



## 1.2 Who's the Greatest

### Meanings:

patron of art and culture : a person who appreciates, supports and encourages art and culture

flog : beat someone hard, especially with a whip

agitated : disturbed

incur our displeasure : make me angry

in a proper fix : in a tight corner, in a difficult situation

vast: of very great size or area

empire: a group of people or nations under an emperor's rule.

generations: a group of people living at a particular time.

stunned: astonished, surprised, amazed

moustache: facial hair growing on between a man's upper lip and nose.

lashes: to strike or beat with a whip

whip: to beat with a belt, strap or thin object like a cane or rod

offending: action disliked by others

opinion: a personal view

favours: a kind act

compete: try to do better than the other

curious: eager to learn or know

banish: to expel or drive away someone from a country.

### POINTERS

1. Listen to the stories carefully, as your teacher reads them aloud. Note down the new words, ideas or concepts. Discuss them in the class.

2. Guess the meaning of the following words and phrases :

untold wealth -

closest to the Emperor's heart -

grave offence - serious crime

banish -

**3. Say with reasons, whether the following statements are true or false.**

- (a) Akbar wanted to punish the person who pulled his moustache.
- (b) Akbar thought he was greater than God.
- (c) Birbal thought Akbar was greater than God.

**4. Write a sentence each about three of your friends. Each time you should say what your friend cannot do, and yet, pay a compliment to your friend.**

**5. Write a short note on Emperor Akbar.**

**6. Convert the stories into dialogues and read the dialogues aloud in the class.**

**7. Form pairs and make a 'pair presentation' of any one of the two stories. To do so, each person presents only one sentence at a time, and the next one is immediately presented by the partner. Thus, each person in the pair presents alternate sentences without breaking the flow of the narration.**

**8. Find at least five other Akbar and Birbal stories and share them with your friends. Make a list of the stories collected by the entire class. Put your list in alphabetical order.**

**9. Visit a library : Find the stories of**

- **Mulla Nasiruddin**
- **Gopal Bhand and**
- **Tenali Raman.**

Share them in the class.

## **Comprehension:**

**Passage 1 (pg 2)**

***Emperor Akbar or Akbar the great ..... by word of mouth)***

**(a) Who is known as one of the greatest rulers in the world? Why?**

**(b) Apart from being a good human, what was Emperor Akbar also known for?**

**(c) For whom did Emperor Akbar have great respect?**

**(d) Who was a patron of art and culture?**

- (e) Who were famous in Emperor Akbar's court?
- (f) Who was the closest to the Emperor's heart?
- (g) What kind of questions did Emperor Akbar love to pose?
- (h) Who answered Akbar's questions?
- (i) How have the Akbar and Birbal stories handed down?
- (j) Can we believe all the Akbar - Birbal stories that are told? Why?

Passage 2: (pg 2-3)

*One day, the Emperor entered ..... was smiling a little.*

- (a) What expression did the Emperor have?
- (b) What did he say as soon as he was seated?
- (c) Why was the court stunned?
- (d) What did one nobleman exclaim?
- (e) What punishment did the other nobleman want the emperor to give?
- (f) What did the agitated courtiers cry out?
- (g) Describe Birbal's reaction to the emperor's question?

Passage 3 (pg 3)

*"What do you say ..... What had happened in the morning.*

- (a) What questions did the Emperor ask Birbal?
- (b) What punishment did Birbal want the Emperor to give?
- (c) How did Birbal address the Emperor?
- (d) How did the courtiers react to Birbal's punishment?
- (e) Why did the courtiers feel that Birbal was out of his mind?
- (f) What explanation did Birbal give?
- (g) Was Emperor Akbar angry with Birbal's answer? How do you know?
- (h) Why did Akbar burst out laughing?
- (i) What had happened in the morning?

(j) Explain the phrase:  
out of your mind -  
burst out laughing -

Passage 4 (pg 3-4)

*On another occasion ..... Tomorrow morning to prove it!"*

- (a) What was Akbar doing?
- (b) What did a few of the courtiers think?
- (c) How were the courtiers competing with each other?
- (d) How did the courtiers praise Akbar?
- (e) What did Akbar not care for?
- (f) What question did Akbar ask the courtiers? Why?
- (g) What did Akbar want the courtiers to do? How?
- (h) What would happen if the courtiers were not able to prove their point?
- (i) How much time did Akbar give to the courtiers?
- (j) Why do you think it is not right to shower false praises?
- (k) Write about an incident when someone was showering false praises.

Passage 5 (pg 4 - 5)

*Akbar then left ..... the courtiers for their stupidity.*

- (a) How did Akbar leave the place?
- (b) What situation were the courtiers in? Why?
- (c) To whom did the courtiers go to for help? Why?
- (d) What did Birbal tell them?
- (e) Why was the court full the next morning?
- (f) What punishment did the Emperor want to give the courtiers?
- (g) What did Birbal request the Emperor?
- (h) How did Birbal prove that Akbar was greater than God?
- (i) Why cannot the Almighty banish anyone from his kingdom?

(j) Was the Emperor happy with Birbal's answer? How do you know?

(k) Why did Akbar think that Birbal was clever?

(l) Why did Akbar forgive the courtiers?

(m) Find the words from the passage that mean:

(i) eager to learn or know -

(ii) to expel or drive away someone from a country -

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