

Sources of History

Chapter 4: Timeline and Sources of History · Topic 2

Key Concept

Written sources include ancient texts, inscriptions on stone or metal, coins with rulers' names, and manuscripts, providing direct information about the past.

Archaeological sources include artefacts like pottery, tools, and jewellery, along with structures like buildings and monuments, uncovered through excavation.

Oral traditions, like folk tales, songs, and legends passed down through generations, also provide insight into historical beliefs and events, especially where written records are scarce.

Historians carefully study and cross-check different sources together to build a more accurate and complete picture of what happened in the past.

Quick Revision Notes

- Written sources include texts, inscriptions and coins.
- Inscriptions are found on stone or metal.
- Archaeological sources include artefacts and structures.
- Excavation uncovers archaeological sources.
- Oral traditions include folk tales, songs and legends.
- Oral traditions help where written records are scarce.
- Historians cross-check multiple sources.
- Using multiple sources gives a more accurate history.

Practice Questions

- 1 Find an example of a written historical source.
- 2 Find an example of an archaeological source.
- 3 Discuss a folk tale or legend you know and its historical value.
- 4 Research how archaeologists excavate a site.
- 5 Explain why historians cross-check sources.
- 6 Create a chart classifying different types of historical sources.