

CBSE Class–VIII Social Science
NCERT SOLUTION
History Chapter 4
Tribals , Dikus and the Vision of a Golden Age

1. Fill in the blanks:

(a) The British described the tribal people as _____ .

Ans : (a) The British described the tribal people as uncivilized.

(b) The method of sowing seeds in jhum cultivation is known as _____.

Ans : (b) The method of sowing seeds in jhum cultivation is known as broadcasting or scattering.

(c) The tribal chiefs got _____ titles in central India under the British land settlements.

Ans : (c) The tribal chiefs got land titles in central India under the British land settlements.

(d) Tribals went to work in the _____ of Assam, and the _____ in Bihar.

Ans : (d) Tribals went to work in the tea plantations of Assam and the coal mines in Bihar.

2. State whether true or false:

(a) Jhum cultivators plough the land and sow seeds.

Ans : False

(b) Cocoons were bought from the Santhals and sold by the traders at five times the purchase price.

Ans : True

(c) Birsa urged his followers to purify themselves, give up drinking liquor and stop believing in witchcraft and sorcery.

Ans : True

(d) The British wanted to preserve the tribal way of life.

Ans : False

3. What problems did shifting cultivators face under British rule?

Ans : The shifting cultivators were forced to take up settled cultivation. But type of land and shortage of water meant they could not produce enough. Many of them had to move on to other areas in search of work when access to the forest was restricted.

4. How did the powers of tribal chiefs change under colonial rule?

Ans : The functions and powers of the tribal chiefs changed considerably under the British rule. They lost much of their administrative power. They were forced to follow the laws made by the British. They had to pay tribute to the British. They were expected to discipline their people on behalf of the British government. Hence, under the colonial rule they lost the authority they had earlier enjoyed amongst their people and were unable to fulfill their traditional functions.

5. What accounts for the anger of the tribals against the dikus?

Ans : There are a number of reasons for anger of the tribals against the dikus:

- (i)** The tribals practiced shifting cultivation but the British forced them to follow settled agriculture and also introduced land settlements.
 - (ii)** Traders and moneylenders were coming into the forest, wanting to buy forest produce at a very cheap rate, luring them to take cash loans at high interests etc. So, the tribals considered the traders and moneylenders as evil outsiders.
 - (iii)** Under British rule the tribal chiefs lost their authorities they had enjoyed earlier amongst their people. They were unable to fulfill their traditional functions.
 - (iv)** The British evacuated them from their own lands, as a result they became homeless and went in search of work and livelihood.
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6. What was Birsa's vision of a golden age? Why do you think such a vision appealed to

the people of the region?

Ans : Birsa talked about a golden age, an age of truth in which, The tribal sirdars talked of a golden age. This was an age when the Mundas had been free from the oppression of dikus (enemies). They visualized of a time when the ancestral right of the community would be restored. His golden age consisted of a reformed tribal society in which there was no place for vices like liquor, uncleanness, witchcraft and sorcery, and outside forces like the missionaries, Hindu landlords, moneylenders, traders and the Europeans.

The vision of a golden age was like a dream for the tribal people. Hence, this vision appealed to the people of the region.
