

VARANASI

THROUGH THE LENSES OF TIME



Estd. 1972

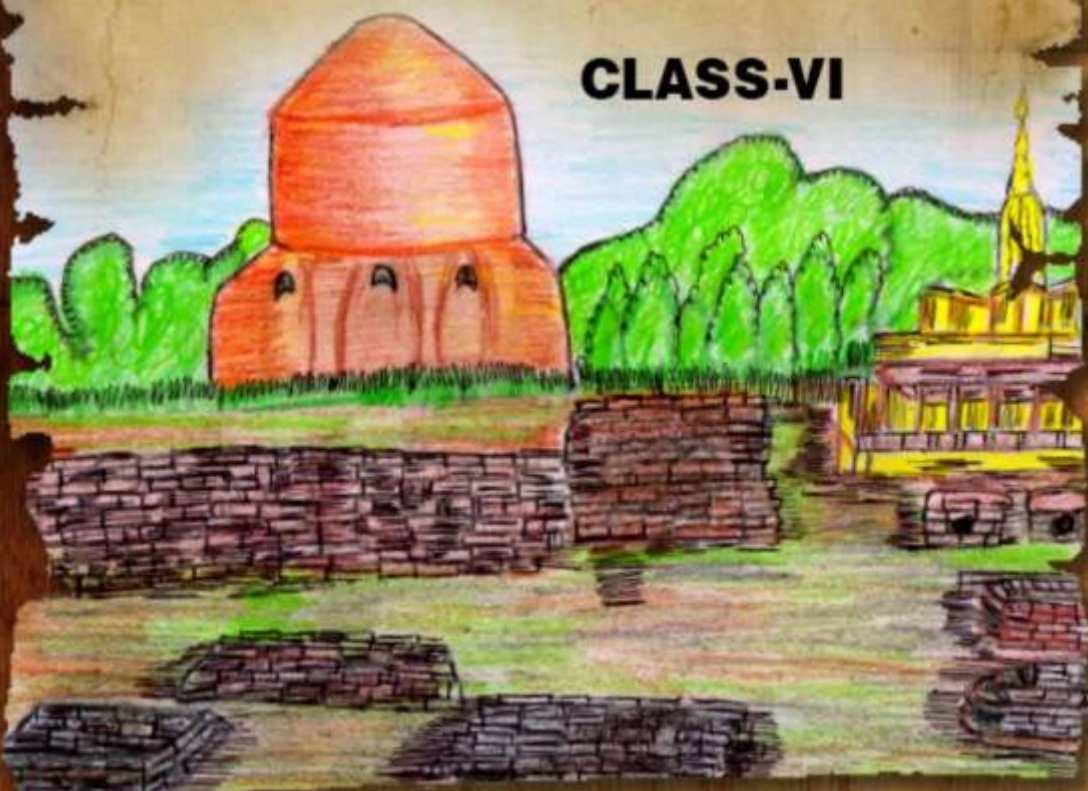
Sunbeam

Group of Educational Institutions
Varanasi

HISTORY

FIELD BOOK

CLASS-VI





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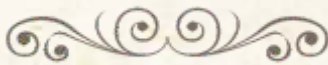
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PREFACE

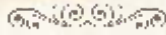


This field book is an outcome of Courage to Lead, a learning expedition for educators. Grade six educators and academic coordinators from Sunbeam schools, Varanasi came together to experience and understand how to use Experiential Learning as a pedagogy for teaching and learning history. As part of the expedition, they explored Varanasi city as historians. The big idea of the expedition was 'how a historian works' i.e. to experience and learn how a historian constructs the past by studying different historical sources.

Disha India facilitators guided the participants through this journey of exploration and discovery and facilitated in constructing their own understanding of Varanasi based on primary and secondary sources from the past. In the process, educators discovered that there is no one history and there are multiple perspectives of looking at the past - what's important is that we learn to construct the past based on evidence. Educators in small crews worked on four themes i.e. city layout, architecture, language and religion to understand the fundamental historical concept of 'continuity and change' in the context of Varanasi -it helped them to understand what changed overtime in Varanasi and what still continues and why.

Another important learning outcome of the expedition was to develop educators' capacity to design and facilitate learning experiences for students. It is towards this endeavour to make learning more engaging and rigorous, educators created this field book for grade six students.





In this expedition, educators also experienced their personal learning process i.e. how they go about learning from a new experience, what are their preferred modes of learning, challenges they face as a learner, etc. They mapped their learning process and discovered how they can become more flexible, proactive and balanced learners.

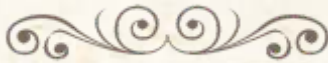
Educators will use this field book to design and facilitate history expeditions for 6 students of their schools. It is so essential for our children to connect their classroom learning with their local context -it makes learning real and authentic for them. Learning becomes meaningful, engaging and challenging for children when they can see connections with their immediate surroundings. Children love to go out and explore, especially, when they explore their own context, city and local neighbourhood. We wish all the best to children and educators on this exciting journey...

We need more such initiatives in our country and cities...

- Disha India Team



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to all those who contributed to the release of the "EL Field Book: Experiential Learning of History in Varanasi," a project led by Disha India in collaboration with Sunbeam Group of Educational Institutions. This endeavour aimed to deepen students' understanding of history through immersive history expeditions within Varanasi, facilitated by the Courage to Lead (CTL) workshop.

We express our sincere gratitude to Mr. Parminder, Ms. Preeti, Mr. Ali Fraz, and Ms. Sarah Khan from Disha India Foundation for their invaluable guidance and support throughout the workshop. Their expertise and dedication were crucial in shaping the experiences documented in this field-book.

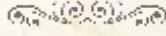
We also thank the participants who were actively engaged in the workshop, contributing their creativity and insights to develop the three inspiring experiences highlighted in this book. Their enthusiasm and commitment to enhance historical education is truly commendable.

Furthermore, we acknowledge the support and collaboration of Sunbeam Group of Educational Institutions, whose partnership was essential in bringing this project to fruition. Their dedication to educational excellence and innovation has been evident throughout our journey.

Finally, we express our deepest gratitude to the teachers whose curiosity and eagerness to learn have been the driving force behind this initiative. May this field book be a valuable resource to nourish their understanding of history and ignite a lifelong passion for learning.



INTRODUCTION



मैं बनारस का निवासी, काशी नगरी का फकीर,
हिन्द का शायर हूँ, शिव की राजधानी का सफीर,
ले के अपनी गोद में गंगा ने पाला है मुझे,
नाम है मेरा नजीर और मेरी नगरी बेनजीर

- नजीर बनारसी

Kashi, often revered as the "City of Light" or "City of Moksha," holds a profound place in the hearts of millions of devotees and seekers of spiritual enlightenment.

As described in the ancient scriptures,

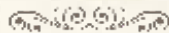
‘अन्यथा शीतोष्णमरुत्तटीकणैर्ममाणि सन्तर्प्य सदा तिथिषु ।

तस्मिन् ते काशिपुरे स ददूर्वादप्रसूतये कवेः ॥

-काशी खण्ड (स्कन्द पुराण)

This verse beautifully depicts Kashi (Varanasi), describing it as a place where the warmth of devotion always satisfies the soul amidst the changing seasons. It symbolises the eternal spiritual essence of Kashi, where the divine presence is felt every moment.





City Layout:

Kashi's intricate maze of narrow lanes, adorned with ancient temples and bustling markets, offers a glimpse into its rich cultural tapestry. The city's layout, shaped by centuries of history and tradition, fosters an atmosphere of spirituality and reverence.

Religion:

As one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, Kashi stands as a symbol of devotion and piety in Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and multiple other religions. Its Ghats teem with devotees performing rituals and offering prayers to the holy river Ganges, seeking blessings and salvation.

Language and Literature:

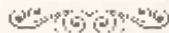
Hindi, the common language of the region, resonates through the streets of Kashi, echoing the verses of ancient scriptures and literary works. Sanskrit, the language of the gods, finds its home in the sacred texts and hymns chanted in temples and ashrams.

Architecture:

Kashi's architectural marvels, from the ornate spires of its temples to the intricate carvings adorning its palaces, bear testimony to the city's rich heritage. Influenced by Indo-Islamic styles, these structures stand as monuments to the enduring legacy of Indian craftsmanship.

Conclusion:

In the heart of Kashi beats the soul of India's spiritual heritage, where the past intertwines with the present in a timeless dance of devotion and faith. As pilgrims flock to its sacred shores and seekers embark on their quest for enlightenment, Kashi remains an eternal beacon of hope and salvation for all who tread its hallowed grounds.



VARANASI – CITY LAYOUT

Context Setting:

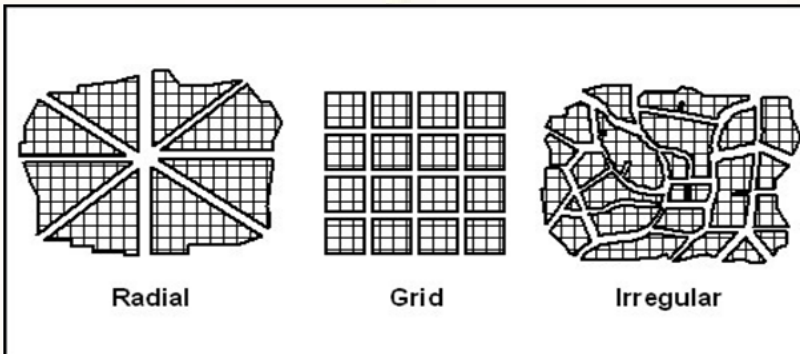
What is Varanasi famous for?

Which ghats have you visited?

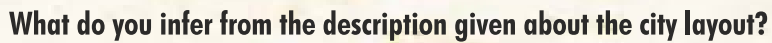
What do you understand by the word Ghat?

City Layout refers to the arrangement of different parts of the city, such as residential areas, commercial areas, districts, parks and transportation systems. It's like a system where each piece plays an important role. The city functions smoothly and efficiently.

1. **Grid Pattern:** This is the most common layout, where streets run straight up and down and side to side, forming a pattern.
2. **Radial pattern:** This layout has streets radiating outward from a central point, like spokes on a wheel.
3. **Organic/ irregular** -This type of city layout is not planned in advance but rather grows organically over time. The layout can be charming and unique, but it can also be chaotic and difficult to navigate.



The city layout of Benaras is composed of the old and the new where the old outshines the new. There is a clear distinction between the old and the new, the city's main parts have evolved over centuries, covering ancient, medieval and modern periods.

[illegible]

How would you describe the city layout of Varanasi?

[illegible]



PANCHGANGA GHAT

1. Let's take a deep breath, look around, and observe our surroundings for two minutes.
2. How is the weather ? Note down any one observation of each of what you hear, feel, see and smell.

Now as we are moving from the main road towards the old city into the gullies, observe the roads, houses and bazaar so that you may draw a comparison between the old and the new patterns of the layout.

Encircle the correct option in the table given below :

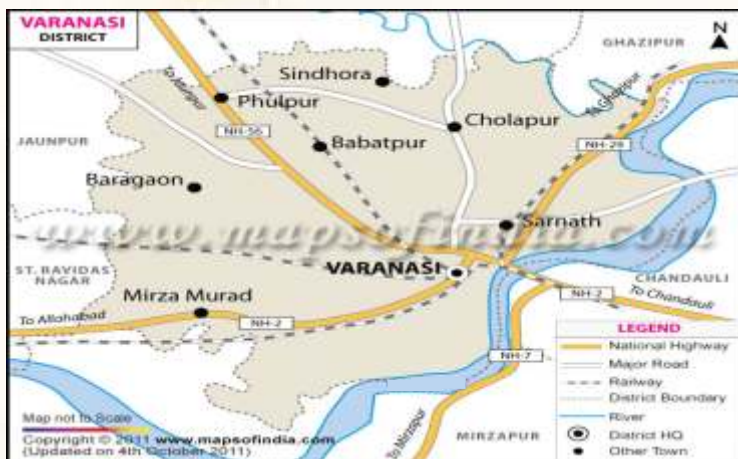
ROADS	Old City	New City
Main Road	Narrow / Broad /Not sure	Narrow / Broad / Not sure
Inside Gully / Alley	Narrow / Broad	Narrow / Broad
HOUSES	Old City	New City
Entrances	High / Low	High / Low
Materials	Sandstone / Wood / Stone / Iron	Sandstone / Wood / Stone / Iron
Stairs	narrow/broad	narrow/broad
Market / Bazaar	Mall / shops / Spencers / Supermarket	Mall / shops / Spencers / Supermarket
Payment / transaction	Online / Offline / Cash	Online / Offline / Cash
Sanitation / drainage	Planned / unplanned	Planned / unplanned

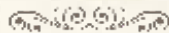
Bhartendu Bhawan

Try to find a similarity or a difference between Bhartendu Bhawan and your house.

S.No.	BASIS	SIMILARITIES	DIFFERENCES
1	STAIRCASE		
2	COURTYARD		
3	VENTILATION		
4	TERRACE		
5	FOUNTAINS		

See the map given below and identify the name of the water body.



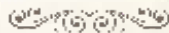


Name some of the ghats that you observe on the map near the river system.

What kind of city layout do you observe (GRID/RADIAL/ORGANIC)

Support your answer with evidence.

Why do you think people settle near the river banks?



BHARAT KALA BHAWAN



Museum- What & Why :

A museum is where objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific significance are preserved, studied, and displayed for public viewing and education. It's like a treasure trove of human knowledge and creativity.

Museums are created for several reasons:

Preservation: To safeguard and conserve valuable artefacts.

Education: To provide opportunities for learning and understanding about different cultures, histories, sciences, and artistic expressions.

Research: To facilitate scholarly study and research on various topics.

Exhibition: To share and showcase collections.

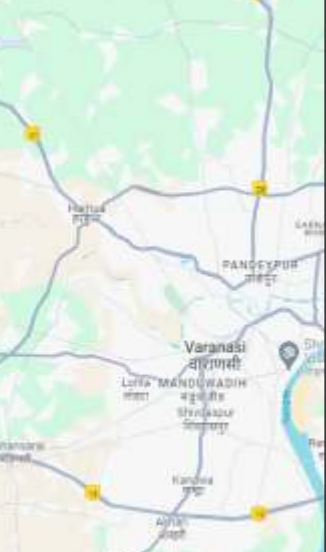
Sources of History - Primary (manuscripts, maps)

Name the gallery where we can find maps and manuscripts.

Activity - Based on your observation, tick the historical evidences that you have noticed in the museum.

Manuscripts	Bricks
Sword	Soft toys
Pen tools	Inscriptions
Pistol	Swing

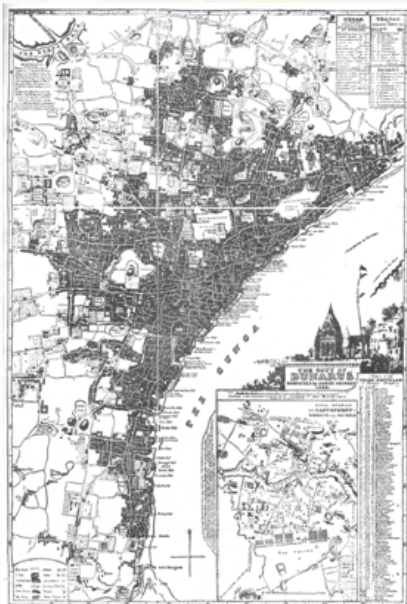
NEW
OLD



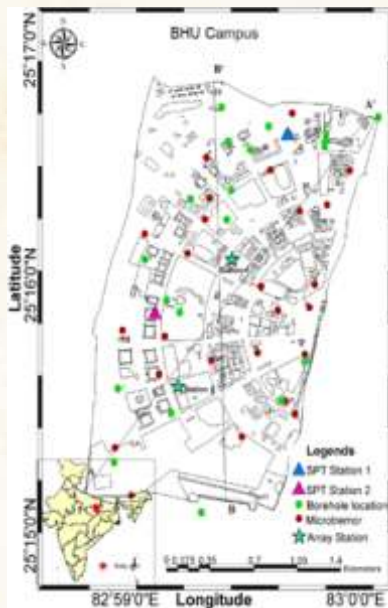

[illegible]

Find the differences between the layout of the old city and BHU.

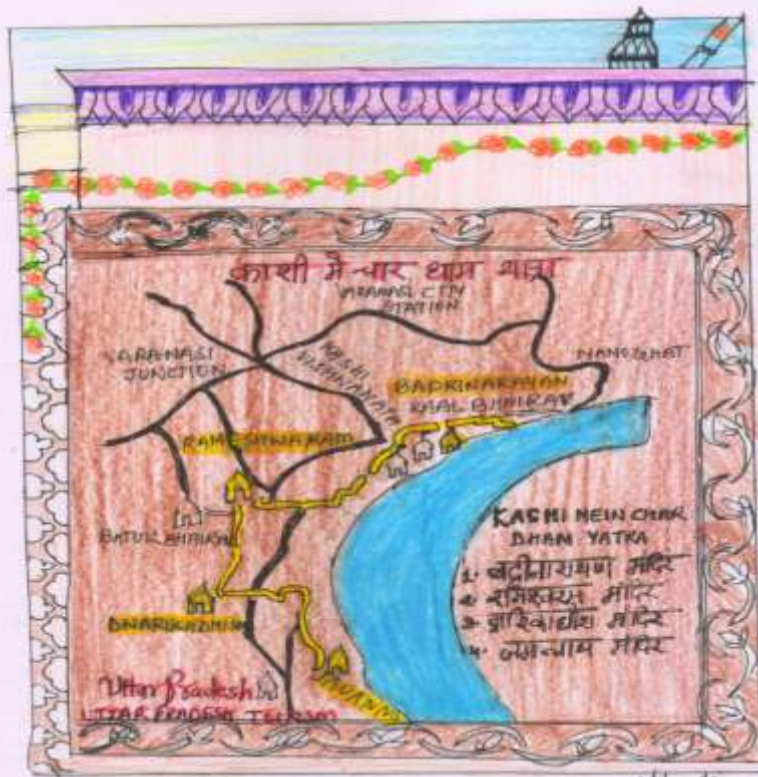
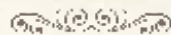
Old City Layout



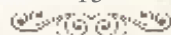
BHU Layout

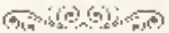


S.No.	BHU Layout	Old City Layout
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		



Nilanka





CASE STUDY : VARANASI's CITY LAYOUT

The city of “Banaras is older than history”, and is believed that it is located between the confluence of river Ganga and Varuna. The river Ganga is still a source of livelihood and nurtures the city.

Its city layout reflects its millennia of historical and cultural evolution.

We are stepping back in time when we enter from the densely crowded broad roads to the alleys leading to Panchganga Ghat.

The lanes are narrow and like a maze. They are often too narrow for vehicles, creating a pedestrian-centric environment where the hustle and bustle of daily life unfolds amidst the backdrop of ancient architecture. Though the width of these lanes is very small, pedestrians can move easily; however, the extensive movement of only two-wheelers in these lanes is a very common sight. One can notice the free movement of animals, especially the Oxen, cows and dogs.

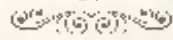
The cluttered houses on both sides of the narrow lanes have windows in large numbers. A special thing about these narrow lanes is that most of these are open towards the huge ghats.

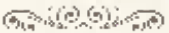
These narrow lanes are still the centre of trade and commerce, as we notice different shops, from grocery stores to jewellery shops. The aroma of different food items and sweets throughout the lanes keeps the visitors engaged in temptation.

Moving from narrow to broader lanes towards BHU, we find the city has a modern look.

Within this historical tapestry lies the museum Bharat Kala Bhavan on the BHU campus, established in 1920 by the esteemed historian Rai Krishna Dasa. Here, students embark on an enriching journey through time, delving into the city's religious, cultural and historical heritage.

The museum's vast collection includes paintings, sculptors, textiles and archaeological artefacts, offering insights into India's diverse past. Among its treasures, visitors encounter ancient maps, manuscripts and intricate jewellery. Exploring the museum's gallery, students uncover the legacy of ancient civilisation, from the Mauryan dynasty's Terracotta jewellery to the intricate Meenakari jewellery worn by the royal families and commoners alike. Artefacts like silver and copper coins reveal the enduring presence of trade and commerce throughout the ages, echoing the city's timeless spirit of prosperity and cultural exchange





GLOSSARY

Confluence - the meeting of two rivers

Millenia -a period of thousand years

Evolution- development

Aroma- a pleasant smell

Tapestry – a heavy cloth that has designs or pictures

Delving- to search thoroughly and carefully for information, and research.

Artefacts- an object made by a person representing the culture of that time

Manuscript- any document written by hand to keep the record

Legacy- heritage

Intricate- having a great deal of fine detail or complexity.

Enduring- lasting or permanent

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ARCHITECTURE

BANARAS : Then and Now

Sarnath

Let's explore a place which is an important Buddhist pilgrimage site where Gautam Buddha gave his first sermon after attaining enlightenment.

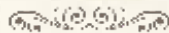
The unique architecture exhibits continuity in Buddhist architecture styles, featuring structures like Stupas, Monasteries and Dharmshalas, which have been preserved and restored over the centuries.

While the basic architectural forms remain consistent with ancient Buddhist traditions, there have been changes in material use, renovation techniques and additions made by subsequent rulers reflecting evolving taste and patronage.

Did you know: The name Sarnath derives from the Sanskrit word Sāranganātha (or Sārangnāth in the Pali language), which translates to "Lord of the Deer" in the English language.

ACTIVITY 1

What are the things you see around you? Does anything specific grab your attention? Note it down.



Observe the places around, what specific points do you notice?

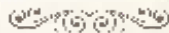
What could be the reason for the uneven ground?

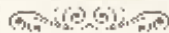
Ashokan Pillar



ACTIVITY 2

What did you observe?





What is the purpose of these carvings?

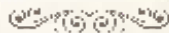
Stupa



ACTIVITY 3

Based on your observation, fill in the given table

<i>POINTS TO OBSERVE</i>	<i>YOUR OBSERVATION</i>
Material used	
Size & Shape	Similar / different
Any Carvings	Yes / No



Monasteries



ACTIVITY 4 : OBSERVE AND WRITE

Identify the material used to make the monastery's gate. What time period it may have been built? Why do you think so?

In your opinion, what is the purpose of building these monasteries?

Deer Park

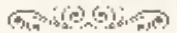


ACTIVITY 5 : OBSERVATION CHECKLIST

Instructions: Write yes/no for the things you observed in the park:

Name of the things	Yes / No
HORSE	
TREES	
DEER	
STONE	
OTHER (mention its name)	

What is the connection between the name of the place i.e. Sarnath and Deer?



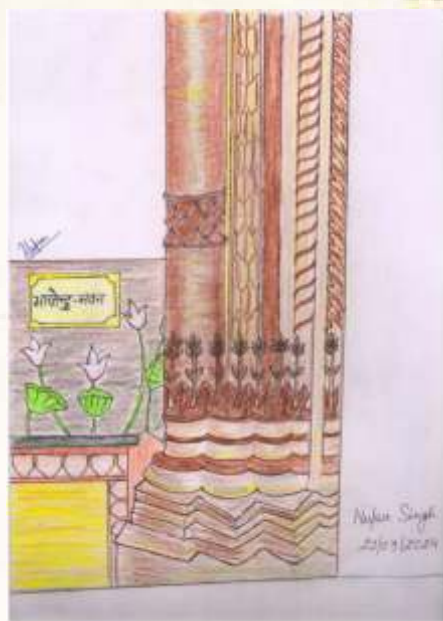
INFERENCE :

a. What do you think was the purpose of building stupas?

b. Why do you think the shape & size of the structures were different?

c. What do you think is the purpose of the carvings on structures?

d. What is the difference between the mediums of conveying messages by leaders in the past and present?



Old City

Instructions: Look around, and observe your surroundings using all of your senses to see, hear and smell using all of your senses to see, hear and smell.

The lanes, walls of the houses, windows and doors, people, weather, shops, sound, fragrance.

Context setting : You will notice a number of things around you. Do you see any of the following things? If yes, can you note any striking features in the table below?

<i>Elements to Observe</i>	<i>Y/N</i>	<i>Striking feature</i>
<i>Gullies</i>		
<i>River</i>		
<i>Ghats</i>		
<i>Building materials</i>		
<i>Size and Shape of the buildings</i>		
<i>Designs and carvings</i>		

Kath ki Haveli



Building Study

Fill in the given table as per your observations:

1. Any carvings, designs, jalis?	
2. Doors: Any doors? If so, how many? What do you think is the material used for making the door frame?	
3. Material Used in the building	
4. What do you think was the purpose of constructing this building?	

ACTIVITY 1

Have you ever heard the word 'kath'? Tick the option as per your understanding.



WOOD

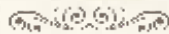


STEEL



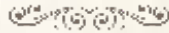
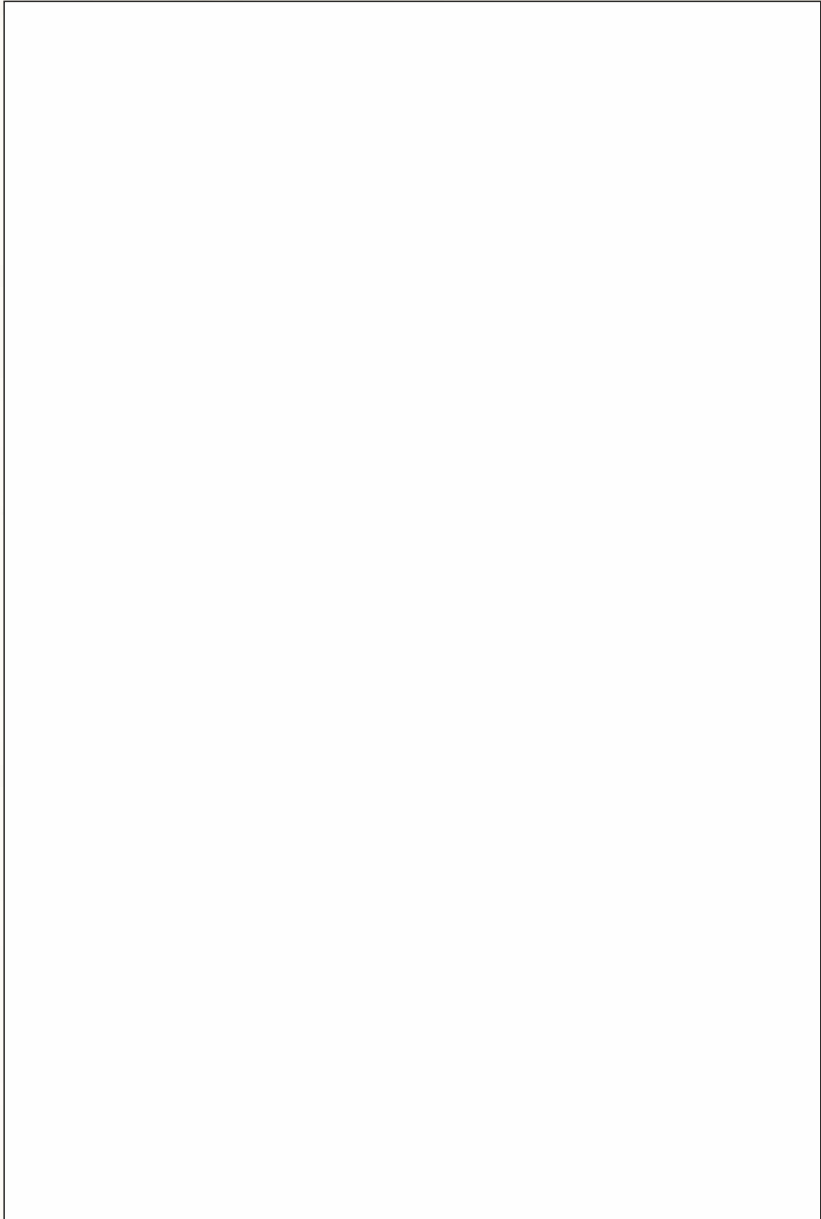
MUD

What, in your opinion, is the structure's most striking feature?
Why do you think so?



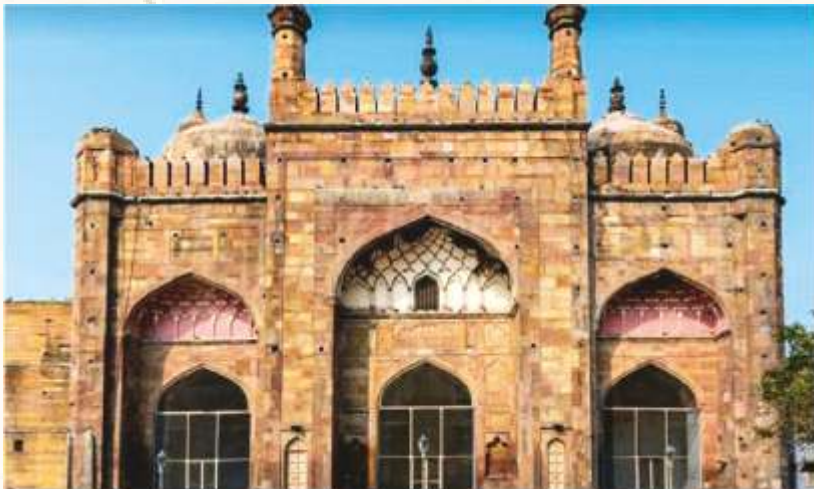
ACTIVITY 2

Draw a window, which you can see in this structure.



Dharhara / Alamgir Mosque

Purpose: It is situated on the bank of the river Ganga and gives an understanding of the Mughal architecture.

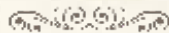


ACTIVITY 1

Building Study

Observe the monument and fill the given table.

Type of Arch(Draw)	
Material used	
Any carvings found? If yes, where?	
Time period (when it was constructed)	



Reflection Questions:

How do we know it is a historical monument?

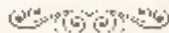
Oral Guided Discussion - The similarities and differences between this huge monument and local houses in the vicinity.



Questions for discussion:

- Q. What does the name of this Ghat denote?
- Q. Observe the similarities and differences between Panchganga and Balaji ghat and fill in the given tables:

Observation Pointers	Similarities	Differences
Material		
Sizes of stairs		
Colour of ghats		
Which one seems to be older? (based on the observation)		



Balaji Temple

Nestled in a vintage brown building that lies along the shores of the River Ganges, Balaji Mandir finds itself set between the famed Panchganga Ghat and Balaji Ghat which attracts tourists all year round..



ACTIVITY 4

Identify if the statement is True(T) or False(F)

1. Stairs are made up of stones and wood.
2. Drainage can be seen in the premises.
3. There is a water source in the building that was used in the past.
4. Lakhori bricks were thicker than the bricks of today.

Bhartendu Harishchandra

ACTIVITY 5

Give your opinion about the owners of Bhartendu Bhavan.

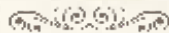
Were they wealthy?	Yes/No	
Were they resourceful?	Yes/No	
Were they working class?	Yes/No	

Identify the differences between the design patterns of Kath ki Haveli, Bhartendu Bhavan and your house and write in the space provided below.

Feature	Kath Ki Haveli	Bhartendu Bhavan	My House
Window			
Material			

REFLECTION –

Q. What went well?



What was the most challenging part of the day?

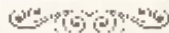
How did you overcome the challenge? If not, what support do you need?

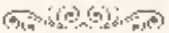
INFERENCE:

a. What were the challenges faced by the people during the construction of these monuments?

b. At which place have you noticed a connection between the present and the past? Mention it.

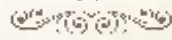
Where?	
How?	
Why do you think so?	

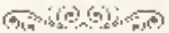




CASE STUDY : ARCHITECTURE

“Peace comes from within. Do not seek it without.” This is what we feel as we stand at a place known as Sarnath in Varanasi, a well-known place in Uttar Pradesh. The deer park in Sarnath is where Gautam Buddha first taught the Dhamma, and the Buddhist Sangha came into existence here. Sarnath Stupa, a unique example of Buddhist architecture, was built during the Gupta period to commemorate the place where Lord Buddha first met his disciples. The Stupa is a square-shaped monument with an octagonal tower made of bricks and stones. Buddhist stupas were initially built to house the earthly remains of the Historical Buddha and his associates and are invariably found at sites sacred to Buddhism. The concept of a relic was afterwards extended to include sacred texts. The next attraction in Sarnath is the ruins of the Ashokan pillar. Ashoka was a significant patron of rock-cut architecture. In India, the Ashokan pillar represents King Ashoka's era of strength and bravery before he was enamoured by the teachings of the Buddha. They were erected at different sites to commemorate Ashoka's visits. The Government of India adopted this symbol of the Lion Capital of Ashoka as the State Emblem on 26 January 1950. As we move towards the old city, we can see sandstone buildings with intricate wooden details and red brickwork, which gives the flavour of traditional architecture at Varanasi. Traditional jutting-out balconies, three to four-storied houses, connected and congested streets along with lots of soot-covered temples give a welcome to the spiritual city of Varanasi. Dharhara mosque at Panchganga Ghat is an example of the Hindu-Mughal style of architecture. While moving from Panchganga ghat to Balaji ghat, we can notice that most of the ghats have been rebuilt by Maratha rulers. They are either privately owned or have special significance in Hindu mythology. So the architecture of Varanasi has a very diverse history and style when we move from isolated Sarnath to congested old city.





GLOSSARY

Carvings - an object or design carved from a hard material as an artistic work

Commemorate - to honour the memory of someone or something with a ceremony or object

Disseminate - sow and scatter principles, ideas, opinions etc.

Excavation -an act of digging, especially when something specific is being removed from the ground

Monasteries - buildings occupied by a community of monks living under religious vows.

Relics - an object surviving from an earlier time, especially one of historical interest.

Vicinity- the state of being close by or near.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Sources:

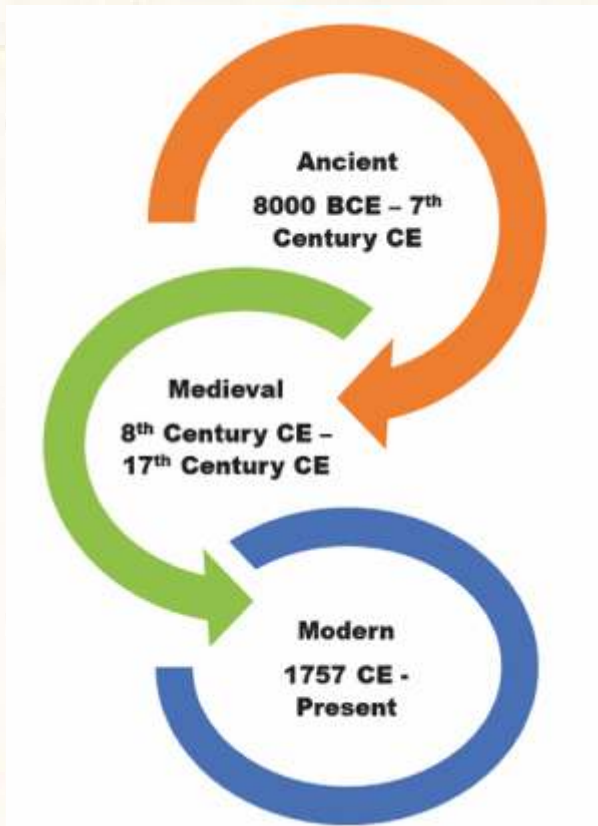
Books and articles: Banaras(Varanasi) by P.B. Singh

Art and Architecture by Nitin Singhania

Websites: <https://www.britannica.com/topic/stupa>

<https://architecture.nirmauni.ac.in/student/rsp-varanasi/>

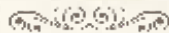
ETERNAL SANCTITY



Instruction: On the way to Sarnath keep an eye out for religious landmarks along the route.

Tick the religious structures that you saw enroute?

☐☐☐☐



Day 1 – Sarnath

Observation prompts :

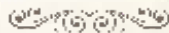
- Observe the surroundings and try to find the objects you think/know are used for rituals.
- Try to find something pasted by the people despite being prohibited by the authorities.

Observation questions:

- 1) Name the places of worship that you witnessed during your visit.

- 2) What kind of people visit these sites?

- 3) Find the oldest and latest statues of Buddha in the Sarnath Museum. Point out their time period and changes that you see in their appearance.



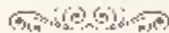


Image-1



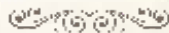
Image-2

1) Which of these structures is the oldest?

Image ☐

Image ☐

2) Why there are two structures, an old and a new one at the same site?



INFERENCE :

- a. Why do you think specific places are allotted to light the candle/ diya, etc.?

- b. Why do you think different coloured ribbons were tied on railings?

Reflections:

Aha! Moment	What did I learn?
Challenges	What support do I need?

Day 2– Panchganga Ghat

Observation prompts :

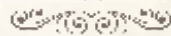
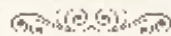
- ☐ En route observations – observe the surroundings for the different religious – symbols, structures & religious sign boards.
- ☐ Observe the people, their religious attire, and the rituals that you encounter on the way.

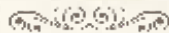
Observation questions:

- ☐ Draw the religious symbols that you found on your way. Identify the religion they belong to.

Symbols	Religion

- ☐ What were the different attires people were wearing?





- Identify the following images and record your observations in the given table.



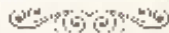
Image-1



Image-2

Criteria	Image (1)	Image (2)
Structure (Shape)		
Time Period		
Religion		
Material		

- Do you think the structure of image (1) is influenced by the structure of image (2) or vice versa? Give reasons for your answer.



INFERENCE :

- a. 'People's attire and ritual practices relate to their religious beliefs'. Have they changed over time? Give reasons for your choice.

- ☐ Observe the items used for decoration at religious sites. Do you think they have changed over a period of time? Give a reason to support your answer.

Reflections:

Aha! Moment	What did I learn?
Challenges that I faced	What support do I need?

Day 3 – Bharat Kala Bhawan

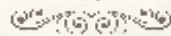
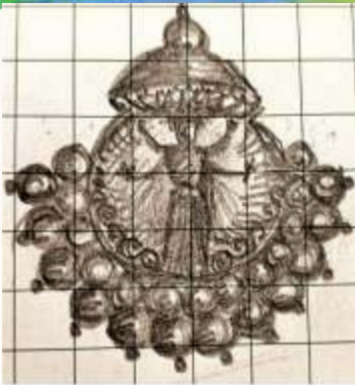
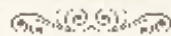
Observation prompts :

- ☐ Observe the statues of Gods and Goddesses related to different religions and observe the time period and place where it was found.
- ☐ Observe the different painting styles that showcased the different religions over time.

Observation questions:

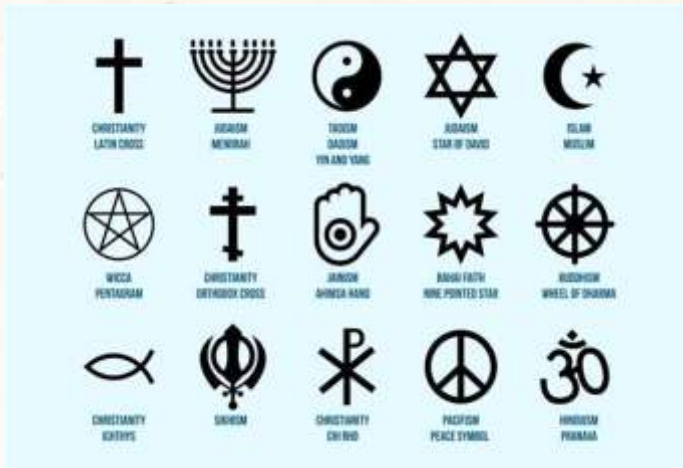
- ☐ Find an artefact related to a religious deity found in Varanasi. Who is the deity? What time period does the painting belong to?

- ☐ In which painting did you see a religious figure related to Christianity? Name the character and the time period of



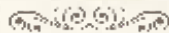
INFERENCE :

a. Tick the religions you could spot in the museum.



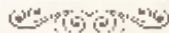
□ How many of the above religious symbols or places of worship have you seen in Varanasi? Give a reference in support of your answer.

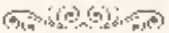
Aha! Moment	What did I learn?
Challenges that I faced	What support do I need?



Observation Chart

Criteria	Modern	Medieval	Ancient
Type Of Religious Structure			
Symbols/ Carvings			
Decoration Items			
Rituals & Practices			





CASE STUDY

Exploring the Religious Fabric of Banaras

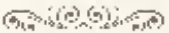
Banaras, also known as Varanasi, holds a significant position in the religious landscape of India. It is one of the oldest and continuously inhabited cities in the world, revered by Hindus, Buddhists, and Jains alike. Over the centuries, Banaras has witnessed the rise and fall of numerous dynasties, including the Mauryas, Guptas, Mughals, and the British, each leaving their mark on its religious landscape.

Banaras is not solely a Hindu pilgrimage site. It is also revered by Buddhists as the place where Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon at Sarnath, located a few kilometres away from the city. The Dhamek Stupa and the Mulagandha Kuti Vihar are important Buddhist landmarks in Banaras. Additionally, Banaras is significant for Jains, as it is believed to be the birthplace of Suparshvanath, the seventh Tirthankara. The city has Jain temples and pilgrimage sites, including the Suparshvanath Temple and the Shri Parshvanath Digambar Jain Mandir. The city's religious festivals, such as Diwali, Eid-ul-Fitr, Christmas, Mahashivaratri, Buddha Purnima, and Kartik Purnima, are celebrated with great fervour and bring together people from different religious backgrounds.

The religious tapestry of Banaras is a testament to India's rich cultural heritage and spiritual legacy. Its ability to embrace multiple faiths and foster communal harmony is a shining example of religious pluralism. As Banaras continues to evolve in the modern era, it remains a timeless symbol of spiritual enlightenment and cultural diversity. With the passage of time, Varanasi became the homely abode to the followers of Islam and Christianity.

With more than 3300 religious sites for the Hindus, Varanasi has 12 churches, 3 Jain temples, 9 Buddhist shrines, 20 Gurudwaras, and 1,388 Muslim holy places.





GLOSSARY

Ritual - A religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order

Prohibited - forbidden by law

Inference - A conclusion reached based on evidence and reasoning.

Encounter - A meeting, especially one that is unplanned

Artefact - An object made by a human being, typically of cultural or historical interest.

Advent - The arrival or coming into existence of something notable or important.

Landscape - All the visible features of an area of countryside or land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal.

Revered - Regarded with deep respect and admiration.

Dynasty - A line of hereditary rulers of a country.

Pilgrimage - A journey to a sacred place or shrine.

Sermon - A talk on a religious or moral subject, typically given by a religious leader during a worship service.

Fervour - Intense and passionate feeling or enthusiasm.

Tapestry - A piece of heavy, good-quality cloth with a picture or pattern sewn on it.

Testament - Something that serves as a sign or evidence of a fact or event.

Heritage - something that is handed down from the past as a tradition.

Legacy - Something handed down or inherited from a predecessor; a bequest.

Embrace - Hold (someone) closely in one's arms, especially as a sign of affection.

Pluralism - A condition or system in which two or more states, groups, principles, sources of authority, etc., coexist.

Shrines - A place regarded as holy because of its associations with a divinity or a sacred person or relic, typically marked by a building or other construction.

Spiritual - Relating to or affecting the human spirit or soul as opposed to material or physical things.

Enlightenment - gaining spiritual insight or understanding.

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Singh, Rana P.B (1988). The image of Varanasi: sacrality and perceptual world. National Geographical Journal of India 34 (1), 01-32.

$$(\phi_1)_{(1)} \rightarrow (\phi_2)_{(2)} \rightarrow (\phi_3)_{(3)} \rightarrow (\phi_4)_{(4)}$$

श्री गंगा

अष्टसम्भा

श्री गंगा मन्दिर

इदमगंगामन्दिरम्

श्री गंगा मन्दिर

श्री गंगा मन्दिर

श्री श्री जगन्मन्दिर

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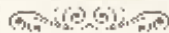
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छात्राङ्ग गंगा मन्दिर

ANCIENT GANGA TEMPLE

YENERE TEMPLE DUGANGA

XPAMMATY UKUTAI GE



Observation prompts :

- Observe the picture
- Spot the different languages you see in the picture. Tick them from the list below:

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Hindi ☐ | • English ☐ | • Tamil ☐ |
| • Bangla ☐ | • Urdu ☐ | • Sanskrit ☐ |
| • German ☐ | • Arabic ☐ | • Gujrati ☐ |

Others (.....)

Pre-Expedition Preparation:

Context Setting

Imagine you and your classmates are going on a really cool adventure to Sarnath. This trip is all about learning in a super fun way about the language and literature from there. It's like stepping back in time to explore how people used to speak and write there. So get ready to dive into the past and discover the amazing world of language and literature at Sarnath!

Day 1 – Sarnath

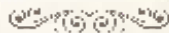
Observation prompts :

Silently observe various sites around you for different kinds of languages on signboards from the time you board the bus till you reach the site.

Observation questions:

Note down the various languages that you observed.

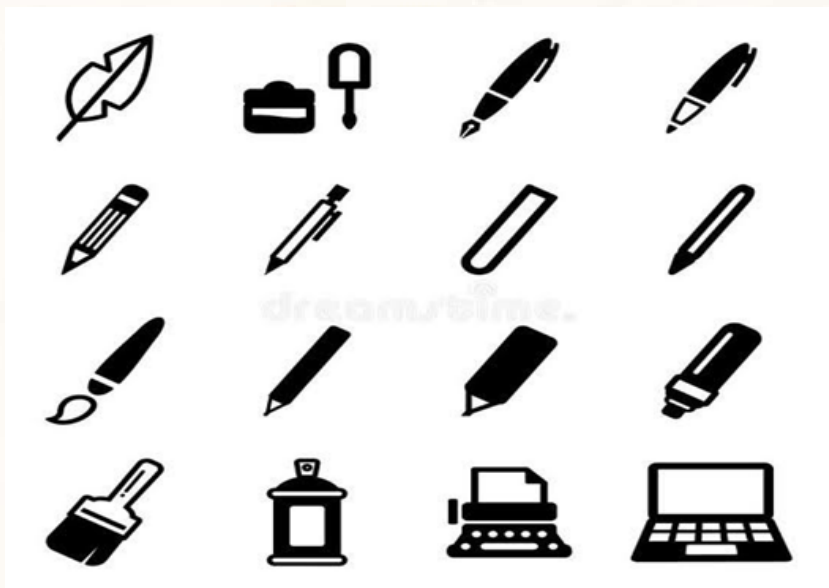
Also tick on the ones you could read.

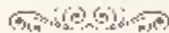


Site 1 : Ashokan Pillar

Observation Prompts & Questions:

- ☐ Read the first 6 lines on the Information plaque and fill in the blanks:
 1. Pillar was made by _____ in the year _____
 2. The script of the inscription is in _____ Script.
- ☐ According to you, which of the following tools could have been used to engrave the inscriptions on the pillar? Circle it.





Site 2: Museum

Observation Prompts:

- ☐ Find the script board
- ☐ Observe the various letters of the script.

Activity:

- ☐ Observe the change in the letters of the scripts throughout history.
- ☐ And fill the table below..
- ☐ If the first letter of your name is not in the script, put a dash (-).

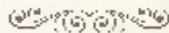
Present (first letter of your name)	3rd Century BC	5th Century AD	9th Century AD	15th Century AD

Observe:

The letter _____ is missing in the _____ dynasty,
it comes back in _____ dynasty.

Why do you think that happened?

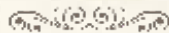
List any two artifacts which have inscriptions on them.



① ② ③ ④

KEY	ALPHA Subcell	BETA Subcell	GAMMA Subcell	DELTA Subcell	EPSILON Subcell	ZETA Subcell	ETA Subcell	THETA Subcell	IOTA Subcell	KAPPA Subcell	KEY
A	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W
X	Y	Z	AA	AB	AC	AD	AE	AF	AG	AH	AI
AL	AM	AN	AO	AP	AQ	AR	AS	AT	AU	AV	AW
AX	AY	AZ	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE	BF	BG	BH	BI
BL	BM	BN	BO	BP	BQ	BR	BS	BT	BU	BV	BW
AX	AY	AZ	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE	BF	BG	BH	BI
BL	BM	BN	BO	BP	BQ	BR	BS	BT	BU	BV	BW
AX	AY	AZ	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE	BF	BG	BH	BI
BL	BM	BN	BO	BP	BQ	BR	BS	BT	BU	BV	BW
AX	AY	AZ	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE	BF	BG	BH	BI
BL	BM	BN	BO	BP	BQ	BR	BS	BT	BU	BV	BW
AX	AY	AZ	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE	BF	BG	BH	BI
BL	BM	BN	BO	BP	BQ	BR	BS	BT	BU	BV	BW
AX	AY	AZ	BA	BB	BC	BD	BE	BF	B		

Are there any sounds missing on the board? Mention below.



What according to you happened to the languages with the passage of time? Do you think they developed or became extinct?

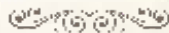
REFLECTION : Day 1

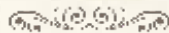
Something I explored

I Wonder

I Liked

I Know now





REFLECTION : Day 2

1. Gokarn Math and Bindu Madhav Mandir

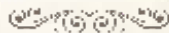
Instructions

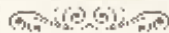
- I. Look around, observe and write the languages you see.
 - a. on the board of the Gokarn Math
 - b. on the walls of buildings near it
 - c. Bindu Madhav Mandir.

2. Dharhara Mosque

Observation Prompt: Observe the script of the inscription in the mosque, write its name in the given space.

Copy a few letters from the inscription in the box.





Observations:

- a. How is the language/ script different from those observed at the first site?

- b. Which language do you think this is?

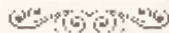
- c. Were you able to read all the scripts? Yes/ No.

3. Panchganga Ghat

- a. Why is this ghat named Panchganga Ghat?

- b. Observe the people and the language they are communicating in. List a few of their languages:

- i. _____
- ii. _____
- iii. _____
- iv. _____



4. Bhartendu Harishchandra (1850-85)



He was born in Kashi, in a prominent Bengali family. He was the father of Modern Hindi language. He was an Urdu poet and wrote under the pen name 'Rasa'.

He was titled "Bharatendu" ("The moon of India") at a public meeting by scholars of Kashi in 1880 in recognition of his services as a writer, patron, and moderniser. He had a role in changing the script for writing Hindi from Kaithi to Devnagari, through Nagari

Pracharini Sabha estd. in 1893. Some of his famous works are Bharat Durdasha, Satya Harish, Neel Devi, and Andher Nagri.

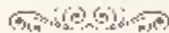
Questions:

1. He wrote under pen name _____.
2. He died at the age of _____ years.
3. What is the meaning of Bhartendu? _____.
4. Name one of his famous works? _____

Observation Prompt:

- ☐ Let's read a few couplets of the poem and identify at least 2 languages used in the same.

जहाँ देखो वहाँ मौजूद मेरा कृष्ण प्यारा है
उसी का सब है जल्वा जो जहाँ में आशकारा है
भला मख्लूक खालिक की सिफ़त समझे कहाँ कुदरत
उसी से नेति नेति ऐ यार दीदों ने पुकारा है
न कुछ चारा चला लाचार चारों हारकर बैठे
बिचारे बेद ने प्यारे बहुत तुमको बेचारा है
जो कुछ कहते हैं हम ये भी तिरा जल्वा है इक वर्ना
किसे ताक़त जो मुँह खोले यहाँ हर शख्स हारा है
जो कुछ कहते हैं हम ये भी तिरा जल्वा है इक वर्ना
किसे ताक़त जो मुँह खोले यहाँ हर शख्स हारा है



5. _____ Bazaar

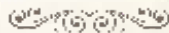
Observation prompts:

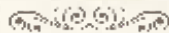
- i. Observe around you and write the name of the market, fill it in the space above.
- ii. Listen to conversations in the marketplace.
- iii. Note down the new/ unfamiliar names you hear and see around you.

Observation question:

- i. What do you think Thathera means in English?

- j. Why do you think that so many languages were used in Banaras?

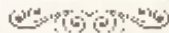




Activity :

a. What are these objects called in different languages:

Item	Language 1	Language 2	Language 3
			
			
			
			

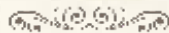


Consolidation: Continuity and Change

Instructions:

- a. Look at the table below
- b. Write your observations and conclusions for each in your own words.
- c. How have these changed or evolved over time?

Criteria	Modern	Medieval	Ancient
Sign boards			
Script			
Tools used for writing/ inscribing			
Writers/ poets			



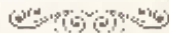
REFLECTION : Day 2

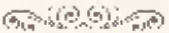
Something I can relate to

I Wonder

I Liked

I Know now





A Glimpse into Varanasi:

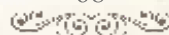
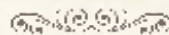
Where Language and Literature Dance Through Time

“Banaras is the soul of India, where the language flows like the Ganges, ceaseless and eternal, carrying with it hopes, dreams, and aspirations of millions.” - Amish Tripathi

Varanasi, being the hub of literature and language, has been known as the cultural capital of India for centuries. The city's close association with Sanskrit and classical languages like Braj, Awadhi, Khadi Boli, and Bhojpuri has led to the flourishing of poetry, drama, and religious texts, the ancient temples provide an inspiring backdrop for writers and poets, enriching the literary tapestry of Varanasi with its timeless charm and cultural diversity. According to the 2011 Census of India, 76.19% of the population spoke Hindi, 19.68% Bhojpuri, and 3.24% Urdu as their first language.

Varanasi's linguistic landscape is a testament to the enduring spirit of expression. From the timeless verses of Tulsidas and Kabir to the modern prose of writers and poets like Kabir, Ravindranath Tagore and Mirza Ghalib, the city has been a muse to generations of poets and authors it has been an integral part of the alleys of the city. Varanasi is leveraged to promote the Devanagari script over the more common Kaithi script used for Hindi languages. Interestingly, Bharatendu Harishchandra, considered the father of modern Hindi literature and Hindi theatre, was an Urdu poet who wrote under the pen name 'Rasa'.

With the passage of time, people from all parts of India and the world came and settled in this city, making Banaras an amalgamation of multiple languages and linguistic identities. As the pages of history turn, the literature of Varanasi continues to evolve, a reflection of the ever-changing currents of society.





GLOSSARY

Inscriptions - Words or symbols carved or written onto a surface, often to commemorate or convey information.

Eliciting - Getting or drawing out a response, reaction, or information from someone or something.

Dynasty - A line of rulers from the same family who rule a country or empire for a long period of time.

Ceaseless - Continuous or never-ending, without stopping.

Eternal - Something that lasts forever or has no end.

Aspirations - Hopes, dreams, or goals that someone wants to achieve in their life or career.

Tapestry - A thick textile fabric with pictures or designs woven into it, often hung on walls for decoration.

Testaments - Statements or evidence that prove or demonstrate the truth or existence of something.

Enduring - Lasting for a long time or able to withstand challenges or hardships.

Muse - A person or thing that inspires creativity, especially in art or literature.

Alleys - Narrow passageways or streets between buildings or structures.

Amalgamation - The process of combining or merging different things into one.

Script - Written text, especially for a play, movie, or television show.

AD/CE - Stands for "Anno Domini," Latin for "In the year of our Lord," used to mark years after the birth of Jesus Christ. CE Stands for Common Era.

BC/BCE - Stands for "Before Christ," used to mark years before the birth of Jesus Christ. BCE stands for Before Common Era.

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Kashi enhances my expression: Amish Tripathi

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The Ghats of Varanasi | Spiritual Marvel | Kashi Vishwanath

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSmhNwJRP4>

