

G.D.GOENKA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Subject: S.St

(History)

Topic: Early Kingdoms

Date:26-10-2021 (Tuesday)

Grade VI

This material is not to be printed.

SOCIETY

The people were grouped into Varnas. There were four Varnas;

1. Brahmins
2. Kshatriyas
3. Vaishyas
4. Shudras



BRAHMANA



KSHATRIYA



VAISHYA



SHUDRA

These Varnas were decided on the basis of birth .This means that if a person was born in a Brahmin family,that person would automatically become a Brahmin.

People of different Varnas performed different tasks.The Brahmins were expected to teach the Vedas and perform religious rituals and sacrifices.

The Kshatriyas were warriors and fought wars.

The Vaishyas were involved in trade and agriculture.

Only the first three Varnas could study the Vedas and perform sacrifices.

The Shudras had to serve the other three groups.

In addition,there was another group of people-the untouchables,who were even lower in social rank than the Shudras.

MAGADHA

It was a monarchy ruled by a king.During this period,it was the most powerful mahajanapada.This was due to many factors;

- **Magadha was located in the Gangetic basin,where the soil was very fertile and yielded good harvests.Land tax was high and it provided a large income for the kingdom.This enabled the kings to maintain a large army.**
- **The forests provided Magadha with timber and elephants.Timber was used to build houses ,forts and chariots.Elephants were used in the army.**
- **Magadha had large deposits of iron ore.Iron was used to make agricultural implements,tools and weapons of war.**
- **Magadha was protected by nature.The old capital of Rajagriha was surrounded by hills on all sides.The new capital,Pataliputra was situated along River Ganga.These were natural barriers against any attack on the kingdom.**
- **Magadha had a flourishing trade trade with other regions.Profits from trade also helped the King to maintain a large army.**
- **Magadha was ruled by very powerful kings by very powerful kings such as Bimbisara,Ajatashatru and Mahapadma Nanda.They were always trying to expand their territories.**

Magadha remained powerful for hundreds of years.The Shishunaga and the Nanda kings made the kingdoms strong.It continued to remain powerful under the rule of the Mauryan kings.