

**Chapter 6**

**Kingdoms, Kings and an Early Republic**

Questions1. What was Ashvamedha?  
Ans. Horse sacrifice.

Questions2. What was indicated if a Raja let the horse pass?

Ans. It meant that the Raja to whom the horse belonged is stronger than them.

Questions3. What happened when horse was stopped by some other Raja?  
Ans. Then both Rajas had to fight for the sacrifice.

Questions4. Was everybody invited in the ceremony of sacrifice?  
Ans. Yes, but Shudras were excluded in some rituals.

Questions5. What does janapada mean?

Ans. The land where jana set its foot and settled down.

Questions6. The rajas who performed these big sacrifices were called \_\_\_\_\_\_.

Ans. They were called *rajas of janapada.*

Questions7. Which crops were found in janapadas?  
Ans. Rice, wheat, barley, pulses, sugarcane, sesame and mustard.

Questions8. What was the exclusive pottery found there?  
Ans. Painted Grey Ware (grey pots had painted design)

Questions9. What fortified means?  
Ans. It means that huge walls of wood, brick and stone were built around them.

Questions10. Who are mahajanapadas?

Ans. Some janapadas became more important than others, they were called mahajanapadas.

Questions11. How were mahajanapadas different from janapadas?  
Ans. Most mahajanapadas had a capital city.

Questions12. What did fort signify?  
Ans. Fort was a way to protect the kingdom by other rulers. Some rulers also used it to show how rich they were.

Questions13. Who initiated the process of taxation?  
Ans. Mahajanapadas.

Questions14. On what all things and people was tax imposed?  
Ans. 1. Crops – 1/6th of what was produced, called bhaga.

2. Craft persons.

3. Herders.

4. On goods that were traded.

5. Hunters and gatherers.

Questions15. What were the changed in agriculture?  
Ans. Iron ploughshare – to turn over the heavy and clayey soil better.

Transplanting paddy – production was increased.

Questions16. Who had to work in farms?  
Ans. Slave men and women (Dasas and Dasais) and landless agricultural laborers (kammakaras)

Questions17. Which rivers flowed through Magadha?  
Ans. The Ganga and Sons.

Questions18. Why was the flow of river important?  
Ans. Transport, water supply and soil fertility.

Questions19. Name the powerful rulers of Magadh.  
Ans. Bimbisara, Ajatasattu and Mahapadma Nanda

Questions20. Which area was conquered by Mahapadma Nanda?  
Ans. He extended his control up to north-west part of subcontinent.

Questions21. What was the capital of Magadh?  
Ans. Rajagriha (now Rajgir) in Bihar. Then it was shifted to Pataliputra (now Patna).

Questions22. Could Alexander enter the country, 2300 years ago?  
Ans. No, his army feared Indian rulers’ army.

Questions23. What is ‘gana’ or ‘sangha’?

Ans. It’s a form of government with multiple rulers.

Questions24. What was the capital of Vajji?  
Ans. Vaishali (Bihar)

Questions25. Which density conquered the last of the ganas or sanghas?  
Ans. The Gupta rulers.