

Sources of History

Chapter 2: Sources of History · Topic 1

Key Concept

Archaeological sources include excavated remains like buildings, tools, and pottery that reveal how ancient people lived.

Literary sources include manuscripts, religious texts, and travelogues written by travellers, providing written accounts of the past.

Numismatic sources (coins) and epigraphic sources (inscriptions on stone or metal) provide valuable dated information about rulers and events.

Combining multiple sources helps historians cross-verify facts and build a more accurate and complete picture of history.

Quick Revision Notes

- Archaeological sources: excavated remains.
- Examples: buildings, tools, pottery.
- Literary sources: manuscripts, religious texts.
- Also travelogues by travellers.
- Numismatic sources: coins.
- Epigraphic sources: inscriptions on stone/metal.
- These give dated ruler/event information.
- Multiple sources help verify history accurately.

Practice Questions

- 1 List three types of historical sources.
- 2 Discuss what archaeological sources can reveal.
- 3 Research an example of an inscription or coin.
- 4 Discuss why historians use multiple sources.
- 5 Draw or describe an artefact from the past.
- 6 Explain why written sources are valuable to historians.