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Sanjiv Refresher Social Science

Class - VIII

Based on Latest NCERT Textbooks

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	SYLLABUS		
No.	CHAPTER / UNIT	OBJECTIVES	
	HISTORY	: Our Pasts-III	
1.	Introduction : How, When and Where	Delineate major developments within the time frame.	
2.	From Trade to Territory The Company Establishes Power	Show how the consolidation of British power was linked to the formation of colonial armies and administrative structures.	
3.	Ruling the Countryside	Provide a broad view of changes within rural society through a focus on two contrasting regions.	
4.	Tribals <i>, Dikus</i> and the Vision of a Golden Age	Discuss different forms of tribal societies.	
5.	When People Rebel 1857 and After	How revolt originated and spread. And know about the changes in colonial rule after 1857.	
6.	Civilising the "Native", Educating the Nation	Show how the educational system that is seen as universal and normal today has a history.	
7.	Women, Caste and Reform	Outline the history of new laws that affect women's lives and how autobiographies, biographies and other literature can be used to reconstruct the histories of women.	
8.	The Making of the National Movement: 1870s-1947	Outline the major developments within the national movement.	
CIVICS : Social and Political Life-III			
1.	The Indian Constitution	Understand laws as evolving and subject to change and to develop the vision and the values of the Constitution.	
2.	Understanding Secularism	Develop an appreciation of human rights guaranteed in the Constitution and appreciate our continuous involvement with the constitution as a living document.	

3.	Parliament and the Making of Laws	Understand why India chose a parliamentary form of government. Gain a sense/rationale of the essential elements of the parliamentary form of government.
4.	Judiciary	Understand the main elements of our judicial structure and distinguish between civil and criminal cases.
5.	Understanding Marginalisation	Understand of what is meant by 'marginalised' groups and discusses indepth, the issue of untouchability and reservations.
6.	Confronting Marginalisation	Develop skills to analyse an argument from the margianlised point of view.
7.	Public Facilities	Role of government in the economic sphere
8.	Law and Social Justice	Role of government in developmental activities, especially law and social sectors.

GEOGRAPHY : Resources and Development		
1.	Resources	To know the meaning of resources, their variety, location and distribution.
2.	Land, Soil, Water, Natural Vegetation and Wildlife Resources	To develop awareness towards resources conservation and take initiative towards conservation process.
3.	Agriculture	Learn about various types of farming and agricultural development in two different regions.
4.	Industries	Classification of industries and their location and importance.
5.	Human Resources	To understand the role of human resources in development of nation's economy.

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HISTORY : Our Pasts-III

INTRODUCTION : HOW, WHEN AND WHERE

Summary

How important are dates?

• History tells us the story of past. History is about the changes that occur over time. It is about finding out how things were in the past and how things have changed in the present.

APTER

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- Earlier history was a record of dates. It was limited to some big events and battles. This was because earlier historians generally focused on kings and their lives.
- Now, historians focus on a number of things besides past rulers and lives such as lives of common people, their livelihood, how cities and kingdoms developed, etc. So they wrote about the year when a king was crowned, the year he married, the year he fought a particular battle, etc. For such events specific dates were fixed.

Which dates?

- The dates we select, the dates around which we compare our story of the past, are not important on their own. They become important because we focus on a particular set of events and people associated with them.
- For instance, the history written by British Historians in India, the rule of each Governor-General was important. These histories began with the rule of the First Governor-General Warren Hastings and ended with the Last Viceroy Lord Mountbatten.

How do we Periodise?

• We divide history into different periods in order to capture the characteristics of time, its central features as they appear to us. So the terms through which we periodise, i.e. demarcate the differences between periods become important.

IMPORTANT PERSONALITIES



Major James Rennel was an English geographer, historian and a pioneer of oceanography. He produced some of the first accurate maps of Bengal as well as accurate outlines of India and served as Surveyor General of Bengal.

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Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of India in 1773.



Lord Mountbatten served as last Viceroy of India from 12 February 1947 till 15 August 1947.

- James Mill was a Scottish economist and political philosopher. In 1817, he wrote a three volume book -'A History of British India'. In this, he divided Indian history into three periods-Hindu, Muslim and British. According to Mill, all Asian societies were at a lower level of civilisation than Europe and only British rules and culture could make Indians civilised.
- Apart from the British classification, historians have divided Indian history into - Ancient, Medieval and Modern. This division also has problems. It is a periodisation that is borrowed from the west where the modern period was associated with the growth of all the forces of modernity such as science, reason, democracy, etc. Medieval was the term used to describe a society where these features of modern period were not visible in India during the British rule. Many historians therefore refer to this period as 'Colonial'.

What is Colonial?

- The British established their control over India and made it a 'colony'. Many official records provide information about the events and happenings of these times.
- Colonisation' is a term that refers to a process in which one country subjugates another and thus brings political, economic, social and cultural change.

How do we know?

• Historians use different sources in writing about the last 250 years of Indian History.

Administration Produces records

- The official records of the British administration are one of the important sources.
- The British believed that the act of writing was important, every instruction, plan, policy etc had to be clearly written and preserved.
- Hence, the British setup record rooms attached to all administrative institutions. Specialised institutions like 'archives' and 'museums' were also set up to preserve these important records.

Surveys become important

- The British believed that a country had to be properly known before it could be administered.
- The practice of surveying also became common under the



James Mill, a Scottish economist and political philosopher, published a massive three-volume work- A History of British India.

Introduction : How, When and Where 3

colonial administration. By the early 19th century, detailed surveys were being carried out to map the entire country.

• Census operations were held at the interval of every ten years. It prepared all the detailed records of the number of people in all the provinces of India, noting information on castes, religions and occupation. In villages, revenue surveys were conducted.

What official records do not tell?

- All official records do not always help us understand what other people in the country felt and what lay behind their actions. To know about these things we have -
 - (i) Diaries of people.
 - (ii) Accounts of pilgrims and travelers.

(iii) Autobiographies of important personalities, etc.

• All these sources were produced by those who were literate. From these, we will not be able to understand how history was experienced and lived by the tribals, the peasants, the workers in the mines or the poor men on the streets.

DO YOU KNOW?

Hindustan Times is an Indian English-language daily newspaper founded in 1924 with roots in the Indian Independence Movement. It was founded by Sunder Singh Lyallpuri, founderfather of the Akali movement and the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab Province.

National Archives of India was originally established as the Imperial Record Department in 1891, in Calcutta, the capital of British India. Presently, NAI is situated at the intersection of Janpath and Rajpath, in Delhi. The languages of the records include English, Arabic, Hindi, Persian, Sanskrit, Modi and Urdu, and their materials include paper, palm leaf, birch bark and parchment. The records are in four categories: Public Records, Oriental Records, Manuscripts and Private Papers.



IMPORTANT DATES & EVENTS

1773 : Warren Hastings became the first Governor-General of India.1817 : James Mill published a massive three-volume work, 'A history of British India'.

KEY WORDS

History	-	Study of past.
Historians	-	Persons who study and write about past.
Colonial Period	-	Period when Europeans captured other countries.
Colonisation	-	It is a process in which one country subjugates another and thus brings political, economic, social and cultural changes.
Subjugation	-	Gaining control over a country.
Calligrapher	-	One who is specialised in the art of beautiful writing.
	Historians Colonial Period Colonisation Subjugation	Historians - Colonial Period - Colonisation - Subjugation -

UNIT ONE : The Indian Constitution and Secularism

THE INDIAN CONSTITUTION

Summary

• This chapter tells us about the Indian Constitution's key features.

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- Every society has constituted rules that make it what it is and differentiate it from other kinds of societies. In large societies where different communities live together, these rules are formulated through consensus and are available in written form.
- Constitution is a set of rules according to which a country is governed.

Why does a Country need a Constitution?

The constitution serves following purposes -

- a) Constitution lays down the fundamental nature of our society-
 - A constitution serves as a set of rules that all persons in a country can agree upon as the basis of the way in which they want the country to be governed.
 - The constitution includes not only the type of government but also an agreement or idea that they all believe the country should uphold.

Example: Nepal, India's neighbour has recently become a democracy in 2008. People of Nepal adopted a new constitution for the country in 2015.

- Nepal the monarchy : The previous constitution of Nepal which had been adopted in 1990, reflected the fact that the final authority rested with the king.
- Nepal the democracy : The powers rest with the head of the government who is an elected person.
- A new constitution was written and democracy was established because the people of Nepal did not want to

The Constitution of India is handwritten and calligraphed both in English and Hindi.

DO YOU KNOW?

A total of 283 members of the constituent assembly signed the constitution, which came into being on 26th January, 1950.

The original handwritten copies of the Constitution are kept in helium-filled cases in the Library of Parliament House.



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Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar is known as the Father of the Indian Constitution. Dr. Ambedkar believed that his participation in the Constituent Assembly helped the Scheduled Castes get some safeguards in the draft constitution.



Dr. Rajendra Prasad became the first elected President of the Constituent Assembly in 1950.



Dr. Sachchidananda Sinha was the First President (temporary) of the Constituent Assembly when it met on December 9, 1946.

continue with the previous constitution as it did not reflect the ideals of the country that they wanted Nepal to be.

- b) Constitution defines nature of a country's political system. Constitution plays a crucial role in laying out certain important guidelines that govern decision-making within these societies.
 - In a democracy, we choose our leader so that they can exercise power responsibly on our behalf.
 - Indian constitution guarantees the right to equality to all persons and says that no citizen can be discriminated against on grounds of religion, race, caste, gender and place of birth.
 - Constitution prevents domination by the majority of a minority.
- c) Constitution saves us from ourselves.
 - This means that we might feel strongly about an issue that might go against our larger interests & the constitution helps us guard against this.
 - For example, many party politics is becoming acrimonious and we need a strong dictator to set this right. They may fail to realise that in long run dictatorial rule goes against all their interests.
 - A good constitution does not allow this whims to change its basic structure.

The Indian Constitution : Key Features

1. Federalism

• It means existence of more than one level of government in the country. In India, there are three levels of government - country, state and local government. The constitution defines the power of each government.

2. Parliamentary Form of Government

- Constitution of India guarantees Universal Adult Suffrage for all citizens means that the people of India have a direct role in electing their representatives, also every citizen of the country irrespective of his/her social background can contest in elections.
- These representatives are accountable to the people.

3. Separation of powers

- According to the constitution, there are three organs of the state the Legislature, the Executive and the Judiciary.
- i) The Legislature refers to our elected representatives.

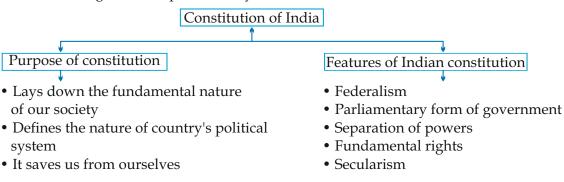
- ii) The Executive refers to the group of people who are responsible for implementing laws and running the government.
- iii) The Judiciary refers to the system of courts.

4. Fundamental Rights

- These rights protect citizens against the arbitrary and absolute exercise of power by the state.
- The constitution also guarantees the rights of minorities against the majority.
- The constitution also has a section called Directive Principles of state policy to ensure greater social economic reform.
- It serves as a guide to the independent Indian state to institute laws policies that help reduce the poverty of the masses.
- The fundamental rights in the Indian constitution include :
 - 1. Right to equality 2. Right to freedom
 - 3. Right against exploitation 4. Right to freedom of religion
 - 5. Cultural and educational rights 6. Right to constitutional remedies

5. Secularism

- A secular state is one in which the state does not officially promote any religion as the state religion.
- India officially does not have any religion.
- All religions are equal in the eyes of the law.



KEY WORDS

1)	Fundamental Rights	- The rights given to every citizen of India.
2)	Constitution	- Set of rules according to which the government of a
		country is run.
3)	Democracy	- A form of government in which people hold the ultimate
		power to governance.
4)	Secular	- A country where all religions command equal respect.

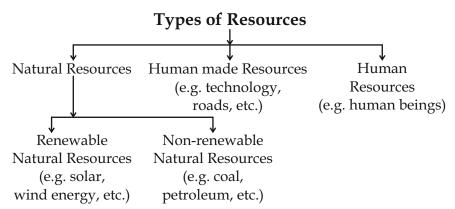
GEOGRAPHY : Resources and Development

RESOURCES

Summary

CHAPTER

- A resource is anything that can be used to cater human needs.
- Utility or usability makes an object or substance a resource. All the resources have some value. Some resources have economic value.
- Value means worth. Some resources have economic value, some do not.
- Time and technology are the two important factors that can change substances into resources.
- People are the most important resources as due to their ideas, knowledge, inventions and discoveries many new resources have been created.



Natural Resources

• Resources that are drawn from nature and used without much modification are called Natural Resources. E.g. air, water in rivers and lakes, soil, etc.

Do You Know?

Human Resource refers to the number (quantity) and abilities (mental and physical) of the people. Though, there are differing views regarding treatment of humans as a resource, one cannot deny the fact that it is the abilities of human that help in transfering the physical material into valuable resource.

- Natural resources are broadly classified into :
- **1. Renewable:** These resources are those which get renewed or replenished quickly. Some of these are unlimited and are not affected by human activities. E.g. Solar energy, Water, Soil, etc.
- **2. Non- renewable:** The resources that cannot be replaced at all or renewed within a reasonable time. E.g. Fossil fuels like coal, oil, gas, etc.

Human Made Resources

- Resources created by human beings are Human made Resources. E.g. houses, roads, schools, hospitals, chemicals and many more.
- Humans are considered as the most important resources of a nation because it is the human resource which converts a natural resource, into useful form. Education and health help in making people a valuable resource.
- A thing becomes useful only when its properties are recognised. For e.g. coal has existed on Earth for millions of years, But it became a resource only when man discovered its fire producing property.

Human Resources

- Humans are called human resources as they have ability and knowledge to create new resources. Education and health make people a valuable resource.
- Improving the quality of people's skills so that they are able to create more resources is known as human resource development.

Conserving Resources

- Need to conserve resources -
 - (i) Most of the resources are limited.
 - (ii) Unevenly distributed.
 - (iii) To become self dependent.
 - (iv) For the development of economy.
 - 1. Careful use of resources and giving them time to get renewed is called *Resource Conservation*.

