

1. CONSTRUCTION OF ANCIENT HISTORY

Historical source - It is original source that contain important historical information. Construction of History is based on these sources.

SOURCES	EVIDENCES	INFORMATION
MATERIAL REMAINS:	<p>Radio-Carbon Dating is a method for determining the age of an object.</p> <p>Grand Stone temples of Southern India; Brick Monasteries of the Eastern India; vertical & horizontal excavations of mounds, Megaliths (South India)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Almost every aspect of lifestyle like, use of pottery type, house construction design, agriculture (grains produced), animals domesticated, type of tools, weapons etc. and burial practices of the time and geography. VERTICAL EXCAVATIONS → provides chronological sequence of material culture. HORIZONTAL EXCAVATION → Gives complete idea of particular culture.
COINS:	<p>The study of coins is called Numismatics.</p> <p>Coins excavated and collected from the surface and catalogued in various museums throughout the country and outside.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not many symbols used in earliest coins; Names of the Kings or issuer (guilds/merchants), Gods or dates are mentioned in the coins from later period; help in construction of religious, cultural and economic history with chronology. Local and cross-border transactions that used these coins tell us about various ruling dynasties and extent of their rule. Metal and number of the coins indicates the level of trade, commerce and wealth in a Kingdom. Only few coins belonging to post-Gupta times indicates the decline of trade & commerce in that period.
INSCRIPTIONS	<p>Epigraphy is the study of Inscriptions; Paleography: Study of old writings on inscriptions and other records.</p> <p>Inscriptions carved on seals, stone pillars, rocks, copper plates, temple walls and bricks or images.</p> <p>Earliest in Prakrit (300 BC), later in Sanskrit and further late in regional languages.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pictographic Harappan Inscriptions are yet to be deciphered. South India – Inscriptions on temple walls. Inscriptions conveyed various information like royal orders and decisions regarding social, religious and administrative matters (e.g., Ashokan Inscriptions) to officials and people in general. Ashokan Inscriptions: Scripts used - Brahmi, Kharoshti Greek & Aramic. Donations, land grants, and the achievements of Kings and Conquerors (Samudragupta and Pulkeshin 2nd etc.).
LITERARY SOURCES:	<p>The four Vedas, Ramayana and Mahabharata, Smritis and Dharmasutras, Epics, Jain & Buddhist texts, poetry, Sangam Literature, plays etc.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tells us about the social, cultural and political conditions of Ancient times. In India oldest manuscripts were written on birch bark & palm leaves. Kautilya's 'ARTHASHASTRA' gives exhaustive coverage of affairs that concern a King and his,