

12

Buildings, Paintings
and Books

Lesson at a Glance

- The famous **Iron Pillar** at Mehrauli in Delhi is a remarkable example of the skill and art of the Indian crafts people.
- The pillar was made about 1500 years ago.
- The buildings such as stupas and temples also show the skill of country's crafts persons. These buildings were made of brick and stone.
- The great **stupa** at Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh, was built over several centuries.
- Amaravati was also a place where a magnificent stupa once existed.
- Some finest stone temples were built in towns like Mahabalipuram and Aihole.
- Building stupas and temples was an expensive affair. Therefore, only Kings and queens decided to build them. They spent money from their treasury to pay the crafts people who worked to build these splendid buildings.
- The **paintings of Ajanta** are world famous. This is a place where several caves were hollowed out of the hills over centuries. Most of these were **monasteries** and some of them were decorated with paintings.
- Some best-known **epics** were written during this period. For example—the Silappadikaram and the Manimekalai. These were Tamil epics written by Ilango and Sattanar respectively.
- Writers like **Kalidasa** wrote in Sanskrit. His best-known poem is the **Meghaduta**.
- The **puranas** which contained religious stories were also written during this time. These were written in simple Sanskrit verse and were meant to be heard by everybody including women and **shudras**.
- The **Mahabharata** and **Ramayana**, famous epics in Sanskrit had been popular for a long time.
- The Mahabharata is about a war fought between the Kauravas and Pandavas, who were cousins.

- The Ramayana is about Rama, who was the prince of Kosala but was sent into exile for fourteen years.
- The **Jatakas** were collections of stories which were told by ordinary people.
- Books on science were also written during this period. **Aryabhatta**, a mathematician and astronomer wrote a book in Sanskrit called Aryabhatiyam. He stated that day and night were caused by the rotation of the earth on its axis. He also developed a scientific explanation for eclipses.

■ TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED ■

Let's Recall

Q. 1. Match the following:

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Stupa | Place where the image of the deity is installed |
| Shikhara | Mound |
| Mandapa | Circular path around the Stupa |
| Garbhagriha | Place in temples where people could assemble |
| Pradakshina path | Tower |

Ans.

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Stupa | Mound |
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Q. 2. Fill in the blanks:

- was a great astronomer.
- Stories about gods and goddesses are found in the
- is recognised as the author of the Sanskrit Ramayana.
- and are two Tamil epics.

- Ans. (i) Aryabhatta, (ii) Puranas, (iii) Valmiki, (iv) Silappadikaram, Manimekalai.

Let's Discuss

- Q. 3.** Make a list of the chapters in which you find mention of metal working. What are the metal objects mentioned or shown in those chapters?

Ans.

| A list of the chapters in which we find mention of metal working | Name of the metal objects mentioned in the chapters |
|--|---|
| In the Earliest Cities | Copper, gold, silver |
| What Books and Burials Tell Us | Iron, gold |

- Q. 4.** Read the story on page 130. In what ways is the monkey king similar to or different from the kings you read about in Chapters 6 and 11?

Ans. The monkey king in the story on page 130 is similar to the kings mentioned in chapters 6 and 11. The monkey king like the other kings has a huge army.

He himself is wise, diplomatic and brave. He has the virtue of taking right moment. When he observes the situation of the attack on his community by the king's men, he makes a quick plan to save his army. First, he let all of them cross the river. As he is the last, he gets tired and exhausted, he falls down and is dead. In this way, he sacrifices his life for the safety of his kingdom. This is the supreme virtue of a king. So, he is in no way different from the other human kings.

- Q. 5.** Find out more and tell a story from one of the epics.

Ans. We have a number of stories in our epics which inspire us in many ways. They guide us and teach us the ideals of life. Such epics are the Mahabharata and Ramayana. In the Mahabharata, we have one such story. The battle was finalised between Kauravas and Pandavas. Both the parties were making efforts to win the favour of their relatives and other king. Krishna who was related to both was considered as a super man, possessing the qualities of gods. So, Duryodhana, the eldest of the Kauravas approached him. On the same day Arjuna, one of the

five Pandavas, also went to Krishna. Duryodhana was a proud fellow. He sat on the head-side of Krishna who was sleeping at that time. Arjuna, a humble fellow, reached there after Duryodhana. But he sat at the feet side of Krishna and began pressing his feet. As Krishna opened his eyes, he saw Arjuna. Krishna had already promised them that he would be from the side of the man who would reach him first. As Krishna saw Arjuna first he said that he would be in favour of Arjuna. Duryodhana opposed it because he had reached there first. Krishna said that those who want to get something from anyone then should be humble and courteous. Here, Duryodhana lost Krishna. We learn from this story that we should not show our arrogance to those from whom we ask for something.

Let's Do

- Q. 6.** List some steps that can be taken to make buildings and monuments accessible to differently abled people.

Ans.

- Buildings and monuments should be provided with the facility of ramps.
- There should be slope-way with proper railings so that wheel chairs can be used easily.
- A separate entry should be created for these type of people with proper space and light.

- Q. 7.** Try and list as many uses of paper as you can.

Ans. Paper is very valuable. It is used in many different ways. Some of its uses are given below:

- The books that we read are printed on paper.
- We use paper for writing.
- Paper is used for preparing packaging material.
- Paper is used for making game items such as kite.
- Artificial bouquets are made of paper.

Q. 8. *If you could visit any one of the places described in this chapter, which would you choose and why?*

Ans. I would like to visit Mehrauli, Delhi where we can see the Iron Pillar. It is a remarkable evidence of the skill of Indian craftsmen. I am curious to see the pillar because it has not yet been rusted even after such a long time since its origin. It would also be convenient for me to visit Qutub Minar which surrounds it. The Qutub Minar is really a great monument. It would be a nice moment for me to visit Mehrauli.

