

Chapter-4

Forest Society and Colonialism

1 marks Questions

1. Who were the people who move from one place to the other to herd their sheep, goat and cattle?

Ans. Pastoralists.

2. How much area of forest cover in the world was cleared for industrial uses, cultivation, pastures and firewood, between the years of 1700 to 1995?

Ans. 13.9 million square km.

3. How much India's landmass had been under cultivation in 1600?

Ans. About one sixth of India's landmass.

4. How much sleepers were required for each mile railway track?

Ans. About 1760 to 2000 sleepers.

5. When was the Indian Forest Service set-up?

Ans. 1864.

6. Name the act which was passed in 1865 to save forests.

Ans. The Indian Forest Act.

7. Where was the Imperial Forest Research Institute set up in 1906?



Ans. Dehradun.

8. Name the forest act according to which forests was divided into three categories.

Ans. The Forest Act of 1878.

9. How many tigers by killed between the years 1875-1925?

Ans. About 80,000 tigers.

10. Name the present state of India in which Bastar located.

Ans. Chhattisgarh.

11. Name the trees which are useful for building ships and railways?

Ans. Teak and Saal tree.

12. Java was in the possession of which colonial power?

Ans. The Dutch colonial power.

13. Name the country which occupied Indonesia during the Second World War?

Ans. Japan.

14. Who led the forest Movement in Chhotanagpur region against the British?

Ans. Birsa Munda.

15. Which river flows through the Bastar region?

Ans. Indrawati.

16. What is Dand?



Ans. A kind of fee.

17. Who was the leader of Dhurwas in forest struggle?

Ans. Gunda Dhur.

18. Who was the Inspector General of Forest in India?

Ans. Dietrich Brandis.

19. What was the population of Java in 1600 A.D.?

Ans. 3.4 million.

20. Who were famous as the woodcutters of Java?

Ans. Kalangs of Java.



3 marks Questions

1. Explain any three reasons for the rapid expansion of cultivation during colonial rule.

Ans. The British directly encouraged the production of commercial crops like Jute, sugar, wheat and cotton.

The demand for these crops increased in nineteenth century.

Europe where food grains were needed to feed the growing population.

Raw materials were required for industries.

2. Write some products which we get from the forests.

Ans. We get fruits and roots from forests.

Forests provide us timber for manufacturing furniture.

We get honey, gum, rubber, fodder etc from forests.

3. What are the main reasons for rapid disappearance of forests?

Ans. Forests were cleared to set up industries.

More areas required for agriculture to feed the growing population.

Wood was required for fuel purpose.

Colonial rule was also responsible for the disappearance of forests.

4. Why it was necessary to bring more area under cultivation?

Ans. To meet the food-grain demand of the ever-growing population.

The British encouraged the production of cash crops.

The demand for cash crops as well as food grains increased due to urbanization.

The British considered forests as unproductive. They wanted to get more land revenue. So,



more area was brought under cultivation.

5. Who was Richard Harding?

Ans. Richard Harding was an American writer. He justified the land acquisition in an interesting manner.

He said that it was better to keep the land under the colonial powers to improve it. He said that original people were not doing enough to improve the land. They never understood the value of the land.

He termed the native of Central America as the semi- barbarians who could never understand the value of luxury and comforts.

6. A. Malaya States, B. Borneo Island, C. Celebes Island



Ans.



7. Elaborate the main features of Lakota Tribe of North America?

Ans. Native Americans like the Lakota Tribe who lived in the Great North American Plain had a diversified economy.

They cultivated maize, foraged for wild plants and hunted bison.

Keeping vast areas open for bison to range in was seen by the English settlers as wasteful.

After the 1860s the bison were killed in large number.

8. How did the expansion of railway become a major reason of deforestation?

Ans. The introduction of railways was an important chapter in the history of mankind, but it also turned to be a disaster for the forest.

Wood was required to run locomotives.

It was required to make sleepers which were very essential to hold the track together.

There was the need of around 2000 sleepers for the development of each mile of track.

9. What is scientific forestry? Why was it introduced?

Ans. The scientific forestry is a system in which natural forests are cut and replaced by one type of trees which are planted in straight rows.

Forest officials surveyed and planned how much area is to be cut then to be planted.

The British introduced the scientific forestry to manage the forest and to conserve the forests.

10. Highlight different forest Acts made by Britishers to control the forests?

Ans. In 1864 the Indian Forest Act Service was established.

In 1865, the Indian Forest Act was passed.

In 1878 and 1927 the Indian Forest Act was amended.

The Act 1878 made three categories of forest that are Reserved Forests, Protected Forest and Village Forest.

11. Highlight some local names of shifting agriculture.

Ans. There are many local names of shifting agriculture.

It is called lading in South-East Asia.



Milpa in Central America.

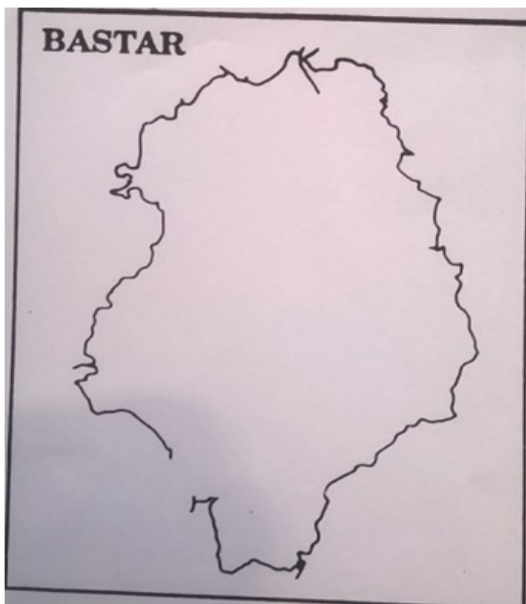
Tavi in Africa.

12. On the given political map locate and label the following with appropriate symbol.

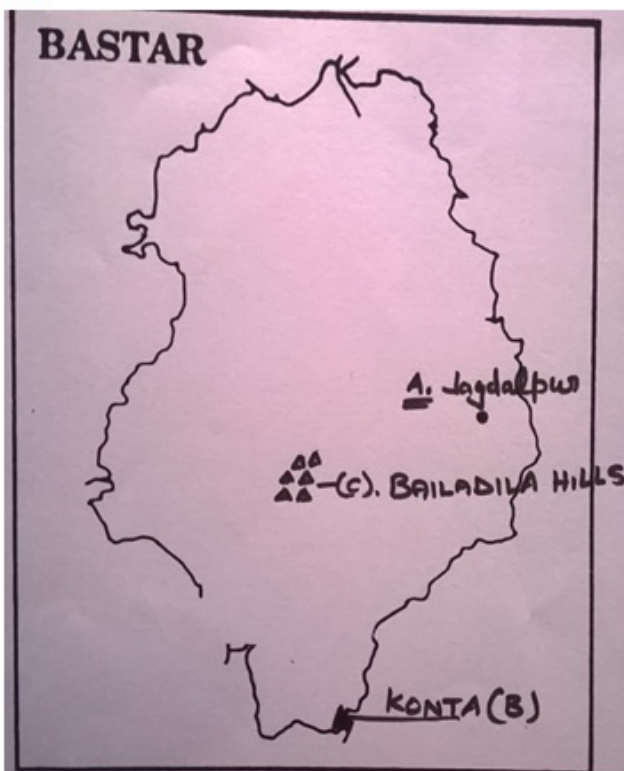
A. Jagdalpur

B. KONTA

C. Bailadiala Hills



Ans.



13. Why the Colonial Governments thought that the forests were unproductive? Give reasons.

Ans. In the early Nineteenth century the colonial states thought that the 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 state. So between 1880 and 1920, cultivated area rose to 6.7 million hectares.

14. Write about the wood cutters of Java.

Ans. The Kalangs of Java were famous as the woodcutters of java.

They were trained forest cutters and shifting cultivators.

They were very important for Mataram Kingdom.

When the Mataram Kingdom was divided, the Kalanga families too were divided among two new kingdoms.

15. Elaborate the role played by Samin in the forest movement?

Ans. Surontiko Samin was a villager of Randublatung village.

It was a village covered with dense teak forests. The Dutch had taken control of the forests. So he raised the question of ownership of the forests.

He rose against the colonial powers and soon the movement spread in the forest.

There were 3000 families who followed him. They refused to pay taxes and protested by lying down on the land.

16. What steps have been taken to conserve forests since 1980?

Ans. Since 1980s, Asian and African nations have realized the uselessness of scientific forestry.

Government took many steps to protect forests.

New Forest and Wildlife Acts have been formed to conserve the flora and fauna.

National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries and Biosphere Reserves are set by the government.



17. How did the changes in forest management in the colonial period affect the life of shifting cultivators?

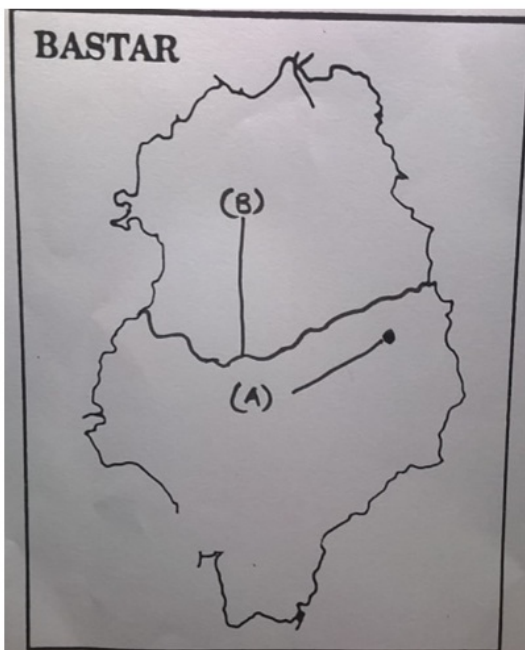
Ans. The colonial powers considered this practice as harmful for environment and forests. They feared that it would destroy the valuable timber. So they banned this type of cultivation. This results in the displacement of many forest tribes. Many tribes were forced to change their occupation.

18. Two features A and B are marked in the given map of Bastar. Identify these features with the help of the following information and write their correct names on the lines marked on the map

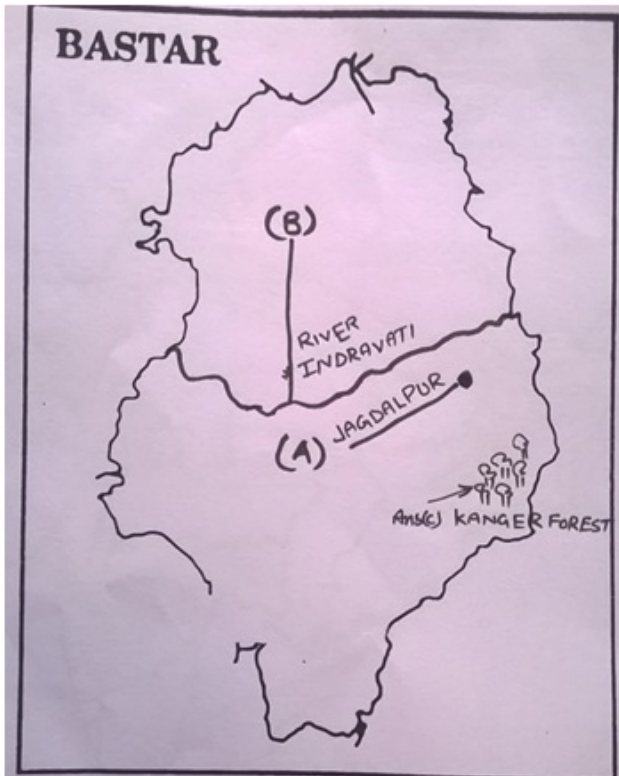
A. A place associated with a centre of colonial administration in Bastar

B. A river which flows East to West in Bastar region On the same political map locate and label the following

C. Kanger – The forest in which the rebellion against colonial rule started first



Ans.



19. Why the vast quantities of timber were being exported from India to England?

Ans. By the early nineteenth century, oak forests in England were disappearing in England. This created a problem of timber supply for the Royal Navy. How could English ships be built without regular supply of strong and durable Timber? How could imperial power be protected and maintained without ships? By the 1820s, search parties were sent to explore the forest resources of India. Within a decade, trees were being felled on a massive scale and vast quantities of timber were being exported from India.

20. How did the changes in forest management in the colonial period affect the life of nomadic and pastoral communities?

Ans. The new forest management laws changed the lifestyle of nomadic and pastoral communities.

Their natural grazing lands were either changed into agricultural land or reserves.

Many communities were classified as criminal tribes.

They were forced to settle in the village under strict vigilance.

21. How did the changes in forest management in the colonial period affect the firms trading in forest produce?

Ans. Traditional trading class of colonies became dependent on colonial powers. Many communities changed their ancestral profession and started trading in forest products. The colonial powers began to regulate the trade. The British made monopoly to Europe firms to trade in forest produce.

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

Ans. 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.

23. How did the changes in forest management in the colonial period affect the hobby of hunting of Kings and British officials?

Ans. The new laws prohibited the forest communities to hunt, to collect wood and forest products. Hunting of small animals was prohibited but hunting of large animals was encouraged. The British encouraged the kings and officials to hunt more. They were awarded for killing savage animals such as tigers, wolves etc.

24. A. A place where Dutch started Scientific Forestry

B. The island under British Control

(b) On the same political map locate and label the following

C. Sumatra Island





Ans.



25. Why was the German Expert Dietrich Brandis invited to India by the British Government?

Ans. British needed forests in order to build ships and railways.

The British were worried that the use of forests by local people and the reckless felling of trees by traders would destroy forests. So they decided to invite a German expert, Dietrich Brandis, for advice and made him the first Inspector General of Forest in India.

26. How did Railways contribute to the decline of forest cover in the Indian sun

continent?

Ans. One of the major causes of decline in forest areas was expansion of railways.

To run locomotives, wood was needed to run.

To lay railway lines sleepers were essential to hold tracks together.

As the railways tracks spread through India, larger number of trees was felled.

27. How did Ship-building contribute to the decline of forest cover in the Indian subcontinent?

Ans. Ship building was a major cause of deforestation.

As oak forests of Europe were exhausted by ship building industries, this created a problem of timber supply for Royal Navy.

The Indian forests were looked upon to provide hard and durable wood to build ships.

This led to rapid deforestation.

28. Under colonial rule why did the scale of hunting increase to such an extent that various species became almost extinct?

Ans. The British saw large animals as signs of a wild, primitive and savage society.

They believed that by killing dangerous animals the British would civilize India.

They gave rewards for killing of tigers, the wolves and other dangerous animals on the ground that they posed threat to cultivation.

29. Why did plantation develop in India? How did the British government support the plantation in India?

Ans. The British directly encouraged the production of commercial crops like jute, sugarcane, wheat and cotton.

In the early 19th century the colonial state thought the forests to be unproductive.

They wanted to bring land under cultivation so that the land could yield agricultural products and revenue and enhance the income of the state.

30. (a) Two features A and B are marked in the given political map of Bastar. Identify

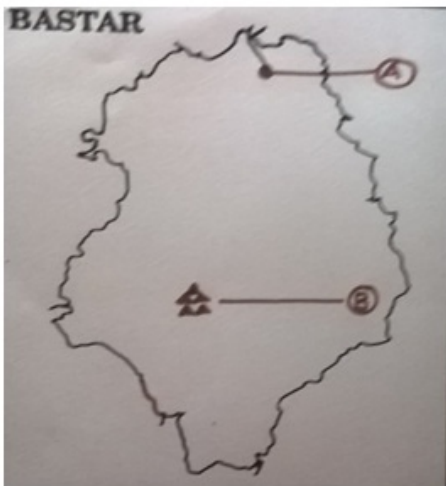
these features with the help of the following information and write their correct names on the lines marked on the map

A. The kingdom in which the Bastar kingdom was merged in 1947.

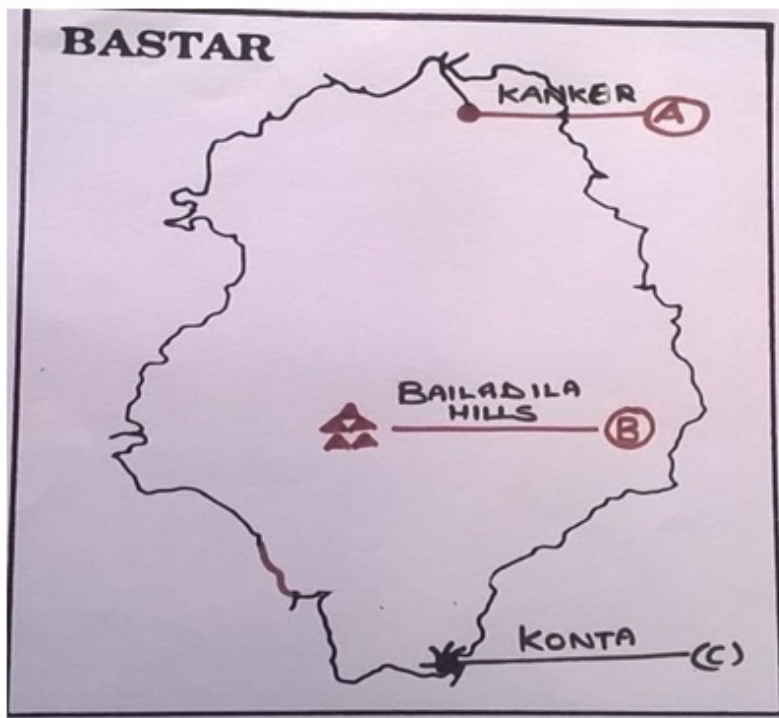
B. Name of the Hill

(b) On the same political map locate and label the following.

C. The southernmost Tahsil of Bastar- Konta



Ans.



5 marks Questions

1. How forest products are useful for Tribal people? Explain with examples?

Ans. In forest areas people use forest products- roots, leaves, fruits and tubers-for many things.

Fruits and tubers are nutritious to eat, especially during the monsoons before the harvest has come in.

Herbs are used for medicine, wood for agricultural implements like yokes and plough, 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.

Creepers can be used to make ropes, and the thorny bark of the silk cotton tree is used to grate vegetables. Oil for cooking and to light lamps can be pressed from the fruit of the mahua tree.

2. The Forest Acts meant severe hardship for villager across the country”. Elaborate the statement with suitable reasons.

Ans. After the forest act all their everyday practices like cutting wood for houses become illegal.

After that they are not allowed to collect fruits and roots from the forests.

Hunting and fishing become illegal.

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

Women who collected fuel wood were especially worried.

It was also common for police constable and forest guards to harass people by demanding free food from them.

3. Summarize the role of any five factors that led to the decline of the forest cover in the Indian sub-continent during colonial period.

Ans. As population increased over the centuries the demand for food went up.

Peasants extended the boundaries of cultivation.

The British directly encouraged the production of commercial crops like Jute, Sugarcane, Wheat and Cotton.

The British Government thought forests unproductive that had to be brought under cultivation so that the land could yield agricultural products and revenue enhance the income of the state.

The trees were cut to make sleepers that were put into railway tracks.

4. Explain any five ways in which the lives of the villagers were affected by the Forest Acts.

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

Women who collected fuel wood were especially worried.

It was also common for police constables and forest guards to harass people by demand free wood from them.

The Forest Act brought severe hardships for villagers across the country. After the Act their everyday practices- cutting wood for their houses, grazing their cattle, collecting fruits and roots, hunting and fishing became illegal.

5. Can you write a brief outline of the ideas given by Dietrich Brandis for the management of forests in India?

Ans. Dietrich was appointed as the first Inspector General of Forests in India by the colonial Government. Following are his suggestions:

Brandis felt that a proper system had to be introduced to manage the forests of India and people had to manage

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 set up the Indian Forest Services in 1864 and helped formulate the Indian forest Act of 1865

6. What type of forest products were used by forest people before the implementation of forest law in India?

Ans. Oil for cooking and to light can be pressed from the seeds of Mahua tree.

Bamboo make excellent lever and is also used to make baskets and umbrellas.

Herbs were used and are still used for making medicines.

Fruits and tubers were used for food as these are nutritious.

A dried scooped out gourd can be used as a portable water bottle or container to hold liquid.

7. How did the British exploit the forests resources of India for their economic development?

Ans. The British directly encouraged the production of commercial crops like jute, sugarcane, wheat and cotton.

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

Trees were cut to make sleepers that were put into railway tracks.

Large areas of forests were cleared to establish tea, coffee and rubber plantation to meet the needs of European industries.

Trees were cut on a massive scale and vast quantities by the early nineteenth century for ship-building.

8. Describe the events that led to the revolt in Bastar against the British.

Ans. The people of Bastar got worried when the colonial government proposed to reserve two-third of the forest in 1905.

Shifting cultivation was banned.

Hunting and collection of forest produce were banned.

Some people were allowed a conditional stay in the reserved forest.

The condition was that while living in the forest they had to work free for department in



cutting and transporting trees.

People of many villages were displaced without any notice or compensation.

9. How the construction of Indus valley Railway network was causes a heavy destruction to the forests of Sindh and Punjab?

Ans. To expand its revenue income, the colonial government looked for every possible source of taxation

Taxes were imposed on land, on canal water, on salt, on trade goods and even on animals. Pastoralists had to pay tax on every animal they grazed on the pastures. In most pastoral tracts of India, grazing tax was introduced in the mid-nineteenth century. The tax per head of cattle went up rapidly and the system of collection was made increasingly efficient. In the decades between the 1850s and 1880s the right to collect the tax was auctioned out to contractors.

10. Describe the rebellion of the Dhurwas of Kanger against the British.

Ans. People began to discuss their issues in their village council or bazaars where ever the headmen of several villages assembled.

Although there was no single leader but Gunda Dhur from village Methnar became an important figure.

In 1910, mango boughs, a lump of earth, chillies and arrows began circulating among villages. They were actually messages inviting villagers to rebel against the British.

Every village contributed something to the revolution expenses.

Bazars were looted, the houses of officials and traders, schools and police stations were burnt and robbed, and grains redistributed.

Most of those who were attacked were associated with the colonial powers.

