

Name: _____ Date: _____

Ruling the Countryside

Q1. Why did the demand for Indian indigo increase?

Ans. _____

Q2. How did the Bengal economy fell into deep crisis?

Ans. _____

Q3. Why was the Indigo Commission set up by the government? What were its findings and suggestions?

Ans. _____

Ruling the Countryside

Q1. Why did the demand for Indian indigo increase?

Ans. By the end of the eighteenth century, the demand for Indian indigo grew further. Britain began to industrialise, and its cotton production expanded dramatically, creating an enormous new demand for cloth dyes. While the demand for indigo increased, its existing supplies from the West Indies and America collapsed for a variety of reasons. Between 1783 and 1789 the production of indigo in the world fell by half. Cloth dyers in Britain now desperately looked for new sources of indigo supply.

Q2. How did the Bengal economy fall into deep crisis?

Ans. After the Company became the Diwan of Bengal it began its efforts to increase the revenue as much as it could and buy fine cotton and silk cloth as cheaply as possible. Within five years the value of goods bought by the Company in Bengal doubled. Before 1865, the Company had purchased goods in India by importing gold and silver from Britain. Now the revenue collected in Bengal could finance the purchase of goods for export. This caused huge loss of revenue for Bengal which paralysed its economy.

Q3. Why was the Indigo Commission set up by the government? What were its findings and suggestions?

Ans. Worried by the rebellion, the government brought in the military to protect the planters from assault, and set up the Indigo Commission to enquire into the system of indigo production. The Commission held the planters guilty, and criticised them for the coercive methods they used with indigo cultivators. It declared that indigo production was not profitable for ryots. The Commission asked the ryots to fulfil their existing contracts but also told them that they could refuse to produce indigo in future.