

Name: _____ Date: _____

Towns, Traders and Craftspersons

Q1. What attracted European traders to India?

Ans. _____

Q2. Write a brief note about Murshidabad.

Ans. _____

Q3. What kind of market did the small towns have?

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Q4. What was the system of advances? How did it affect the life of Weavers?

Ans. _____

Towns, Traders and Craftspersons

Q1. What attracted European traders to India?

Ans. Spices grown in tropical climates (pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, dried ginger, etc.) became an important part of European cooking, and cotton cloth was very attractive. This eventually drew European traders to India.

Q2. Write a brief note about Murshidabad.

Ans. Murshidabad (West Bengal) on the banks of the Bhagirathi, which rose to prominence as a centre for silks and became the capital of Bengal in 1704, declined in the course of the century as the weavers faced competition from cheap mill-made cloth from England.

Q3. What kind of market did the small towns have?

Ans. They usually had a mandapika (or mandi of later times) to which nearby villagers brought their produce to sell. They also had market streets called hatta (haat of later times) lined with shops. Besides, there were streets for different kinds of artisans such as potters, oil pressers, sugar makers, toddy makers, smiths, stonemasons, etc.

Q4. What was the system of advances? How did it affect the life of Weavers?

Ans. Crafts persons began to work on a system of advances which meant that they had to weave cloth which was already promised to European agents. Weavers no longer had the liberty of selling their own cloth or weaving their own patterns. They had to reproduce the designs supplied to them by the Company agents.