

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What are tribes?

Ans. Tribes are people who do not follow laid down norms of society. Members of each tribe were united by kinship bond.

Q.2. How do we know about tribes in this age?

Ans. Whatever we know about them is through their rich customs and oral traditions which passed on from one generation to than other. Modern historians use contemporary oral tradition to write about tribal societies.

Q.3. Who were Gonds? Where are they found?

Ans. Gonds are sometimes referred to by their tribal dialect, Gondi. They practised shifting cultivation. Even today they live in the territory spread over modern day Madhya Pradesh, eastern Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Northern Andhra Pradesh and Western Orissa.

Q.4. Who was Durgawati?

Ans. Durgawati was the daughter of Chandel rajput Raja of Mahoba, Salbahan. She got married to Gond raja Dalpat. Dalpat was the son of gond raja Aman Das.

Q.5. Give a brief note about administration of Gond kingdom.

Ans. The kingdom of gond was very organised. Kingdom was divided into garhs. Each garh was controlled by a particular gond clan. This garh further divided into units of 84 villages called chaurasi and chaurasi divided into Barhots, which were made up of 12 villages.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What did Peter Mundy write about pastoral nomads?

Ans. (i) Peter Mundy, an English trader of early 17th century, who came to India wrote that he met a tanda of Banjaras with 14,000 oxen.

(ii) They all carried wheat, rice and even can take their wives and children along with them.

(iii) They were merchants who used to buy grain from where it was cheaply available and sell it to places where it was not available and from there they bought things which could be sold profitably at other places.

(iv) Each tanda had 600-700 persons and travelled 6-7 miles a day.

Q.2. Describe features of tribal societies.

Ans. The features of tribal societies are:

- They did not follow the Brahmanical rules and rituals.
- They were not divided into unequal classes.
- The society united by kniship bonds.

Q.3. What do you know about Ahom society?

Ans. Ahom was divided into clans or kheels. Clan often controlled several villages. The villages community gave land to peasants. They worshipped their own tribal God. Ahom society was very sophisticated.

Q.4. How do Ahoms build a large state?

Ans. Ahom created a state by suppressing the older political system of the bhuiyans (landlords). During the 16th century, they annexed the kingdoms of the chhutiyas in 1523 and of Koch-Hazo in 1581. They also subjugated many other tribes. In this way, they built a large state.

Q.5. Who were Banjaras? Give a brief introduction of Banjaras.

Ans. The Banjaras were Trader nomads of Rajasthan. They usually moved in caravan known as Tanda. A 'Tanda' contains 6 or 7 hundred persons. They carried their wives and children along with them. They bought and sold these goods as they moved from one place to another, transporting them on their animals.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. How did tribes survive? Why did they enter into conflicts?

Ans. (i) The tribes normally used full natural resources of the area where they lived.

(ii) Tribes were even nomadic and moved from one place to another.

(iii) Tribes usually thrived in the forests, hills and desert areas of the subcontinents.

(iv) There were even clashes between tribes and powerful caste-based societies.

(v) However, at times, these caste-based and tribal societies depended on each other for their diverse needs.

Q.2. Mention the various tribes found in different parts of India.

Ans. The various tribes in India are:

- The Khokhar tribe, which was influential in Punjab in the 13th and 14th century.
- The Balochis were powerful in the north-western part of India and were divided into small clans.
- The Gaddis, the shepherd tribe, was important in the Himalayas.
- The Nagas, Ahoms, etc. were dominant in the most north-eastern parts of the sub-continent.
- The Mundas and Santhals were among the important tribes in Bihar, Orissa and Bengal.
- In South India, there was a large tribal population of Koragas, Vetars and Marawars.
- The Bhil tribe was found in western and central parts of India. While few Bhil clans were hunter gatherers; many of them became agriculturists and zamindars.

Q.3. Examine the changes which occurred in caste structure in India.

Ans. There occurred changes in caste structure on account of the following factors:

- In the fields of trade and agriculture, there emerged multi-caste population in many villages on account of spread of Islam. Some of the powerful non-Brahmin families had also emerged as land owners.
- Emergence of Sufi and Bhakti movement also affected caste system. Both the groups of saints preached equality among different religious and caste groups.
- Intercaste marriages started among Hindus particularly Rajput and Muslim nobles and rulers.
- Specialised artisans—smiths, carpenters and masons were recognised as separate jatis by the Brahmins. Jati system replaced the varna system.
- New Rajput clans emerged among Kshatriyas. These included Chandelas, Chalukyas, Huna, etc.

Q.4. How did Gonds administer their big kingdom?

Ans. (i) The Gonds rose when Delhi sultanate declined.

(ii) There were several clans each having its own ruler.

(iii) The administration of Gonds was centralised.

(iv) Each kingdom was divided into garhs.

(v) Each Garh was controlled by a particular Gond clan.

(vi) It was further divided into 84 villages called Chaurasi.

(vii) The Chaurasi was subdivided into barhots of 12 villages each.

Hots (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. How did pastoral nomads survive?

Ans. (i) The pastoral nomads moved from one place to another with their herd of animals.

(ii) They survived on milk products and exchanged ghee, wool, etc. with the farmers for grains, cloth, utensils, etc.

(iii) They bought and sold these goods and then moved from one place to another transporting goods on their animals.

(iv) The Mughal emperor Jahangir wrote that the Banjaras used to collect grains from different areas and sell it in towns.

Q.2. How did Ahoms expand? How did they administer?

Ans. 1. The Ahoms formed the new kingdom by suppressing the older political system of Bhuiyans (landlords).

2. They captured the kingdom of Chhutiyas and of Koch-Hajo in the 16th century.

3. They themselves made high quality gunpowder and cannons and used them in the warfare.

4. Mughals, in 1662 under Mir Jumla, defeated the Ahoms.

5. The Ahom state depended on forced labour in the form of Paiks.

6. Census was done in the village. Each village had to send paiks on the basis of rotation.

7. All male adults had to serve the army in times of emergency.

8. The Ahom society was divided into khels or clans.

9. A khel controlled several villages.