

# HISTORY

## Chapter 5: What Books and Burials Tell Us



## Important Questions

### ➤ Multiple Choice Questions:

Question 1. Where was the head of the dead laid at the burials found at Inamgaon?

- (a) East
- (b) West
- (c) North
- (d) South

Question 2. Vessels found at Inamgaon site, contained:

- (a) Food and water
- (b) Ornaments
- (c) Clothes
- (d) None

Question 3. The language of the Veda is:

- (a) Hindi
- (b) Sanskrit
- (c) Vedic Sanskrit
- (d) Tamil

Question 4. Which of these does not comes under the Veda?

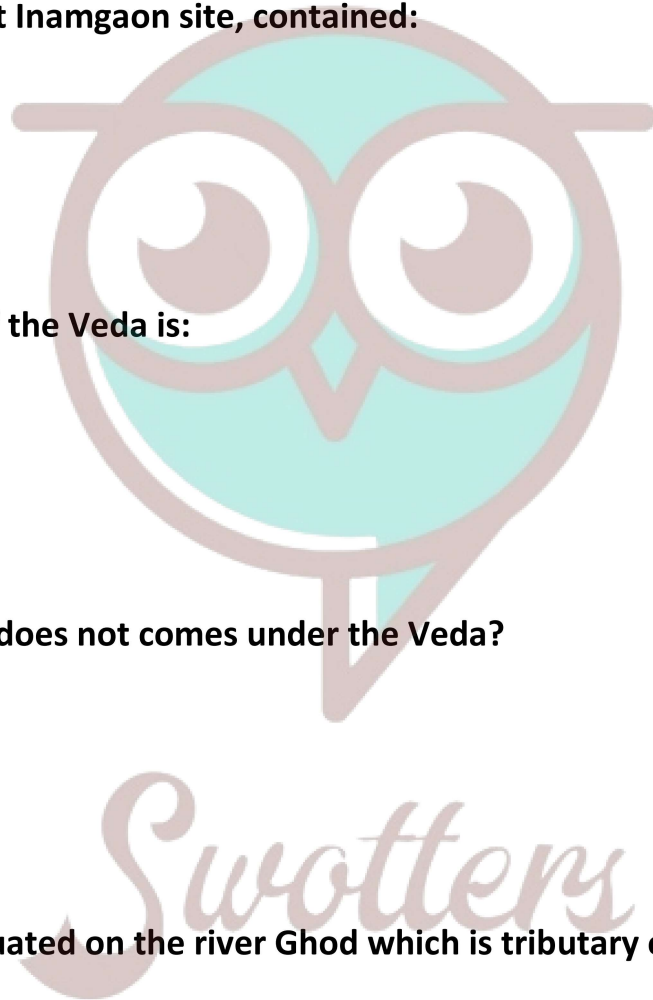
- (a) Rig
- (b) Atharva
- (c) Sam
- (d) Puran

Question 5. Inamgaon is situated on the river Ghod which is tributary of:

- (a) Bhima
- (b) Ravi
- (c) Vias
- (d) Ganga

Question 6. Stone boulders used to mark burial sites are known as:

- (a) Microliths
- (b) Megaliths
- (c) Macroliths



(d) None of these.

Question 7. The Rigveda was written on the bark of:

- (a) Palm
- (b) Peepal
- (c) Birch
- (d) Neem

Question 8. The Rigveda was written:

- (a) About 1500 years ago
- (b) About 2000 years ago
- (c) About 2500 years ago
- (d) About 3500 years ago

Question 9. Where was the birch bark found on which hymns of the Rigveda were written?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Kashmir
- (d) Madhya Pradesh

Question 10. Where was the first evidence of writing found around 3500 years ago?

- (a) In China
- (b) In Pakistan
- (c) In India
- (d) None of these

Question 11. Stone circles or boulders on the surface were used to cover the:

- (a) All of these
- (b) Burial places
- (c) House
- (d) Port holes

Question 12. A popular drink \_\_\_\_\_ was prepared from milk and juice of a rare plant that grew on the mountains:

- (a) Butter
- (b) Soma
- (c) Sura
- (d) Ghee

Question 13. The Aryans had divided themselves into tribes known as:

- (a) Ashtajana
- (b) Panchajana
- (c) Chaturthjana
- (d) Saptchajana

Question 14. Sanskrit is part of a family of languages which is known as:

- (a) Indo-European
- (b) Indo-China
- (c) Indo-Russian
- (d) Indo-Dravin

Question 15. How many types of Vedas are there:

- (a) 3
- (b) 1
- (c) 4
- (d) 2

➤ Match The Following:

	Column-I		Column-II
1.	Megaliths	A.	a circle of stone
2.	Boulders	B.	big stone
3.	Distinctive pots	C.	offering for gods and goddesses.
4.	Yajnas	D.	black and red ware

➤ Fill in the blanks:

1. The Rigveda has been written in \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ is situated on the river Ghod.
3. The Rigveda was composed about \_\_\_\_\_ years ago.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ is part of a family of languages known as Indo-European.
5. The major gods praised in the hymns of the Rigveda were \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The dead were buried with distinctive pots, which are called \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Ware.

➤ Write true (T) or false (F):

1. The river Ghod is a tributary of the Bhima.
2. The oldest Veda is the Samaveda.
3. Slaves were women and men who were often captured in war.
4. Hymns were composed by sages (rishis).
5. In a hymn in the Rigveda, Vishvamitra used the word 'sisters' for the two rivers Beas and Sutlej.
6. Roma, a plant from which a special drink was prepared.

➤ **Very Short Questions:**

1. Which is the oldest Veda among the four Vedas?
2. In which language Rigveda was written?
3. As per Rigveda, why battles were fought?
4. What are Megaliths?
5. Where was the page from a manuscript of the Rigveda found?
6. Why yajnas or sacrifices were performed?
7. Which language belongs to the Dravidian family?
8. Which language belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family?
9. Name the site where skeleton was found with 33 gold beads, 2 stone beads, 4 copper bangles, and one conch shell.
10. What is Sukta?
11. Name 4 Vedas.
12. What do people at Inamgaon ate?
13. How were yajnas performed?
14. How slaves were treated?
15. Which language belongs to the Austro-Asiatic family?

➤ **Short Questions:**

1. Were some burial spots meant for certain families?
2. What were oracle bones?
3. What do circle of stone boulders or a single large stone standing on the ground indicates?
4. In what ways are the books we read today different from the Rigveda?
5. Differentiate between 'Aryas' and 'Dasas'.
6. What kind of evidence from burials do archaeologists use to find out whether there were social differences amongst those who were buried?

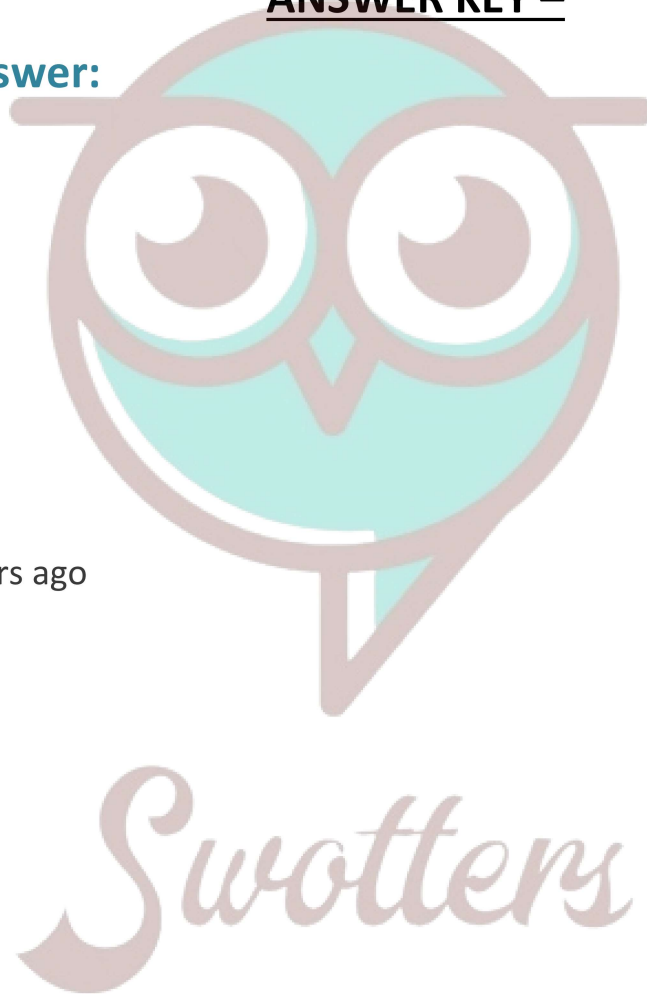
➤ **Long Questions:**

1. In what ways do you think that the life of a raja was different from that of a dasa or dasi?
2. How horses, cattle, chariot and battles are depicted in Rigveda?
3. Write a note on Rigveda.
4. Write a short note on the Wars fought in the Rigvedic period?
5. How have people in a society been depicted in the Rigveda?
6. Describe different classes or categories of people as referred or described in Rigveda.

**ANSWER KEY –**

➤ **Multiple Choice Answer:**

1. (c) North
2. (a) Food and water
3. (c) Vedic Sanskrit
4. (d) Puran
5. (a) Bhima
6. (b) Megaliths
7. (c) Birch
8. (d) About 3500 years ago
9. (c) Kashmir
10. (a) In China
11. (b) Burial places
12. (b) Soma
13. (b) Panchajana
14. (a) Indo-European
15. (c) 4



➤ **Match The Following:**

	Column-I		Column-II
1.	Megaliths	B.	big stone
2.	Boulders	A.	a circle of stone
3.	Distinctive pots	D.	black and red ware
4.	Yajnas	C.	offering for gods and goddesses.

➤ **Fill in the blanks:**

1. Sanskrit
2. Inamgaon
3. 3500
4. Sanskrit
5. Agni, Indra, and Soma.
6. Black and Red

➤ **Write true (T) or false (F):**

1. True
2. False
3. True
4. True
5. True
6. False

➤ **Very Short Answer:**

1. The oldest Veda is the Rigveda.
2. The Rigveda is in old or Vedic Sanskrit.
3. Battles were fought for cattle, land, water and for capturing people.
4. Stone boulders used to mark burial sites are known as megaliths.
5. This manuscript of the Rigveda, on birch bark, was found in Kashmir.
6. Yajnas or sacrifices were performed to please gods and goddesses.
7. Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam belong to the Dravidian family.
8. Language used in the north-east belongs to the Tibeto-Burman family.
9. Brahmagiri.
10. The Rigveda includes more than a thousand hymns, called sukta or "well-said".
11. There are four of them – the Rigveda, Samaveda, Yajurveda and Atharvaveda.
12. People at Inamgaon ate wheat, barley, rice, pulses, millets, peas and sesame.
13. Yajnas were performed by offering ghee and grains into the fire in order to please god and goddesses.
14. They were treated as the property of their owners, who could make them do whatever work they wanted.
15. The languages spoken in Jharkhand and parts of central India belong to the Austro-Asiatic family.

family.

➤ **Short Answer:**

1. Sometimes, megaliths contain more than one skeleton. These indicate that people, perhaps belonging to the same family, were buried in the same place though not at the same time.
2. Around 3500 years ago, we find some of the first evidence of writing in China. These writings were on animal bones. These are called oracle bones, because they were used to predict the future.
3. Sometimes, archaeologists find a circle of stone boulders or a single large stone standing on the ground. These are the only indications that there are burials beneath.
4. 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.
- 5.

Aryas	Dasas
The people who composed the hymns described themselves as Aryas.	Aryas called their opponents Dasas or Dasyus. These were people who did not perform sacrifices, and probably spoke different languages.

6. Objects were found in the grave of the dead person. Sometimes, more objects are found in one grave than in another. These finds suggest that there was some difference in status amongst the people who were buried. Some were rich, others poor, some chiefs, others followers.

➤ **Long Answer:**

1.

Raja	Dasa or Dasi
Raja was a powerful leader who used to rule.	They were often captured in war.
Raja was a free person.	They were treated as the property of their owners, who could make them do whatever work they wanted.
The rajas led a luxurious life.	They led a miserable life.

2. There are many prayers in the Rigveda for cattle, horses, chariot and battles. Horses were



yoked to chariots that were used in battles, which were fought to capture cattle. Battles were also fought for land, which was important for pasture, and for growing hardy crops that ripened quickly, such as barley. Some battles were fought for water, and to capture people.

3. The oldest Veda is the Rigveda, composed about 3500 years ago. The Rigveda includes more than a thousand hymns, called sukta or “well-said”. These hymns are in praise of various gods and goddesses. Three gods are especially important: Agni, the god of fire; Indra, warrior god; and Soma, a plant from which a special drink was prepared. These hymns were composed by sages (rishis). Most of the hymns were composed, taught and learnt by men. A few were composed by women. The Rigveda is in old or Vedic Sanskrit.
4. Battles were fought for cattle, land, water, and to capture people. 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. Some wealth was used for the performance of yajnas or sacrifices in which offerings were made into the fire. These were meant for gods and goddesses. Most men took part in these wars. There was no regular army, but there were assemblies where people met and discussed matters of war and peace. They also chose leaders, who were often brave and skilful warriors.
5. **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.

6. **Words of the Rigveda to describe different classes or categories of the people:**
  - There are several ways of describing people—in the terms of the work they do, the language they speak, the place they belong to, their family, their communities and cultural practices.
  - Broadly speaking, we can confess that there are two groups (of people) who are described in terms of their work—the priests, sometimes called brahmins, who performed various rituals for the rajas. These rajas were not like the ones you will be learning about later (in coming chapters). They did not have capital cities or armies, nor did they collect taxes. Generally, sons did not succeed fathers automatically.
  - Two words were used (in the Rigveda) to describe people or the community as a whole. One was the word jana, which we still use in Hindi and other languages. The other was Vish. The word Vaishya comes from Vish.