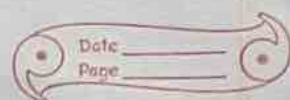


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# The Mauryan Empire

## Q / Ans

Q1. Name any two sources to reconstruct the Age of the Mauryas.

Ans. Two sources to reconstruct the Age of Mauryans are -:

1. Indica: Indica was written by Megasthenes the Great Greek ambassador to Pataliputra. From his book we get to know about a lot of information about i) organisation of the Mauryan army, ii) administration of Pataliputra, iii) growth in the ~~so~~ economy, ~~espe~~ especially agriculture and iv) the ~~most~~ customs and religion of the people.
2. Ashokan Edicts: Ashokan edicts can be broadly divided into two classes i.e. those engraved on Rocks and those incised on Pillars or stone. They are the most reliable source of information for Mauryan history, because they are best preserved and also bear the year of Ashokan ~~big~~ reign.

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Q2. What is the stupa? Name one stupa built by Ashoka

ans. A stupa is a dome like structure made of stone or bricks. The purpose of a stupa was to commemorate a sacred spot or a particular event or to enshrine the relics of Buddha or those of a Buddhist saint. Sanchi Stupa was made by Ashoka.

Q3. What change did the Kalinga War bring about in Ashoka's life?

ans. The Kalinga War was the turning point of Ashoka's life. All the misery and bloodshed awakened in his heart the feelings of profound sorrow and regret. From that time onwards Ashoka preached nothing, but peace. He became follower of Lord Buddha and employed his unlimited power and resources in the teachings and propagation of Dhamma.

Q4. What does Megasthenes' Indica tell us about the king's life?

ans.

Q4. Mention any two principles of Ashoka's Dhamma.

ans. Two principles of Ashoka's Dhamma are.

- i) Purity of domestic life and truthfulness
- ii) Ahimsa i.e. sanctity of life.

Q5. Identify the picture given below and answer the following questions: in the book

a) When and by whom was the Original stupa built? The picture is of Sanchi Stupa.

a. When and by whom was the Original Stupa built?

ans. The Sanchi Stupa was built in 3rd Century BC by Ashoka.

b. Which Dynasty enlarged it?

ans. Sunga dynasty enlarged it.

c. Mention two important features of the stupa.

- ans: i) The ~~ste~~ stupa is a semi dome-like structure made of stone or bricks. The Buddhist stupa has special significance. It represents contains a relics of Buddha such as his hair, teeth, or bones.
- ii)

d. What events are depicted on the panel of the Gateway?

- ans. i) The Gate ways of the ~~st~~ Stupa are covered with magnificent sculptures which depict episodes from Buddha.
- ii) Buddha was represented in symbolic form <sup>like</sup> that of a wheel or a lotus or a throne under a pipal tree.

Q5. What does ~~me~~ Megasthenes Indica tells us about King life?

- ans. ~~Megas~~ According to Megasthenes Indica, The King was a very hardworking official, who does not sleep in day time for ~~the~~

but remains in the court the whole day

*sh*