

Grade VI

Lesson 4. What Books and Burials Tell Us

Objective Type Questions

I. Multiple Choice Questions

1. Veda means
 - a. Hymns
 - b. knowledge
 - c. none of these
 - d. both of these
2. The oldest veda is
 - a. Rigveda
 - b. Samaveda
 - c. Yajurveda
 - d. none of these
3. God of rains is
 - a. Indra
 - b. Agni
 - c. Varun
 - d. none of these
4. God of fire is
 - a. Indra
 - b. Agni
 - c. Varun
 - d. none of these
5. God of sky is
 - a. Indra
 - b. Agni
 - c. Varun
 - d. none of these
6. Assamese language belongs to the family of
 - a. Indo-European
 - b. Dravidian
 - c. Austro-Asiatic
 - d. none of these
7. Dasa means a
 - a. King
 - b. slave
 - c. none of these
 - d. both of these

1. b	2. a	3. a	4. b	5. c	6. a	7. b
------	------	------	------	------	------	------

II. Multiple Choice Questions

1. Which of these is not the name of the Veda?
 - a. Rig
 - b. Bhagwad
 - c. Sama
 - d. Atharva
2. The Rigveda has been written in
 - a. Vedic Sanskrit
 - b. Hindi
 - c. Prakrit
 - d. Tamil
3. Which of these was not a category of people in the society?
 - a. Shudra
 - b. Brahmin
 - c. Raja
 - d. Dasa
4. Inamgaon is situated on the river
 - a. Ghod
 - b. Bhima
 - c. Son
 - d. Narmada
5. The Ghoda is a tributary of the
 - a. Ganga
 - b. Narmada
 - c. Krishna
 - d. Bhima

6. Brahmagiri is a site in modern
 a. Andhra Pradesh b. Kerala c. Uttar Pradesh d. Bihar

1. b	2. a	3. a	4. a	5. d	6. a
------	------	------	------	------	------

III. Multiple Choice Questions

- Which of the following is the oldest Veda?
 a. Samaveda b. Yajurveda c. Rigveda d. Atharveda
- Who is the 'god of fire' according to Rigveda?
 a. Agni b. Indira c. Soma d. None of these
- In which language is 'The Rigveda' written?
 a. Vedic Sanskrit b. Vedic Hindi c. Vedic Tamil d. None of these
- Which of the two rivers are studied in the Rigveda?
 a. Ganga and Yamuna b. Beas and Sutlej
 c. Sarawati and Brahamputra d. All of these
- When was the Rigveda written?
 a. About 3500 years ago b. About 1000 years ago
 c. About 500 years ago d. About 1500 years ago
- On which bark was the Rigveda written?
 a. Neem Bark b. Cinkona Bark c. Tulsi Bark d. Birch Bark
- Where is birch bark found?
 a. Maharashtra b. Pune c. Delhi d. Kashmir
- Who were the Priests in the ancient time?
 a. Brahmins b. Sikhs c. Muslims d. None of these
- Which were the two words used to describe the people or the community as a whole?
 a. Jana and Vish b. Aryas and Dasas c. Both a and b d. None of these
- In which region was the Rigveda composed?
 a. North-east b. North-west c. North-south d. Western-east
- When the dead body was buried with gold beads it means that the dead man was _____. Fill in the blank with suitable word chosen from the following.
 a. rich man b. poor man c. chief d. follower
- The evidence of which fruits were found?
 a. Ber, Amla, Jamun b. Mango c. Apple d. All of these

1. c	2. a	3. a	4. b	5. a	6. d
7. d	8. a	9. a	10. b	11. a	12. a

I. Fill in the blanks

- Slaves were used for _____.
- Megaliths were found in _____.
- Stone circles or boulders on the surface were used to _____.
- Potholes were used for _____.
- The period from 1500-600 BC is called _____.
- Rigveda was composed about _____ years ago.
- Hymns are in the form of _____.
- People who opposed Vedas were _____.
- Vedic culture flourished in _____.
- Inamgaon is located on _____.
- Megaliths were _____.
- Daimabad is located in _____.

1. Slaves were used for work which masters wanted	2. Megaliths were found in Brahmagiri	3. Stone circles or boulders on the surface were used to mark burial sites
4. Potholes were used for bringing dead bodies in graves	5. Vedic age	6. 3500
7. dialogues	8. Dasas	9. North India
10. river Ghod	11. big stone boulders	12. Maharashtra

II. Fill in the blanks

- The oldest of the Vedas is _____.
- The Rigveda was composed about _____ years ago.
- The hymns in the Vedas have been referred to as _____ which means _____.
- The major gods praised in the hymns of the Rigveda were _____ and _____.
- Sanskrit is part of the _____ family of languages.

6. In a hymn in the Rigveda, Vishvamitra used the word 'sisters' for the two rivers _____ and _____.
7. 'Brahmins' and 'Rajas' were two groups of people in terms of _____.
8. Slaves were captured during _____.
9. Stone boulders used for marking burial sites are called _____.
10. Black and Red Ware are words used for _____ that were buried with the dead.

1. The Rigveda	2. 3500	3. 'Sukta', well-said	4. Indra, Agni, soma	5. Indo-European
6. Beas, Sutlaj	7. Work	8. War	9. megaliths	10. pots

I. Match the following

1. Sukta	a. Stone boulder
2. Chariots	b. Sacrifice
3. Yajna	c. Well-said
4. Dasa	d. Used in battles
5. Negalith	e. Slave
6. Vedas	f. Rajasuya
7. Hymns	g. European language
8. English	h. Sanskrit
9. Sacrifices	i. 3000 years old

1. c	2. d	3. b	4. e	5. a
6. i	7. h	8. g	9. f	

II. Match the following

Language	Family of language
1. Sanskrit	a. Dravidian
2. Tamil	b. Indo-European
3. Greek	c. Tibeto-Burman
4. Assamese	d. Dravidian
5. French	e. Austro-Asiatic
6. Manipuri	
7. Kannada	
8. Tibetan	
9. Languages used in Central India	

1. b	2. d	3. b	4. d	5. b	6. c	7. d	8. c	9. e
------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

I. True or False

1. Vedas is the oldest book.
2. Hymns were composed by sages.
3. India was popular for Sanskrit language.
4. Telugu was an Indo-European language
5. Rigveda was a source of knowing history.
6. Battle aimed to capture land.
7. The kings had no capital.

1. True	2. True	3. True	4. True	5. True	6. True	7. True
---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------	---------

II. True or False

1. The Rigveda was written for the first time by hand about 3500 years ago.
2. Soma was the warrior god.
3. The Rigveda contains prayers for cattle, children and horses.
4. Battles were fought for land, water and to capture people.
5. Sons automatically succeeded fathers as 'rajas'.
6. Megaliths were used to mark burial sites.
7. Members of families were usually buried together.
8. In a hymn in the Rigveda, Vishvamithra has a dialogue with Beas and Sutlej, which were two women.
9. Sanskrit and Tamil belong to the same family of languages.

1. False	2. False	3. True	4. True	5. False	6. True	7. True	8. False	9. False
----------	----------	---------	---------	----------	---------	---------	----------	----------

Very Short Answer Type Questions

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

In Brahmagiri, archaeologists located a skeleton buried with 33 gold beads, 2 stone beads, 4 copper bangles and 1 conch shell. Some other skeletons were

found but with only a few pots. This helped archaeologists to find out social differences of those who were buried.

2. Which is the oldest book? When was it written?

The oldest book known all over the world is supposed to be that of the Vedas. They were written about 3,000 years back and are the earliest literary source available.

3. Why do historians study the Rigveda?

Historians study these dialogues to arrive at conclusions. Several animals like horse and cow were worshipped. Many hymns compare horses and cows to rivers. The names of popular rivers like Indus and Sarasvati figure in these hymns.

4. What does Rigveda tell us about prayers and battles?

Most prayers in the Rigveda were for cattle, children (especially sons) and horses. Horses were yoked to chariots and used in battles. The battles were aimed to capture cattle, land, pastures, water and people.

5. Which two words were used to describe people or community?

- i. One was the word Jana, which we still use in Hindi and other language.
- ii. The other was Vish. The word Vaishya comes from Vish.

6. What were common features of burials?

Generally the dead were buried with distinctive pots, which were called Black and Red Ware. Also found were tools and weapons of iron and sometimes skeletons of horses, horse equipments and ornaments of stone and gold.

Short Answer Type Questions

1. In What ways are the books we read today different from the Rigveda?

- i. Rigveda is in the form of hymns while modern books are written in the form of prose and poetry.
- ii. Language of Rigveda is Sanskrit while now books are written in English, Hindi or regional languages.
- iii. Rigveda deals with religion while books of today deal with society, economy, etc

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

The life of raja was different from that of a dasa or dasi in the following ways:

- i. The raja used to rule, while dasa/dasi used to serve him or the masters.
- ii. The raja could perform sacrifices, while dasa/dasi could not perform them.
- iii. Raja was treated like a God, while dasa/dasi were the property of their owners.

3. Describe the occupations of the people in the Vedic Age.

- i. Agriculture, cattle rearing, chariot-making, pottery, jewellery-making and metal work were the main occupations.
- ii. Many people also worked as priests who performed rituals and acted as teachers and doctors.
- iii. They passed on the knowledge of Vedas to their children.

4. Who were Dasas/Dasyus?

- i. While Aryans composed the Vedas, there was another group of people who opposed them. They were called Dasas or Dasyus.
- ii. They spoke a different language and followed different customs.
- iii. Most of the dasas were perhaps enslaved and so the term 'dasa' also came to mean "a slave".
- iv. They had to do what their masters wanted to do. The slaves were men and woman who were captured during war.

5. How did social differences exist in burials in India?

- i. Archaeologists assume that objects discovered with a skeleton, probably belonged to the dead person.
- ii. Sometimes, objects were found in one grave, some in another.
- iii. In Brahmagiri, a skeleton was buried with 33 gold beads, 2 stone beads, 4 copper bangles and one conch shell whereas the other skeleton only had a pot.
- iv. This showed the difference in status amongst the people who were buried.
- v. Some were rich, while others were poor.

6. Were some burial spots meant only for families?

- i. Sometimes, megaliths had more than one skeleton.
- ii. It indicated that people belonging to the same family were buried at the same place though at different times.
- iii. The bodies of dead were brought into the grave, through the portholes.
- iv. Boulders were placed on the surface to serve as signposts to find the burial site, when people of the same family had to be buried there.

7. How did special burial take place at Inamgaon?

- i. Inamgaon is located on river Ghod, a tributary of the Bhima.
- ii. It seems to have been captured around 3,600 to 2,700 years ago.
- iii. Adults buried in the ground were laid out straight with the head towards the north.
- iv. Many burials took place within the houses.
- v. Vessels containing food and water were kept with the dead.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. How were Vedas a big source of knowledge?

- i. The word 'Veda' means knowledge.
- ii. There are four Vedas: Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda.
- iii. The hymns have been composed by sages.
- iv. These hymns were recited and passed from one generation to another until they were written down.
- v. These hymns are in praise of different gods such as Indra, the God of rain; Agni, the fire god; Varun, the sky god and many others.
- vii. The hymns were composed in Vedic Sanskrit,

2. What do Megaliths tell us about North-west and Deccan?

- i. Megaliths were big stone boulders arranged carefully by people, to mark burial sites in North-west and Deccan.
- ii. Megaliths were seen both on the surface and quite often underground.
- iii. All these burials had similar attributes which included digging pits in the Earth, transporting stones, breaking boulders, placing stones in position, finding suitable stones, shaping the stones and burying the dead.
- iv. Generally, the dead were buried with distinctive pots, known as Black and Red ware.

3. How battles were fought according to the Rigveda?

- i. Battles were fought for land, which was important for pastures and for growing hardy crops that ripened quickly, such as barley.
- ii. Some of the wealth that was obtained was kept by the leaders, some was given to the priests and the rest was distributed amongst the people.
- iii. Some wealth was used for the performance of yajnas or sacrifices in which offerings were made to the fire.
- iv. There was no regular army, but there were assemblies where people met and discussed matters of war and peace.