

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tracing Changes through A thousand Years

Q1. Compare the map made by Al-Idris and that of French cartographer.

Ans. _____

Q2. How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problems in doing so?

Ans. _____



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Q1. Compare the map made by Al-Idris and that of French cartographer.

Ans. Map made by Al-Idris (Map 1)

- i. Map 1 was made by the Arab geographer Al-Idrisi.
- ii. It was made in 1154 CE (Christian era).
- iii. In this map south India is where we would expect to find north India and Sri Lanka is the island at the top.
- iv. The names of places are marked in Arabic and there are some popular places of Uttar Pradesh like Kanauj (spelt as Qanauj).

Map made by French cartographer (Map 2)

- i. Map 2 was made by a French cartographer.
- ii. It was made in the 1720s, i.e. 600 years after Map 1.
- iii. This map seems more familiar to us and the coastal areas in particular are surprisingly detailed.
- iv. It was used by the European sailors and merchants on their voyages.

Q2. How do historians divide the past into periods? Do they face any problems in doing so?

Ans. Historians look to economic and social factors to characterise the major elements of different moments of the past. Problem faced by historians in dividing the past into periods were:

- i. These thousand years of Indian history witnessed considerable change. After all, the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries were quite different from the eighth or the eleventh. Therefore, describing the entire period as one historical unit is not without its problems.
- ii. Moreover, the "medieval" period is often contrasted with the "modern" period. "Modernity" carries with it a sense of material progress and intellectual advancement. This seems to suggest that the medieval period was lacking in any change whatsoever. But of course we know this was not the case.
- iii. During these thousand years the societies of the subcontinent were transformed often and economies in several regions reached a level of prosperity that attracted the interest of European trading companies.