

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Delhi Sultans

Q1. How did Delhi become an important city in the twelfth century?

Ans. _____

Q2. Why did the rulers of the Delhi Sultanate fail to control the hinterlands initially?

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Q3. Who was Raziyya? Why was she removed from the throne?

Ans. _____

The Delhi Sultans

Q1. How did Delhi become an important city in the twelfth century?

Ans. Delhi first became the capital of a kingdom under the Tomara Rajputs, who were defeated in the middle of the twelfth century by the Chauhans (also referred to as Chahamanas) of Ajmer. It was under the Tomaras and Chauhans that Delhi became an important commercial centre. Many rich Jaina merchants lived in the city and constructed several temples. Coins minted here, called dehiwal, had a wide circulation.

Q2. Why did the rulers of the Delhi Sultanate fail to control the hinterlands initially?

Ans. The Sultans seldom controlled the hinterland of the cities and were therefore dependent upon trade, tribute or plunder for supplies. Controlling garrison towns in distant Bengal and Sind from Delhi was extremely difficult. Rebellion, war, even bad weather could snap fragile communication routes. The state was also challenged by Mongol invasions from Afghanistan and by governors who rebelled at any sign of the Sultan's weakness.

Q3. Who was Raziyya? Why was she removed from the throne?

Ans. Raziyya was Sultan Iltutmish's daughter. In 1236 she became Sultan. The chronicler of the age, Minhaj-i Siraj, recognised that she was more able and qualified than all her brothers. But he was not comfortable at having a queen as ruler. Nor were the nobles happy at her attempts to rule independently. So, she was removed from the throne in 1240.