Minister.

#### Task 3

Make a list of five things that each of these governments do.

Local Self-Governments	State Government	Central Government
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1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Central Government

Central government or union government is the government at the highest level. It works for the welfare of the entire country. It takes strategic decisions regarding its security and defence, decides on the import and export policy of the country and works towards keeping healthy relations with other countries in addition to various other things.

The leader of the central government is the Prime Minister.

#### Functions of the Government

The government of a country or a state plays an important role in development of the area and the welfare of the people. Once the government is formed, it has to perform some basic functions.

#### Defence and Security

The primary function of the government is to provide safety and security to its people and ensure law and order in the country. In addition, the government is responsible for the defence of the country and protecting the borders from external forces.

#### Ensuring Welfare Measures

It is the function of the government to plan, organise and execute welfare acts for its people. Development of policies, grievance redressal, building of roads and bridges, improving transport facilities, providing for food, etc. are taken care of by the government.

### Resource Management

Management and allocation of natural and human-made resources are handled by the government in such a manner that the end consumers, which are the citizens, reap maximum benefit.

### International Relations

The government makes and keeps good relations with other nations by extending help and support in their times of need and by also following a clear import and export policy.

In addition to these, the government also takes care of various other small and big issues.

### Organs of Government

It is not feasible for a single unit or a single wing to look after a country as vast as India. Therefore, in order to function smoothly and effectively, the government has been divided into three wings.



#### Legislature

The legislature is the law-making body of the government. It formulates laws and policies for the welfare of the country and its people. The Parliament of India is the legislature of the central government of India.

#### Executive

Once the laws are made, they have to be implemented. This is done by the executive. The executive is thus the law-implementing agency of the government. The executive in India comprises the President, the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers at the centre. It makes it mandatory for all the citizens of India to follow the laws alike. The executive also ensures that the laws are being enforced properly and that all the

#### Vocab Help

Taskers: working together, especially well or closely

citizens are abiding by the laws. The people who do not abide by the laws are punished suitably.

#### Judiciary

The third wing of the government is the judiciary. It ensures that the government functions according to the constitution and protects the rights of the people. While the legislature and executive work in tandem, the judiciary is an independent wing. It keeps a check on the functioning of the government. The judiciary functions through a network of courts.

#### Arrange the courts in order of hierarchy

- District and Sessions Court
- High Court
- Supreme Court
- Lower Court

#### Our Role

It is not only important to abide by the laws of the country but it is also very important to understand the reason behind the formation of the laws that the government makes for us. Since all of us are not educated in the field of law, it is the duty of the people we elect to explain the laws, their advantages and disadvantages, to us. Since we have to rely on our elected representatives, it becomes important that we choose the right people.

But we have not always had the right to choose our government. For a very long period, we were under the British Raj, and had to follow the rules and regulations set by the British in India. Initially, only the British had the right to make laws for India, but after struggling for many years, a select few were given the right to vote. But the common person had no such right. Therefore, when India gained freedom from the British in 1947, the leaders of independent India decided to have a democratic form of government where every person would have a say. Our country exercises universal adult franchise where every person of the age of 18 and above has a right to vote, irrespective of caste, creed, colour, gender and social status.

In order to build a strong and united India, he forcefully advocated the idea of a secular state. Secularism was viewed by Nehru as the only logical choice keeping in mind the fact that India, in spite of partition, remained a pluralist society having a multi-religious, multi-cultural and multi-ethnic character.



Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru

He also got the concept of secularism incorporated in the Indian Constitution. No doubt, the original text of the Preamble as adopted by the Constituent Assembly did not contain the word 'secular' and it was included by the 42nd Amendment in 1976. However, secularism was implicit in the values of equality, freedom and justice included in the Preamble of the Constitution. Moreover, the Right to Equality, the Right to Religious Freedom and the Educational and Cultural Rights guaranteed in the chapter on Fundamental Rights also sought to make secularism the fundamental law of the land. Nehru also abolished separate electorates and introduced universal adult franchise for that purpose.

—Thought and Vision of Jawaharlal Nehru by S. Anand  
Do you agree with Pandit Nehru's ideology? How is our Right to Equality connected to universal adult franchise? Discuss.

representatives, who formulate laws on their behalf. Elections and voting processes are important elements of a democratic system. In a democratic system, all citizens exercise Universal Adult Franchise. This means that all adults in the country have the right to vote in elections, irrespective of their race, gender, religion, ethnicity or socio-economic status.

While universal adult franchise is prevalent in all democracies of the modern world, this was not always so. In certain countries, women were denied the right to vote, in some others, the poor and landless were not allowed to vote, in yet others, the blacks were deprived of voting rights. Thus, while adult franchise was there, it was not universal in nature.

Thus, universal adult franchise is modern democracies is a result of a long struggle by the deprived sections. For example, women in the USA obtained the right to vote only in 1920 after a long Suffragette Movement. The blacks in South Africa secured voting rights in 1994 when the policy of Apartheid or racial segregation was finally abolished in the country.

In this context, it is noteworthy that India granted the right to vote to all adults irrespective of gender, caste, region or ethnicity as soon as it became independent in 1947.

#### Global Connect

On 10 December 1948, the United Nations adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It lists out the basic rights and fundamental freedoms entitled to all human beings. It recognises universal adult franchise as a human right.

### Universal Adult Franchise

Democracy is the most popular form of government in the world today in which people elect their

#### I Learnt

- Government is a group of people that come together to handle the daily affairs of the country.
- The various types of governments are monarchy - absolute and constitutional, democracy and dictatorship.
- There are three levels of government in India: Local government, state governments and central government.
- The main functions of government include defence and security of the nation, providing welfare facilities, management of resources of the country and maintaining international relations.
- Legislature, executive and judiciary are the main organs of the government.

**A. Fill in the blanks:-**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ is the head of the central government.
2. The third wing of the government is the \_\_\_\_\_.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the country which is ruled by a king or a queen.
4. Democracy is the most popular form of \_\_\_\_\_

**B. Answer the followings in very short (one sentence):-**

1. How many levels of government do we have in India? Name them.
2. What do you understand by a universal adult franchise?
3. Which organ of the government makes laws for the country?
4. Which level of the government work for the welfare of the entire country?

**C. Answer the followings in short (two to three sentences):-**

1. What are the basic functions of the government?
2. Write a note on the three organs of the government.
3. What is dictatorship? Name any one country which is having dictatorship.
4. What do you mean by democratic government? Write the name of two democratic countries.
5. Write any one the function of the government with an example related to your locality?

**D. Answer the followings in detail (three to four sentences):-**

1. How the central government and the state government working together against Covid -19
2. Does democracy make our life as citizen more significance? Is the right to vote sufficient to ensure welfare of the people?
3. You are below the age of 18. How you think on Universal adult franchise?