

Chapter-5

The Vedic Period

A. Answer in one word.

1. I am the oldest Veda and contain 1028 hymns. Rig Veda.
2. Children in the Vedic age came here to learn the Vedas and other skills. Gurukula.
3. I am the god of fire, honoured in the Vedic period. Agni.
4. I am the mother of many Indian languages, and originated during the Vedic age. Sanskrit.

B. Fill in the blanks with the correct answer.

1. The Rig Veda has hymns composed to honour _____.
(a) Various gods (b) the ruler (c) the head of the family (d) none of these.
2. Some historians believed that the Aryans migrated from _____.
(a) Europe (b) India (c) both a and b. (d) Central Asia.
3. The _____ is the Veda that has rules.
(a) Rig Veda (b) Yajur Veda (c) Sama Veda (d) Atharva Veda.
4. _____ is the god of plants.
(a) Varun (b) Agni (c) Aditi (d) Soma
5. The _____ looked after the affairs of the village.
(a) Purohita (b) senani (c) gramini (d) none of these.

C. Fill in the blank:

1. The Vedas were the sacred books of the Aryans.
2. The Rig Veda is the oldest in the Vedas.
3. The Aryans introduced the grey ware pottery to the Indian subcontinent.
4. Megaliths have been found in the Deccan Plateau in South India.
5. Indra was the god of rains.

D. Answer these questions in brief:

1. Mention the two periods that the Vedic period was divided into?

Ans.1 The two periods that the Vedic period was divided into were the Early Vedic Period and the Later Vedic Period.

2. What was the role of the Sabha and the Samiti in the Vedic age?

Ans.2 The role of the Samiti was to advise the ruler and the Sabha was an assembly attended by very few special people.

3. What did the children do in the gurukula?

Ans.3 The children stayed and studied in a gurukula and also learnt skills like archery, horse riding and chariot racing.

4. Name the different occupations followed by the people of the Vedic Age?

Ans.4 The people of the Vedic Age were hunter-gatherers and lived off the land moving from one place to another. They also raised cattle and engaged in agricultural practices for their food and collected fruits like berries, dates, amla and jamun.

5. Where is Inamgaon located?

Ans.5 Inamgaon is located near Pune in Maharashtra.

E. Answer these questions in detail.

1. What did the burials contain?

Ans.1 The dead were buried along with pots containing their belongings. From the burials, we come to know the position of a person in the society as the person is buried with many ornaments and household items; it indicates that he or she was an important member of the tribe. Some have few objects like tools and weapons, skeletal remains of horses and horse equipments. Some burials have more than one skeleton suggest that they may be belonging to one family.

2. Explain the main contribution of Vedic literature in shaping the culture of India?

Ans.2 The Vedic age was an important period in the history of India. India presented to the world, its rich cultural heritage, through Vedic literature. Through the Vedas we learn about several gods like Indra, Agni, Soma, Surya, Varuna, Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva. Rituals became elaborate and complex and the priest community became very important. Mother of most Indian languages Sanskrit originated during the Vedic period.

3. Write a short note on:

Ans.3 Megaliths- the term 'megalith' refers to large stones used to construct a monument. These were huge stone boulders that are circular in shape. These were made for burial sites.

Ashrama System-- Ashrama in Hinduism is one of four age-based life stages discussed in Indian texts of the ancient and medieval eras. The four **ashramas** are: Brahmacharya (student), Grihastha (householder), Vanaprastha (retired) and Sannyasa (renunciate). The **Ashrama system** is one facet of the Dharma concept in Hinduism.

4. Name the different gods and goddesses that the Aryans worshipped?

Ans.4 Through the Vedas we learn about several gods, like Indra (the god of rains), Agni (the god of fire), Soma (the god of plants), Surya (the sun god), and Varuna (the sky

god). During the later Vedic period, people began worshipping gods like Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva.

5. No need to write Q5. It is same as Q2.

CHAPTER END