

### 13.9.14 The Vedic Age

**Q1: Why is the Vedic Age so called?**

**Ans1:** The Vedic Age is so called because most of the information about this period is derived from Vedic literature.

**Q2: With which modern Indian states does the region Saptasindhu coincide?**

**Ans2:** The region Saptasindhu coincides with modern Haryana and undivided Punjab.

**Q3: What were the two main occupations of the Rigvedic Aryans?**

**Ans3:** The two main occupations of the Rigvedic Aryans were growing crops and rearing cattle.

**Q4: Name some popular pastimes of the Vedic people.**

**Ans4:** The usual pastime of the Aryans were:-

- a) Music and dancing
- b) Chariot racing
- c) Hunting
- d) Gambling

**Q5. -----**

**Ans5:** The use of iron helped them to clear the dense forest of the region.

**Q6. -----**

**Ans6:** In the later Vedic period children received education in Gurukuls.

**Q7. -----**

**Ans7:** Grave goods tell us about the dead person that whether he was rich or a poor person.

### Exercise - B

**Q1. -----**

**Ans1: Composition and functions of the sabha and the samiti in the Rigvedic period.**

**Composition of the sabha-** It consisted of a small committee of selected village elders.

**Composition of the samiti-** It was the general assembly.

**Functions of the sabha and the samiti-**

There were two assemblies that gave advice to the Rajan on important matters of the village.

**Q2: How did the methods of religious worship change from Early Vedic period to the Later Vedic period ?**

**Ans2: The important Early Vedic gods lost their importance. They were replaced by Prajapati (Brahma) the creator, Vishnu the preserver and Shiva the destroyer. Hinduism took shape in this period. Sacrifice assumed great importance, and religious worship became very complex.**

**Q3: How did the people of Inamgaon dispose of their dead?**

**Ans3: The people of Inamgaon disposed off their dead bodies by burying them in pits in the floor of the house itself.**

Dead adults were buried directly in the pits but a dead child was buried in a container made up of two urns placed horizontally.

**Exercise - C**

**Q1: How many castes were there in Early Vedic society? Name them and explain their social functions.**

**Ans: There were four types of castes in Early Vedic society.  
They were:**

**a. Brahmans :**

**They were priests. They looked after the religious matters and special prayers.**

**b. Kshatriyas:**

**They were kings and warriors, who protected the tribe from harm.**

**c. Vaishyas:**

**They were farmers and craftsmen.**

**d. Shudras:**

**They did small chores of the higher castes people.**

**Q2: Compare the position of the king in the Early Vedic Age and Later Vedic Age.**

**Ans: Position of the king:**

| <b>Early Vedic Age</b>  | <b>Later Vedic Age</b>   |
|---|--|
| <b>1) The chief of the tribe was called rajan.</b>                  | <b>1) The chief or the rajan was called king now.</b>            |
| <b>2) He ruled over a tribe.</b>                                    | <b>2) He ruled over a kingdom.</b>                               |
| <b>3) Rajan was chosen by samiti.</b>                               | <b>3)The king's son inherited the kingdom.</b>                   |
| <b>4) He offered prayers and sacrifices on behalf of his tribe.</b> | <b>4)He performed sacrifices and rituals to gain more power.</b> |

