

CHAPTER – 5
WHAT BOOKS AND BURIALS TELL US?

❖ LET'S RECALL

Q. 1 Match the columns

Sukta	Stone boulder
Chariots	Sacrifice
Yajna	Well – said
Dasa	Used in battles
Megalith	Slave

Answer:

<i>Column I</i>	<i>Column II</i>	<i>Explanation</i>
Sukta	Well – said	Sukta is Sanskrit means well said
Chariots	Used in battles	Chariots were used in battles because they could move fast
Yajna	Sacrifice	Yajna is the sacrificial ritual where offering are made to the god
Dasa	Slave	Dasa were the people who did not perform yajna
Megalith	Stone boulder	Megalith literally means big stone & the word was used to address stone boulders.

Q. 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 _____.

Answer:

(a) Slaves were used for **work.**

Slave men and women were captured in war and used as free labourers by their owners.

(b) Megaliths are found in **Deccan, Southern India, North-east and Kashmir.**

Megaliths were prevalent in these parts of India, while some megaliths can be seen on the surface other megalithic burials are often underground.

(c) Stone circles or boulders on the surface were used to **mark the site of burial.**

It served as a sign post for burial sites, so that people can return to the same place later.

(d) Port-holes were used for **bringing the bodies of those who died later into the family grave.**

A porthole is a circular window kind of entry path.

(e) People at Inamgaon ate **wheat, barley, rice, pulses, millets, peas, sesame and animal meat besides fruits.**

They were both hunter and food gatherers. Once food cultivation started, they settled down in one place.

❖ LET'S DISCUSS

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

Answer:

Rigveda was primarily composed of religious hymns that were recited and heard within a small community of learned people. They were written in Sanskrit. They consisted of hymns in praise of gods and goddesses. Not everyone could study them.

Modern books, on the other hand, are written on the various subject. They are available in print format and read by a lot of people. They are written in many modern languages.

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

Answer:

The archaeologists use the object found in the grave to know more about the social status of those buried. Some skeletons were found buried with gold and copper ornaments indicating their high social status while others had only a few pots. In Brahmagiri, one skeleton was buried with 33 gold beads, 4 copper bangles, and one conch shells. 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.

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

Answer:

The ‘rajas’ were the higher-class people while the ‘dasas’ were the lowest class in the society and worked as slaves. The dasa/dasi were often captured in the war and were treated as the property of their owners. I think a raja lived a more comfortable live than that of a dasa.

❖ LET'S DO

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

Answer:

Five religious books in our library are:

1. Ramayana
2. Mahabharata
3. Gita
4. Bible
5. Quran

Q. 7 Write down a short poem or song that you have memorized. Did you hear or read the poem or song? How did you learn it by heart?

Answer:

I read this poem by Walt Whitman in brother's school book. I learned it by repeating it to myself

THIS is thy hour O Soul, thy free flight into the wordless,
Away from books, away from art, the day erased, the lesson done, Thee
fully forth emerging, silent, gazing, pondering the themes thoulovest
best. Night, sleep, and the stars.

Q. 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

Answer:

Name	Work	Language	Anything else
Amina	Housemaid	Hindi	She is tall & quiet.
Amit	Carwasher	Hindi	He gets up early in the morning.
Ajay	Washerman	Hindi	He delivers clothes in the afternoon.
Malti	Housemaid	Bhojpuri	She talks loudly.
Pinki	Flower seller	Hindi	She is a shy girl
Raju	Coconut deliveryman	Tamil	He speaks in broken English.