

HISTORY EDUCATIONAL TRIP FOR GRADE 8 TO PURANA

QILA

On 20th November 15, Grade 8 visited the Purana Qila. This was an educational tour conducted by Itihaas. Students left school at 9am for Purana Qila.

The Purana Qila or the old fort was constructed by Humayun and Sher Shah. The old fort complex covers an area of about a mile. The walls of Purana Qila have three gates (the Humayun Darwaza, Talaqi Darwaza and Bara Darwaza) and are surrounded by a moat, which was fed by river Yamuna. The double-storied gates of the Purana Qila are quite massive and are built with red sandstone. The walls of the old fort are said to be built by Humayun while the buildings in the old fort are attributed to Sher Shah, the Sur ruler. Of all the surviving buildings in the old fort complex, the Sher Mandal and the Qila-i-kunha Mosque are notable. The Sher Mandal was built by Humayun. It is a two storied octagonal tower, used by Humayun as his library. The Qila-I-kunha Mosque is an example of Indo Islamic architecture. The unique features of Indo-Islamic architecture like molding, bracketed openings, marble inlay, carving etc are very prominent in the structure. The prayer hall of the Qila-i-Kunha mosque measures 51.20m by 14.90m and has five doorways with the 'true' horseshoe-shaped arches. The mehrabs (prayer niches) inside the Qila-i-Kunha mosque are richly ornamented with concentric arches. The mosque has an inscription which says 'As long as there are people on this earth, may this edifice be frequented, and people be happy in it.' Excavations have revealed that the Purana Qila or the old fort stands at the site of Indraprastha, the capital of the Pandavas. Excavations near the eastern wall of the fort show that the site had been occupied since 1000 B.C. The PGW (Painted Gray Pottery) recovered from the site date back to the Mahabharata period.

Along with the educational trip, the students also enjoyed a small picnic in the beautiful gardens of the Purana Qila. Students really enjoyed this trip.

