

Class 11, History ,Chapter 3

Long Answer Type Questions

Question 1.

Discuss the features of the lifestyle of the native peoples of North America.

Answer:

The features of the lifestyle of the native peoples of North America were as follows:

- **Living of the people:** In North America, the people lived in bands, in villages along the bank of the river valley.
- **Diet:** The people used to grow crops such as maize and different types of vegetation. They also ate fish and meat and went on hunting at far off places in search of wild buffaloes called bison.
- **Economy:** The people believed in subsistence economy. They used to grow as much crops as required to fulfil their basic needs.
- **Land as a resource:** They claimed their rights over the ownership of the land and were satisfied with the food and shelter available. There was no conflict with them for securing their rights over the ownership of land.
- **Exchange of gifts:** The natives of America used to live a life based on the principle of togetherness and mutual friendship. They did not indulge themselves into sale or purchase of goods. Thus, they used to exchange gifts amongst them.
- **Language:** The natives used to speak a number of languages. But names of these were not written down.
- **Clothes:** The natives of North America were skilled craftsmen and knew the art of weaving best quality of clothes.

Question 2.

How would you interpret the expansion of the USA? Also discuss the development of agriculture in the USA.

Answer:

Expansion of the USA

The USA and Canada came into being towards the end of the 18th century. They occupied only a fraction of land. The imperial power of that time established 13 colonies on its eastern coasts with an objective to gain her independence from Britain. In 1776, they declared a war against Britain.

This war continued till 1783 and came to an end with the defeat of Britain. In this way, independence of the United States of America came into being. The USA took long time to reach the present boundaries. America started expansion towards the west. To reach its present boundary, the southern region was won from Mexico. This southern expansion of America resulted in the displacement of the natives time and again. By 1892, America reached its present strength.

Agricultural Development

The Europeans in America had purchased large size of landholdings. They cleared forests and brought more land under cultivation. They produced crops like rice and cotton. These crops were sold in European market to earn more profits. To protect the crops from the dangers of wild predators they hunted on larger scale. The invention of barbed wire proved to be a milestone in the development of agriculture in America.

Question 3.

What do you know about the slavery system in the USA? How was it abolished?

Discuss.

Answer:

The climatic condition of the southern region was too hot. The Europeans were not able to work outdoors. Their main intention was to employ slaves as workers. The natives of South American colonies who had been enslaved had died in great numbers. As a result, the plantation owners bought slaves in Africa. There was a wide protest by anti-slavery groups that led to a ban on slave trade. But the Africans who lived in the USA remained slaves.

The economy of the north was completely different from the south. The northern states of America began to raise their voice against this practice. But the southern states were not interested in abolishing it. This led to a war between the two nations. This war continued till four years, i.e. from 1861 to 1865. The northern states emerged victorious in this war. Hence, the institution of slavery was finally abolished. Abraham Lincoln, the then President of America played a remarkable role in the abolition of slavery.

Question 4.

What do you know about wind of change in the USA and Canada?

Answer:

Till 1920s, the position of the native peoples of the USA and Canada did not improve. In 1928, a survey was conducted by Lewis Menon in which he narrated the grim picture of terribly poor people. The factors responsible for the winds of change were as follows:

Indian Reorganisation Act, 1934 In 1934, the Indian Reorganisation Act was introduced. Under the provision of this act, the natives living in reserves were given the right to buy land and take loans. Indeed, it was a landmark step in the history of natives. **Declaration of Indian Rights, 1954**

Between 1950 to 1960, the Governments of America and Canada thought to abolish all special provisions for the natives. They hoped that the natives will support their ideas to abolish privileges. But the natives did not do it. As a result of this, in 1954 many prepared a document named Declaration of Indian Rights. In it, they said that they will accept the citizenship of America on the terms that their reserves will not be taken back and there will be no interference in tradition.

In 1969, the government announced that they would not recognise aboriginal rights in Canada. The natives gave their support. They organised opposition by holding debates and a series of demonstrations. By the Constitution Act of 1982, they accepted the existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the natives.

Question 5.

Write a description about the winds of change in Australia.

Answer:

Several factors were responsible for the winds of change in Australia. An account of the factors responsible for winds of change are listed below:

- The Europeans were very hostile towards the natives of Australia. Since a long-time, they (Europeans) made no sincere efforts to improve their conditions. In their literature, the Europeans portrayed themselves superior as compared to the natives. In 1968, W.E.H. Stanner published a book entitled "The Great Australian Silence" that encouraged the Europeans to trace and understand the historical roots of the natives of Australia.
- Henry Reynolds in his book, "Why Weren't We Told" criticised the tradition of writing of Australian history. According to the Europeans, the history of Australia began with its discovery by Captain Cook. He believed that the study of native culture and civilization must be encouraged. His ideas inspired the Europeans to know about historical antecedents of the natives.
- The Europeans established separate department in universities to study the culture of the natives. To understand the local culture they also established museums and galleries of native art. Undoubtedly, it was a commendable step. It encouraged the Australian government to adopt the policy of multiculturalism. It aimed at providing equal respect for the culture of natives.
- A great Australian writer, Judith Wright spearheaded a powerful movement for the rights of the natives. She was of the opinion that the policy of keeping the whites and the natives separate may pose a great threat to the coming generation. She wrote many impressive poems which had intense effects on the hearts of people.
- The natives realized that the Europeans had made no agreement with them. It was due to this fact that the Australian government always used to call the land, Terra Nullius, which means that land belongs to none. This verdict recognized their claims of natives over the land prior to 1770.
- There was also a long and agonising history of children of mixed blood that was being forcibly captured and separated from their native relatives. These children were denied all sorts of rights.