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The Sangam Age

1. Name the oldest language of South India.

ans. Tamil

2. What is known as Sangam literature?

ans. The word Sangam means Assembly. According to early traditions, three Sangams or Assemblies of literary men were held at Madurai; the centre of great liter. literary activity in the Tamil Country.

3. Name any two literary sources to reconstruct history of the Sangam age.

ans. Two liter. literary sources to reconstruct history of the Sangam age are

i) Tirukural

ii) Epics and other works such as Silappadikaram and Manimekalai.

4. How do Megasthenes suggest that people of Southern India in those times had become familiar with iron?

an. The megaliths not only contained the skeletons of people who were buried. Iron tools, arrows, pottery and fragments of ^{or} other things were buried. Arrow-head spearheads and sickles all made of iron & shows that southern India became familiar with iron.

5. Name the two agricultural products during the sangam age.

Jack fruit and pepper

6. Name two prominent ports on India's western coast during sangam age.

an. The ports of Nelcynda and Naurai are among the most prominent ports during sangam age.

7. Name the two items of trade referred to in the Tamil literature of the sangam age.

an. Spices and sandalwood

Q8 Describe the social conditions that Sangam literature suggests with reference to

a) Institution of Marriage

Marriage was an important religious ceremony, accompanied by many rituals. The Tamils had a relatively simple conception of marriage. They regarded it as "the natural coming together of men and women, mainly due to their physical differences."

b) Position of women.

Though women got good education, their status in society was not equal to that of men. They did not have the right to inherit property. There was asceticism among women. The

Q9. The Sangam literature gives a complete and true picture of economic conditions of the Sangam age. Describe economic life of the people with reference to:

a) Agriculture

It was the main occupation of a large section of the people.

- Land was held by individuals as well as by the state. The
- The land was fertile and there ~~was~~ was plenty of grain, meat and fish.
- The rich did not plough the fields themselves. They hired labourers to do this job.

6) Trade

- The rulers had big income from trade transactions.
- A large number of crafts and occupation are referred to in Sangam literature.
- The Tamil literature refers to items of trade trade like, spices, sandalwood, pearls, sea products, semi-precious stones and textiles of various type.

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