

Name: _____ Date: _____

Kingdoms, Kings and an Early Republic

Q1. What are the different roles of different people during Ashvamedha Yagya?

Ans.

Q2. How were taxes collected by the rulers of Mahajanapadas?

Ans.

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Q1. What are the different roles of different people during Ashvamedha Yagya?

Ans. The raja was a central figure in these rituals. He often had a special seat, a throne or a tiger skin. His charioteer, who was his companion in the battle field and witnessed his exploits, chanted tales of his glory. His relatives, especially his wives and sons, had to perform a variety of minor rituals. The other rajas were simply spectators who had to sit and watch the performance of the sacrifice. Priests performed the rituals including the sprinkling of sacred water on the king. The ordinary people, the vish or vaishya, also brought gifts. However, some people, such as those who were regarded as shudras by the priests, were excluded from many rituals.

Q2. How were taxes collected by the rulers of Mahajanapadas?

Ans. Taxes were collected in the following ways:

- i. Taxes on crops were the most important. This was because most people were farmers. Usually, the tax was fixed at 1/6th of what was produced. This was known as bhaga or a share.
- ii. There were taxes on crafts persons as well. These could have been in the form of labour.
- iii. Herders were also expected to pay taxes in the form of animals and animal produce.
- iv. There were also taxes on goods that were bought and sold, through trade.
- v. And hunters and gatherers also had to provide forest produce to the raja.