

Class 8 History Chapter 4 Important Questions

Ch-4 Tribals Dikus and the Vision of a Golden Age

Answers at the Bottom

1. Complete the following with respect to the tribals of India

The British officers saw settled tribal groups like the _____ and Santhals as more civilized than hunter gatherers or shifting cultivators.

1. Kols
2. Mundas
3. Gonds
4. Kandhas

2. To which tribe did Birsa belong to?

1. Kols
2. Mundas
3. Oreons
4. Santhals

3. Some important features of the Jhum cultivation are given below. Pick out the one that is not related to the Jhum cultivation .

1. Potash, the ash from the burning of the vegetation used to fertilise the soil.
2. This type of cultivation is done on small patches of land and hence not suitable for forests cultivation by the tribals.
3. Once a crop is harvested they move to another virgin land and the old one remained fallow for many years.
4. The cultivators cut the tree- tops to allow sunlight to reach the ground and burnt the vegetation on the land to clear it for cultivation

4. How did the tribals react to the Forest Laws?

1. They tribal chiefs discussed and advised the British to change the laws.
2. They accepted the new rules and did not rebel.
3. They helped the British to destruct their livelihood.

4. They disobeyed the new rules , continued with practices that were declared illegal and at times rebelled
5. From the seeds of Sal and Mahua, the tribal extract oil to cook. What exactly is Mahua?
 1. Stem of a tree
 2. A flower that is eaten or used to make alcohol
 3. Root of a tree
 4. Leaves of a tree
6. Match the following:

i. Khonds	(a) A tree
ii. Bakarwals	(b) Orissa (now Odisha)
iii. Sal	(c) Chhotanagpur
iv. Birsa	(d) Goats

7.
 1. The were not ready to work as labourers.
 2. The lives of shifting cultivators depended on free movement within
 3. The first Anglo – Maratha war ended with the Treaty of
 4. The principal figure in an Indian district was the

8. State True or False:

1. Jhum cultivators plough the land and sow seeds.
2. Cocoons were bought from the Santhals and sold by the traders at five times of the purchase price.
3. Birsa urged his followers to purify themselves, give up drinking liquor and stop believing in witchcraft and sorcery.
4. People were allowed to move freely in reserved forests.

9. What problem did the British face after they stopped the tribal people from living inside forests?

10. Why did the British introduce land settlements?

11. The Jhum cultivators in north – east India stopped their traditional practice.(True/False)

12. How did the British officials view settled tribal groups and those who moved about from place to place?
13. How did different tribal groups live?

Answer

3. Gonds, **Explanation:** The British considered the Gond and Santhal tribes to be civilized than the other hunters and gatherers tribes as they were settled cultivators and we're easier to control and administer than people who were always on move.

2. Mundas, **Explanation:** Birsa Munda belonged to the Munda tribe. His father's name was Sugana Munda .

2. This type of cultivation is done on small patches of land and hence not suitable for forests cultivation by the tribals.

Explanation: Since in Jhum Cultivation forests land were cultivated it covered vast area and not small patches of land.

4. They disobeyed the new rules, continued with practices that were declared illegal and at times rebelled

Explanation: The Forest Laws evoked popular discontent among the tribals and they disobeyed the laws. They took up arms against the British, started rebellion, killed the zamindar and outsiders. They strongly resented to British intrusion and disrespect of their religious beliefs and customs.

2. A flower that is eaten or used to make alcohol

Explanation: Mahua flower is edible and is food item for the tribals. They are fermented to produce alcoholic country liquor too.

1. Khonds – (b) Orissa (now Odisha)

2. Bakarwals – (d) Goats

3. Sal – (a) A tree

4. Birsa – (c) Chhotanagpur

1. Baigas

2. Forests

3. Salbai

4. Collector

1. False
2. True
3. True
4. False

2. They faced the problem of shortage of labour.

3. They did so in order to get a regular revenue source for the state.

4. False. Jhum cultivators who took to plough cultivation often suffered, since their fields did not produce good yields. So the jhum cultivators in north-east India insisted on continuing with their traditional practice.

1. The British officials saw settled tribal groups such as the Gonds and Santhals as more civilised than hunter-gatherers or shifting cultivators.
2. These tribal groups lived in the forests and kept on moving. They did not have a fixed home.
3. The British considered them wild and savage and therefore they needed to be settled civilized.

5. Tribal people were involved in many different types of activities:

1. Some tribal people practiced jhum cultivation also known as shifting cultivation. This was done on small cultivation. This was done on small patches of land, mostly in forests. The cultivators cleared off small patches of land. They then burnt the vegetation and spread the ash from the firing, which contained potash to fertilise the soil. They used equipments like axe and hoe for preparing the soil for cultivation. Then they scattered the seeds on the field. Once the crop was ready and harvested, they moved to another field. Shifting cultivators were found in the hilly and forested tracts of north – east and central India.
2. Some tribal groups were engaged in hunting animals and gathering forest produce, hence known as 'hunter-gatherers.' They saw forests as essential for survival. The khonds were such a community living in the forests of Orissa. They regularly went out on collective hunts and then divided the meat amongst themselves. They ate fruits and roots and cooked food with the oil they extracted from the seeds of the sal and mahua. They got rice and other grains in return for their valuable forests produce. Sometimes they did odd jobs in the villages like carrying loads, etc.
3. Some tribal groups lived by herding and rearing animals. They were pastoralist who moved with their herds of cattle or sheep according to the seasons. For examples, the Van Gujjars of Punjab hills, and the Labadis of Andhra Pradesh were cattle herders, the Gaddis of kulu were shepherds and the Bakarwals of Kashmir reared goats.

4. Some tribal community took to settled cultivation. They cultivated their field in one place year after year, instead of moving from place to place. They began to use the plough and gradually got rights over the land they lived on.