

## **The Vedic Age**

### **E. Short-answer questions:**

- 1.** Why did the Aryans come to India?
- 2.** What does the Rigveda contain?
- 3.** What sources of information are there for the Later Vedic period?
- 4.** Why is this period also called the Epic Age?
- 5.** What are megaliths?
- 6.** What is the difference between a pit circle and cairn?
- 7.** What was the main function of the raja in the Early Vedic Age?

## Solutions

### E. Short-answer questions:

1. The Aryans came to India not to invade and plunder and go back, but to settle down in the plains and do agriculture.
2. The Rig Veda is a collection of 1028 hymns written by rishis. These hymns are in praise of various gods and goddesses. These hymns were considered sacred.
3. The sources of information for the Later Vedic period are the books that were composed during this period. These are Sama Veda, Yajur Veda, Atharva Veda and the epics, Mahabharata and Ramayana.
4. This period is also called the Epic Age because the two great epics, Mahabharata and Ramayana, were written during this period.
5. Megaliths are large slabs of stone used to mark burial sites.
6. If the pit burial has a circle of large stones, it is called a pit circle. If the pit had a heap of stones piled on top, it is called a cairn.
7. The raja ruled over the people (jana) and not over any specific area of land. His main function was to protect the people and lead the army to victory in battle. Battles were fought for land which was essential for agriculture and for pastures for the cattle. He received a large part of the booty collected in battle. He was also called gopati (Lord of Cattle) indicating that protecting and increasing the cattle was his other major role.