

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Making of Regional Cultures

Q1. Mention the role of Cheras in the development of Malayalam.

Ans. _____

Q2. Why were temples built in Bengal?

Ans. _____

Q3. How did miniature painting develop under the Mughal patronage?

Ans. _____

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Q1. Mention the role of Cheras in the development of Malayalam.

Ans. The Chera kingdom of Mahodayapuram was established in the ninth century in the south-western part of the peninsula, part of present-day Kerala. It is likely that Malayalam was spoken in this area. The rulers introduced the Malayalam language and script in their inscriptions. In fact, this is one of the earliest examples of the use of a regional language in official records in the subcontinent.

Q2. Why were temples built in Bengal?

Ans. Bengal witnessed a temple-building spree from the late fifteenth century, which culminated in the nineteenth century. Temples and other religious structures were often built by individuals or groups who were becoming powerful – to both demonstrate their power and proclaim their piety. As social and economic position improved, people proclaimed their status through the construction of temples.

Q3. How did miniature painting develop under the Mughal patronage?

Ans. The Mughal emperors Akbar, Jahangir and Shah Jahan patronised highly skilled painters who primarily illustrated manuscripts containing historical accounts and poetry. These were generally painted in brilliant colours and portrayed court scenes, scenes of battle or hunting, and other aspects of social life. They were often exchanged as gifts and were viewed only by an exclusive few – the emperor and his close associates.