

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

Towns, Traders and Craftspersons

Q1. Why did Masulipatnam become prosperous and popular?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Q2. Describe the town Thanjavur.

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

Q1. Why did Masulipatnam become prosperous and popular?

Ans. The town of Masulipatnam or Machlipatnam (literally, fish port town) lay on the delta of the Krishna river.

- i. In the seventeenth century it was a centre of intense activity. Both the Dutch and English East India Companies attempted to control Masulipatnam as it became the most important port on the Andhra coast.
- ii. The Qutb Shahi rulers of Golconda imposed royal monopolies on the sale of textiles, spices and other items to prevent the trade passing completely into the hands of the various East India Companies.
- iii. Fierce competition among various trading groups – the Golconda nobles, Persian merchants, Telugu Komati Chettis, and European traders – made the city populous and prosperous.

Q2. Describe the town Thanjavur.

Ans. People regarded Thanjavur as a great town because of the following reasons:

- i. Thanjavur was the capital of the Cholas. The perennial river Kaveri flows near this beautiful town. One hears the bells of the Rajarajeshvara temple built by King Rajaraja Chola.
- ii. The townspeople are all praise for its architect Kunjaramallan Rajaraja Perunthachchan who has proudly carved his name on the temple wall. Inside is a massive Shiva linga.
- iii. Besides the temple, there are palaces with mandapas or pavilions. Kings hold court in these mandapas, issuing orders to their subordinates. There are also barracks for the army.
- iv. The town is bustling with markets selling grain, spices, cloth and jewellery. Water supply for the town comes from wells and tanks.