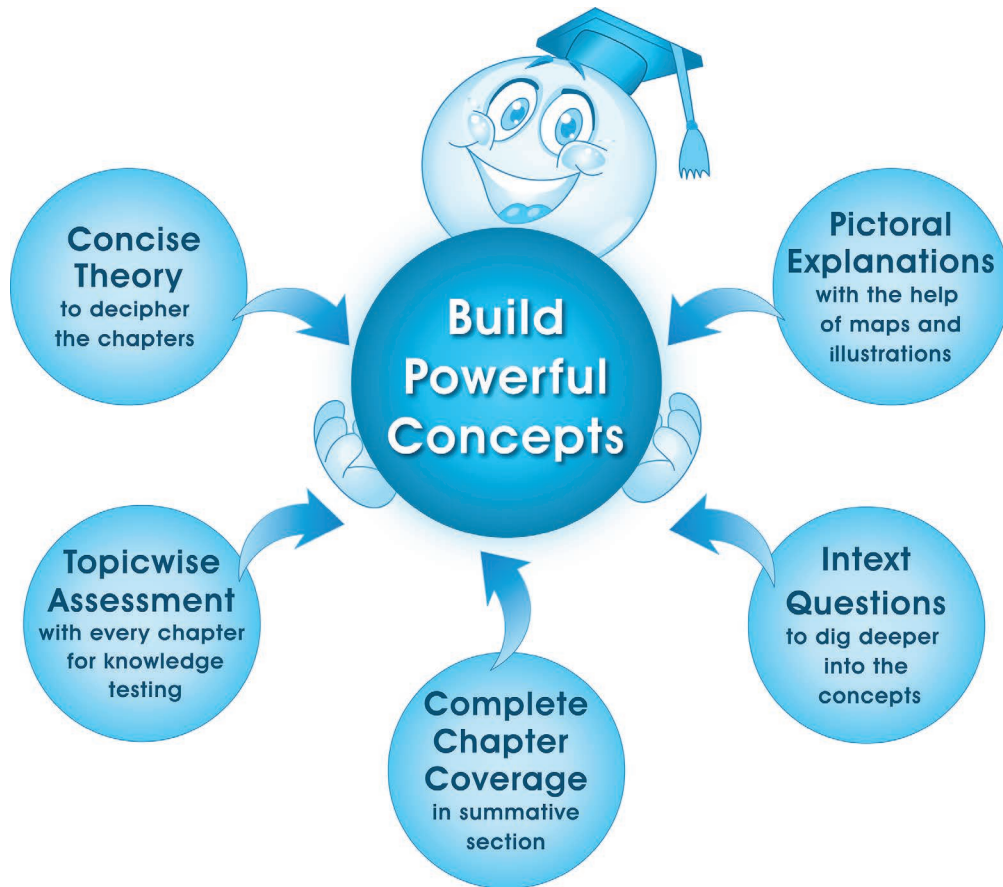


Written as per the new syllabus prescribed by the Maharashtra State Board  
of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Pune.

# STD. VI

# History – Civics & Geography



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## PREFACE

Our Std. VI History, Civics and Geography book comes equipped with Summaries, Maps and Illustrations, Formative and Summative Questions and Answers and of course Assessment Tests. The goal of this book is to simplify the Text Book and break it into smaller chunks so as to make it easier for the students to comprehend the subject.

We've deliberately clubbed the subjects of History, Civics and Geography in a single book as they all fall under the umbrella of Social Science. However within the book, these three sections are distinctly marked to avoid any ambiguity.

Every chapter in the book begins with a topic wise concise Summary that gives the readers a snapshot of the chapter. It further covers the Summative Section which includes Questions and Answers based upon the chapters and ensures that no point in the chapter is left uncovered.

The section that follows consists of Formative Assessment. In this segment, we've answered as many Questions as we could and deemed necessary. To be judicious towards the exercise, we've left a few Questions unanswered and have expected the students to answer them on their own. However this was done either based on the nature of the questions or to prod the students to dig deeper into the given topics.

At the end of every chapter we've included an Assessment Test. This test gives students a chance to test their knowledge based on what they've learned so far.

With an attempt of joining the pieces of Social Science together, we hope this book turns out to be more than a guiding angel for the students of Std. VI. This book would not only help them to prepare for their examination but also equip them to be an informed citizen of this country who knows his country's evolution, its physical structure, its demographics and the civic structure extremely well.

The journey to create a complete book is strewn with triumphs, failures and near misses. If you think we've nearly missed something or want to applaud us for our triumphs, we'd love to hear from you.

Please write to us at : [mail@targetpublications.org](mailto:mail@targetpublications.org)

*A book affects eternity; one can never tell where its influence stops.*

*Best of luck to all the aspirants!*

From,  
Publisher

# Contents

No.	Topic Name	Page No.
	<b>HISTORY</b>	
1.	The Indian Subcontinent and History	1
2.	Sources of History	9
3.	The Harappan Civilization	15
4.	The Vedic Civilization	23
5.	Religious Trends in Ancient India	35
6.	Janapadas and Mahajanapadas	45
7.	India during the Maurya Period	54
8.	States after the Maurya Empire	63
9.	Ancient Kingdoms of South	74
10.	Ancient India : Cultural	83
11.	Ancient India and the World	92
	<b>CIVICS</b>	98
1.	Our Life in Society	99
2.	Diversity in Society	103
3.	Rural Local Government Bodies	108
4.	Urban Local Government Bodies	115
5.	District Administration	123
	<b>GEOGRAPHY</b>	128
1.	The Earth and the Graticule	129
2.	Let us Use the Graticule	140
3.	Comparing a Globe and a Map; Field Visits	149
4.	Weather and Climate	154
5.	Temperature	161
6.	Importance of Oceans	175
7.	Rocks and Rock Types	186
8.	Natural Resources	196
9.	Energy Resources	205
10.	Human Occupations	217

*Note: Textual Questions are represented by \* mark.*

# 01. The Indian Subcontinent and History

## Geographical conditions and history

1. History is a coherent account of the significant past events in the progress of human culture.
2. Time, place, society and individuals are the four major pillars of history.
3. Among these, 'place' is related to geography or geographical conditions.
4. History is influenced by geographical conditions in many ways, thus history and geography are inseparable.
5. Our diet, clothing, housing, occupation largely depends upon geographical characteristics of a region in which we live.
6. For example,  
In hilly regions:
  - i. The life of the people is more strenuous than that of the people on the plains.
  - ii. Grains and vegetables are scarce in these regions, as not much fertile land is available.
  - iii. Thus, people depend more on hunting and gathering for their food.
7. The climate, rainfall, agricultural produce, flora and fauna of the region are source of our livelihood. They also influence the lifestyle and culture of a region.
8. Human settlements have developed in places where means of living are plentiful. These settlements further developed into villages and towns.
9. Sometimes due to degradation of the environment, drought, invasions etc, people are forced to leave their settlements. As a result, villages and towns become deserted.

## Geographical features of India

1. Himalayas lie to the north of our country, Bay of Bengal to the east, Arabian Sea to the west and Indian Ocean to the south.
2. Our country is contiguous except for the islands of Andaman-Nicobar and Lakshadweep.
3. Before 1947, Pakistan and Bangladesh were the part of India.

### Important regions that relate to the Indian history:

1. The Himalayas
  2. The plains of Sindhu-Ganga-Brahmaputra rivers
  3. The Thar Desert
  4. The Deccan Plateau
  5. The Coastal regions
  6. The islands in the seas
1. **Himalayas:**
    - i. The impenetrable wall created by the Hindukush and Himalaya ranges has separated the Indian Subcontinent from the deserts of Central Asia.
    - ii. However, there was a land route through the Khyber and Bolan passes in the Hindukush mountains, which was connected to an ancient trade route.
    - iii. The trade route from China, known as 'Silk Route' or 'Silk Road' passed through Central Asia and reached Arabia. Through this route, Silk was exported to western countries.
    - iv. Many foreign invaders and travellers used this route to enter ancient India.



**Himalaya**



## 2. The plains of the Sindhu-Ganga-Brahmaputra:

- i. Basins of river Sindhu, Ganga, Brahmaputra and their tributaries form this region.
- ii. This region extends from Sindhu-Punjab in the west to the present day Bangladesh in the east.
- iii. The earliest Indian civilization of Harappa and the later states and empires of ancient India emerged in this region.



**Ganga Ghat**

## 3. The Thar Desert:

- i. It spreads across Rajasthan, Haryana and some parts of Gujarat. A part of the desert lies in today's Pakistan.
- ii. Boundaries of Thar desert:
  - a. North: The Satluj river
  - b. East: The Aravalli mountain range
  - c. South: The Rann of Kachchh
  - d. West: The Indus (Sindhu) river.
- iii. The Ghaggar river originates in Himachal Pradesh and reaches the Thar desert. In Pakistan, this river is known as 'Hakra'.
- iv. Many sites of the Harappan civilization are found along the dry course of the river in Rajasthan and Pakistan.



**Thar Desert**

## 4. The Deccan Plateau:

- i. It is the region between the east and the west coast of India that gradually narrows down towards the south.
- ii. Boundaries of the Deccan Plateau:
  - a. West: Arabian sea
  - b. South: Indian ocean
  - c. East: Bay of Bengal
  - d. North: The mountain ranges of the Vindhya and Satpura.
- iii. This region is bounded by the sea on three sides. Thus it is called as a Peninsula. The Deccan Plateau occupies the major part of Indian Peninsula.
- iv. Mountain ranges on Deccan plateau:
  - a. Towards west: The Sahyadri mountain ranges, known as 'Western Ghats'.
  - b. Towards east: The mountains of 'Eastern Ghats'.
- v. To the west of Sahyadris, is the coastal region of Konkan and Malabar.
- vi. Deccan plateau has fertile land due to which many post-Harappan agrarian cultures flourished in this region.
- vii. Many kingdoms and smaller empires flourished in the Deccan Plateau, out of which Maurya empire was the largest.

## 5. The coastal regions:

- i. Ancient Indian had trade relations with the western countries, which was carried on by sea routes.
- ii. Thus, India developed contact and interaction with foreign cultures and people at the sea ports.
- iii. Although, land routes were also used later for trade and transport, the importance of sea routes did not diminish.



**6. The islands in the sea:**

- i. a. Islands in the Bay of Bengal: Andaman and Nicobar  
b. Islands in the Arabian Sea: Lakshadweep
- ii. These islands were important in ancient sea trade.
- iii. In the manuscript 'Periplus of the Erythrean Sea' or 'Handbook of the Red Sea', the Indian islands have been mentioned by an unknown Greek sailor.



**Andaman island**



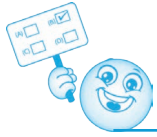
**Geographical regions of ancient India**

**The Indian Subcontinent**

1. Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India together form the region known as South Asia.
2. By considering the expanse and significance of India, this region is also known as the Indian Subcontinent.
3. The Harappan civilization had spread mainly in the northwestern part of the Indian Subcontinent. The cities of Harappa and Mohen-jo-daro are located in today's Pakistan.
4. China and Myanmar are not a part of South Asia or the Indian Subcontinent. However, they had cultural and trade relations with ancient India.



## Summative Evaluation



### Choose the Correct Alternative

- India is contiguous except islands of Andaman-Nicobar and \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) Sri Lanka (B) Himalaya (C) Lakshadweep
- \_\_\_\_\_ was the main commodity exported to the western countries using Silk route.  
(A) Spices (B) Silk (C) Cotton
- The \_\_\_\_\_ is located to the south of the Thar desert.  
(A) Aravalli mountain range (B) Satluj river (C) Rann of Kachchh
- \_\_\_\_\_ is the region between the east and the west coast of India which tapers off to the south.  
(A) The Deccan plateau (B) Western Ghat (C) Himalaya
- The mountains on the eastern side of the Deccan plateau are known as \_\_\_\_\_.  
(A) Hakra (B) Eastern Ghats (C) Hindukush

#### Answers:

- (C)
- (B)
- (C)
- (A)
- (B)



### Answer in One Sentence

**\*1. What is history?**

**Ans:** History is a coherent account of the significant past events in the progress of human culture.

**\*2. Where do human settlements flourish?**

**Ans:** Human settlements flourish wherever the means of living are plentiful.

**\*3. What do the people in the hilly region depend on for their food?**

**Ans:** The people in the hilly region depend on hunting and gathering for their food.

**4. Which mountain ranges have created the wall which has separated the Indian Subcontinent from the desert of Central Asia?**

**Ans:** The Hindukush and Himalaya mountain ranges have created the wall which has separated the Indian Subcontinent from the deserts of Central Asia.

**5. Which are the routes to India through the Hindukush mountains?**

**Ans:** Khyber pass and Bolan pass are the routes to India through the Hindukush mountains.

**6. Across which states of India is the Thar desert spread.**

**Ans:** The Thar desert is spread across Rajasthan, Haryana and some parts of Gujarat.

**7. In which manuscript have the Indian islands been mentioned by an unknown Greek sailor?**

**Ans:** In the manuscript 'Periplus of the Erythrean Sea' or 'Handbook of the Red Sea', the Indian islands have been mentioned by an unknown Greek sailor.



**8. Across which part of the Indian Subcontinent had the Harappan civilization mainly spread?**

**Ans:** The Harappan civilization had mainly spread across the north-western part of the Indian subcontinent.

**\*9. Which is the earliest civilization in India?**

**Ans:** The earliest civilization in India is the Harappa civilization.



**Answer the following**

**\*1. What does human life depend on?**

**Ans:** i. The diet, clothing, housing, occupation of people depends upon the geographical characteristics of the region they live in.  
ii. Thus, the human life depends upon the geographical conditions of a region in which they live.

**2. What are the major pillars of history? Which of them is related to geographical conditions?**

**Ans:** i. Time, place, society and individuals are the four major pillars of history.  
ii. Of these four pillars, 'place' is related to geographical conditions.

**\*3. What features of our surroundings form the means of our livelihood?**

**Ans:** The climate, rainfall, agricultural produce, flora and fauna of the region where we live form the means of our livelihood.

**4. Name the regions which are seen to be important when we look at the course of Indian History.**

**Ans:** Following regions are seen to be important when we look at the course of Indian History:

- i. The Himalayas
- ii. The plains of Sindhu-Ganga-Brahmaputra rivers
- iii. The Thar Desert
- iv. The Deccan Plateau
- v. The Coastal regions
- vi. The islands in the seas

**\*5. Explain the difference in the human life in the hilly regions and that on the plains.**

**Ans:** Difference in the human life in the hilly regions and that on the plains:

	Human life in the hilly regions	Human life on the plains
i.	The life of the people living in hilly regions is more strenuous than the life of the people on the plains.	The life of the people living on the plains is comparatively less strenuous.
ii.	This region does not have fertile land. Thus grains and vegetables are scarce in hilly areas.	This region has fertile land. Thus grains and vegetables are available in sufficient quantity.
iii.	People depend more on hunting and gathering for their food.	People depend upon agriculture for their food.

**\*6. Which region is known as the Indian subcontinent?**

**Ans:** Afghanistan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and India together are known as the Indian Subcontinent.