

State True or False:

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

Answer:

(1) False, (2) True, (3) True, (4) False

Fill in the blanks:

1. Archives are places where ____ are kept.
2. ____ was a fourteenth century chronicler.
3. ____, ____, ____, ____ and ____ were some of the new crops introduced into the subcontinent during this period.

Answer:

- (1) documents and manuscripts,**
- (2) Ziyauddin Barani,**
- (3) Potatoes, corn, chillies, tea and coffee**

Answer the following questions:

Question 1: Who was considered a foreigner in the past?

Answer: In the past, the term *foreigner* meant a stranger who appeared in a given village, i.e. a person who was not a part of that society or culture. Thus a city dweller would consider a forest dweller as ‘foreigner’ whereas two farmers of the same village even if they belonged to different castes, religion etc.; were not foreigners to each other.

Question 2: List some of the technological changes associated with this period.

Answer: Appearance of the Persian wheel for irrigation, the spinning wheel for weaving and the firearms in combat.

Question 3: What were some of the major religious developments during this period?

Answer: During this period in Hinduism, people started worshipping new gods, building temples and the importance of priests increased. People started believing in the idea of loving and personal devotion to the gods. New religions like Islam also came into existence during this period.

Question 4: How were the affairs of jatis regulated?

Answer: Jatis had their own rules for how members should behave, and these rules were enforced by an assembly of elders called the jati panchayat. Villages were also governed by chieftains, and the rules of the village had to be followed by the jatis living there.

Question 5: What does the term pan-regional empire mean?

Answer: A pan-regional empire is an empire that covers many diverse regions, not just a small or neighboring area.

Question 6: What were the difficulties faced by the historians in using manuscripts?

Answer: For centuries, manuscripts were copied over and over again. Each time they were copied, small changes were made. This resulted in a big difference between the original manuscript and the copies. The original manuscript by the author was often lost or not available. As a result, historians had to read different versions of the same manuscript to try to figure out what the author had originally written.

Question 7: How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problems in doing so?

Answer: A: Historians divide the past into periods based on similarities in social and economic structures and beliefs.

The classification of the past into periods can be problematic because a period can cover many centuries and have many significant differences within it. Therefore, describing an entire period as one historical unit may not provide a clear picture of that time.

Question 8: In what ways has the meaning of the word Hindustan changed over the centuries?

Answer: The word Hindustan means different things depending on when it was used. Today, it means India. In the 13th century, it referred to certain parts of India that were ruled by the Delhi Sultan. In the 16th century, it was used to describe the geography, culture, and animals of India. The poet Amir Khusrau used it in a similar way in the 14th century. However, it did not have the same meaning as it does today, when it refers to India as a country.