

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

New Kings and Kingdoms

Q1. Write a short note on Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, Afghanistan.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Q2. How did the Cholas rise to power?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Q1. Write a short note on Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, Afghanistan.

Ans. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni

- i. Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, Afghanistan ruled from 997 to 1030, and extended control over parts of Central Asia, Iran and the north-western part of the subcontinent.
- ii. He raided the subcontinent almost every year – his targets were wealthy temples, including that of Somnath, Gujarat.
- iii. Much of the wealth Mahmud carried away was used to create a splendid capital city at Ghazni.
- iv. He was interested in finding out more about the people he conquered, and entrusted a scholar named al-Biruni to write an account of the subcontinent. This Arabic work, known as the Kitab-al Hind, remains an important source for historians. He consulted Sanskrit scholars to prepare this account.

Q2. How did the Cholas rise to power?

Ans. A minor chiefly family known as the Muttaraiyar held power in the Kaveri delta. They were subordinate to the Pallava kings of Kanchipuram. Vijayalaya, who belonged to the ancient chiefly family of the Cholas from Uraiyur, captured the delta from the Muttaraiyar in the middle of the ninth century. He built the town of Thanjavur and a temple for goddess Nishumbhasudini there. The successors of Vijayalaya conquered neighbouring regions and the kingdom grew in size and power. The Pandyan and the Pallava territories to the south and north were made part of this kingdom. Rajaraja I, considered the most powerful Chola ruler, became king in 985 and expanded control over most of these areas. He also reorganised the administration of the empire. Rajaraja's son Rajendra I continued his policies and even raided the Ganga valley, Sri Lanka and countries of Southeast Asia, developing a navy for these expeditions.