

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

The Making of Regional Cultures

Q1. Who were the pirs? What was their position in the society?

Ans. \_\_\_\_\_  
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Q2. Write a short note on Kathak, a popular classical dance form of north India.

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## The Making of Regional Cultures

Q1. Who were the pirs? What was their position in the society?

Ans. The early settlers in Bengal sought some order and assurance in the unstable conditions of the new settlements. These were provided by community leaders, who also functioned as teachers and adjudicators and were sometimes ascribed with supernatural powers. People referred to them with affection and respect as pirs. This term included saints or Sufis and other religious personalities, daring colonisers and deified soldiers, various Hindu and Buddhist deities and even animistic spirits. The cult of pirs became very popular and their shrines can be found everywhere in Bengal.

Q2. Write a short note on Kathak, a popular classical dance form of north India.

Ans. Kathak now associated with several parts of north India. The term kathak is derived from katha, a word used in Sanskrit and other languages for story. The kathaks were originally a caste of story-tellers in temples of north India, who embellished their performances with gestures and songs. Kathak began evolving into a distinct mode of dance in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries with the spread of the bhakti movement. The legends of Radha-Krishna were enacted in folk plays called rasa lila, which combined folk dance with the basic gestures of the kathak story-tellers. 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.