

## Class-VI

### History, Chapter-6

#### A. Fill in the blanks:-

1. The original home of the Aryans was Central Asia.
2. The main source of information about the Aryans are Vedas.
3. The Rigveda is the oldest of the Vedas.
4. The village headman was called the Gramini.
5. The king was assisted by a Senani in warfare.
6. Maya Danava was the founder of the tradition of *Vastu Shastra*.

#### B. Match the following:-

- |                             |           |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| 1. God of Death             | d. Yama   |
| 2. Goddess of dawn          | c. Usha   |
| 3. Upholder of cosmic order | b. Varuna |
| 4. God of fire              | a. Agni   |
| 5. God of rain              | e. Indra  |

#### C. Name the following:-

1. The four *varnas* or divisions in society.  
Ans.1 Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.
2. Five elements worshipped during the Vedic Age.  
Ans.2 Earth, fire, water, air and sky.
3. Two occupations of the people.  
Ans.3 Cattle rearing and agriculture.
4. Two tribal assemblies that checked the power of the *rajan*.  
Ans.4 *Sabha* and *Samiti*.
5. Two metals used during this age.  
Ans.5 Copper and bronze.

#### D. Answer the following questions:-

1. When was the Rigveda composed? How many *slokas* does it contain?

Ans.1 The Rigveda is the oldest of the Vedic literature. It was composed in about 1500 BCE. It consists of 1028 *slokas*, which are divided into ten books.

2. What role did a *rajan* play in the *janapada*?

Ans.2 Each tribe had a chieftain called *rajan*, who was chosen for his wisdom and courage. His chief function was to protect the tribe from external attacks and maintain law and order. For his service, the people made voluntary contributions of gifts. A *rajan* could be removed from power

if he was inefficient or cruel. He was helped by a number of officials in the work of administration.

3. What is the difference between *jana* and *janapadas*?

Ans.3 The Aryans gave up their nomadic life and settled down into many tribes known as *janas* and the land where they settled was called *janapada*.

4. What is the meaning of the words 'Veda' and 'Shruti'?

Ans.4 Veda means knowledge and *Shruti* means that which is heard.

5. Why were *yajnas* performed in the Early Vedic Period?

Ans.5 Many *yajnas* or sacrifices were performed for obtaining cattle. A *rajpurohita* or high priest performed religious ceremonies or *yajnas* to get earthly happiness and success in battle. The whole family took part in such simple *yajnas*, wherein they offered milk, ghee and grain to the Gods. Fire held a special place of esteem in the religion.

6. How did the Aryans amuse themselves?

Ans.6 The Aryans were fond of outdoor life. Music, dancing, chariot racing, hunting, gambling and game of dice were their favourite pastimes. The flute and drums were used for music.

7. What was the position of women during the Early Vedic Period?

Ans.7 Women were held in respect and participated in *yajnas* along with their husbands. Many learned women attended the assemblies, participated in debates and composed hymns. They also enjoyed the right to choose their husbands in a special ceremony called *swayamvara*. There was no child marriage and widows were allowed to remarry.

8. What did the people cultivate in their fields?

Ans.8 Barley, wheat, rice, fruits and vegetables were grown.

**E. Photo Study Questions:-**

1. *Yajna* or sacrifice.
2. A priest or Brahmin.
3. To obtain cattle, wealth and victory in battle.