

Class-VI (2021)  
6. The Early Vedic Age.

E/1. Name the main religious texts of the Aryans.

Ans: The main religious texts of the Aryans are - (i) The Rig Veda, (ii) The Sama Veda, (iii) The Yajur Veda and (iv) The Atharva Veda.

2. What was the caste system? What were the four main castes?

Ans: The Aryans were divided into four social groups based on their occupations. These groups were called varnas or castes.

The four main castes were -  
(i) Brahmins, (ii) Kshatriyas, (iii) Vaishyas and (iv) Shudras.

3. What was the main food of the early Aryans?

Ans: The main food of the early Aryans were :- grains, vegetables, fruits, milk, butter and ghee. They ate meat, drank soma and sura on special occasions.

4. What system of trade did the Aryans practice?

Ans:- (i) The Aryans practiced the 'barter system' a system where one thing is exchanged for another, not money.

(ii) Cows were often used as means of exchange.

F/ Answer in detail.

1. Write a few sentences about the political structure in the Early Vedic Age.

Ans: The political structure in the Early Vedic Age were:-

- (i) Aryan society was grouped into many tribes or janas. Each of these janas was headed by a king or rajan who was appointed by popular choice.
- (ii) The purohit or priest who was the chief adviser performed all the rites for the welfare of the community in war and peace.
- (iii) The senani was the commander-in-chief of the army, and a trusted aide of the rajan.

2. What was the position of women in the Early Vedic Age?

Ans: The position of women in the Early Vedic Age were as follows:-

- (i) Women had an important position in society as they received same education as men.
- (ii) No ceremony could be performed unless the wife joined the husband.
- (iii) Royal women had the freedom to choose their husbands through the 'Swayamvara' ceremony.

3. What were the main occupations of the people during the Early Vedic Age?

Ans: The main occupations of the people during the Early Vedic Age were as follows:-

- (i) The main occupations of the Early Vedic people were cattle rearing and agriculture.
- (ii) There were carpenters, metal workers, tanners, fisher-folk, weavers and potters.
- (iii) Women did most of the spinning and weaving of cloth.

### PICTURE STUDY

1. What ritual of the Early Vedic Age is being shown in this picture?

Ans: The ritual is known as Swayamvara ceremony.

2. Describe the ritual in your own words.

Ans: Royal women in the Early Vedic Age had the freedom to choose husbands of their choice through this ceremony.

3. What does this ritual tell you about the position of women in the Early Vedic Age?

Ans: This ritual tells us that the women had an important position in society during the Early Vedic Age.

was flexible and people were allowed to change their occupations.

- Women held an important position in society.
- The Aryans worshipped forces of nature. They sang hymns in praise of the gods and performed sacrifices.
- The Aryans were mainly a pastoral people. They did not trade much with foreign lands.

### VITAL WORDS

**Aryans:** a group of people who are believed to have come to India from Central Asia; the word literally means 'noble'

**Vedas:** a collection of prayers and other religious compositions of the Aryans

**patriarchal:** a family system where the eldest male member is the head of the family

**varna:** caste

**yagnya:** ritual involving sacrifices

### QUESTION TIME

#### A. Fill in the blanks.

1. The Aryans came to India from Central Asia near the Caspian Sea.
2. Most of the knowledge we have of the Aryans is from the Vedas.
3. The four Vedas were the Rig Veda, the Sama Veda, the Yajur Veda and the Atharva Veda.
4. The head of the family in Aryan society was called Grihapati.
5. Aryan women from royal families could choose their husbands through a ceremony called the Suayamvara.
6. The Aryans drank Soma, a juice of a plant, and Sura, a barley drink.

#### B. Tick the sentences that are true. Correct the others.

1. There are several archaeological evidences of the coming of the Aryans into India. not adequate **False**
2. The Brahmanas explain the Vedic text and rituals. **True**
3. The samiti was an assembly of elders. common people **False**

4. Agni was the Vedic god of fire. **True**
5. The Aryans traded extensively with foreign lands in the Early Vedic Age. did not trade **False**

#### C. Multiple choice questions.

1. The meaning of the word 'Aryan' is:  
a) outsider  
b) warrior  
c) uncivilised  
d)  noble
2. The meaning of the term 'Sapta Sindhu' is:  
a) fertile area  
b)  seven rivers  
c) seven lakes  
d) desert area
3. The river that has dried up in the Sapta Sindhu region is:  
a) Ganga  
b)  Saraswati  
c) Yamuna  
d) Godavari
4. The animal commonly used as a unit of exchange in the Early Vedic Period was:  
a)  the cow  
b) the deer  
c) the ox  
d) the cat

#### D. Match the following.

- |                |                  |     |
|----------------|------------------|-----|
| 1. vaishyas    | a. Holy Land     | (4) |
| 2. Varuna      | b. to hear       | (5) |
| 3. uttariya    | c. merchants     | (7) |
| 4. Brahmavarta | d. god of rain   | (2) |
| 5. shruti      | e. upper garment | (8) |

#### E. Answer in brief.

1. Name the main religious texts of the Aryans.
2. What was the caste system? What were the four main castes?
3. What was the main food of the early Aryans?
4. What system of trade did the Aryans practice?