What, Where, How, When

What can we know about past

- What people ate.
- Clothes they wore
- Houses in which they lived.

We can also find out about

- Hunters, herders, farmers, Ruler, merchants, craft persons, artists, musicians and scientists

Where did people live?

1. Banks of Narmada River: People have lived here for several thousand years.

- They knew about the vast wealth of plants in the surrounding forests, and collected roots, fruits and other forest produce for their food.
- They also hunted animals.
2. **Sulaiman** and **Kirthar** hills in the northwest: these are the areas where people first grew crops—wheat and barley about 8000yrs ago.

- They also began rearing animal sheep, goat and cattle and Lived in villages.
1. Garo hills to the north-east and the Vindhyas in central India: Rice grown here first.

1. Trace the river Indus and its tributaries (tributaries are smaller rivers that flow into a larger river) (about 4700 years ago) earliest cities flourished banks of these rivers.
2. Ganga and its tributaries-(2500 years ago) : later cities were developed here.
3. Area between Ganga and its tributary son in ancient time was called Magadha. Its rulers were very powerful, and set up a large kingdom. Kingdoms were set up in other parts of the country as well.
4. Throughout, people travelled from one part of the subcontinent to another. The hills and high mountains including the Himalayas, deserts, rivers and seas made journeys dangerous at times, but never impossible.
5. Sometimes men marched in armies conquering other land.
6. Merchant traveled with caravans and ships for trade.
7. Finally, some people perhaps travelled driven by a spirit of adventure, wanting to discover new and exciting places.
8. These movements of people enriched our cultural traditions. People have shared new ways of carving stone, composing music, and even cooking food over several hundreds of years.

Names of the land
1. The word India comes from the Indus, called Sindhu in Sanskrit.
2. The Iranians and the Greeks who came through the northwest about 2500 years ago and were familiar with the Indus, called it the Hindos or the Indos, and the land to the east of the river was called India.
3. The name Bharata was used for group of people who came through northwest as mentioned in Rigveda (earliest composition, lang-Sanskrit, 3500 years ago). Later it was used for country.

Finding about the past

1. Search for and read books written a long time ago.
2. These books are called manuscripts—(manu- “hand” scripts-”writings” comes from latin). These were hand written scripts usually written on palm leaf.
3. Over the years, many manuscripts were eaten away by insects, some were destroyed, but many have survived in temples and monasteries.
4. We can also study inscriptions. These are writings on relatively hard surfaces such as stone or metal.
5. Sometimes, kings got their orders inscribed so that people could see, read and obey them. There are other kinds of inscriptions as well.
6. There were many other things that were made and used in the past. Those who study these things are called archaeologists.
7. They study remains, bricks, stones, tools, weapons, pot, pans, ornaments and coins. They also look for bones of animals, birds and fish. To find out what people ate in past.
8. Plant remains survive far more rarely. Seeds of grains or pieces of woods have been burnt they survive in charred form.

One past or many?

1. As the books title suggests there are many pasts (“Pasts” – Plural).
2. The past of every person is different from other.
3. For example, the lives of herders or farmers were different from those of kings and queens, the lives of merchants were different from those of crafts persons, and so on.
4. Even today people follow different practices and customs in different parts of the country.
5. By contrast, most people living in cities depend on others for supplies of food. Differences such as these existed in the past as well.
6. There is another kind of difference.
7. Kings kept records of there doings but the common folks didn’t.
8. archaeology helps us to find out about their lives, there is much that remains unknown.