

CBSE Class – VII Social Science
NCERT Solutions
History Chapter 7
Tribes, Nomads And Settled Communities

Q1. Match the following:

garh	khel
tanda	chaurasi
labourer	caravan
clan	Garha Katanga
Sib Singh	Ahom state
Durgawati	paik

Solution:

garh	chaurasi
tanda	caravan
labourer	paik
clan	khel
Sib Singh	Ahom state
Durgawati	Garha Katanga

Q2: Fill in the blanks:

- (a) The new castes emerging within varnas were called _____
- (b) _____ were historical works written by the Ahoms.
- (c) The _____ mentions that Garha Katanga had 70,000 villages.
- (d) As tribal states became bigger and stronger, they gave land grants to _____ and _____

Solution:

- (a) The new castes emerging with in varnas were called **jatis**.
- (b) **Buranjis** were historical works written by the Ahoms.
- (c) **The Akbar Nama** mentions that Garha Katanga had 70,000 villages.
- (d) As tribal states became bigger and stronger, they gave land grants to **poets** and **scholars**.

Q3: State whether true or false:

- (a) Tribal societies had rich oral traditions.
- (b) There were no tribal communities in the north-western part of the subcontinent.
- (c) The chaurasi in Gond states contained several cities.
- (d) The Bhils lived in the north-eastern part of the subcontinent.

Solution:

- (a) True
- (b) False
- (c) False
- (d) False

Q4: What kinds of exchanges took place between nomadic pastoralists and settled agriculturists?

Solution:

Nomadic pastoralists exchanged wool, ghee, etc. with settled agriculturalists for grain, cloth, utensils and other products.

Q5: How was the administration of the Ahom state organized?

Solution:

- The Ahom state depended upon forced labour. Those forced to work for the state were called *paiks*. A census of the population was taken. Each village had to send a number of *paiks* by rotation.
- People from heavily populated areas were shifted to less populated areas. Ahom clans broke up and the administration became more centralized.
- Ahom society was divided into clans or khels. A khel often controlled several villages. The peasant was given land by his village community and even the king could not take it away without the community's consent.

Q6: What changes took place in *varna*-based society?

Solution:

Within the *varna*-based society, smaller castes called jatis emerged. Jatis, rather than *varna*, became the basis for organizing society.

- Many tribes and social groups were taken into caste-based society and given the status of jatis. Specialised artisans – smiths, carpenters and masons – were also recognised as separate jatis by the Brahmanas.
- The rise of jatis led to unequal social order and greater divide between castes.
- *Varnas* helped identify people with specialized skills and formalized labor.

Q7: How did tribal societies change after being organized into a state?

Solution:

After being organized into a state, the following changes occurred for tribal societies:

- They became a part of the caste system with the help of the Brahmanas.
- The leading tribal families became a part of ruling classes and the majority of them merged into lower jatis of the caste system.
- Many dominant tribes of Punjab, Sind and the North-West Frontier had adopted Islam quite early. They continued to reject the caste system.
- The unequal social order, prescribed by orthodox Hinduism, was not widely accepted in these areas.
- Some of the tribes such as the Ahoms, became very powerful and conflicted with larger kingdoms.

Q8: Were the Banjaras important for the economy?

Solution:

The Banjaras were very important for the economy.

- They were the most important trader-nomads.
- They helped traders by working as carriers. For example, Sultan Alauddin Khalji used the Banjaras to transport grain to the city markets. Emperor Jahangir wrote in his memoirs that the Banjaras carried grain on their bullocks from different areas and sold it in towns. They transported food grain for the Mughal army during military campaigns.

Q9: In what ways was the history of the Gonds different from that of the Ahoms? Were there any similarities?

Solution:

The similarities between the history of the Gonds and the Ahoms were:

- Both were tribes that grew in power.
- Both tribes had centralized administration. Both tribes were divided into clans or *jatis*.

The differences between the history of the Gonds and the Ahoms were:

- The histories of Gonds and Ahoms were different in that while the Gonds were completely annexed by the Mughals, the Ahoms managed to reclaim their independence soon after their annexation.
- Gonds practised “shifting cultivation” while the Ahoms did not.
- Gonds lived in a vast forested region called Gondwana; the Ahoms migrated to the Brahmaputra valley from present-day Myanmar.