



Chapter 5: The Rise of Empires

Questions and Activities

Que 1. What are the features of an empire, and how is it different from a kingdom? Explain.

Answer: The characteristics of the empire are as follows:

1. Many kingdoms and kings are controlled by one monarch.
2. There is a system of officials and administration to run the government.
3. Laws, currency, weights and measures and trade are regulated.
4. Resources such as minerals, forests, agriculture and manpower are controlled.
5. Art, literature, religion and education are patronized.
6. The army is kept to protect and expand the empire.

Difference Between State and Empire

kingdom	empire
Rules over a small area.	Rules over many states and large territories.
There is a king or a ruler.	There can be many kings under one emperor.
Administration is relatively simple.	The administration is more detailed and organized.
Resources and power are limited.	Resources and power are high.

Conclusion: An empire is a large political organization of many states, while a state is relatively small and with a limited area.

Que 2. What are some important factors for the transition from kingdoms to empires?

Answer:

- Leadership of powerful and efficient rulers.
- Building a strong army.
- Development of agriculture and trade.
- Effective system of tax collection.
- Conquest of new territories.
- Better administrative system.

Que 3. Alexander is considered an important king in the history of the world —why do you think that is so?

Answer:

- Alexander was a great conqueror and commander.
- He established a huge empire at an early age.
- His conquests extended from Greece to India.
- He increased contact between different cultures.
- His military strategies are still a subject of study today.

Que 4. In early Indian history, the Mauryas are considered important. State your reasons.

Answer:

- The Maurya dynasty established the first vast empire of India.
- Chandragupta Maurya established a powerful rule.
- A scholar like Kautilya strengthened the administration.
- Ashoka preached peace, non-violence and Dhamma.
- Trade, art and administration flourished during the Mauryan period.

Que 5. What were some of Kautilya's key ideas? Which ones of these can you observe even today in the world around us?

Answer:

Key Ideas of Kautilya:

- The main objective of the state should be the welfare of the people.
- Strong administration and military are essential.
- The tax system should be streamlined.
- It is the duty of the state to maintain law and order.

Ideas that still appear today:

- Arrangement of tax collection.
- Appointment of Administrative Officers.
- Army for National Security.
- Public welfare schemes.

Que 6. What were the unusual things about Ashoka and his empire? What of that has continued to influence India and why? Write your opinion in about 250 words.

Answer: Ashoka was a great ruler of the Maurya dynasty. After the Kalinga war, he left the path of violence and adopted the path of peace and non-violence. It was the most extraordinary event of his life. He propagated Dhamma in his empire, which aimed to increase morality, tolerance and goodwill among the people.

Ashoka built roads, wells, rest houses and medical facilities. He carved his thoughts on inscriptions and columns so that his messages could reach the masses. He respected all religions and promoted religious tolerance.

Even today, many of Ashoka's ideas influence India. The national emblem of India is the Ashoka Pillar of Sarnath and the Ashoka Chakra is inscribed in the national flag. Religious tolerance, peace and respect for all religions are important values of the Indian Constitution and democracy.

Ashoka's life teaches us that the best use of power should be for the welfare of the people and for the establishment of peace in the society. This is the reason why Ashoka is still counted among the greatest rulers in Indian history.

Que 7. Thus speaks the Beloved of the Gods, the king Piyadasi: My officers of Dhamma are busy in many matters of public benefit, they are busy among members of all sects, both ascetics and householders. I have appointed some to concern themselves with the Buddhist Order, with Brahmins and Ājīvika..., with

the Jains..., and with various sects. There are many categories of officers with a variety of duties, but my officers of Dhamma are busy with the affairs of these and other sects.

After reading the above edict of Aśhoka, do you think he was tolerant towards other religious beliefs and schools of thought? Share your opinion in the classroom.

Answer: Yes, I think Ashoka was tolerant of other religious beliefs and ideologies.

Causes:

- He respected various sects such as Buddhists, Brahmins, Jains and Ajivikas.
- He appointed officers for the welfare of all religions.
- He promoted religious harmony and mutual respect.
- His inscriptions are a clear testimony to religious tolerance.

Que 8. The Brahmi script was a writing system that was widely used in ancient India. Try to learn more about this script, taking help from your teacher wherever required. Create a small project and include what you have learnt about Brahmi.

Answer:

Mini-Project : Brahmi Script

Introduction:

- Brahmi was one of the oldest scripts in India.
- It was used since the third century BC.

Features:

- Most of Ashoka's inscriptions are inscribed in the Brahmi script.
- It was written from left to right.
- Many Indian scripts, including modern Devanagari, evolved from Brahmi.

Significance:

- It helps to understand ancient Indian history.
- Useful in reading inscriptions and inscriptions.

Conclusion:

- The Brahmi script is an important part of the Indian cultural heritage.

Que 9. Suppose you had to travel from Kauśhāmbī to Kāveripattanam in the 3rd century BCE. How would you undertake this journey, and how long would you expect it to take, with reasonable halts on the way?

Answer:

- I will mainly use the land route and the river route.
- I will travel by bullock cart, horse or foot.
- During the trip, I will stay in major cities and business centers.
- Possible Stops: Vidisha, Ujjain, Pratishtan and other cities in South India.
- I will use rest houses and trading centers on the way.
- Modes of transportation were limited at that time, so the journey could take about one to two months.

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