

WHAT BOOKS AND BURIALS TELL US

Textbook Intext Questions

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1. Do you notice any similarities between Indo-European languages?

Sol. Sanskrit is part of a family of languages known as Indo-European. Some Indian languages such as Assamese, Gujarati, Hindi, Kashmiri and Sindhi, and many European languages such as English, French, German, Greek, Italian and Spanish belong to this family. They are called a family, because they originally had words in common. For example, the words 'matr' (Sanskrit), 'ma' (Hindi) and 'mother' (English).

2. List the languages you have heard about and try and identify the families to which they belong.

Sol. Other languages used in the subcontinent belong to different families. For instance, those used in the north-east belong to the Tibeto-Burman family; Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam belong to the Dravidian family; and the languages spoken in Jharkhand and parts of central India belong to the Austro-Asiatic family.

3. Name the two rivers that were worshipped as goddesses.

Sol. Beas and Sutlej were worshipped as goddesses.

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1. Do you think chariots were also important? Give reasons for your answer. Read the verses and find out what are the modes of transport that are mentioned.

Sol. Chariots were important because they were main means of transport. The other famous means of transport was the carts.

2. Look at Map 1 (page 2 of NCERT Textbook) and list 5 rivers that are not mentioned in the Rigveda.

Sol. The five rivers that are not mentioned in the Rigveda are:

- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| (i) Ganga | (ii) Yamuna |
| (iii) Mahanadi | (iv) Narmada |
| (v) Tapi | |

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1. Read the previous section in the textbook (NCERT) and see whether you can find out what the rajas did.

Sol. The rajas did not have capital cities, palaces or armies, nor did they collect taxes. Generally the sons did not automatically succeed fathers as rajas. The assemblies chose leaders who were often brave and skillful warriors.

2. Do any of the names like jana or vish sound familiar.

Sol. The word 'jana' or vish is familiar, which was used to describe people or the community as a whole. It is still used in Hindi and other languages.

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1. **There were several things that people did to make megaliths. We have made a list here. Try and arrange them in the correct order: digging pits in the earth, transporting stones, breaking boulders, placing stones in position, finding suitable stone, shaping stones, burying the dead.**

Sol. The correct order is:
Digging pits in the earth, finding suitable stone, breaking boulders, shaping stones, burying the dead, placing stones in position; transporting stones.

2. **Was iron used in the Harappan cities?**

Sol. No.

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1. **Do you think this was the body of a chief? Give reasons for your answer.**

Sol. Yes, because he had a different type of burial from the rest of the people. He was found in a large, four legged clay jar in the courtyard of a five-roomed house (one of the largest houses at the site), in the centre of the settlement. This house also had a granary. The body was placed in a cross-legged position.

2. **How do you think Charaka found out about the human body in such great detail?**

Sol. About 2000 years ago, there was a famous physician named Charaka who wrote a book on medicine known as the Charaka Samhita. There he states that the human body has 360 bones. This is a much larger number than the 200 bones that are recognised in modern anatomy. Charaka arrived at this figure by counting the teeth, joints and cartilage.

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1. **Use this evidence to list the possible occupations of the people at Inamgaon.**

Sol. Archaeologists have found seeds of wheat, barley, rice, pulses, millets, peas and sesame. Bones of a number of animals, many bearing cut marks that show they may have been used as food, have also been found. These include cattle, buffalo, goat, sheep, dog, horse, ass, pig, sambhar, spotted deer, blackbuck, antelope, hare, and mongoose, besides birds, crocodile, turtle, crab and fish. There is evidence that fruits such as amla, jamun, dates and a variety of berries were collected.

2. **List one difference between the raja of the Rigveda and these kings.**

Sol. The raja of Rigveda did not live in palaces. They did not have capital, cities, armies, etc. as the Chinese kings of the same time.

IMAGINE

3. **You live in Inamgaon, 3000 years ago, and the chief has died last night. Today, your parents are preparing for the burial. Describe the scene, including how food is being prepared for the funeral. What do you think would be offered?**

Sol. Do with the help of your subject teacher.

Ncert Textbook Exercises

LET'S RECALL

1. Match the columns

- | | |
|---------------|---------------------|
| (i) Sukta | (a) Stone boulder |
| (ii) Chariots | (b) Sacrifice |
| (iii) Yajna | (c) Well-said |
| (iv) Dasa | (d) Used in battles |
| (v) Megalith | (e) Slave |

Sol. (i)-(c); (ii)-(d); (iii)-(b); (iv)-(e), (v)-(a).

2. Complete the sentences:

- (a) Slaves were used for
(b) Megaliths are found in
(c) Stone circles or boulders on the surface were used to
(d) Port-holes were used for
(e) People at Inamgaon ate

Sol. (a) to do work, who could make them to whatever work they wanted.
(b) Deccan, North-east, South India and Kashmir.
(c) indicate that there were burial beneath.
(d) indication that the people belonging to the same family were buried in the same place.
(e) barley, wheat, peas, pulses, rice, millets fruits and sesames.

LET'S DISCUSS

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

Sol. The Aryans prepared collection of hymns known as Rigveda. The oldest Veda is the Rigveda, composed about 3500 years ago. The Rigveda includes more than a thousand hymns, called sukta or well-said. Some of the hymns in the Rigveda are in the form of dialogues. Archaeologists find out about the past in this Veda. Rigveda is the main source of information about vedic culture, which gives us the information about religious, social and economic life of the people.

The Rigveda is in old or Vedic Sanskrit, which is different from the Sanskrit you learn in school these days. The books we use are written and printed. The Rigveda was recited and heard rather than read. It was written down several centuries after it was first composed, and printed less than 200 years ago. Another difference is that from Vedas we get the knowledge of our past heritage which is almost true.

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

Sol. Archaeologists think that objects found with a skeleton probably belonged to the dead person. Sometimes, more objects are found in one grave than in another. In Brahmagiri one skeleton was buried with 33 gold beads, 2 stone beads, 4 copper bangles, and one conch shell. Other skeletons have only a few pots. These finds suggest that there was some difference in status amongst the people who were buried. Some were rich, others poor, some chiefs, other followers.

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

Sol. The rajas did not have capitals, palaces or armies, nor did they collect taxes. Generally the sons did not automatically succeed fathers as rajas.

There were people who did not perform sacrifices and probably spoke different languages. Later the term came to mean dasa or slave. Slaves were men and women captured in the war. They were treated as the property of the owners, who could make them do any work they wanted.

LET'S DO

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

Sol. The five books on religion are:

(i) Ramayan (ii) Mahabharat (iv) Samaveda (v) Rigveda

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?

Sol. 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, fill 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

Sol.

Name	Work	Language	Anything Else
1. G.P. Sharma	Advocate	English/Hindi	To help the weaker person of the society.
2. Neelam Kaushal	Teacher	English/Punjabi	To guide weaker students in the class.
3. Rakesh Kumar	Shopkeeper	Hindi	Nothing
4. Rekha Sharma	House wife	Hindi/English	To take care of her family member.
5. Prabhu Singh	Doctor	English/Hindi	Free treat to poor persons
6. Karuna Shinde	Labour	Marathi	Nothing