

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Making of Regional Cultures

Q1. How did the Cheras draw upon Sanskritic traditions?

Ans. _____

Q2. Why do we know much more about the cultural practices of rulers than about those of ordinary people?

Ans. _____

Q3. How did Kathak reach its present form?

Ans. _____

Q4. How are women depicted in the stories about Rajput heroes?

Ans. _____

The Making of Regional Cultures

Q1. How did the Cheras draw upon Sanskritic traditions?

Ans. The Cheras also drew upon Sanskritic traditions. The temple theatre of Kerala, which is traced to this period, borrowed stories from the Sanskrit epics. The first literary works in Malayalam, dated to about the twelfth century, are directly indebted to Sanskrit.

Q2. Why do we know much more about the cultural practices of rulers than about those of ordinary people?

Ans. Ordinary women and men painted as well – on pots, walls, floors, cloth – works of art that have occasionally survived, unlike the miniatures that were carefully preserved in palaces for centuries. Thus, we know much more about the cultural practices of rulers than about those of ordinary people.

Q3. How did Kathak reach its present form?

Ans. Under the Mughal emperors and their nobles, Kathak was performed in the court, where it acquired its present features and developed into a form of dance with a distinctive style. Subsequently, it developed in two traditions or gharanas: one in the courts of Rajasthan (Jaipur) and the other in Lucknow.

Q4. How are women depicted in the stories about Rajput heroes?

Ans. Sometimes, they figure as the “cause” for conflicts, as men fought with one another to either “win” or “protect” women. Women are also depicted as following their heroic husbands in both life and death – there are stories about the practice of sati or the immolation of widows on the funeral pyre of their husbands.