

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tribes, Nomads and Settled Communities

Q1. What changes took place in varna-based society?

Ans. _____

Q2. What do you know about religion practised by Ahom society?

Ans. _____

Q3. How did the tribes earn their livelihood?

Ans. _____

Tribes, Nomads and Settled Communities

Q1. What changes took place in varna-based society?

Ans. Smaller castes, or jatis, emerged within varnas. For example, new castes appeared amongst the Brahmanas. On the other hand, many tribes and social groups were taken into caste-based society and given the status of jatis. Specialised artisans – smiths, carpenters and masons – were also recognised as separate jatis by the Brahmanas. Jatis, rather than varna, became the basis for organising society.

Q2. What do you know about religion practised by Ahom society?

Ans. Originally, the Ahoms worshipped their own tribal gods. During the first half of the seventeenth century, however, the influence of Brahmanas increased. Temples and Brahmanas were granted land by the king. In the reign of Sib Singh (1714-1744), Hinduism became the predominant religion. But the Ahom kings did not completely give up their traditional beliefs after adopting Hinduism.

Q3. How did the tribes earn their livelihood?

Ans. Many tribes obtained their livelihood from agriculture. Others were hunter-gatherers or herders. Most often they combined these activities to make full use of the natural resources of the area in which they lived. Some tribes were nomadic and moved from one place to another. A tribal group controlled land and pastures jointly, and divided these amongst households according to its own rules.