

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tribals, Dikus and the Vision of a Golden Age

Q1. Elaborate upon the shifting cultivation method.

Ans. _____

Q2. Why was the British effort to settle jhum cultivators not very successful?

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Q1. Elaborate upon the shifting cultivation method.

Ans. This was done on small patches of land, mostly in forests. The cultivators cut the treetops to allow sunlight to reach the ground, and burnt the vegetation on the land to clear it for cultivation. They spread the ash from the firing, which contained potash, to fertilise the soil. They used the axe to cut trees and the hoe to scratch the soil in order to prepare it for cultivation. They broadcast the seeds, that is, scattered the seeds on the field instead of ploughing the land and sowing the seeds. Once the crop was ready and harvested, they moved to another field. A field that had been cultivated once was left fallow for several years.

Q2. Why was the British effort to settle jhum cultivators not very successful?

Ans. The British effort to settle jhum cultivators was not very successful because of the following reasons.

- i. Settled plough cultivation is not easy in areas where water is scarce and the soil is dry.
- ii. In fact, jhum cultivators who took to plough cultivation often suffered, since their fields did not produce good yields.
- iii. So the jhum cultivators in north-east India insisted on continuing with their traditional practice.
- iv. Facing widespread protests, the British had to ultimately allow them the right to carry on shifting cultivation in some parts of the forest.