

Chapter-8

classmate

Date _____

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23.09.20 The Epics of India.

1 Name the two great epics of India. Who were they composed by?

Ans The two great epics of India are Ramayana and Mahabharata. Ramayana was composed by Valmiki and Mahabharata was composed by sage Vyasa.

2 Why was Rama exiled from Ayodhya? Who went with him?

Ans Rama was the eldest son of King Dasharatha of Ayodhya and everyone thought that he would become the king of Ayodhya after his father. But Rama's step-mother Kaikeyi her own son, Bharata to be the next king. She made her husband send Rama out of the kingdom to live in the forest for fourteen years. Rama's wife Sita and his younger brother Lakshmana went with him.

3 Why did the Pandavas have to live in exile for thirteen years?

Ans Duryodhana, the eldest of the Kauravas invited Yudhishthira,

the eldest of the Pandavas for a game of dice. Duryodhana cheated and won each game while Yudhishthira lost over again and again. Each time he lost, he had to give the Kauravas something. In this way Yudhishthira had to give away his kingdom, his wealth, his brothers and even his wife, Draupadi. He lost everything and was banished along with his brothers, from the kingdom to live in exile for thirteen years.

Q4 How did the battle at Kurukshetra end?

Ans The battle at Kurukshetra went on for many days. Most of the Kauravas were killed but the end finally came when Bhima, the strongest of the Pandavas killed Duryodhana. Yudhishthira was crowned king and the Pandavas ruled over Hastinapura for many years.

Write Short Note on:-

a) The Bhagavad Gita - The Bhagavad Gita is the holy book of the Hindus. It is a section from the Mahabharata where Krishna explains to Arjuna, the difference good and evil and the importance of being a good human being and doing one's duties.

b) The coming of the Aryans - Around 1900 BC a group of people came into India from Central Asia. They were called Aryans. The Aryans first settled on the banks of the river Indus and over hundreds of years, they spread out eastwards across the Ganga Plains. By 600 BC, there were several powerful kingdoms ruled by the Aryans in India.