

Sources of History

Chapter 1: Sources of History · Topic 1

Key Concept

Written sources for medieval Indian history include court chronicles, religious texts, and travellers' accounts written by foreign visitors.

Archaeological sources like forts, monuments, and coins provide physical evidence of the achievements and lifestyle of past rulers.

Oral traditions, including folk songs and local legends (bakhars in Marathi tradition), preserve historical memory passed through generations.

Combining these diverse sources helps historians build a comprehensive and accurate picture of Maharashtra's and India's medieval history.

Quick Revision Notes

- Written sources: chronicles, religious texts, travellers' accounts.
- Archaeological sources: forts, monuments, coins.
- These show rulers' achievements, lifestyle.
- Oral traditions: folk songs, legends.
- Bakhars: Marathi historical narratives.
- They preserve memory across generations.
- Combining sources gives accurate history.
- This applies to Maharashtra, Indian history.

Practice Questions

- 1 Research a bakhar and its historical value.
- 2 Discuss what forts tell us about the past.
- 3 Research a court chronicle from medieval India.
- 4 Discuss the value of oral traditions in history.
- 5 List three types of historical sources.
- 6 Explain why combining sources gives better history.