

# CH-4 FOREST SOCIETY & COLONIALISM

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## Ch 4 Forest Society and Colonialism

### Very Short Answer Questions

1. What is meant by 'sleepers' ?

**Answer**

Sleepers are wooden planks laid across railway tracks to hold the tracks in position.

2. When did the railway network expand rapidly in India?

**Answer**

From the 1860s.

3. What is meant by scientific forestry?

**Answer**

Scientific forestry seeks to ensure that the different types of trees in a forest are cut down and replaced by only type of tree planted in straight rows.

4. Who was Dietrich Brandis?

**Answer**

Dietrich Brandis was the first Inspector General of Forests in India.

5. Who started the Bastar Rebellion?

**Answer**

The Bastar rebellion first started in the Kanger forest area and soon spread to other parts of the state.

6. When was the Indian Forest Service set up?

**Answer**

The Indian Forest Service was set up in 1864.

7. Where was the Imperial Forest Research Institute set up?

**Answer**

The Imperial Forest Research Institute was established at Dehradun.

8. What is shifting cultivation called in Sri Lanka?

**Answer**

It is known as chena in Sri Lanka.

9. Where is Bastar located?

**Answer**

Bastar is located in Chhattisgarh.

10. When did the first rebellion take place in Bastar?

**Answer**

The first rebellion took place in Bastar in 1910.

### Short Answer Questions

1. Why did the British appoint the Inspector General of Forests in India? Explain any three reasons.

**Answer**

- The British needed forests in order to build ships and railways.
- They were worried that the use of forests by local people and the reckless felling of trees by traders would destroy forests.
- They wanted forests for the development of plantations.

2. Explain the system of scientific forestry.

**Answer**

- Scientific forestry seeks to ensure that the different types of trees in a forest are cut down and replaced by only one type of tree planted in straight rows.
- Forest officials surveyed the forests estimated the area under different types of trees and planned how much of the plantation area to be cut every year.
- The area cut was then to be replanted so that it was ready to be cut again in some years.

3. Who was Dietrich Brandis? Why was he invited to India? Mention his two major contributions.

**Answer**

Dietrich Brandis was a German expert in forestry. He was invited to India by the British for advice and help who were worried that the use of forests by local people and the reckless felling of trees by traders would destroy forests.

His two major contributions are as follows:

- Scientific Forestry was introduced.
- He introduced a proper system to manage the forests.
- Rules about the use of forest resources were also laid down.

4. State the reasons why Shifting cultivation was banned under European colonialism in India.

**Answer**

- European foresters felt that land used for cultivation every few years could not support trees like Sal and Oak for railway timber.

- Also, when a forest was burnt, there was a danger of the flames spreading and burning valuable timber.
- Shifting cultivation also made it harder for the government to calculate taxes.

5. How did the forest acts affect the lives of foresters and villagers?

**Answer**

- The daily practices of villagers such as cutting wood for their houses, hunting, fishing and collecting fruits now become illegal.
- People were forced to steal wood from the forests and if caught were at the mercy of the forest guards who would take bribes from them.
- It was common for police constables and forest guards to harass people.

6. When was the Forest Act enacted during the British period? How many times and when was it amended? Name the three categories of forests according to the Forest Act?

**Answer**

- Forest Act was enacted in 1865.
- It was amended twice, once in 1878 and then in 1927.
- The 1878 Act divided the forests into three categories: reserved, protected and village forests.

7. Mention any three provisions of forest laws passed by the Dutch.

**Answer**

- The access to the forests was restricted for the villagers.
- Timber was now allowed to cut only for specific purposes like making boats.
- Forests were kept under strict supervision. Those villagers who grazed their cattle in the forests were severely punished.

8. What contribution did Dietrich Brandis make towards the development and preservation of forest?

**Answer**

- Brandis believed that a proper system had to be introduced to manage the forests and people had to be trained in the science of conservation.
- This system would need legal sanction and rules about the use of forest resources had to be framed.
- Felling of trees and grazing had to be restricted so that forests could be preserved for timber production.
- Anyone who cut trees without following the regulations had to be punished.

**Long Answer Questions**

1. "Deforestation became more systematic and extensive under the colonial rule." Explain this statement with suitable examples.

**Answer**

- With the increase in population, the demand for food went up thus, peasants extended boundaries for cultivation by clearing forest.
- British encouraged production of commercial crops like jute, sugar, wheat and cotton as the demand for these crops increased in nineteenth-century Europe.
- British thought forests are unproductive thus they had to be brought under cultivation so that the land could yield agricultural products and revenue.
- Oak forests disappeared and problem of timber supply for the Royal Navy started. Hence, trees were felled at a massive scale.
- The spread of railways demanded more sleepers which was fulfilled by felling trees.
- A large number of natural forests were also cleared to make way for plantation agriculture such as tea, coffee, etc.

2. Why were forests important to the villagers?

**Answer**

- Fruits and tubers were eaten because they were nutritious and herbs were used for medicinal purposes.
- Bamboo was used to make fences, baskets and umbrellas.
- The wood was used to make agricultural implements like yokes and ploughs.
- A dried out gourd was used as a portable water bottle.
- The creeper can be used to make ropes, and the thorny bark of the semur tree is used to grate vegetables.
- Oil for cooking and lighting lamps was acquired from the fruit of the Mahua tree.

3. Describe some of the common customs and beliefs of the Baster people.

**Answer**

- The people believed that each village was given its land by the Earth and thus they look after the earth by making some offerings at each agricultural festival.
- Respect is also shown to the spirits of the river, the forest and the mountain.
- As each village was aware of their boundaries, all the natural resources within that boundary were looked after by the local people.
- If people from a village want to take some wood from the forests of another village, they pay a small fee called *dand* or *man*.
- Some villages also protect by engaging watchmen and every household contributes some grain to pay them.

4. What is shifting cultivation? Why did the British Government ban it? Give any three reasons.

**Answer**

Shifting agriculture is a traditional agricultural practice in many parts of Asia, Africa and South America.

In shifting cultivation, parts of the forest are cut down and burnt in rotation. Seeds are sown in the ashes after the first monsoon rains and the crop is harvested by October - November.

Colonial impacts on shifting agriculture:

- Europeans regarded this practice harmful for the forests. They felt that the burning down forest would destroy timber and the dangerous flames would spread and burn valuable timber.
- Shifting cultivation made it harder for the government to calculate taxes, so British government decided to ban shifting cultivation.
- As a result, many communities were forcibly displaced from their homes in forest.
- Some had to change occupations, while some resisted through large and small rebellions.

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Question 1.

What is deforestation?

Answer:

The disappearance of forests is referred to as deforestation.

Question 2.

How was increasing population responsible for deforestation?

Answer:

As population increased over the centuries and demand for food went up, peasants extended the boundaries of cultivation, clearing forests and breaking new land.

Question 3.

Mention the impact of the disappearing Oak forests in England.

Answer:

Disappearing Oak forests created a problem of timber supply for the Royal Navy.

Question 4.

Why were railways essential for the colonial government?

Answer:

Railways were essential for the colonial trade, and for the movement of imperial troops.

Question 5.

'The ship industry of England was also responsible for deforestation in India'. Give one reason.

Answer:

Due to the high demand, oak forests in England were disappearing. This created a problem of timber supply for the Royal Navy which required to build ships. To get the supply of oak for the ship industry, Britishers started exploring Indian forests on a massive scale.

Question 6.

How far the plantation agriculture was responsible for deforestation in India?

Answer:

1. Large areas of natural forests were cleared to make way for tea, coffee and rubber plantations to meet Europe's growing need for these commodities.
2. The colonial government took over the forests, and gave vast areas to European planters at cheap rates. These areas were enclosed and cleared of forests, and planted with tea or coffee.

Question 7.

Who was Dietrich Brandis? Why he was invited to India?

Answer:

Dietrich Brandis was a German expert. He was made the first Inspector General of Forests in India.

He was invited to India by the Britishers to save the Indian forests.

Question 8.

Who set up the Indian Forest Service in India?

Answer:

Dietrich Brandis.

Question 9.

When was the Imperial Forest Research Institute set up in Dehradun?

Answer:

1906.

Question 10.

What was scientific forestry?

Answer:

In scientific forestry, natural forests which had lots of different types of trees were cut down. In their place, one type of tree was planted in straight rows. This is called as plantation. Forest officials surveyed the forests, estimated the area under different types of trees, and made working plans for the forest management. They planned how much of the plantation area to cut every year. The area cut was then to be replanted so that it was ready to be cut again in some years.

Question 11.

Name the Act which was enacted to protect the forests.

Answer:

The Indian Forest Act, 1865.

Question 12.

Name the categories of forests under the 1878 Forest Act.

Answer:

- Reserved forests.
- Protected forests.
- Village forests.

Question 13.

What were reserved forests?

Answer:

These were the best forests which produced commercially valuable timber. No individual was allowed to access to these forests.

Question 14.

What were forest villages?

Answer:

The villages which were allowed to stay on in the reserved forests on the condition that worked free for the forest department in cutting and transporting trees, and protecting the forest from fires were called the forest villages.

Question 15.

What was the basic cause of the rebellion in the forest of Bastar?

Answer:

Reservation of two-thirds of the forests.

Question 16.

What were the result of the Bastar rebellion?

Answer:

- Work on reservation was temporarily suspended.
- Area to be reserved was reduced to roughly half of that planned before 1910.

Question 17.

Where is Bastar located?

Answer:

Bastar is located in the southernmost part of Chhattisgarh, and borders of Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and Maharashtra.

Question 18.

Name any two local communities of Bastar.

Answer:

- Maria Gonds
- Muria Gonds
- Dhurwas
- Bhatras

Question 19.

Who was Gunda Dhur?

Answer:

He was the tribal leader of the Dhurwas of the Kanger forest. The tribal people revolted against the unjust forest policies of the British under his able leadership.

Question 20.

Mention any two factors which prompted the people of Bastar to rebel against the Britishers.

Answer:

- The British government's decision to reserve two-thirds of the forest.
- To ban shifting cultivation.

Question 21.

Who was Surontiko Samin?

Answer:

He was the tribal leader who was responsible for launching the Samin Movement against the Dutch Government. He argued that the state had not created wind, water, earth and wood, so it could not own it.

Question 22.

What was blandongdienst system?

Answer:

Under this system, the Dutch exempted some villages from the rent on land if they worked collectively to provide free labour and buffaloes for cutting and transporting timber. Later, instead of rent exemption, forest villagers were given small wages, but their right to cultivate forest land was restricted.

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Question 1.

Explain what is shifting cultivation. Why did European foresters regard this practice as harmful for forests?

Answer:

A method of farming in which a patch of ground is cultivated for a period of few years until the soil is partly exhausted or r overrun by weeds, and after which the land is left to natural vegetation while cultivation is carried elsewhere.

- Shifting cultivation made it harder for the government to calculate taxes. Therefore, the government decided to ban shifting cultivation.
- European foresters regarded this practice as harmful for the forests. They felt that land which was used for cultivation every few years could not j grow trees for railway timber.
- There was also the added danger of the flames spreading, and burning valuable timber.

Question 2.

Who were Saminist? Mention any if two methods used by the Saminist to revolt against the Dutch.

Answer:

1. The Saminists laid down on their land when the Dutch surveyors came to ' reclassify communal and salary lands,and used to cry out, "Kangoo" (I own it).
2. They refused to pay taxes, fines to accept wages and to leave rented or communal land when their leases expired.

Question 3.

What changes one can observe towards forest policy since 1980's?

Answer:

- Conservation of forests rather than i collecting timber has become a more important goal.
- The various governments have realised that the people who live near the forests must be involved.

Question 4.

Discuss how the changes in forest management in the colonial period affected the following groups of people:

- (a) Shifting cultivators
- (b) Nomadic and pastoralist communities.

Answer:

(a) (i) Ban on shifting cultivation: As shifting cultivation was non-profitable to the government, therefore, the government decided to ban shifting cultivation. As a result, many communities lost the source of their livelihood.

(ii) New occupations : Due to a ban on the shifting cultivation, most of the people had to change their occupations. Some started working as labourers.

(iii) Large and small rebellions: When the colonial government proposed to reserve two-thirds of the forest in 1905 and banned shifting cultivation, people got together, and revolted against the decision of the government.

(b) (i) Reduction in Pastures : The various laws which were formulated had an adverse effect on the pastures. Through various acts, some forests were declared 'Reserved. No pastoralist was allowed an access to these forests. Other forests were classified as 'Protected'. In these, some customary grazing rights of pastoralists were granted but their movements were severely restricted.

Question 5.

Mention any four factors which prompted the Samins to revolt against the Dutch.

Answer:

- The Saminists laid down on their land when the Dutch surveyors came for classification.
- They cut teak despite Dutch efforts to guard the forest.
- They refused to pay taxes, fines to accept wages, and to leave rented or communal land when their leases expired.
- Some piled stones on the roads which they had been ordered to build.

Question 6.

'In the colonial period, cultivation expanded rapidly for a variety of reasons.' Explain any two.

Answer:

- Need for raw materials and food problem: The Britishers encouraged the production of commercial crops like jute, sugar, cotton and indigo as these were used as raw materials by the British industry. They promoted the production of food grains as these were required to feed the growing urban population.
- Unproductive forests: In the early nineteenth century, the colonial state thought that forests were unproductive. They were considered to be wilderness that had to be brought under cultivation so that the land could yield agricultural products and revenue, and enhance the income of the state. So between 1880 and 1920, the cultivated area rose by 6.7 million hectares.

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Question 1.

Explain the impact of various forest laws and policies which were adopted by the colonial rulers over the colonial people.

Answer:

- Various restrictions : The Forest Act meant severe hardship for villagers : across the country. After the Act, all their forest activities like cutting wood for their houses, grazing their cattle, collecting fruits and roots, hunting and fishing became illegal.
- Impact on cultivators : Shifting cultivation was the most common cultivation practised by the people. But this was banned because European foresters regarded this harmful for the forests.

- Displacement of the people: To protect the forests, the Europeans started displacing villagers without any notice or compensation.
- Various taxes: The Europeans started imposing heavy taxes on the forest people.
- Loss of livelihood: The Europeans started giving large European trading firms, the sole right to trade in the forest. Grazing and hunting by local people were restricted. In the process, many pastoralists and nomadic communities lost their livelihood.

Question 2.

How did the Forest Acts affect the lives of foresters and villagers? Answer:

- Various restrictions: The Forest Act meant severe hardship for villager's across the country. After the Act, all their forest activities like cutting wood for their houses, grazing their cattle, collecting fruits and roots, hunting and fishing became illegal.
- Impact on cultivators: Shifting cultivation was the most common cultivation practiced by the people. But this was banned because European foresters regarded this harmful for the forests.
- Displacement of the people: To protect the forests, the Europeans started displacing villagers without any notice or compensation.
- Various taxes: The Europeans started imposing heavy taxes on the forest people.
- Loss of livelihood: The Europeans started giving large European trading firms, the sole right to trade in the forest. Grazing and hunting by local people were restricted. In the process, many pastoralists and nomadic communities lost their livelihood.

Question 3.

Explain the rebellion of Bastar people against the British.

(1) Reasons for rebellion:

- In 1905, the British Government proposed to reserve two-thirds of the forests.
- To ban shifting cultivation.
- To ban hunting, and collection of forest produce. All these steps forced the locals to revolt against the British.

(2) Course of rebellion:

- People began to discuss all these issues in their village councils, in bazaars, markets and at festivals. The initiative was taken by the Dhurwas of the Kanger forest, where reservation first took place.
- In 1910, mango boughs, a lump of earth, chillies and arrows, began – circulating between villages. These were actually messages inviting villagers to rebel against the British. Every village contributed something to the rebellion expenses.
- Bazaars were looted, the houses of officials and traders, schools and police stations were burnt and robbed, and grain redistributed. Most of those, who were attacked were in some way associated with the colonial state, and its oppressive laws.

(3) Leaders: Although there was no single leader, many people speak of Gunda Dhur, from village Nethanar, as an important figure in the movement.

(4) Suppression of the revolt : The British sent troops to suppress the rebellion. The Adivasi leaders tried to negotiate, but the British surrounded their camps, and fired upon them. After that, they marched through the villages flogging and punishing those who had taken part in the rebellion. Most villages were deserted as people fled into the jungle forests. It took three months (February-May) for the British to regain control. However, they never managed to capture Gunda Dhur.

(5) Consequences of the rebellion: In a major victory for the rebels, work on reservation was temporarily suspended, and the area to be reserved was reduced to roughly half of that planned before 1910. The revolt also inspired the other tribal people to rebel against the unjust policies of the British Government.

Question 4.

Explain any five causes of deforestation in India under the colonial rule. Answer:

- Increase in population: AS the population increased over die centuries and the demand for food went-up, peasants extended the boundaries of cultivation, clearing forests and breaking new land.
- Commercialisation of agriculture: The British encouraged the production of commercial crops like jute, sugar. The demand for these crops increased in 19th century. For this they cleared forests.
- Unproductive forests: The colonial government thought that forests were unproductive. They cleared forests for cultivation.
- Introduction of railway: The spread of railway from the 1850's created a new demand. As the railway tracks spread through India, a larger and larger number of trees were fell down.
- Tea/ Coffee plantation: Large areas of natural forests were also cleared to make way for tea,coffee and rubber plantations to meet Europe's growing need for these commodities.  
The colonial government took over the forests, and gave vast areas to European planters at cheap rates. These area were enclosed and cleared of forests, and planted with tea or coffee.

Question 5.

"The First World War and the Second World War had a major impact on forests." Explain the statement with five facts.

Answer:

Forests are affected by wars due to various reasons. The chief among them are the following:

- In the modern times, the defending armies hide themselves and their war materials under the cover of the thick forests to avoid detection. As such, the enemy forces target forest areas to capture the opposing soldiers and their war materials.
- Because of pre-occupation of the participant countries in the war, many proposals for promoting the forest culture have to be abandoned half way and as such, many forests became a prey of neglect.
- To meet war needs, sometimes forests are cut indiscriminately, and as a result forests vanished within no time, one after the other.
- Fearing the capture of forest areas by the enemy, sometimes, the existing governments themselves cut down the trees recklessly, destroy the saw mills and burn huge piles of great teak logs. Such a thing happened in Indonesia when the Dutch Government felt that the area under their control would fall to the Japanese.
- Sometimes, the occupying forces recklessly cut down trees for their own war industries as was done by the Japanese during the occupation of Indonesia in the Second World War.
- Finding the forest staff in difficulty during war times, some people expand their agricultural land at the cost of the forest land. Some people who were excluded from the forest areas, once again tried to reoccupy their lands.

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Question 1.

How was the introduction of railway responsible for deforestation under the colonial era?

Or

The introduction of railways had an adverse impact on the forests'. Justify by giving examples.

Answer:

- Need for sleepers: Sleepers were the basic inputs required for constructing a railway line. Each mile of a railway track required between 1700 to 2,000 sleepers. To meet this demand, large number of trees were felled down.
- Fuel: To run locomotives, wood was needed as fuel. As railway was being spread throughout India, more and more wood was required which could be used as fuel.
- Expansion of railway tracks: From the 1860s, the railway network expanded rapidly. By 1890, about 25,500 km of track had been laid. Up to 1946, the length of the tracks had increased to over 765,000 km. As the railway tracks spread throughout India, a larger and larger number of trees were felled down. As early as the 1850s, in the Madras Presidency alone, 35,000 trees were being cut annually for sleepers.
- Contract to private individuals: The government gave out contracts to individuals to supply the required quantities. These contractors began cutting trees indiscriminately. Forests around the railway tracks started disappearing fast.

Question 2.

Mention any four ideas of Dietrich Brandis for the management of forests in India during the British period.

Answer:

- Brandis realised that a proper system had to be introduced to manage the forests and people had to be trained in the science of conservation. This system would need legal sanction.
- Rules about the use of forest resources had to be framed. Felling of trees and grazing had to be restricted so that forests could be preserved for timber production. Anybody who cut trees without following the system had to be punished.
- Brandis introduced scientific forestry under which natural forests which had lots of different types of trees were cut down and in their place, one type of trees were planted in straight rows.
- He set up Indian Forest Services in 1864.

Question 3.

"While people lost out in many ways after the forest department took control of the forests, some people benefitted from the new opportunities that had opened up." Explain by giving examples.

Answer:

- New occupations : Many communities left their traditional occupations and started trading in forest products.
- Employment: Before the arrival of the Europeans, the locals were dependent on nature for their livelihood, but now they started getting regular jobs. Many of them joined the forest department as workers and watchmen.
- Forest products : After the arrival of Europeans, the waste products of the forests also got the market value. Locals started selling latex to the traders.
- New class of people : With the development of industry and plantation and other economic activities, a new class of people was created which was not dependent on nature for their livelihood.

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Question 1.

Name any four products which are obtained from forests.

Answer:

- Paper
- Dye
- Gum
- Herbs

Question 2.

Mention any two factors which is/are responsible for deforestation.

Answer:



- Agriculture
- Increase in population

Question 3.

Why were railways essential for the colonial government?

Answer:

Railways were essential for the colonial trade and for the movement of imperial troops.

Question 4.

Mention any two ways to increase area under forests.

Answer:

- More trees should be grown on wasteland.
- People should plant trees in the backyard of their houses.

Question 5.

'Most of the environmentalists are of the opinion that the people who live near the forests must be involved in protecting the forests.' Do you agree? Explain.

Or

Describe the new developments in forestry since the 1980's. [CBSE March 2013]

Answer:

- The scientific and the policy of keeping forest communities away from forests has resulted in many conflicts.
- Conservation of forest rather than collecting timber has become a more important goal.
- The government of various countries have recognized that in order to meet this goal, the people who live near the forests must be involved. In many cases, across India, from Mizoram to Kerala, dense forests have survived only because villages protected them in sacred groves known as sarnas, devarakudu, kan, rai, etc.
- Some villages have been patrolling their own forests, with each household taking it in turns, instead of leaving it to the forest guards.

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Question 1.

Which new trade was created due to the introduction of new forest laws ?

Answer:

Collecting latex from wild rubber trees.

Question 2.

Name the communities living in Bastar.

Answer:

Maria and Muria Gonds, Dhurwas, Bhatras and Halbas.

Question 3.

Who was Dietrich Brandis ?

Answer:

Dietrich Brandis was a German forest expert, whom the colonial government invited for advice and made him the first Inspector General of forests in India.

Question 4.

The forest management in Java was under the \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Dutch

Question 5.

After the Forest Act was enacted in 1865, \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

It was amended twice

Question 6.

Who were 'Kalangs' of Java ?

Answer:

Skilled forest cutters and shifting cultivators

Question 7.

What are wooden planks lay across railway tracks to hold these tracks in a position called ?

Answer:

Sleepers

Question 8.

Why did the government decide to ban shifting cultivation ?

Answer:

Because when a forest was burnt, there was the danger of destroying valuable timber.

Question 9.

Which type of trees were preferred by the forest department ?

Answer:

The trees those are suitable for building ships and railways.

Question 10.

Indian Forest Service was set up in the year \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

1864

Question 11.

In shifting cultivation, seeds are sown \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

After cleaning and burning the forest land.

Question 12.

Give any two local terms for swidden agriculture.

Answer:

Dhya, Penda, Jhum, Kumri (any 2).

Question 13.

Villagers were punished for \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Grazing cattle in young stands and cutting wood without a permit or travelling on forest roads with horse carts or cattle.

Question 14.

Which forest community is found in Central India ?

Answer:

Boigas

Question 15.

A British administrator killed 400 tigers. His name was \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

George Yule.

Question 16.

The tribes recruited to work on tea plantation were \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Santhals and Oraons from Jharkhand, and Gonds from Chhattisgarh.

Question 17.

The Imperial Forest Research Institute was set up at \_\_\_\_\_ .

Answer:

Dehradun.

Question 18.

Why are Mahua trees precious ?

Answer:

Mahua trees are precious because they are an essential part of village livelihood.

Question 19.

What were siadi creepers used for ?

Answer:

They were used to make ropes.

Question 20.

Name the three categories of forests as mentioned in the Act of 1878.

Answer:

Three categories were : Reserved, Protected and Village Forests.

Question 21.

Which species of trees were promoted for the building of ships or railways ?

Answer:

Teak and Sal species were promoted for the building of ships or railways.

Question 22.

What was the effect of Forest Act on the people living nearby ?

Answer:

People were forced to steal wood from the forests, and if they were caught, they were at the mercy of the forest guards who would take bribes from them.

Question 23.

What steps were taken under the new scheme of scientific forestry ?

Answer:

- Natural forests which had different types of trees, were cut down.
- In their place, one type of trees were planted.

Question 24.

What was the main cause of worry for the people of Bastar ?

Answer:

People of Bastar were most worried because the colonial government proposed to reserve 2/3rd of the forests in 1905 and stop shifting cultivation, hunting and collection of forest produce.

Question 25.

What do you mean by the reserved forests ?

Answer:

The 1878 Act divided forests into three categories : reserved, protected and village forests. The best forests were called 'reserved forests'. Villagers could not take anything from these forests, even for their own use. For house building or fuel, they could take wood from protected or village forests.

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Question 1.

What is deforestation ? Why is it considered harmful ?

Answer:

(a) The disappearance of forests is referred to as deforestation. Forests are cleared for industrial uses, cultivation, pastures and fuelwood.  
(b) Clearing of forests is harmful as forests give us many things like paper, wood that makes our desks, tables, doors and windows, dyes that colour our clothes, spices in our food, gum, honey, coffee, tea and rubber. Forests are the home of animals and birds. They preserve our ecological diversity and life support systems. That is why deforestation considered harmful.

Question 2.

What are the new development in forestry ?

Answer:

Since the 1980s, governments across Asia and Africa have begun to see that scientific forestry and the policy of keeping forest communities away from forests has resulted in many conflicts. Conservation of forests rather than collecting timber has become a more important goal.

In many cases, across India, from Mizoram to Kerala, dense forests have survived only because villages protected them in sacred groves known as sarnas, devarakudu, kan, rai, etc.

Some villages have been patrolling their own forests, with each household taking it in turns, instead of leaving it to the forest guards. Local forest communities and environmentalists today are thinking of different forms of forest management.

Question 3.

Why did the people of Bastar rise in revolt against the British ?

Answer:

- They revolted because the British Government tried to reserve the forests which deprived the people of their rights to collect forest products and to practise shifting cultivation.
- Moreover, people were suffering from increased land rents and frequent demands for free labour and goods by colonial officials.
- People of Bastar cannot collect forest products.

- The terrible famines of 1839-1900 and 1907-1908 forced them to revolt against British authorities.

Question 4.

How did the spread of railways from the 1850s in India, create a new demand for timber ?

Answer:

The spread of railways from the 1850s created a new demand. Railways were essential for colonial trade and for the movement of imperial troops. To run locomotives, wood was needed as fuel, and to lay railway lines sleepers were essential to hold the tracks together. Each mile of railway track required between 1,760 and 2,000 sleepers.

From the 1860s, the railway network expanded rapidly. The length of the railway tracks increased tremendously. As railway tracks increased, the need of timber also increased. More and more trees were felled. Contracts were given to individuals to supply timber. These contractors cut down trees indiscriminately. Railway tracks were soon devoid of forests.

Question 5.

What was the Blandongdiensten system ?

Answer:

The Dutch wanted timber from Java for ship-building and railways. In 1882, 280,000 sleepers were exported from Java alone. However, all this required labour to cut the trees, transport the logs and prepare the sleepers. The Dutch first imposed rents on land being cultivated in the forest and then exempted some villages from these rents if they worked collectively to provide free labour and buffaloes for cutting and transporting timber. This was known as the blandongdiensten system.

Question 6.

Give any three reasons why cultivation expanded rapidly in the colonial period.

Answer:

Cultivation expanded rapidly in the colonial period because :

- The British encouraged the cultivation of commercial crops like jute, sugar, wheat and cotton.
- They tried to increase the yield of agricultural products.
- They tried to increase their revenue and enhance the income of the state.

Question 7.

When was the Forest Act passed in India ? Why did it cause hardship for the villages across the country ?

Answer:

The Forest Act was enacted in 1865 and was amended twice in 1878 and 1927.

- It divided the forests into three categories : reserved, protected and village forests. The best forests were known as the reserved forests. Villagers were not allowed to take anything from these forests, even for their own use.
- This caused great hardship for the villagers. All their daily practices such as cutting wood for their houses, grazing their cattle, collecting fruits and roots, hunting and fishing became illegal.
- People were now forced to steal wood from the forests. If they were caught by the forest guards, they were punished. Women could not collect fuelwood from the forests, forest guards and constables harassed them.

Question 8.

Why the Dutch adopted the 'scorched earth policy' during the war ?

Answer:

The Dutch adopted the 'scorched earth policy' during the war because :

- The First World War and Second World War had a major impact on forests. In India, working plans were abandoned and trees were cut freely to meet British demand for war needs.
- In Java, just before the Japanese occupied the region, the Dutch followed the 'scorched earth policy' destroying saw mills, burning huge piles of giant teak logs so that they could not fall into Japanese hands.

Question 9.

What did Dietrich Brandis suggest for the improvement of forests in India ?

Answer:

Dietrich Brandis suggested that:

- A proper system had to be followed. People had to be trained in the science of conservation.
- Felling of trees and grazing land had to be protected.
- Rules about use of forests should be made. Anyone who broke rules needed to be punished.
- Brandis set up in 1864 the Indian Forest Service. He also helped to formulate the Indian Forest Act of 1865.

Question 10.

Explain the term-scientific forestry.

Answer:

In scientific forestry, different types of natural forests were cut down. In their place one type of tree was planted in straight rows. This is called a plantation. Forest officials surveyed the forests, estimated the area under different types of trees and made working plans for forest management. They planned how much of the plantation area to be cut every year. The forest area was cut down then to be replanted.

Question 11.

Discuss in brief the Saminist movement of Indonesia.

Answer:

Around 1890, Surontiko Samin of Randublatung village, a teak forest village, began questioning state ownership of the forest. He argued that the state had not created the wind, water, earth and wood, so it could not own it. Soon a widespread movement developed. Amongst those who helped organise it was Samin's sons-in-law. By 1907, 3,000 families were following his ideas. Some of the Saminists protested by lying down on their land when the Dutch came to survey it, while others refused to pay taxes or fines or perform labour.

Question 12.

"The people of Bastar speak different languages but share common customs and beliefs" Discuss.

Answer:

The people of Bastar believe that each village was given its land by the Earth, and in return, they look after the earth by making some offerings at each agricultural festival. In addition to the Earth, they show respect to the spirits of the river, the forest and the mountain. Since each village knows where its boundaries lie, the local people look after all the natural resources within that boundary. If people from a village want to take some wood from the forests of another village, they pay a small fee called devsari, dand or man in exchange.

Some villages also protect their forests by engaging watchmen and each household contributes some grain to pay them. Every year there is one big hunt where the headmen of villages in a pargana (cluster of villages) meet and discuss issues of concern, including forests.

Question 13.

What were the different forest acts made by Britishers to control the forests?

Answer:

The different forest Acts made by Britishers to control the forests were :

- (a) In 1864 the Indian Forest Act Service was established.
- (b) In 1865, the Indian Forest Act was passed.
- (c) In 1878 and 1927 the India Forest Act was amended.
- (d) The Act 1878 made three categories of forest that are Reserved Forests, Protected Forest and Village Forest.

Question 14

How did the changes in forest management in the colonial period affect the life of plantation owners?

Answer:

The changes in forest management in the colonial period affect the life of plantation owners as :

- The colonial power introduced plantation agriculture in India.
- They flourished as large areas of natural forests were cleared to make way for tea, coffee and rubber plantation.
- It was done to meet the demand of Europe. These areas were given to European planters for plantation at cheap rates.

Question 15.

Who were the Kalangs ? Why did they attack the Dutch forts at Joana?

Answer:

- The Kalangs were a community of Java. They were skilled forests cutters and shifting cultivators. They were so valuable that teak could not be harvested without them, nor could kings build their palaces.
- When the Mataram Kingdom of Java split, the families of the Kalang community were divided equally between the two kingdoms. When the Dutch colonised Java they forced the Kalangs to work under them. The Kalangs resisted by attacking the Dutch fort at Joana, put the uprising was suppressed.

Question 16.

What were the consequences of the forest laws which the Dutch enacted in Java?

Answer:

In the 19th century, when it became important to central territory and not just people, the Dutch enacted forest law in Java. These laws restricted villagers' access to forests. After these acts were imposed, wood could only be cut for specified purposes such as making river boats or constructing houses and that too only from specific forests and under close supervision. Those villagers who grazed cattle in young stands, transported wood without permit or travelled on forest lands with horse carts or cattle were punished.

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#### Question 1.

Why did commercial forestry become important during the British rule?

Answer:

The commercial forestry become important during the British rule because :

- By the early nineteenth century, oak forests in England were disappearing. This created a problem of timber supply for the Royal Navy.
- English ships could not be built without a regular supply of strong and durable timber neither could imperial power be protected and maintained without ships.
- For above both factors, before 1850, the commercial forestry was considered important in India. By the 1820s, search parties were sent to explore the forest resources of India. These parties gave a green signal for commercial forestry in India. Within a decade, trees were being felled on a massive scale and large quantities of timber were being exported from India.
- The spread of railway from the 1850s created a new demand for wood. In India the colonial government felt that railways were essential for effective colonial internal administration, colonial trade and for the quick movement of imperial troops. To run locomotives, wood was needed as fuel and to lay railway lines, sleepers were also essential to hold the track together.

#### Question 2.

How are forests useful for the villagers?

Answer:

The forests useful for the villagers as :

- In forest areas, people use forest products—roots, leaves, fruits and timbers—for many things. Fruits and roots are nutritious and good for health, especially during the monsoons before the harvest has come in.
- Herbs are used for medicine, wood for agricultural implements like yokes and ploughs, bamboo makes excellent fences and is also used to make baskets and umbrellas.
- A dried scooped-out gourd can be used as a portable water bottle. Almost everything is available in the forest—leaves can be stitched together to make disposable plates and cups, the siadi (*Bauhinia uablii*) creeper can be used to make ropes, and the thorny bark of the semur (silk-cotton) tree is used to grate vegetables.
- Oil for cooking and lighting lamps can be taken by pressing the fruit of the mahua tree.

#### Question 3.

Where is Bastar located? How did the people by Bastar react against the British forest policies?

Answer:

Bastar is situated in the southern part of Chhattisgarh and borders Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra. The river Indrawati flows from east to west across Bastar. The central part of Bastar is a plateau. To the north of this plateau is the Chhattisgarh plain and to its south is the Godavari plain.

The people of Bastar were very worried when the colonial government proposed to reserve two-thirds of the forest in 1905, and stop shifting cultivation, hunting and collection of forest produce.

- People began to gather and discuss these issues in their village councils, in bazaars and at festivals or wherever the headmen and priests of several villages were assembled.
- In 1910, mango boughs, a lump of earth, chillies and arrows, began circulating between villages. These were messages inviting villagers to rebel against the British.
- Every village contributed something to the rebellion expenses. Bazaars were looted, the houses of officials and traders, schools and police stations were burnt and robbed, and grain redistributed.
- Most of those who were attacked were in some way associated with the colonial state and its oppressive laws.

#### Question 4.

Mention the causes of deforestation in India under the colonial rule.

Answer:

During the colonial rule deforestation was more systematic and extensive. In the colonial period, cultivation expanded rapidly for various reasons.

- The British encouraged the production of commercial crops like jute, sugar, wheat and cotton. The demand for these crops increased in the 19th century and forests were cleared to meet the food grains and raw materials needed for industrial growth in Europe where food grains were needed to feed the growing urban population and raw materials were required for industrial production.
- The spread of railways from 1850 created a new demand. To run locomotives, wood was needed as fuel and to lay railway lines sleepers were necessary to hold the tracks together. From the 1860s, the railway network expanded rapidly. By 1890, about 25,500 km of track had been laid.
- The government gave out contracts to individuals and the contractors began cutting the trees rapidly. Forests around the tracks disappeared.
- Large areas of natural forests were cleared for tea, coffee and rubber plantations to meet Europe's growing need for these commodities.

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Question 1.

Mention a few products that are got from forest.

Answer:

Forests provide us with innumerable products. Forest trees provide wood or timber as it is called. We make furniture, like tables and chairs from wood. Wood is also used to make doors and windows. Paper is made from wood pulp. Forests are a store –house for many herbs which are used as medicine. We get gum and rubber from forest trees. Rubber is a very important industrial raw material. So it is our duty to protect forests.

Question 2.

What is Deforestation?

Answer:

The cutting down and clearing of the forests is referred to as deforestation. Deforestation is an age old practice. It started many centuries ago.

During the period of industrialization, forests were cleared for industries to flourish. Deforestation took place to expand cultivation. Deforestation brought a lot of ecological changes in our planet. During the colonial rule it became more systematic and extensive.

Question 3.

What are 'railway sleepers'? How many sleepers are required for 1 mile of railway track?

Answer:

Railway Sleepers are wooden planks laid across railway tracks; they hold the tracks in position . Between 1,760 and 2,000 sleepers are needed to lay 1 mile of railway track. A single sleeper is approximately 10 feet by 10 inches by 5 inches that is 3.5 cubic feet. Wood for these sleepers came mainly from the Sind Forests. As the railway was fast expanding, there was need for more and more trees to be cut. In the Madras Presidency alone, 35,000 trees were cut annually for making sleepers.

Question 4.

Mention a few commercial crops. Why are they called so?

Answer:

Jute, sugar, wheat and cotton are called commercial crops. These crops are used in industries as raw material, so they are called commercial crops. Cotton is used in the manufacture of textiles. Sugar is used to make chocolates and various other confectionery products. Wheat, like sugar is used in the confectionery industry, with biscuits and bread being the major product.

Question 5.

Why did Britain turn to India for timber supply for its Royal Navy?

Answer:

The disappearance of the oak forests in England, created problems in timber supply for the Royal Navy. The Royal Navy could not survive without a regular supply of timber. So, the British started their search in all the colonial countries for a regular supply of timber. Their search resulted in the cutting down forests in India. Within a decade, a large amount of timber was exported from India.

Question 6.

Write a note on Dietrich Brandis.

Answer:

Dietrich Brandis was a German National and an expert in forest development. The British invited him to India, to seek his advice and he was made the first Inspector General of Forests in India, as the indiscriminate felling of trees worried the British .

Mr. Brandis thought that there should be some proper system to manage forests and the people have to be trained in scientific conservation. They restricted cutting of forest trees and grazing. Anybody who cut trees without permission was punished.

Mr. Brandis set up the Indian Forest Service in 1864. He also formulated the Indian Forest Act in 1865. The Imperial Forest Research Institute was set up at Dehradun in 1906. Mr. Brandis introduced the method of scientific forestry. In this method, instead of different types of trees, only one type of tree is planted. Every year specific areas of the forest are cut and it is replanted. The trees are cut again after they grow.

The amendment to the Indian Forests Act, implemented by Mr. Brandis was enforced in 1878. According to this amendment the forests were divided into three categories – reserved, protected and village forests.

Villagers were not happy with the Forest act that promoted only particular species like teak and sal which were needed for hard wood, as they were tall and straight. Villagers who use forest products like roots, leaves and fruits wanted forests with a mixture of species to satisfy different needs like fuel, fodder and food.

Question 7.

Where and when was the Imperial Forest Research Institute set up?

Answer:

The Imperial Forest Research Institute was set up at Dehradun in 1906.

Question 8.

Write a brief note about the geographical location of Bastar.

Answer:

Bastar is located in the southernmost part of Chhattisgarh. It is surrounded by Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra. The central part of Bastar is situated on a plateau. Chhattisgarh plain and the Godavari Plains are to the north and south of the plateau, respectively. The river Indrawati passes through Bastar from east to west.

Question 9.

Give a brief account of the people of Bastar.

Answer:

The people of Bastar belonged to different communities such as Maria and Muria Gonds, Dhurwas, Bhatras and Halbas. Though they spoke different languages they shared common customs and beliefs. The people of Bastar believed that the Earth was sacred and made offerings during agricultural festivals. In addition to the Earth, they respected the spirits of the river, the forest and the mountain.

The boundaries of each village was well marked and the people looked after all the natural resources within that boundary. If people from one village wanted to take some wood from the forests of another village, they paid a small fee called devsari, dand or man in exchange. Some villages protected their forests by engaging watchmen and each household had to contribute some grain to pay them. Every year a big meeting is organised, where the headmen of villages meet and discuss issues of concern, including forests.

Question 10.

What was Samin's Challenge?

Answer:

Surontiko Samin belonged to the Randublatung village in Java. The Randublatung village was a teak forest village. Samin challenged the Dutch saying that the state had not created the wind, water, earth and wood, so it could not own it.

Samín's Challenge developed into a widespread movement. Samín was supported by his family members. Soon 3000 families followed his ideology and protested against the forest laws of the Dutch, by lying down on their land when the Dutch came to survey it. Many other villagers refused to pay taxes or fines. Some of them even refused to work for the Dutch in cutting trees.

Question 11.

What are the New Developments in Forestry?

Answer:

Environmentalists have realised the need for ecological balance. Conservation of forests is now seen as an important requirement than growing trees for timber. In order to conserve forests the people living near the forests have to be involved. In India dense forests have survived only because villages protected them in sacred groves known as sarnas, devarakudu, kan and rai. Villages patrol their own forests, with each household taking turns to do it. They do not leave it to the forest guards. Local forest communities and environmentalists today are thinking of different forms of forest management and conservation.