

History

Lesson-8

The Mauryan Empire

A. Fill in the blanks with correct answers.

- The last battle where Ashoka fought his last war was in_____.
(a) Pataliputra (b) **Kalinga**
(c) Varanasi (d) Kosala.
- Chanakya was previously a minister to the last _____ rulers.
(a) Mauryan (b) **Nanda**
(c) Gupta (d) None of these.
- _____ is an important Ashokan pillar near Varanasi.
(a) Sanchi Stupa (b) Vihara
(c) **Lion capital of Ashoka, Sarnath.** (d) Ashoka Chakra.
- Chandragupta Maurya even introduced a _____ to be used throughout his empire.
(a) Chariot (b) **single currency**
(c) Religion (d) none of these
- _____ was the Mauryan capital.
(a) Vajji (b) Vaishali
(c) **Pataliputra** (d) Kalinga

B. Fill in the blanks.

- Chandragupta Maurya defeated the last **nanda** ruler and came to power.
- Chanakya was the author of **Arthashastra.**
- The Indika was written by **Megasthenes.**

4. Mehasthenes lived during the reign of **Chandragupta Maurya**.
5. The **Ashokan pillar** at Sarnath has the lion capital and the four lions positioned back to back.

C. Write T for true and F for false.

1. Chanakya helped Bindusara rule the kingdom and expand it. **False**
2. The Mauryan empire was founded by Chandragupta Maurya. **True**
3. The Ashokan Pillars are decorated with human figures. **False**
4. Bindusara was Ashoka's eldest son. **False**
5. Ashoka converted to Buddhism after the Kalinga war. **True**

D. Answer these questions in brief.

1. How was the Mauryan Kingdom established?

Ans.1 The Maurya Empire was founded in 322 BCE by Chandragupta Maurya, who had overthrown the Nanda king.

2. Who was Chandragupta Maurya and who assisted him in becoming the king?

Ans.2 Chandragupta Maurya was the founder of Mauryan dynasty. Chanakya help him in becoming the king.

3. Who was Bindusara?

Ans.3 Bindusara was Chandragupta's son, who succeeded him to the throne.

4. How did the battle of Kalinga change Ashoka?

Ans.4 Ashoka felt responsible for the loss of so many lives and decided to renounce war. He devoted the rest of his life and converted to Buddhism.

5. What religion did Ashoka Convert to?

Ans.5 Ashoka converted to Buddhism.

E. Answer these questions in detail:

1. The Mauryan Empire had an effective administrative system. Give reasons for this.

Ans.1 The Mauryan Empire was divided into four provinces each under a prince. The prince was assisted by ministers. The Mauryan's main source of income was agriculture. The farms were large. The Maurya's maintained a strong army which was well equipped with infantry, cavalry etc. Chandragupta also introduced a single currency to be used throughout the empire.

2. What do you understand by dhamma? Explain the main principals of dhamma?

Ans.2 Dhamma is the Prakrit form of the word dharma which means duty. The principals of dhamma were based on a code of conduct that would help people live virtuous lives. Ashoka's dhamma consisted of non-violence, tolerance towards all sects and religions, obedience towards parents, respect for Brahmins and all religious teachers, humane treatment of servants and generosity towards all.

3. What measures did Ashoka take to improve the lives of the people?

Ans.3 Ashoka did a lot for the welfare of the people. He built roads, rest houses and universities for his people. He made hospitals for animals and people, offered loans to poor farmers.

4. How did Ashoka spread his message of dhamma?

Ans.4 Ashoka inscribed his dhamma on pillars, caves and rocks so that people could read and follow the messages on the inscriptions. He appointed officials called dhammamahamatta who travelled to distant places and spread his message. He even sent them to Syria, Egypt, Greece and Sri Lanka to spread this dhamma.

5. What were Ashoka's contributions to art?

Ans.5 Some of the best contribution to art and architecture were made by Ashoka. He made stupas, pillar edicts and viharas. Polished monolithic pillars containing the Ashokan edicts were built all over the kingdom. The Ashokan pillar at Sarnath has the lion capital and the four lions positioned back to back, supporting the dharma known as the Ashoka Chakra. Many impressive viharas have also been found in Nagararjuna hills in Bihar.

