



MIIM Grammar School (G-11 Campus)

Date: 7th April, 2021

Class: 7th

Subject: English

Unit: 2

Topic: **The Battle of Panipat** (Reading, page#44+45)

Starter:


Ask questions from students like.

1. Have you ever heard about the historical battle?
2. What kind of weapons used in battles of that time?

Main activity:

Reading with explanation of pg#44+45.

Non-fiction
The Battle of Panipat, 1526



Paragraph 1 After having subdued Lahore once more, Babur and his army marched on the capital, Delhi, in order to subjugate Sultan Ibrahim Lodhi once and for all. On reaching the village of Panipat, in the plain north of Delhi, Babur organized his forces. He quickly noticed his inferiority in numbers: he had, probably, only about 15 000 men, of whom only about half were fit for attack. On the other hand, Babur was a skilful strategist and he had learned valuable tactical lessons in the course of his numerous battles with the Uzbeks.

Paragraph 2 Moreover, he had at his side two talented Turkish gunners who had mastered the art of using cannons in warfare. The cannon, a mounted gun, was a weapon well known in Europe, but not on the subcontinent at this time when an army's strength was in its archers. Babur was very interested in firearms and artillery, and used to supervise their casting. He gave the order for all the carts—seven hundred of them—to be tied together with raw hide ropes to form a large defensive formation. The matchlock-men and the cannons, protected by mantelet shields, took up positions between the carts. Behind them were the cavalry and the archers.

War and Peace

Paragraph 3

Ibrahim Lodhi, however, hesitated to fight despite his 100,000 men and his many hundreds of elephants. In order to incite his enemy to attack, Babur sent his soldiers by night to harass Ibrahim Lodhi's forces. On the morning of 21 April 1526, the exasperated Ibrahim finally started the assault. He forced Babur's right wing back, but his own army was swiftly overwhelmed by the cannon fire and by the matchlock-men drawn up in the centre. Terrorized by the noise of the gunfire, the elephants stampeded, making any further attack impossible. Ibrahim's forces were quickly encircled and destroyed by Babur's cavalymen and archers.

Paragraph 4

By midday, his camp was destroyed, although his body was not found until later. It was decapitated and the head was brought to Babur. As a mark of respect to the dead sultan, Babur later had a monument erected on the spot where he fell. Very quickly after the battle, Babur became preoccupied with protecting the treasures of Delhi and Agra from pillage by his own victorious troops. He sent Humayun, his son who was only seventeen years old, to Agra, whilst he himself marched on Delhi, where he had prayers read in his name in the great mosque, thereby proclaiming himself *Padishah*, or Emperor, of Hindustan.

Paragraph 5

At Agra, Babur was greeted by Humayun, who presented the conqueror with a magnificent diamond called the Koh-i-noor. The ruling family of Gwalior had given it to Humayun and Babur recorded that a gem collector estimated its worth as 'the whole world's expenditure for half a day'. Babur immediately refused this rich gift, and offered it to the one who wanted to give it to him, Humayun.

Definitions

mantelet shields = protective, interlocking shields used to protect an advancing army.

(A **mantle** is a coat or covering. Note the different spelling.)

matchlock = a portable firearm which needs a tripod to support it and a lighted match to ignite it.

Vocabulary

Match the words from the text in the left hand column to their definitions in the right hand column:

- 1 subjugate
- 2 strategist
- 3 talented
- 4 incite
- 5 harass

- a looting and plundering
- b pester and annoy
- c bolted, ran off
- d

