



## The Rich and Diverse History of Punjab



The history of Punjab is rich and diverse, marked by significant cultural, political, and social transformations. The term "Punjab" was first recorded in Tarikh-e-Sher Shah (1580) and is mentioned in Ain-e-Akbari by Abul Fazal. Punjab's history dates back to the pre-Aryan civilization, with archaeological findings at Indus Valley Civilization (3000 BCE) with cities like Harappa and Mohenjo Daro. The Indo-Aryans arrived around 1500-500 BCE, bringing the Vedic culture and societal structures, as reflected in the Rig-Veda. The region saw various rulers and empires, including the Persians, Greeks under Alexander, Indo-Greeks, Sakas, Kushanas, and Hephthalites. Following the rise of Islam, the region experienced the establishment of the Delhi Sultanate. The Mughal Empire ruled Punjab until its decline in the 18th century, after which Sikh power rose under Ranjit Singh, unifying the region amidst the chaos and disintegration of earlier Afghan control. In 1845, the British engaged in the First Anglo-Sikh War, leading to the annexation of Punjab in 1849. Punjab became a significant British province, central to India's colonial administration. The 1919 Jallianwala Bagh Massacre in Amritsar and the 1947 partition violence marked key historical moments, with Punjab divided between India and Pakistan.

**Activity: Timeline Table:**  
The students work in groups to create a large timeline poster, highlighting key events and rulers in the history of Punjab, from the Indus Valley Civilization to the rise of Sikh power under Ranjit Singh.





## A Glimpse into Woodwork Heritage of Punjab



Punjab's traditional arts and crafts industry has declined due to the growth of industrial mills, but its handcrafted textiles, leather products, and carpets still thrive in certain areas. The toy market is dominated by Chinese-made goods, yet local artisans' simple wooden or tin-made toy tractors, cars, and planes bring a nostalgic charm to homes. Once renowned for their excellence in woodwork influenced by Kashmir, Afghanistan, Turkey, and Iran, Punjab's craftspeople produced beautiful works still visible in pre-Partition houses. Today, places like Hoshiarpur, Jalandhar, and Amritsar offer ornamental furniture and wooden products known for their Mughal-era geometric and floral patterns, with Hoshiarpur also famous for its intricate trellis woodwork.



## Punjab's Phulkari Art

Phulkari, an ancient art in Punjab, traces back to the 2nd century BCE, though no textiles from that era remain. Originally a form of darning on damask, Phulkari evolved into intricate floral or geometric designs. Bagh Phulkari covers the entire fabric with ornamental motifs, while Chope features stylized designs along the edges, often gifted to brides with silk or cotton threadwork.





## Solve this puzzle:

Help Fateh Singh reach the Gurdwara Sahib



## Punjab: The Heart of India's Agricultural Revolution

Did you know that Punjab's fertile soil, nourished by its five rivers, played a crucial role in India's Green Revolution of the late 1960s? This agricultural transformation brought modern technologies to Punjab's farmers, leading to the development and cultivation of high-yielding wheat varieties. Today, Punjab stands as India's major contributor to wheat and rice production, supplying 17% and 11% of the nation's needs, respectively, with a remarkable 84% of its land dedicated to agriculture, making it India's largest agricultural state.

**BEAT IT LIKE  
BHANGRA**  
Participate in the  
**Bhangra  
Competition and  
Win the Grand  
Prize**





## Solve this puzzle:



## Punjab's Rich Flora & Fauna



The Shivalik areas in Punjab boast the most diverse flora and fauna, with Parker (1921) reporting over 1,100 plant species and numerous animal species, including 461 birds and 1,206 arthropods. Punjab has 13 wildlife sanctuaries, 4 conservation reserves, and 3 community reserves, along with parks for tigers and deer.



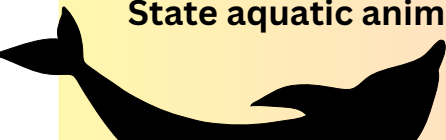
Some of the crocodiles, and Indus River dolphin, milk extraction and bee honey production thrive. The southern plains feature camels, while buffaloes graze near rivers and horses inhabit the northeast. Wildlife sanctuaries host various animals, including otters, wild boars, and flying foxes, with natural forests found in the Shivalik range, Patiala, and wetlands.



## Indus River Dolphin Census in Punjab

The census of the endangered Indus river dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) in the Beas River is set to begin this winter, part of a project by the Centre. Punjab's wildlife preservation wing is taking extra steps to protect both the dolphins and their habitat.

The Indus river dolphin, classified as endangered by the IUCN, was believed to be endemic to Pakistan until 2007, when a viable population was discovered in Punjab's Harike wildlife sanctuary and the lower Beas river. Since then, Punjab's Department of Forests and Wildlife Preservation, in partnership with WWF-India, has been researching the dolphin's distribution, habitat use, and population. In 2019, the Indus river dolphin was declared the State aquatic animal of Punjab.







## 6 Lesser Known Heritage Sites in Punjab

1. **Gobindgarh Fort, Amritsar:** Built in 1760, this historic military fort has served the armies of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, the British, and now the Indian Army.
2. **Coronation Site of Akbar, Gurdaspur:** Located 2 km east of Kalanaur, this is where the Mughal emperor Akbar was crowned at the age of 13.
3. **Quila Mubarak, Patiala:** A 300-year-old example of Sikh architecture, built by the founder of the Patiala dynasty. The Darbaar Hall showcases a collection of mirrors and rare swords.
4. **Virasat-e-Khalsa, Anandpur Sahib:** This complex, 13 years in the making, depicts 500 years of Sikh history with a museum, exhibition hall, and theatre detailing the lives of the ten Gurus.
5. **Bhoot Bangla, Jalandhar:** An elegant example of French architecture, it served as the army's headquarters before the Partition and now houses the Home Guards office.
6. **Mian Mir Nasir Ahmed Tomb, Kapurthala:** The tomb of the famous singer Mian Mir Nasir Ahmed, now in a state of neglect.



## Shri Harimandir Sahib at Amritsar

The term 'Sikh' originates from the Sanskrit word 'sishya', reflecting the deep-rooted respect for dedicated disciples. The Harimandir Sahib epitomizes a beautiful blend of the spiritual and earthly realms. Adorned with intricate stories under a graceful, ribbed dome, it houses the sacred spaces of 'Sachkhand' and 'Prakash Asfhan', cradling the revered Guru Granth Sahib. Surrounded by openness, with a pathway steps leading to the shimmering sarovar, this shrine shines as a symbol of spiritual magnificence.

**ACTIVITY:** Students can create a mini-exhibit showcasing Punjab's heritage sites by making drawings of each site, accompanied by brief descriptions and historical facts. They can then present their exhibits to the class.





## Government Museum and Art Gallery at Chandigarh, Punjab

Established in 1947, one of India's most prominent museums offers a unique architectural design and a profound exploration of Indian history and the partition. It aims to foster appreciation for the values embedded in art, making it accessible to the public through its rich collection and innovative programs. Major attractions include Gandhara sculptures, Pahari and Rajasthani miniature paintings, ancient rock idols, coins, metal idols, and a dedicated Child Art Gallery.



**Partition  
Museum in  
Amritsar  
covering the  
stories of  
partition  
which  
happened  
in 1947**

## ACTIVITY: MUSEUM COLOURING BOOK

DRAW A MUSEUM COLOURING BOOK WITH DETAILS OF ANY MUSEUM FROM PUNJAB. HIGHLIGHT THE KEY POINTS OF THE MUSEUM AND GIVE GOOD FACTS ABOUT THE MUSEUM. ILLUSTRATE THE ARTEFACTS AND EXHIBITS AT THE MUSEUM AND ASK YOUR FELLOW SCHOOL MATES TO COLOUR IT OUT!!

### REFERENCES:

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