

Name: _____ Date: _____

Weavers, Iron Smelters and Factory Owners

Q1. Why handloom weaving did not completely die in India?

Ans. _____

Q2. How did the development of cotton industries in Britain affect textile producers in India?

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Q1. Why handloom weaving did not completely die in India?

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- i. This was because some types of cloths could not be supplied by machines. For example, machines could not produce saris with intricate borders or cloths with traditional woven patterns. These had a wide demand not only amongst the rich but also amongst the middle classes.
- ii. Nor did the textile manufacturers in Britain produce the very coarse cloths used by the poor people in India.
- iii. Sholapur in western India and Madura in South India emerged as important new centres of weaving in the late nineteenth century.
- iv. Later, during the national movement, Mahatma Gandhi urged people to boycott imported textiles and use hand-spun and handwoven cloth. Khadi gradually became a symbol of nationalism.

Q2. How did the development of cotton industries in Britain affect textile producers in India?

Ans. The development of cotton industries in Britain affected textile producers in India in several ways.

- i. Indian textiles now had to compete with British textiles in the European and American markets.
- ii. Exporting textiles to England also became increasingly difficult since very high duties were imposed on Indian textiles imported into Britain.
- iii. By the beginning of the nineteenth century, English made cotton textiles successfully ousted Indian goods from their traditional markets in Africa, America and Europe.
- iv. Thousands of weavers in India were now thrown out of employment. Bengal weavers were the worst hit.
- v. By the 1830s British cotton cloth flooded Indian markets. This affected not only specialist weavers but also spinners.