

## Chapter 9 Traders Kings and Pilgrims

## Let's Recall

## 1. Match the following

Muvendar	Mahayana Buddhism
Lords of the dakshinapatha	Buddacharita
Ashvagoshha	Satavahana rulers
Bodhisattvas	Chinese pilgrim
Xuan Zhang	Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas

## Solution 1:

Muvendar	Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas
Lords of the dakshinapatha	Satavahana rulers
Ashvagoshha	Buddacharita
Bodhisattvas	Mahayana Buddhism
Xuan Zhang	Chinese pilgrim

## 2. Why did kings want to control the Silk Route?

## Solution 2:

1. They could collect taxes, an additional source of revenue for kings
2. Gifts and tributes were given by traders to the kings

## 3. What kinds of evidence do historians use to find out about trade and trade routes?

## Solution 3:

They found evidence through multiple sources.

1. Through the literature of the concerned period
2. Ancient coins
3. Pottery, bowls, plates

#### 4. What were the main features of Bhakti

##### Solution 4:

1. Bhakti became a central feature of Hinduism.
2. Deities were worshipped through bhakti
3. Bhakti is generally understood as a persons devotion to his or her chosen deity
4. Anybody whether rich or poor, belonging to the so-called 'high' or 'low' castes, man or woman, could follow the path of bhakti.
5. This path emphasised devotion and individual worship of a god or goddesses rather than performance of elaborate sacrifices.
6. As per this system, if a devotee worships the chosen deity with a pure heart, the deity will appear in the form in which he or she may desire. So the deity could be thought of as a human being, lion, tree, or any other form. Once this idea gained acceptance, artists made beautiful images of these deities.

##### Lets Discuss

#### 5. Discuss the reasons why the Chinese pilgrims came to India.

##### Solution 5:

They came to visit places associated with the life of Buddha as well as famous monasteries. They spent time studying in Nalanda.

#### 6. Why do you think ordinary people were attracted to Bhakti?

##### Solution 6:

Because anyone irrespective of gender, economic status, caste status could follow this path. Hence it attracted ordinary people.

##### Let's Do

#### 7. List five things that you buy from the market. Which of these are made in the city/village in which you live, and which are brought by traders from other areas?

##### Solution 7:

This is an activity that needs to be carried out by students.

#### 8. There are several major pilgrimages performed by people in India today. Find out about any one of them, and write a short description. (Hint: who can go on the pilgrimage — men, women or children? How long does it take? How do people travel? What do they take with them? What do they do when they reach the holy place? Do they bring anything back with them?)

**Solution 8:**

This is an activity that needs to be carried out by students. There are plenty of pilgrimage centres, students can choose one from their own experience.

