

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 9: These notes are important for students preparing for their CBSE Class 6 exams. The notes focus on topics from history, making it easier for students to understand how ancient civilizations developed, how people interact with their environment, and how communities are governed. They break down complex ideas into simpler ones, helping young learners grasp important concepts easily.

By studying these Class 6 notes, students can build a solid foundation for future studies, learn more about the world, and develop a sense of responsibility towards society.

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 9 Overview

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes for Chapter 9 Traders, Kings and Pilgrims have been prepared by subject experts from Physics Wallah. These notes provide a detailed overview of how trade, kingdoms and religious journeys played an important role in shaping ancient India.

They simplify complex historical events and themes, making them easier for students to understand and retain. The notes are designed to enhance learning and help students gain a deeper insight into the rich cultural and historical heritage of the period.

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 9 PDF

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes for Chapter 9 Traders, Kings and Pilgrims are available for download in PDF format.

Students can use the PDF to enhance their understanding of ancient trade routes, the rise of powerful kings and the journeys of pilgrims. The PDF link is provided below for easy access and offline study.

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 9 PDF

CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 9 Traders, Kings and Pilgrims

Below we have provided CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 9 Traders, Kings and Pilgrims-

How to Find Out About Trade and Traders

Trade in ancient times was a vital part of connecting different regions, and traders played a significant role in transporting goods across vast distances. Fine pottery, found at various archaeological sites throughout the subcontinent, is evidence of this ancient trade. Traders carried these goods from where they were made to sell them in different regions.

South India, in particular, was renowned for its gold, pepper, and precious stones. In the Roman Empire, pepper was so highly valued that it earned the nickname "black gold." Traders transported these valuable items to Rome using ships across the sea or caravans by land.

Several sea routes were explored, with traders often following coastal lines. Some routes crossed the Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal, where sailors cleverly used the monsoon winds to make their voyages faster. These trade connections brought wealth and cultural exchange to various regions and civilizations.

New Kingdoms along the Coasts

The southern region of the Indian subcontinent, with its long coastline and fertile river valleys like Kaveri, became home to powerful chiefs and kings who controlled these areas. Among them were the Cholas, Cheras, and Pandyas, known as the "Muvendar," a Tamil term meaning three chiefs. These rulers, who emerged around 2300 years ago, had significant control over both inland and coastal cities. Puhar (Kaveripattinam), the Chola port, and Madurai, the capital of the Pandyas, were two important cities.

Instead of imposing regular taxes, these chiefs demanded gifts and tribute from the people and neighboring regions, using the wealth to reward their supporters, including poets who praised their achievements in the Sangam literature.

About 200 years later, the Satavahanas rose to power in western India, with Gautamiputra Shri Satakarni being one of their most notable rulers. The Satavahanas were called the lords of the dakshinapatha, which referred to the route leading to the south and the entire southern region of India.

The Story of the Silk Route

The Silk Route played a significant role in the ancient world, connecting China with distant lands through trade. The process of making silk was complex, involving the extraction of raw silk from silkworm cocoons, spinning it into thread, and weaving it into cloth. China, where silk-making was first invented, kept the method a secret for thousands of years. Chinese traders traveled on foot, horseback, and camels, carrying silk along paths that came to be known as the Silk Route.

Silk became highly desired, especially among rulers in Iran, West Asia, and the Roman Empire, where it was considered a symbol of wealth. The Romans, around 2000 years ago, made silk fashionable, despite its high cost due to the long journey from China, through rugged mountains and deserts. Many kings sought control of the route to gain from the taxes, tributes, and gifts from traders, offering protection from robbers in return.

The Kushanas, who ruled Central Asia and north-west India around 2000 years ago, were major controllers of the Silk Route. Their key power centers were Peshawar and Mathura, with Taxila as part of their kingdom. A branch of the Silk Route ran from Central Asia to the Indus River's seaports, where silk was then shipped to the Roman Empire.

The Spread of Buddhism

Kanishka, a well-known Kushana ruler who reigned around 1900 years ago, played a crucial role in the spread of Buddhism. He organized a Buddhist council where scholars gathered to discuss key matters. One of the prominent figures in his court was Ashvaghosha, a poet who wrote the Buddhacharita, a biography of the Buddha.

During this period, Mahayana Buddhism, a new form of Buddhism, emerged with two distinct features. Earlier, Buddha's presence was represented through symbols, like the peepal tree symbolizing his enlightenment. Later, Buddha's statues were made in places like Mathura and Taxila. Another key concept in Mahayana Buddhism was that of the Bodhisattva, enlightened beings who chose to remain in the world to guide and help others.

Buddhism spread across India, with monks living in caves carved out of hills, often commissioned by kings, queens, merchants, and farmers. These caves were located near important passes in the Western Ghats. The religion also spread beyond India to regions like Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and Southeast Asia, where Theravada Buddhism, an older form of Buddhism, gained popularity.

The Quest of the Pilgrims

The Chinese Buddhist pilgrims, such as Fa Xian, Xuan Zang, and I-Qing, embarked on remarkable journeys to the Indian subcontinent in their quest to visit places connected to the life of the Buddha and explore famous monasteries. Fa Xian arrived around 1600 years ago, while Xuan Zang and I-Qing followed approximately 50 years later.

Their travels were filled with challenges and took several years to complete. These pilgrims wrote detailed accounts of the dangers they faced, the countries they visited, and the valuable manuscripts they carried back to China.

Xuan Zang, in particular, returned via the land route, transporting Buddha statues made of gold, silver, and sandalwood, along with over 600 manuscripts on the backs of 20 horses. Unfortunately, he lost more than 50 manuscripts when his boat capsized in the Indus River. Despite the loss, Xuan Zang dedicated the remainder of his life to translating the surviving manuscripts from Sanskrit into Chinese, ensuring the knowledge and teachings of Buddhism reached his homeland.

The Beginning of Bhakti

The concept of Bhakti, which means devotion to a chosen deity, became a significant aspect of Hinduism during this period. Deities like Shiva, Vishnu, and goddesses such as Durga gained prominence and were worshipped with great devotion. The idea of Bhakti is also highlighted in the Bhagavad Gita, a sacred Hindu text within the Mahabharata. In it, Lord Krishna advises Arjuna, his devotee, to abandon all other duties and take refuge in him, as only Krishna can free him from evil.

The Bhakti movement focused on personal devotion and simple worship of gods or goddesses, as opposed to elaborate rituals or sacrifices. Followers believed that their chosen deity would respond to their pure-hearted worship and could appear in any form they desired be it human, animal, or even a tree. This idea of personal devotion spread widely across different parts of India.

Important Questions for Class 6 Social Science Chapter 9 Traders, Kings and Pilgrims

Here are the important questions and answers of Chapter 9 for Class 6 students:

1. Describe the assemblies that took place in southern kingdoms.

Answer: In the southern kingdoms, particularly during the Pallava period, various assemblies played significant roles in local governance. One prominent assembly was the **Sabha**, composed mainly of Brahmin landowners. This assembly handled diverse responsibilities, including irrigation, agricultural development, road construction, and management of local temples and was divided into specialized subcommittees. In areas where landowners were not Brahmins, a different form of village assembly was established. Additionally, there was the **Nagaram**, a mercantile organization consisting of wealthy traders and merchants who managed trade-related affairs and local commerce.

2. What does the Prayag Prashasti list about Samudragupta?

Answer: The Prayag Prashasti, an inscription celebrating Samudragupta, highlights his significant military achievements and victories. It also outlines his genealogy, providing details about his lineage. This inscription gives insight into his state policies by describing the practices of the territories he conquered. Furthermore, it provides information about his court and its members. In the prashasti, Samudragupta is depicted with divine qualities, emphasizing his esteemed status and accomplishments. The inscription is known for its grandiose praise and elaborate language.

3. What were the administrative arrangements after the fall of the Gupta Dynasty?

Answer: After the Gupta Dynasty's decline, administrative arrangements evolved with a shift toward hereditary positions. Administrative roles were often passed from father to son, leading to a system where one individual could hold multiple offices.

Important figures in local administration included Harishena, who served as both Mahadandanayaka (chief military commander) and Kumar-Amatya (minister for war and peace). Prominent local officials included the NagaraShreshthi (chief merchant or banker), the Sarthavaha (leader of commercial caravans), the chief craftsman, and the head of scribes. This system allowed for concentrated power but eventually led to these administrators establishing their own independent kingdoms.

4. How did the Guptas administer their kingdom? Explain briefly.

Answer: The Gupta administration was highly organized and hierarchical. At the top was the king, who governed with the assistance of a council of ministers. The kingdom was divided into provinces called **Bhuktis**, each managed by a governor and their officers. These provinces were further divided into districts known as **Visayas**, administered by **Ayuktas**. At the grassroots level, villages were governed by village elders. This decentralized structure empowered officials at various levels to make local decisions, ensuring efficient administration across the vast empire.

5. What were the Prashastis and how did these help?

Answer: Prashastis were inscriptions intended to praise and honor rulers. An example is the "Prashasti of Samudragupta," written in Sanskrit by the court poet Harisena around 1700 years ago. These inscriptions, such as the one on the Ashokan pillar in Allahabad, celebrated the achievements of kings, detailing their conquests and glorifying their rule. Prashastis often included information about the ruler's ancestors, providing a historical context for their reign. They played a role in reinforcing the ruler's divine status and legitimacy, thereby bolstering their authority and influence.

Benefits of CBSE Class 6 Social Science History Notes Chapter 9 Traders, Kings and Pilgrims

- **Improved Recall of Key Facts:** The notes highlight important historical facts, events and figures related to trade routes, rulers, and pilgrims. This helps students remember and recall specific details accurately during exams.
- **Enhanced Understanding of Concepts:** By breaking down complex historical events and concepts into simpler terms, the notes facilitate better understanding. This clarity helps in answering exam questions with greater confidence and accuracy.
- **Efficient Time Management:** The concise nature of the notes allows students to review a large amount of information in a short period. This efficiency helps in managing study time effectively, ensuring that all topics are covered before the exam.
- **Confidence Building:** With a thorough understanding of the chapter content, students can approach their exams with increased confidence. The notes prepare them to handle both straightforward and complex questions with ease.

