



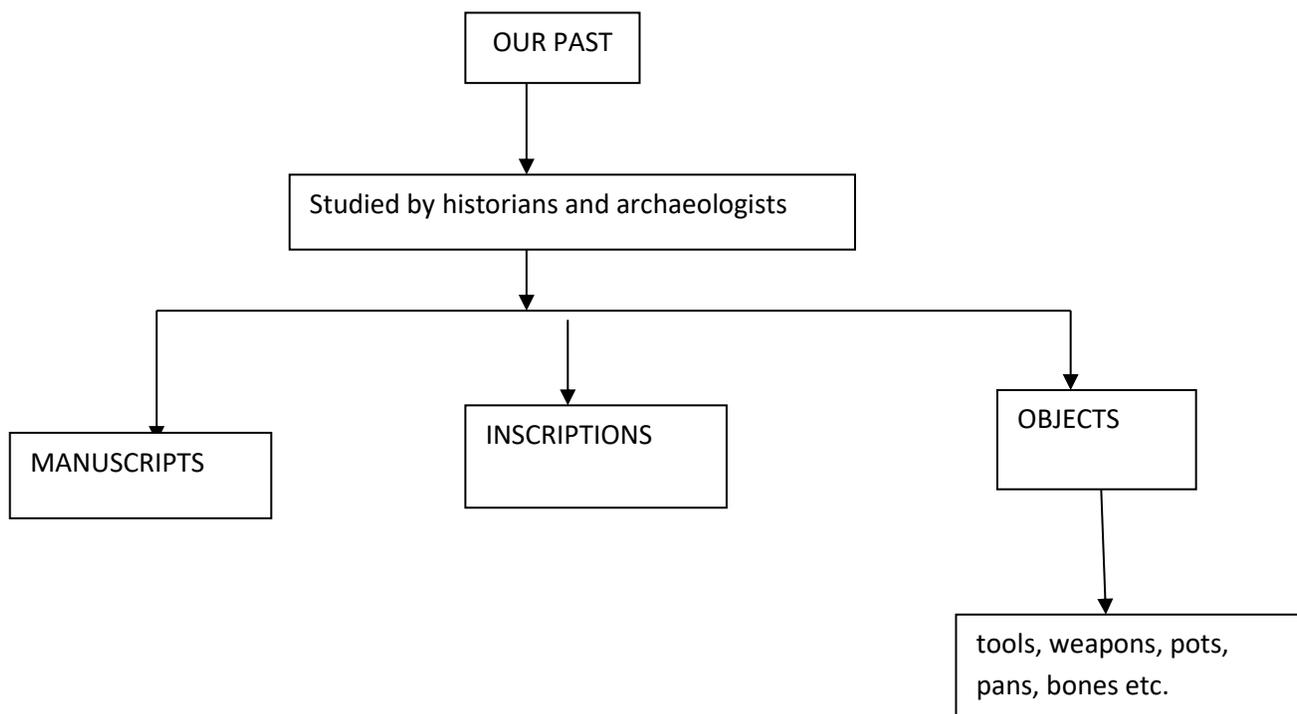
**Rabindranath World School**  
**W-10/3120, DLF Phase III, Gurgaon (HR).**

**CHAPTER 1**

**WHAT, WHERE, HOW AND WHEN**

**NOTES:**

**FLOW LEARNING**



**WHAT CAN WE KNOW ABOUT THE PAST?**

There are several things we can know about our past such as:

1. What people used to eat, the type of clothes they used to wear, the houses in which they lived.
2. How were the lives of hunters, herders, farmers, rulers, merchants, priests, crafts persons, artists, musicians, and scientists?
3. The games children used to play, the stories they have heard, the songs they sang.

**WHERE DID PEOPLE LIVE?**

People have lived along the banks of the Narmada river for several hundred thousand years. These people stayed on the bank of Narmada river as they knew about the vast wealth of plants



## NAMES OF THE LAND

Our country is known by both words i.e India and Bharat.

1. The word India comes from the Indus, called Sindhu in Sanskrit. The Iranians and the Greeks who came through the northwest about 2500 years ago called it the Hindos or the Indos, and the land to the east of the river was called India.
2. The name Bharata was used for a group of people who lived in the northwest, and who are mentioned in the Rigveda, the earliest composition in Sanskrit (dated to about 3500 years ago). Later it was used for the country.

## FINDING OUT ABOUT THE PAST

One way through which we can find out about our past is by reading the books that were written long ago. These books are called manuscripts because they were written by hand. These were written on palm leaves, or on the specially prepared bark of a tree known as the birch, which grows in the Himalayas. These books dealt with all kinds of subjects: religious beliefs and practices, the lives of kings, medicine and science. Besides, there were epics, poems, plays as well.

## INSCRIPTIONS

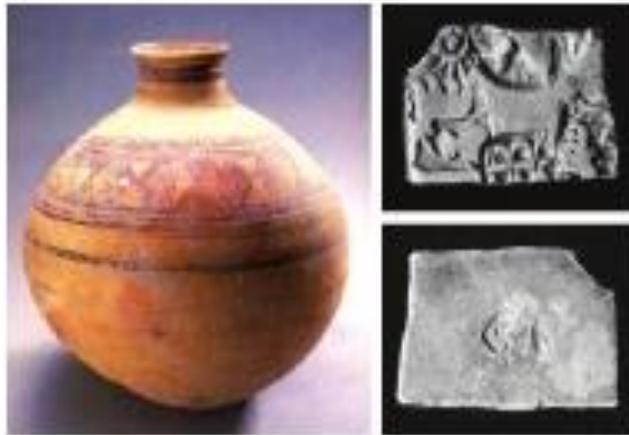
Inscriptions are writings on relatively hard surfaces such as stone or metal. In the past, when kings wanted their orders inscribed so that people could see, read and obey them, they used inscriptions for this purpose. There are other kinds of inscriptions as well, where men and women (including kings and queens) recorded what they did. For example, records of victories in battle.

## ARCHAEOLOGISTS

An archaeologist is a person who studies the remains of buildings made of stone and brick, paintings and sculpture. They also explore and excavate to find tools, weapons, pots, pans, ornaments and coins. They also look for bones of animals, birds, and fish to find out what people ate in the past.

Historians use the word source to refer to the information found from manuscripts, inscriptions and archaeology. Once sources are found, learning about the past becomes an adventure. *So historians and archaeologists are like detectives, who use all these sources like clues to find out about our pasts.*

Left : A pot from an old city.  
Pots like these were used about 4700 years ago.  
Right : An old silver coin.  
Coins such as this one were in use from about 2500 years ago.  
In what ways is the coin different from the ones we use today?



### ONE PAST OR MANY?

The word ‘pasts’ in plural is used to draw attention to the fact that the past was different for different groups of people. For example, the lives of herders or farmers were different from those of kings and queens, the lives of merchants were different from those of crafts persons, and so on. It is even true today as people followed different practices and customs in different parts of the country.

Archaeology did not help us to know more about the ordinary people in the past because they did not keep records of what they did. Whereas, kings used to keep the records of their victories and the battles they fought.

### WHAT DO DATES MEAN?

The years are counted from the date to the birth of Jesus Christ, the founder of Christianity. All dates before the birth of Christ are counted backwards and usually have the letters BC (Before Christ) added on. In this book, we will refer to dates going back from the present, using 2000 as our starting point. 2000 means 2000 years after the birth of Christ.