

Comprehension Workbook 2

Rig Veda

(Sacred Hymns)

सति॥ अग्निना॥ रुपा॥ उ॥ वत॥ पा॥ व॥ ए॥ व॥ ग॥ र॥ दे॥ वे॥ ग॥ य॥
 वी॥ र॥ व॥ त॥ म॥ अ॥ ग्ने॥ य॥ यु॥ स॥ अ॥ अ॥ र॥ वि॥ श्व॥ त॥ परि॥ अ॥ अ॥ ति॥ स॥ इ॥ त॥ दे॥ वे॥ पु॥ ग॥
 छ॥ ति॥ अ॥ ग्नि॥ ल॥ ता॥ क॥ वि॥ ऋ॥ तु॥ स॥ त॥ चि॥ त्र॥ अ॥ व॥ र॥ त॥ म॥ दे॥ व॥ दे॥ वे॥ आ॥ ग॥ म॥ भि॥
 त॥ १॥ य॥ त॥ अ॥ ग॥ रा॥ शु॥ र्भ॥ त॥ अ॥ ग्ने॥ अ॥ इ॥ क॥ रि॥ व्य॥ सि॥ त॥ व॥ इ॥ त॥ त॥ व॥ स॥ अ॥ ग्नि॥
 र॥ उ॥ र्पा॥ त्वा॥ अ॥ ग्ने॥ दे॥ वे॥ दे॥ वे॥ दी॥ पा॥ त्वा॥ स्त॥ धि॥ या॥ व॥ य॥ न॥ न॥ म॥ अ॥ र॥ त॥ आ॥ इ॥ म॥ सि॥
 रा॥ ज॥ न॥ अ॥ अ॥ रा॥ णी॥ गो॥ पा॥ अ॥ त॥ स्य॥ दी॥ दि॥ वि॥ व॥ र्ध॥ मा॥ न॥ स्वे॥ ह॥ मे॥ स॥ न॥ पि॥ ता॥ इ॥ वा॥
 स॥ न॥ वे॥ अ॥ ग्ने॥ सु॥ उ॥ पा॥ य॥ न॥ भ॥ व॥ स॥ र्ब॥ स्वा॥ न॥ स्व॥ स्त॥ ये॥ २॥ गो॥ यो॥ इ॥ ति॥ आ॥ य॥ ग्नि॥

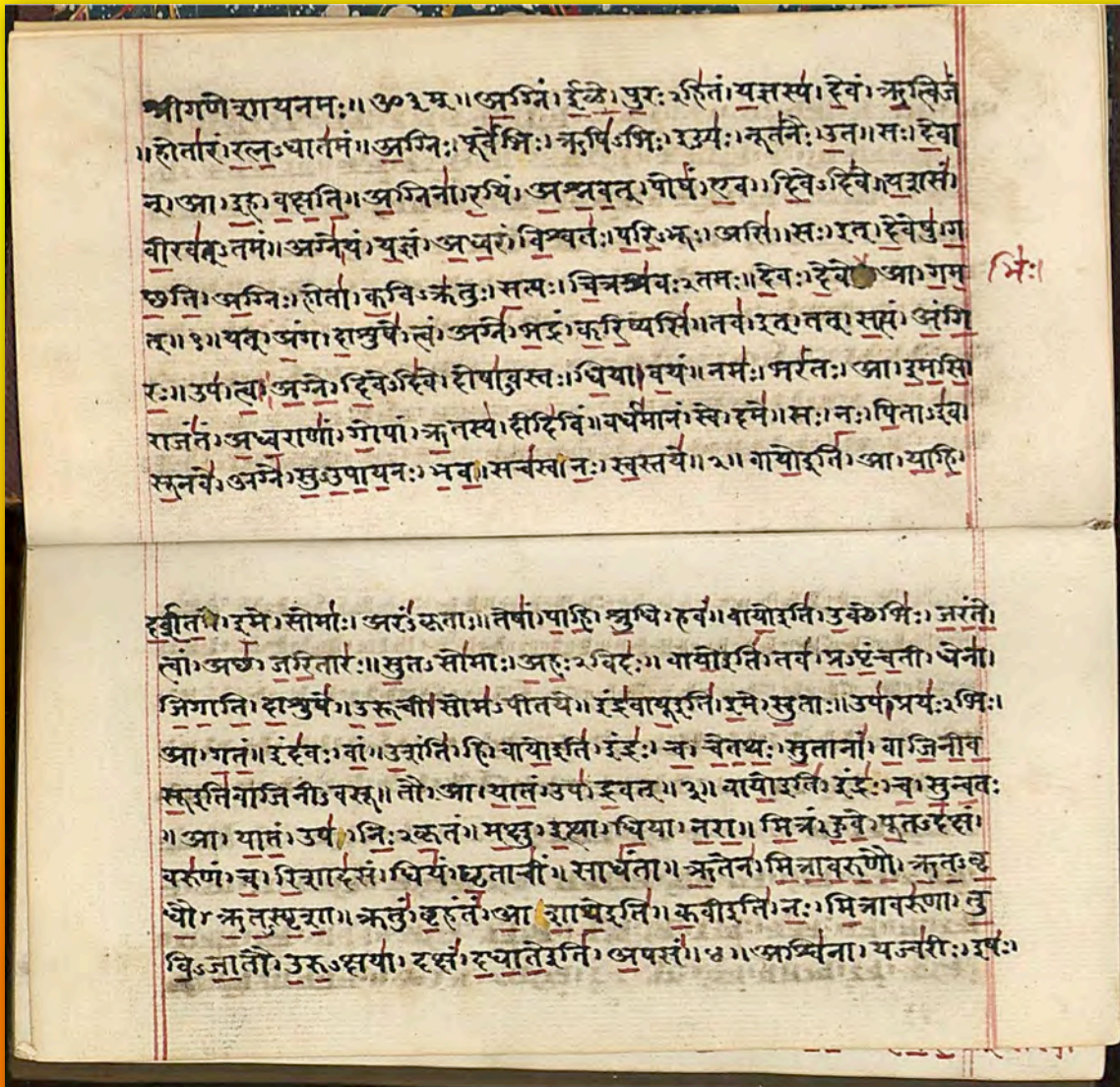
द॥ वी॥ त॥ इ॥ मे॥ सो॥ मा॥ अ॥ र॥ रु॥ ता॥ ति॥ षा॥ पा॥ हि॥ श्रु॥ चि॥ ह॥ व॥ वा॥ यो॥ इ॥ ति॥ उ॥ वे॥ ऋ॥ मि॥ ज॥ र॥ ते॥
 ता॥ अ॥ र॥ ज॥ र॥ तार॥ सु॥ त॥ सो॥ मा॥ अ॥ र॥ वि॥ र॥ वा॥ यो॥ इ॥ ति॥ त॥ व॥ प्र॥ र॥ च॥ त॥ ये॥ नी॥
 जि॥ ग॥ ति॥ रा॥ शु॥ र्भ॥ उ॥ रु॥ ची॥ सो॥ मा॥ पी॥ त॥ ये॥ इ॥ इ॥ वा॥ यो॥ इ॥ ति॥ इ॥ मे॥ सु॥ ता॥ उ॥ र्पा॥ प्र॥ य॥ ऋ॥ मि॥
 आ॥ ग॥ त॥ इ॥ दे॥ व॥ वा॥ उ॥ रा॥ न्ति॥ हि॥ वा॥ यो॥ इ॥ ति॥ इ॥ इ॥ वा॥ च॥ त॥ य॥ सु॥ ता॥ ना॥ गा॥ जि॥ नी॥ व॥
 स॥ त॥ ति॥ वा॥ यो॥ इ॥ ति॥ इ॥ इ॥ वा॥ च॥ त॥ य॥ सु॥ ता॥ ना॥ गा॥ जि॥ नी॥ व॥
 नि॥ इ॥ क॥ त॥ म॥ श्रु॥ इ॥ श्या॥ धि॥ या॥ न॥ रा॥ मि॥ त्र॥ इ॥ वे॥ प॥ त॥ इ॥ श॥
 धि॥ य॥ छ॥ ता॥ नी॥ सार्ध॥ ता॥ ऋ॥ ते॥ न॥ मि॥ त्रा॥ व॥ र॥ णो॥ न॥
 इ॥ क॥ ह॥ त॥ आ॥ रा॥ षे॥ इ॥ ति॥ क॥ वी॥ इ॥ ति॥ न॥ मि॥ त्र॥
 इ॥ श॥ इ॥ च॥ा॥ ते॥ इ॥ ति॥ अ॥ प॥ र॥ त॥ ४॥ अ॥ श्वि॥ ना॥

Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

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Rig Veda

(Sacred Hymns)



Find out about the meaning of stories and articles

Hindu faith

Matches the requirements of the Literacy Strategy and designed to integrate with the study of world religions. (This material is independent of any specific text book and can be used alongside any publisher's books including our Hindu Faith, Mandir, Hindu art and writing and Hindu holy days books.)

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Unit 2: Rig Veda

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Rig Veda

The Rig Veda is a collection of more than 1,000 hymns that tell the stories of the Hindu gods. The Rig Veda is more than 3,000 years old. Thousands of years ago, these hymns were one of the main ways that early Hindus praised the gods. The hymns are written as poems and can be said or chanted.

The Rig Veda hymn here is about the god Indra. Indra holds the earth and sky apart and is the god of thunderstorms, who prevents drought and darkness. At the time the Rig Veda was written, most people were farmers and all of society depended on there being enough rain. Many of the hymns in the Rig Veda are dedicated to Indra, so he was probably thought to be the most important god at the time the Vedas were written. The hymn also describes how Indra kills a serpent. This serpent was a demon who was blocking seven large rivers and causing a drought.

The one who is first and who had great wisdom when he was born;
the god who protects all the gods with strength; the one who is
strong enough to hold two worlds apart: he, O people, is Indra.

The one who made firm the quaking earth; the one who made fast
the shaking mountains; the one who measured out wide the
atmosphere; the one who held up heaven: he, O people, is Indra.

The one who killed the serpent to release the seven rivers; the one who drove out the water by destroying the mountain; the one who generates fire between two rocks, victor in battles: he, O people, is Indra.

The one who set all things in motion; the one who hides weak people from strong invaders; the one who, like a gambler who has won the stake, has taken the enemy's possessions: he, O people, is Indra.

The one who is the terrible one, about whom they ask "Where is he?" and they say of him, "He is not!" He took away the enemy's possessions. Put your faith in him: he, O people, is Indra.

The one who helps the weary and the weak, who helps the priest seeking aid; he is the one who helps him who works the stones, who presses the wine: he, O people, is Indra.

The one in whose control are horses, cows, villages, all chariots; the one who has caused to be born the sun, the dawn; the one who is the waters' leader: he, O people, is Indra.

The one without whom armies do not conquer; the one to whom, when fighting, armies call for help; the one who is a match for everyone; the one who shakes the unshakable: he, O people, is Indra.



Understanding words

Before we can understand a story we have to know what all of the words mean. Let's try one...

a Write a sentence in which you found the word 'drought'.

b From that sentence, write what you think 'drought' means.

c Write a new sentence using the word 'drought'.

d Use a dictionary to find words with a similar meaning (synonyms) to 'drought'.

e Draw a picture of what a 'drought' might look like.



Finding key words

Next, we need to find the key words that tell us what the story is about...

Read the story and underline the key words. Write the most important of these key words in a list like the one below. Write next to it a word that means a similar thing (a synonym). You don't have to use all the spaces, but you should not use more.

Key word	Synonym (similar word)
Example: quaking	trembling

3

Summarising

(the gist of the story)

To summarise means to rewrite the story in a shorter version using as many of our key words from Task 2 as needed.

1 Write a heading for your summary.

2 Now write the main idea in one sentence.
e.g. "This story tells us..."

3 Now add some detail to the main idea by writing more sentences after it.

**Finally,
can you rewrite your
summary to make it better?**

1. Look out for errors such as using the same word too often – use alternatives.
2. Make sure you have summarised the author's purpose in your OWN words.
3. Make sure your summary is in a logical order.
4. Is your summary informative AND interesting to others?

**There is
nothing wrong
with rewriting; even
the best authors
rewrite their
work.**

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4

Sequencing

Sequencing means getting the events in the right order. Write these sentences in the correct order, so they match the story.



The one who helps the weary and the weak.

The one who drove out the water by destroying the mountain.

The one who hides weak people from strong invaders.

The one in whose control are horses, cows, villages, all chariots.

The one who shakes the unshakable.

The one who is strong enough to hold two worlds apart.



Get to the facts

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the facts of the story.



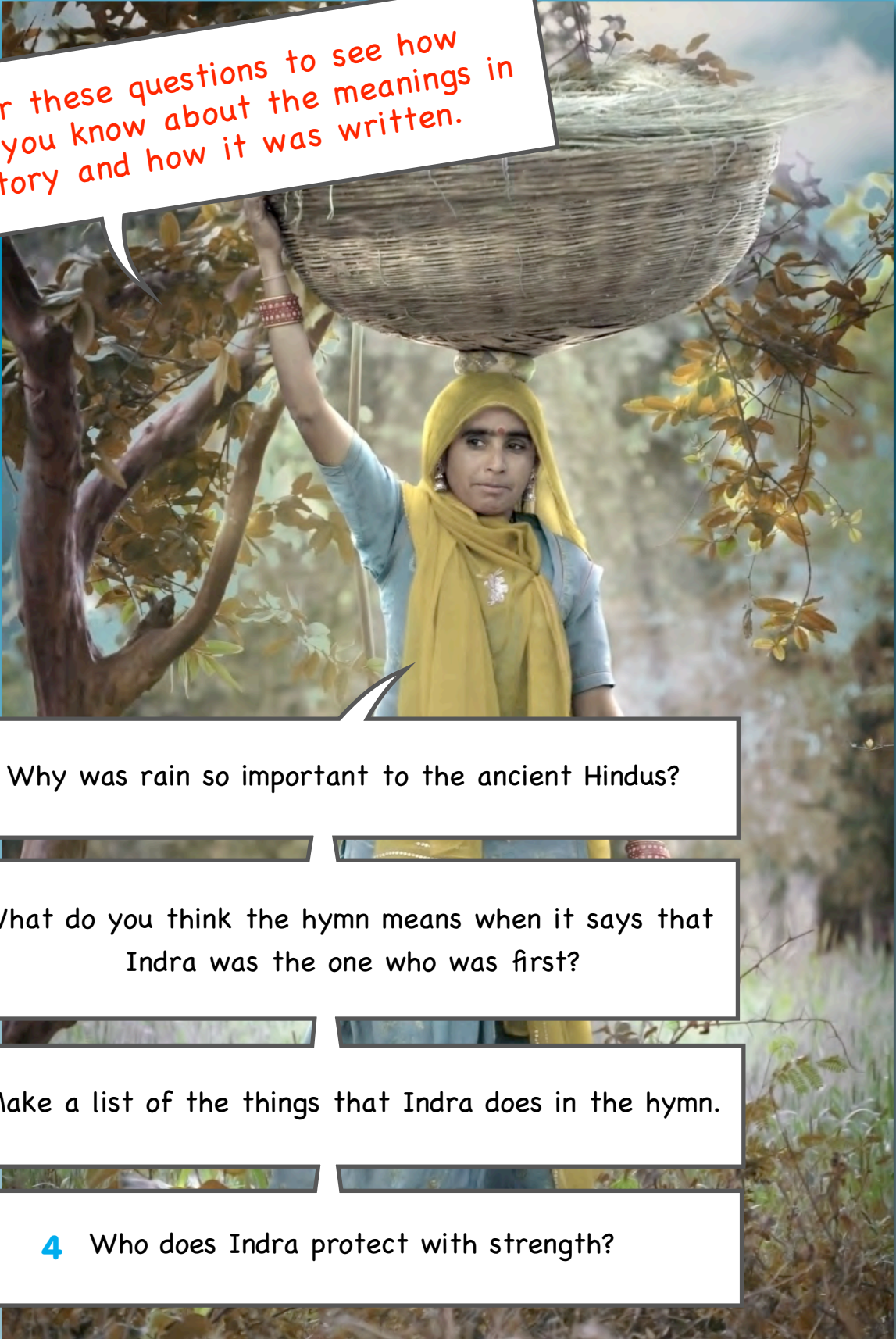
Write a sentence to answer each of these questions:

- (a) Around how old are the hymns in the Rig Veda?
- (b) In the second paragraph, how is Indra described?
- (c) How did Indra release the seven rivers?
- (d) How does Indra help weak people?
- (e) According to the hymn, when armies are fighting, who should they call to for help?



Whys and wherefores

Answer these questions to see how much you know about the meanings in the story and how it was written.



1 Why was rain so important to the ancient Hindus?

2 What do you think the hymn means when it says that Indra was the one who was first?

3 Make a list of the things that Indra does in the hymn.

4 Who does Indra protect with strength?



Opinions matter

Answer these questions to give your views and to develop the story.



1 What kinds of people does Indra help?

2 Why would Indra help those who work the stone and press the wine?
Why are these people important?

3 What does the hymn mean when it says Indra is the one who set all things in motion – what thing were set in motion?

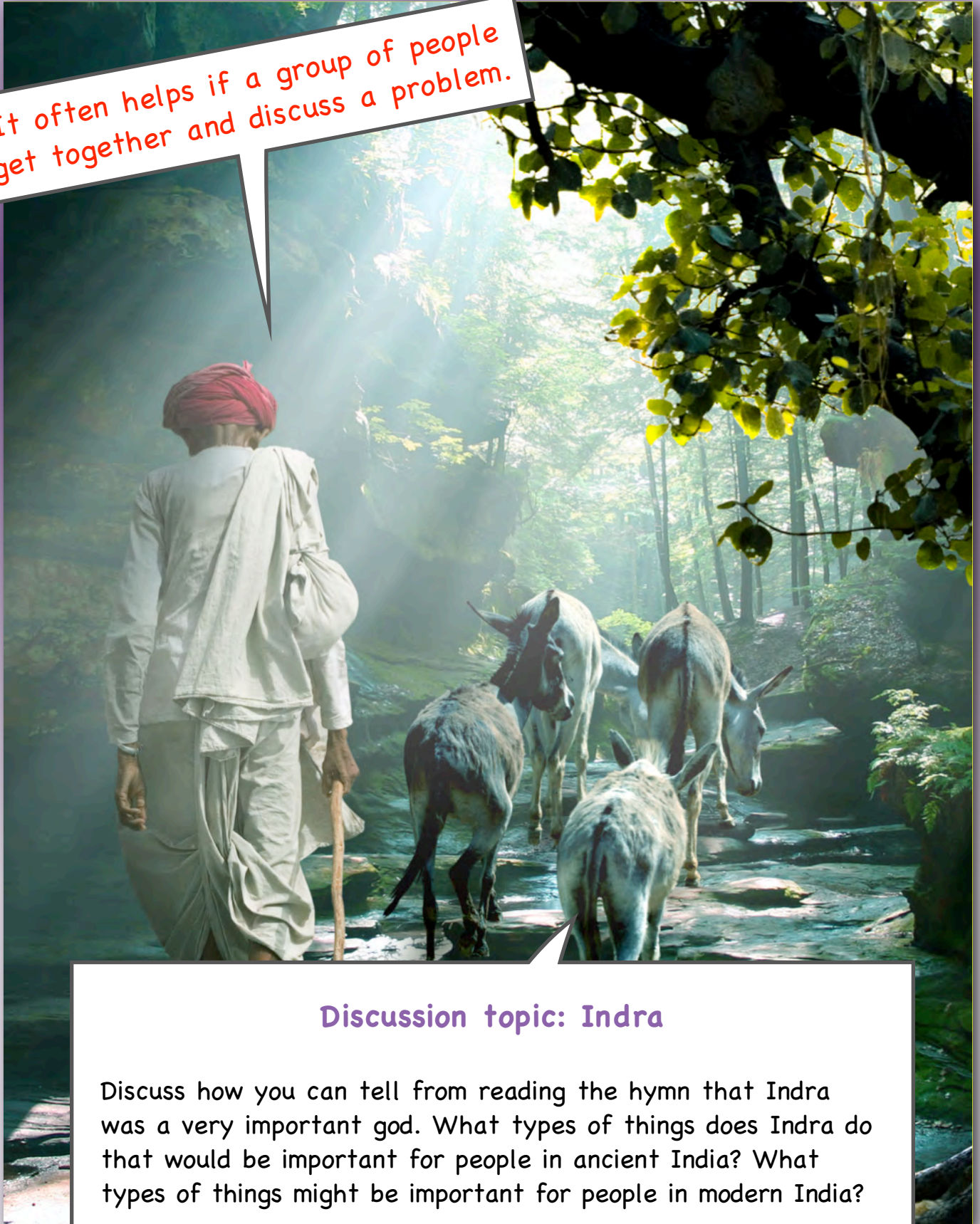
4 What is in the hymn that makes you think Indra is a very important god?

5 The hymn says that Indra generated fire between two rocks? What do you think this means?



Talking it through

It often helps if a group of people get together and discuss a problem.



Discussion topic: Indra

Discuss how you can tell from reading the hymn that Indra was a very important god. What types of things does Indra do that would be important for people in ancient India? What types of things might be important for people in modern India?



Make a story...

When you read a description it often gives you ideas about how the event might be described differently.



Make a Hymn

Write a hymn to Indra that includes things that might be more important for people living in modern times. Think about some of the problems that people have today. What do you think people would want from Indra today? What sorts of problems might they ask Indra to solve?

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