

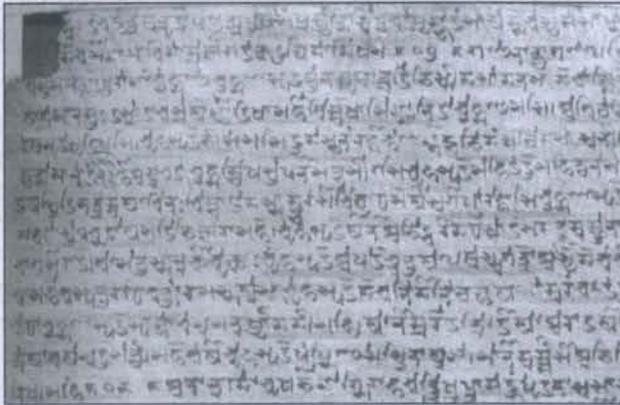
Lesson at a Glance

- There are four **Vedas**:

- (i) Rigveda (ii) Samaveda
- (iii) Yajurveda (iv) Atharvaveda.

The oldest one is the Rigveda (3500 years ago). It contains over a thousand hymns ("Suktas"). The Vedas are religious texts of **Hinduism**. The hymns were composed by rishis and students memorised them. The Rigveda has been written in old (Vedic) Sanskrit.

- The Vedas were written down much later. Students learnt the hymns and passed it on to other generations by memorising and not writing.



The Manuscript of Rigveda

- Rigveda** contains prayers for cattle, children and horses. Wealth was distributed among the leaders, priests and other people, according to the Rigveda. 'Yajnas' were performed. Most men took part in wars.
- The Rigveda divides people in two groups on the basis of their work : the 'brahmins' and the 'rajas'. People or the community as a whole have been referred to as 'jana' or 'vish'. The composers of hymns called themselves 'Aryas', and their opponents 'Dasas'/'Dasyus'.

- Stone boulders as the one in figure are called **Megaliths**.



Megalith

They were used to mark burial sites. This practice was used in the Deccan and Kashmir. Some megaliths are on the surface and some are underground.

- The dead were buried with distinctive pots, which are called **Black and Red Ware**.
- People were buried along with several objects. The objects chosen probably depended upon the status of the person dead.
- Families were usually buried together.
- In Inamgaon, people were buried with their head towards north. Vessels containing food and water were placed with them.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

Let's Recall

9. 1. Match the columns:

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

- Ans.
- | | | |
|----------|---|-----------------|
| 'Sukta' | — | Well-said |
| Chariots | — | Used in battles |
| 'Yajna' | — | Sacrifice |

'Dasa'	—	Slave
Megalith	—	Stone-boulder

9. 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

- Ans.** (a) Work
 (b) South India, north-east and Kashmir
 (c) indicate the exact place of burial
 (d) burying the other member of the same family at the same place
 (e) wheat, barley, rice, pulses, millets, peas, sesame, etc.

Let's Discuss

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

Ans. The most important points of difference between the Rigveda and the modern books is that today books are written and read. The Vedas, instead, were memorised by students, and later passed on to the later generations by speaking, listening and then memorising.

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

Ans. The objects found in graves are usually different. Some skeletons were buried with a great number of pots, while some with just a few of them. Archaeologists have thus concluded that people were buried with objects depending upon their status.

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

Ans. In the society, 'raja' was one of the highest civil positions. 'Rajas' were the kings of the community, whereas the 'dasas'/'dasis' were the lowest position in society. The 'dasas'/'dasis' were slaves who were used for work. They were treated as the property of their owners. They were captured in war.

Let's Do

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

Ans. Do yourself with the help of your subject-teacher and school librarian. A sample set of five such books:

- (a) The Mahabharata
 (b) The Ramayana
 (c) The Bible
 (d) The Bhagwad Gita
 (e) The Quran

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

Ans. Do yourself.

9. 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

Ans. Do yourself.