

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

Towns, Traders and Craftspersons

Q1. Why did people from distant lands visit Surat?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Q2. Describe the trading community of the medieval period.

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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## Towns, Traders and Craftspersons

Q1. Why did people from distant lands visit Surat?

Ans. People from distant lands visited Surat because of the following reason:

- i. Surat was the gateway for trade with West Asia via the Gulf of Ormuz.
- ii. Surat has also been called the gate to Mecca because many pilgrim ships set sail from here.
- iii. The textiles of Surat were famous for their gold lace borders (zari) and had a market in West Asia, Africa and Europe.
- iv. The state built numerous rest-houses to take care of the needs of people from all over the world who came to the city. There were magnificent buildings and innumerable pleasure parks.

Q2. Describe the trading community of the medieval period.

Ans. There were many kinds of traders. These included the Banjaras. Several traders, especially horse traders, formed associations, with headmen who negotiated on their behalf with warriors who bought horses. There were also communities like the Chettiars and the Marwari Oswal who went on to become the principal trading groups of the country. Gujarati traders, including the communities of Hindu Baniyas and Muslim Bohras, traded extensively with the ports of the Red Sea, Persian Gulf, East Africa, Southeast Asia and China. The towns on the west coast were home to Arab, Persian, Chinese, Jewish and Syrian Christian traders.