

Ch.What Books and Burials Tell Us

Burial Spots of Families: Some burial chambers have more than one skeleton, probably meaning that one chamber was used for many members of the same family. A hole in the wall allowed the chamber to be used over and over again. The burial sites were marked by stones.

Battles: Rig Veda tells us about battles fought for land and cattle. People met in assemblies and discussed war and peace. Wealth obtained thereafter was distributed amongst the leaders, priests and people.

Vedas: Initially, the Rigveda was not in written form, but was passed on orally. Knowledge passed on in this way is known as 'Shruti'. The Vedic teachers took great care to teach students to pronounce words and memorise hymns correctly.

Sanskrit and Other Languages: Scholars have discovered many similarities between Sanskrit and European languages such as Latin, English and German. Historians came to the conclusion that Sanskrit belongs to the Indo-European group of languages. Other languages like Hindi, Kashmiri, Sindhi, etc. also belong to the same group.

Skeleton Studies: Study of the bone structure helps to differentiate between male and female skeletons. The hip or the pelvic area of a woman is generally larger than a man.

Special Burial at Inamgaon: We find burials dated back to 3600 and 2700 years ago. Adults were generally buried in the ground. Special mention may be made of a man who was found buried in a large, four-legged clay jar in the courtyard of a five-roomed house.

Writing Evidence: First evidence of writing in China was found 3500 years ago. These writings were on animal bones and were called oracle bones. However, the Chinese did not know the use of iron.

Other languages: Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam belong to the Dravidian family and the languages spoken in Jharkhand and parts of Central India belong to the Austro-Asiatic family.

Megaliths: These literally mean big stones, which were used by early men to spot burial sites.

There are four Vedas:

Rigveda

Samaveda

Yajurveda

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.

Read the above passage throughly and try to understand and give the answer of the following question :

1. Write the name of four Vedas.
2. Which is the oldest Veda and When was Composed?
3. Write the Dravidian family Language.
4. What is the Shruti?

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