

What Books and Burials Tell Us

1. Match the columns:

'Sukta'	Stone-boulder
Chariots	Sacrifice
'Yajna'	Well-said
'Dasa'	Used in battles
Megalith	Slave

Ans.

'Sukta'	—	Well-said
Chariots	—	Used in battles
'Yajna'	—	Sacrifice
'Dasa'	—	Slave
Megalith	—	Stone-boulder

2. Megalith Complete the sentences:

- Slaves were used for.....
- Megaliths are found in.....
- Stone circles or boulders on the surface were used to.....
- Port-holes were used for.....
- People at Inamgaon ate.....

Ans: (a) Work

(b) South India, north-east and

Kashmir (c) indicate the exact place of burial

(d) burying the other member of the same family at the same place (e) wheat, barley, rice, pulses, millets, peas, sesame, etc.

3. In what ways are the books we read today different from the Rigveda ?

Ans: The most important points of difference between the Rigveda and the modern books is that today books are written and read. The Vedas, instead, were memorised by students, and later passed on to the later generations by speaking, listening and then memorising.

4. What kind of evidence from burials do archaeologists use to find out whether there were social differences amongst those who were buried?

Ans: The objects found in graves are usually different. Some skeletons were buried with a great number of pots, while some with just a few of them. Archaeologists have thus concluded that people were buried with objects depending upon their status.

5. In what ways do you think that the life of a 'raja' was different from that of a 'dasa' or 'dasi'?

Ans: In the society, 'raja' was one of the highest civil positions. 'Rajas' were the kings of the community, whereas the 'dastas'/'dasis' were the lowest position in society. The 'dastas'/'dasis' were slaves who were used for work. They were treated as the property of their owners. They were captured in war.

6. Find out whether your school library has a collection of books on religion, and list the names of five books from this collection.

Ans: Do yourself with the help of your subject-teacher and school librarian. A sample set of five such books:

- (a)The Mahabharata
- (b)The Ramayana
- (c)The Bible
- (d)The Bhagwad Gita
- (e)The Quran

7. Write down a short poem or song that you have memorised. Did you hear or read the poem or song ? How did you learn it by heart?

Ans: Do yourself.

8. In the Rigveda, people were described in terms of the work they did and the languages they spoke. In the table below, JIR in the names of six people you know, choosing three men and three women. For each of them, mention the work they do and the language they speak. Would you like to add anything else to the description?

Name	Work	Language	Anything Else

Ans. Do yourself.

I. MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTIONS

Choose the correct option to complete the statements given below:

(i) The Ghoda is a tributary of the

- (a)Ganga (b) Narmada
- (c) Krishna (d) Bhima.

(ii) Brahmagiri is a site in modem

- (a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Bihar.

(iii) Which of these was not a category of people in the society?

(a) Shudra (b) Brahmin (c) Raja (d) Dasa.

(iv) Inamgaon is situated on the river

(a) Ghod (b) Bhima (c) Son (d) Narmada.

(v) The Ghoda is a tributary of the

(a) Ganga (b) Narmada

(c) Krishna (d) Bhima.

(vi) Brahmagiri is a site in modern

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Kerala

(c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Bihar.

Ans: (i)–(b), (ii)–(a), (iii)–(a), (iv)–(b), (v)–(d), (vi)–(a).

II. FILL IN THE BLANKS

Fill in the blanks with appropriate words to complete each sentence:

(i) The oldest of the Vedas is

(ii) The Rigveda was composed about years ago.

(iii) The hymns in the Vedas have been referred to as which means

(iv) The major gods praised in the hymns of the Rigveda were :and

(v) Sanskrit is part of thefamily of languages.

(vi) In a hymn in the Rigveda, Vishvamitra used the word 'sisters' for the two riversand.....

(vii) 'Brahmins' and 'Rajas' were two groups of people in terms of.....

(viii) Slaves were captured during.....

(ix) Stone boulders used for marking burial sites are called

(x) Black and Red Ware are words used for that were buried with the dead.

Ans: (i) the Rigveda (ii) 3500 (iii) 'Sukta', well-said (iv) Indra, Agni, Soma (v) Indo-European (vi) Beas, Sutlej (vii) Work (viii) war (ix) megaliths (x) pots.

III. TRUE/FALSE

State whether these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

(i) The Rigveda was written for the first time by hand about 3500 years ago.

(ii) Soma was the warrior god.

(iii) The Rigveda contains prayers for cattle, children and horses.

(iv) Battles were fought for land, water and to capture people.

(v) Sons automatically succeeded fathers as 'rajas'.

(vi) Megaliths were used to mark burial sites.

(vii) Members of families were usually buried together.

(viii) In a hymn in the Rigveda, Vishvamitra has a dialogue with Beas and Sutlej, which were two women.

(ix) Sanskrit and Tamil belong to the same family of languages.

Ans: (i)–F, (ii)–F, (iii)–T, (iv)–T, (v)–F, (vi)–T, (vii)–T, (viii)–F, (ix)–F.

IV. MATCHING SKILL

Match the items given in column A correctly with those given in column B

Column A

(Language)

(i) Sanskrit

(ii) Tamil

(iii) Greek

(iv) Assamese

(v) French

(vi) Manipuri

(vii) Kannada

(viii) Tibetan

(ix) Languages used in Central India

Column B

(Family of languages)

(a) Dravidian

(b) Indo-European

(c) Tibeto-Burman

(d) Dravidian

(e) Austro-Asiatic

Ans. (i)–(b), (ii)–(d), (iii)–(b), (iv)–(c), (v)–(b), (vi)–(c), (vii)–(d), (viii)–(c), (ix)–(e).

V. VERY SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Name the four

Vedas. Ans: The four

Vedas are:

(i) Rigveda (ii) Samaveda (iii) Yajurveda (iv) Atharvaveda

2. In what language has the Rigveda been composed?

Ans: The Rigveda is in Vedic Sanskrit.

3. What were the various purposes of fighting battles as depicted by the Rigveda? Ans: Battles were fought for cattle, land, water and for capturing people.

4. What were the groups of people in terms of their work?

Ans: There were two groups of people in terms of their work—the 'brahmins' and the 'rajas'.

5. Who were the 'Aryas' and the 'Dasas'? [V. Imp.]

Ans: People who composed the hymns called themselves Aryans and they called their opponents 'Dasas'.

6. What were megaliths? [Imp.]

Ans: Stone boulders used to mark burial sites are known as megaliths.

7. Name some area where megaliths were prevalent.

Ans: Megaliths were prevalent in the Deccan, South India, in the North-east and Kashmir.

8. How is it known that burial spots were meant for families?

Ans: Sometimes megaliths contain more than one skeleton. This indicates that families were buried together.

9. Where is Inamgaon situated?

Ans: Inamgaon is a site on the river Ghod, a tributary of the river Bhima.

VI. SHORT ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. Write a short note on the Rigveda. [V. Imp.]

Ans: The Rigveda is the oldest of the Vedas. It indicates over a thousand hymns in Vedic (old) Sanskrit. These hymns (called 'Sukta' — well said) are in praise of various gods and goddesses, mainly: Agni, Indra and Soma. These hymns were composed by sages, who learnt them and made their children learn. Finally, they were printed about 200 years ago.

2. Describe in brief about how the Rigveda depicts cattle, horses, chariots, and battles. Ans: Rigveda has prayers for cattle and horses. Horses were used in battles. Battles were fought for cattle, land, people and water. Most men took part in wars. There was not any regular army. There were assemblies where people met and discussed matters of war and peace. They chose brave warriors as their leaders.

3. Write a short note on megaliths.

Ans: Megaliths are stone boulders used to mark burial sites. They were prevalent around 3000 years ago in the Deccan, South India, in the northeast and in Kashmir. Some megaliths are seen on surface and some are underground. Sometimes a circle of stone boulders or a single large stone is found standing on the ground, to indicate the position of burials.

4. How do megaliths show that there were social differences? [V. Imp.]

Ans: Sometimes, more objects are found in one grave than in another. This indicates that

people were buried according to their social status. In Brahmagiri, a skeleton was found with 33 gold beads, 2 stone beads, 4 copper bangles, and a conch shell. Whereas other skeletons have only few pots.

VII. LONG ANSWER TYPE QUESTIONS

1. How have people in a society been depicted in the Rigveda? [V. Imp.]

Ans: According to the Rigveda, there are two groups of people in terms of their work: (i) The priests, called Brahmins, and (ii) The 'rajas'.

The priests performed various rituals while the 'rajas' ruled. These 'rajas' did not, however, have capital cities, palaces or armies, nor did they collect taxes. Two words were used to refer to the people or the community as a whole — those words were 'jana' and 'Vish'.

The people who composed the hymns referred to themselves using the word 'Aryas' and called their opponents 'Dasas' or 'Dasyus', The 'dasas' were later slaves and were treated as the property of their owners.

