

HISTORY

At the end of this lesson, students are going to learn:

- What is meant by History?
- The Topic of History
- Origins of History
- Famous Names in History
- Goals of Historical Studies
- Theories of History
- Language and History

1. What is meant by History?

History is the branch of knowledge dealing with the study of the human past, scholars who write about history are called historians. It is a field of research which uses a narrative to examine and analyze the sequence of events and it sometimes attempts to investigate objectively the patterns of cause and effect that determine events. It is at present designated as a social science more often now since it started using the methodology of Social Sciences. History is also the record of past events and times, especially in connection with the human race. The time period of events before the invention of writing systems is considered prehistory.

2. The Topic of History:

History is the analysis and interpretation of the human past enabling us to study continuity and changes that are taking place over time. It is an act of both investigation and imagination that seeks to explain how people have changed over time. Historians use all forms of evidence to examine, interpret, revisit, and reinterpret the past

History is the study of the past – specifically the people, societies, events and problems of the past – as well as our attempts to understand them. It is a pursuit common to all human societies. It is a continuous, systematic narrative of past events relating to a particular people, country, period, person, etc., usually written as a chronological account; chronicle: a history of France; a medical history of the patient.

3. Origins of History:

History derived from Ancient Greek (*historía*) 'inquiry; knowledge acquired by investigation'. History was earlier a Humanities discipline but in modern times enjoys an ambiguous status.

4. Famous Names in History:

1. David Christian (1946 -) Brooklyn, New York, USA
2. Niall Ferguson (1964 -) Glasgow, Scotland
3. Muhammad ibn Jarir al-Tabari (838–923),



4. Al-Biruni (973–1048),

5. Goals of Historical Studies:

The study of history:

- helps make sense of humankind.
- helps understand the things that happened today and that may happen in the future.
- provides us with a sense of identity.
- provides a sense of context for our lives and our existence.
- understand the way things are and how we might approach the future.
- teaches us what it means to be human, highlighting the great achievements and disastrous errors of the human race.
- teaches us through example, offering hints about how we can better organize and manage our societies for the benefit of all.

6. Aims of Teaching History

1. To promote self-understanding:
2. To give a proper conception of time, space and society:
3. To enable the students to assess the values and achievements of their own age:
4. To teach tolerance:
5. To develop the right attitudes:
6. To foster national feelings:
7. To develop international understanding:
8. To teach moral principles:

7. Theories and methods of History:

History uses a narrative to describe, examine, question, and analyze past events, and investigate their patterns of cause and effect. Historians often debate which narrative best explains an event, as well as the significance of different causes and effects. Professional and amateur historians discover, collect, organize, and present information about past events. They discover this information through archaeological evidence, written primary sources, verbal stories or oral histories, and other archival material.

8. Language and History:

History aims at helping students to understand the present existing social, political, religious and economic conditions of the people. Without the knowledge of history, we cannot have the background of our religion, customs institutions, administration and so on.

The teaching of history helps the students to explain the present, to analyze it and to trace its course. The cause-and-effect relationship between the past and the present is lively presented in history. History thus helps us to understand the present-day problems both at the national and international levels accurately and objectively.