

Name: _____ Date: _____

Weavers, Iron Smelters and Factory Owners

Q1. Who are the Agaria? Why did they leave their village?

Ans. _____

Q2. What was Calico Act?

Ans. _____

Q3. What happened to the weavers and spinners who lost their livelihood?

Ans. _____

Weavers, Iron Smelters and Factory Owners

Q1. Who are the Agaria? Why did they leave their village?

Ans. The Agaria were an Indian community of iron smelters. In the late nineteenth century a series of famines devastated the dry tracts of India. In Central India, many of the Agaria iron smelters stopped work, deserted their villages and migrated, looking for some other work to survive the hard times. A large number of them never worked their furnaces again.

Q2. What was Calico Act?

Ans. By the early eighteenth century, worried by the popularity of Indian textiles, wool and silk makers in England began protesting against the import of Indian cotton textiles. In 1720, the British government enacted a legislation banning the use of printed cotton textiles – chintz – in England. Interestingly, this Act was known as the Calico Act.

Q3. What happened to the weavers and spinners who lost their livelihood?

Ans. Many weavers became agricultural labourers. Some migrated to cities in search of work, and yet others went out of the country to work in plantations in Africa and South America. Some of these handloom weavers also found work in the new cotton mills that were established in Bombay (now Mumbai), Ahmedabad, Sholapur, Nagpur and Kanpur.