

## Chapter-6

### Peasants and Farmers

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#### 1 marks Questions

**1. When was a threshing machine of a farmer destroyed?**

**Ans.** 28 August 1830.

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**2. Who was captain swing?**

**Ans.** It was a mythic name which was used by the workers to threat the farmers those who have threshing machines.

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**3. What does haystack mean?**

**Ans.** Fodder.

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**4. How much land was enclosed between the years of 1750-1850?**

**Ans.** 6 million acres of Land.

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**5. How many acts were passed by the British Government to legalize the enclosures?**

**Ans.** 4000 Acts.

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**6. How much population was living in England in 1900 AD?**

**Ans.** 30 million.

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**7. Name the two countries engaged in war at the end of 19th century?**

**Ans.** England and France.

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**8. What is Shilling?**

**Ans.** It is an English currency.

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**9. Which two crops increased the fertility of soil?**

**Ans.** Turnip and Cloves.

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**10. Name the ocean which separates Europe and North America?**

**Ans.** Atlantic Ocean separates Europe and USA.

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**11. In which year Thomas Jefferson became President of the USA?**

**Ans.** 1800 AD.

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**12. Where is Appalachian plateau located?**

**Ans.** It is in USA.

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**13. Who said “Plant more wheat, wheat will win the war”?**

**Ans.** Wilson.

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**14. How much area was under wheat in the USA in 1910?**

**Ans.** 45 million.

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**15. Who invented the first mechanical reaper in 1831?**

**Ans.** Cyrus McCormick invented the mechanical reaper.

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**16. In which year the Great Agrarian Depression occurs in the USA?**

**Ans.** In 1930s.

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**17. In which year the battle of Plassey was fought?**

**Ans.** 1757 AD.

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**18. Name the parties who fought the battle of Plassey?**

**Ans.** British and Nawab Siraj-Ud-Daula.

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**19. What is a mound?**

**Ans.** It is measure of weight.

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**20. What was village headman called in Bengal?**

**Ans.** Mahato.

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### 3 marks Questions

#### 1. How the Government of England reacted against the Captain Swing Movement?

**Ans.** Government of England reacted very severely against the actions of participants of the movement.

Those suspected of the rioting were rounded up. 1976 prisoners were tried up, nine men were hanged, 505 transported-over 450 of them to Australia. 644 put behind bars.

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#### 2. Why were the Farm houses being burnt in England in the 19th century?

**Ans.** In 19th century many farm houses were burnt. These were burnt by the workmen. The rich farmers had introduced thrashing machines in the farm houses. The workmen were afraid of losing their work and livelihood.

So, they started to threaten the farmers not to use the thrashing machines.

They broke many thrashing machines and burn many farm houses.

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#### 3. Who was Captain Swing? Why was he famous?

**Ans.** Captain Swing was an imaginary name which was used by the workers to threat the farmers. The workmen wrote letters to farmers to not use threshing machines. Soon, this imaginary name became a symbol of terror.

Many letters were sent to farmers signed in the name of Captain Swing.

Thus he became a Synonymous to the movement against the farmers.

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#### 4. What were the main features of open field system?

**Ans.** The Large part of the countryside was open. It was divided into private property or enclosure. Peasants used to cultivate the land around their village. They allotted a fixed

number of strips for farming.

A part of the land was kept as the common land. This common land was used pastureland to collect fuel wood and fruits etc.

**5. What were circumstances for the change in open field system?**

**Ans.** The open field system began to change around 16th century.

The big farmers were keen to expand the wool production.

So, they started to enclose common land. Soon, the open field system changed into enclosed farms.

**6. Three feature A, B and C is marked in the given physical map of United Kingdom. Identify these features with the help of the following information and write their correct names on the lines marked on the map**

**A. Name the place where 49 machines were broken**

**B. Write the name of the place where 50% enclosures of common field witnessed**

**C. Write the name of place where least number of machines was broken**



**Ans.**



### 7. How the common land was essential for the survival of the poor?

**Ans.** All the villagers had access to common land. Here they pastured their cows and grazed their sheep, collected fuel wood for fire and berries and fruit for food. They fished in the river and ponds, and hunted rabbits in common forests. So in this way, for the poor, the common land was essential for survival. It supplemented their meager income, sustained their cattle, and helped them tide over bad times when crops failed.

### 8. What were the features of enclosures of England?

**Ans.** Enclosures are the process which was used to end some traditional rights on Land. Under Enclosures, open fields were enclosed and controlled by big farmers. Till the middle of the 18th century the enclosures movement was very slow. Between 1750 and 1850, six million acres of land was enclosed.

### 9. What were the reasons for the increase in the demand of food grains?

**Ans.** The population of England was increasing rapidly. In 1750 it was 7 million which rose to 30 million 1900 AD.

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The industrial revolution led to urbanization. People began to migrate to cities in search of jobs. The demand of food grains increased in the urban areas.

The Anglo-French war created food shortage and price rise of grains in England.

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**10. What were the new crops introduced in England in the 17th century?**

**Ans.** In the 17th century, farmers began to crop some alternative crops such as turnip and clover. These crops were very good for soil fertility.

Turnip was a good fodder for cattle and peasants began to grow it and made it a part of their cropping system.

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**11. What were the impacts of enclosures on the poor?**

**Ans.** Enclosures deprived the poor from collecting fire wood from their forests.

The poor were prohibited to enter in the grazing land to graze the animals.

They were not able to collect fruit or hunt small animals for food.

In some areas poor were deprived of their rights and forced to move towards southern parts.

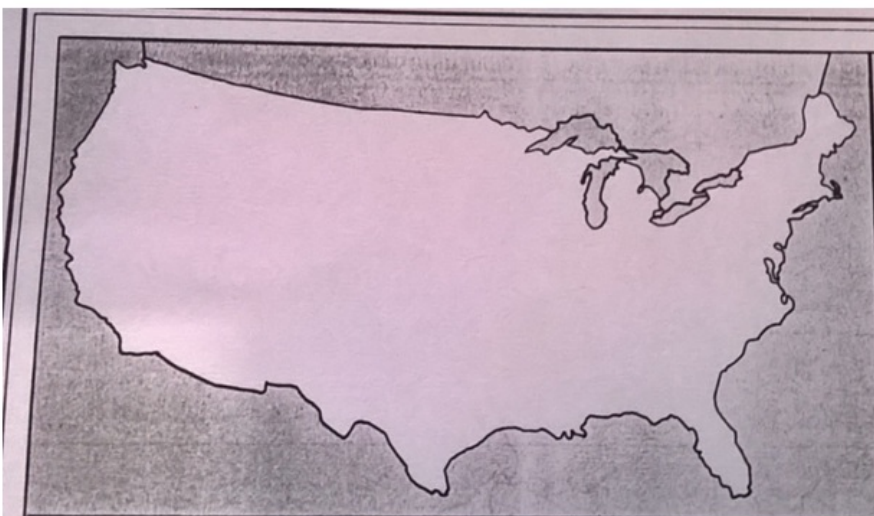
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**12. On the given outline map of United States of America locate and mark the following**

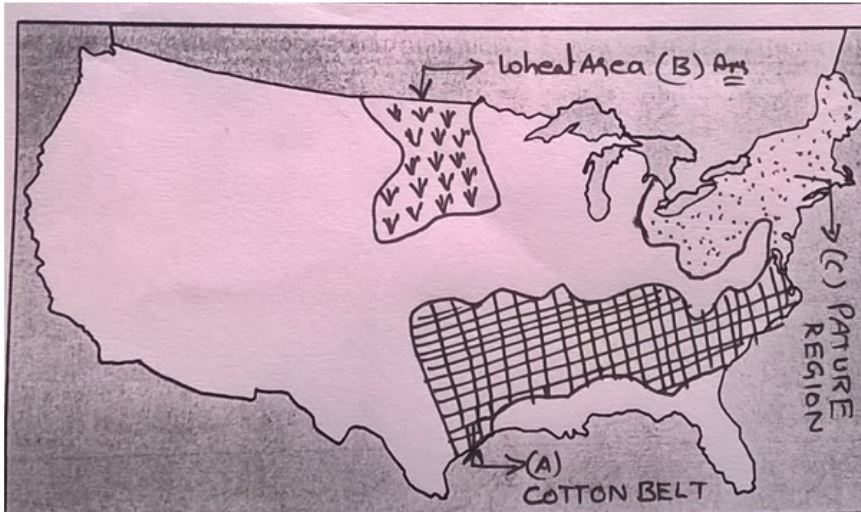
**A. The cotton belt**

**B. The wheat area**

**C. Pasture region**



**Ans.**



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**13. Can you explain why the production of wool was responsible for disappearance of the common land?**

**Ans.** The police were given instruction to keep a watch on the movements of pastoralists, and prevent them from entering white areas. Passes to enter the Territory should not be given to these natives unless exceptional circumstances necessitate their entering. Ordinary visiting passes should not be given to the locals.

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**14. How did Napoleonic wars make impact on food production?**

**Ans.** The Napoleonic war increased the demand for food grains and the price rise. Farmers increased their production as much possible.

The end of the wars brought surplus soldiers back to the villages. European food grains too started to come into England. Thus prices come down and agricultural depression started. The agricultural depression reduced the cultivated area and the number of employees.

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**15. What were the effects of modernization of agriculture on England?**

**Ans.** Open fields disappeared and the traditional rights of the farmers were undermined. Modernization helped to increase in the production of food-grains. The rich farmers began to sell the grains in the world market. They earned profit and become very rich and powerful. Modernization led to enclosures and the poor were forced to leave their lands and they have to migrate to other places in search of livelihood.

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**16. What were the main features of agriculture in USA in the 18th century?**

**Ans.** Settled agriculture was developed on large scale. Around 800 million hectares of land was under vegetation cover and 600 million areas of land was grassland. Maximum land was under the control of natives. White settlers were settled in the east coastal area.

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**17. Write a short note on expansion towards westwards.**

**Ans.** The story of agrarian expansion is closely connected to the westward movement of the white settlers who took over land.

After the American war of Independence from 1775 to 1783 and the formation of the United States of America the white Americans began to move westward. In 1800 over 700000 white settlers had moved on to the Appalachian plateau through the passes.

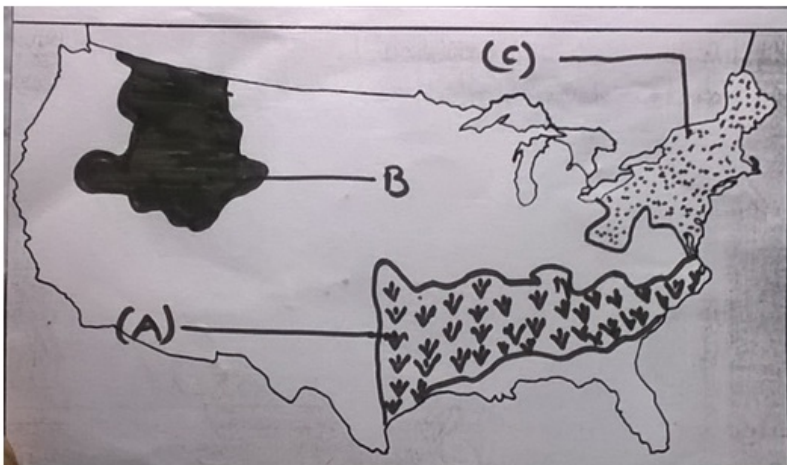
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**18. Three features A, B and C are marked in the given physical map of USA. Identify these features with the help of the following information and write their correct names on the lines marked on the map**

**Name of the crop grown in the shaded area in USA 1920**

**A. Name the mountain in the shaded area**

**B. Name the region of the shaded area**



**Ans.**



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**19. How did the war with France encourage the landowners to enclose more and more land?**

**Ans.** By the end of the 18th century, France was at war with England. This disrupted trade and the import of food grains from Europe. Prices of food grains in England sky rocketed, encouraging landowners to enclose lands and enlarge the area under grain cultivation. Profits flowed in and landowners pressurized the parliament to pass the Enclosure Act.

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**20. The Battle of Plassey was a turning point in the Indian History. Discuss.**

**Ans.** British rule was gradually established in India after the Battle of Plassey in 1757. After that the roots of colonial rule was established in India. British got control over Bengal the most fertile area of India.

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**21. What were the steps taken by Lin Ze Xu to stop opium trade?**

**Ans.** Lin Ze xu special Commissioner at Canton in 1839, estimated that there were over 4 million opium smokers in China. Lin arrested 1600 men involved in the opium trade and confiscated 11000 pounds of opium. Then he forced the foreign factories to hand over their stocks of opium burnt 20000 crates of opium and blew the ashes to the wind. When he announced that Canton was closed for foreign trade, Britain declared war.

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**22. How did Indian farmers become ready to produce opium?**

**Ans.** Indian farmers were provided advances to produce opium.

By accepting loan the farmers were forced to grow opium on a specific area of land.

The loans were given by the colonial opium agents to the farmers.

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**23. What were the advantages of the use of mechanical harvesting machines in the USA?**

**Ans.** Cyrus McCormick's reaper could work as 16 men with sackers. The new harvesting machines were able to harvesting 500 acres of wheat in two weeks. The new machines reduced their dependence on the labour. The new harvesting machines made the farmers to sow and harvest a big traits of land. This led to increase in production.

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**24. Three feature A, B and C is marked in the given political map of world. Identify these features with the help of the following information and write their correct names on the lines marked on the map**

**A. A centre of triangular trade in India**

**B. A centre of triangular trade in China**

**C. A centre of triangular trade in United Kingdom**



**Ans.**



**25. Mention the dramatic fact which makes the period after the 1780s different from any earlier period of English history?**

**Ans.** There is one dramatic fact which makes the period after the 1780s different from any earlier period of English history. In earlier times, rapid population growth was most often followed by a period of food shortages. Food grain production in the past had not expanded as rapidly as the population. In the nineteenth century this did not happen in England. Grain production grew as quickly as population. Even though the population increased rapidly, in 1868 England was produced about 80 per cent of the food it consumed. The rest was imported.

**26. What were the disadvantages of the use of mechanical harvesting machines in the USA?**

**Ans.** Machines were nightmares for the small and marginal farmers. The poor farmers purchased the machines on loan but could not repay back the loan. The poor farmers were forced to abandon their land and searched for jobs. The use of harvesting machines made poor jobless as the big farmers started to use machines instead of man-labour.

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**27. Which lessons can we drawn from the conversion of the countryside in the USA from the bread basket to a dust bowl?**

**Ans.** In their greed for new field, the White Americans landowners played havoc with the natural ecology they slashed and burnt forests indiscriminately.

The lesson which we have learnt, that in the mad race for growing more and more crops, one should not play havoc with ecology.

No trees should be cut and not of leaf of grass should be cut.

The ecological balance must be maintained at all cost otherwise everything will turn into a nightmare.

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**28. What was the open field system meant for a peasant woman?**

**Ans.** She could no longer collect fuel wood for fire and barriers and fruits for her children to eat.

It became difficult for her to graze her sheep, goats and cows and supplement her income and food requirements.

The life became worst than a hell for her and her family.

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**29. What was the open field system meant for a labourer?**

**Ans.** An open field system held great attraction for the labourer. He could meet almost all his needs from such open fields.

But when most of this open area came under the control of rich farmers who enclosed it for their personal use.

Labourers were deprived of all the benefits which he was drawing before.

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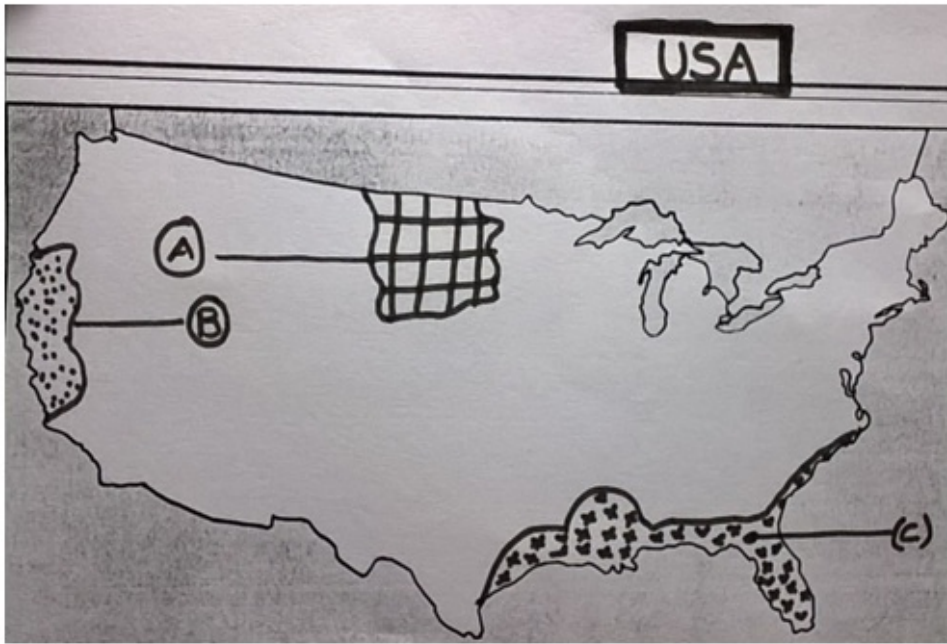
**30. Three features A, B and C are marked in the given physical map of USA. Identify these features with the help of the following information and write their correct names on the lines marked on the map**

**A. The food crop grown here**

**B. The type of vegetation**

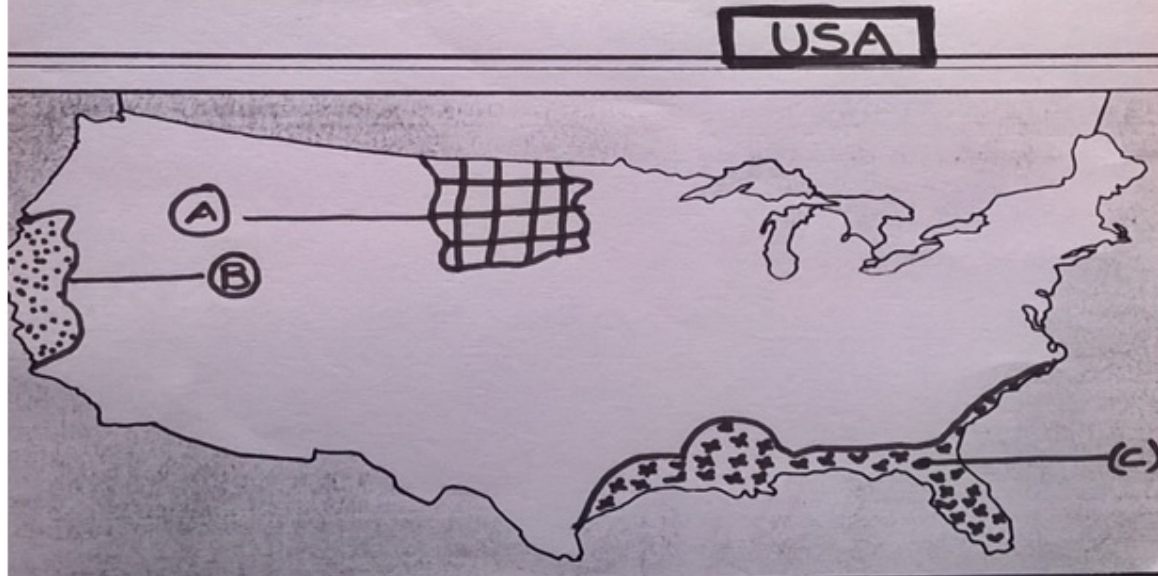
**C. Name the tribe that lived in this area before expansion of white settlement**





Ans.

- A. Wheat - The food crop grown here.
- B. Forest vegetation.
- C. Cotton - The crop that is grown here.



## 5 marks Questions

**1. “To some war brings devastation and to some war provides opportunities.” In the light of above statement, what do you think how did the war between France and England affected people in England in 18th century?**

**Ans.** Due to war supply of food grains the England from rest of Europe was almost closed. The rise in price of food grains provided opportunity to big landowners to increase production.

They started enclosing fields for grains cultivation.

This grabbing of land made the life of poor and small farmers miserable.

The big landlords made huge profits while the poor farmers become helpless.

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**2. Why did the British parliament support Enclosure Movement 18th century?**

**Ans.** Till the middle of eighteenth century the enclosure movement proceeded very slowly. The early enclosures were usually created by individual landlords.

After the mid eighteenth century however the enclosure movement swept through the countryside changing the English landscape forever.

When the price of wool went up in the world market and the rich farmers wanted to expand wool production to earn profits.

They were keen on controlling large areas of land in compact blocks to allow improved breeding. So they began dividing and enclosing common land.

From the mid eighteenth century the English population expanded rapidly. This meant an increased demand for food grains to feed the population.

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**3. What tactics were adopted by British to compel the unwilling cultivators of Bengal and Bihar to produce opium?**

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**Ans.** Unwilling cultivators were made to produce opium through a system of advances. In the rural areas of Bengal and Bihar there were large numbers of poor peasants they never had enough to survive. It was difficult for them to pay rent to the landlords or to buy food and clothing. From the 1780s, such peasants found their village headman giving them money advances to produce opium. When offer a loan, the cultivators were tempted to accept, hoping to meet their immediate needs and pay back the loan at a later stage. But the loan tied the peasants to the head man and through him to the government. It was the government opium agents who were advancing the loan to the head man, who in turn gave it to the cultivators. By taking the loan the cultivators was forced to grow opium on a specified area of land and hand over the produce to the agents.

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**4. List any five changes that took places with coming of modern agriculture in England.**

**Ans.** The richer farmers expanded their land and grain production, sold the production in the world market to earn huge profits. They become very rich and powerful. The open field system disappeared and the customary rights of peasants were undermined. The poor people left their village. They left the midlands and moved to other parts of the country where jobs were available. The income of labourers become unstable, jobs become insecure.

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**5. Why the British Government has problem from the production of opium in Central India and Rajasthan?**

**Ans.** By 1773, the British Government in Bengal had established a monopoly to trade in opium.No one else was legally permitted to trade in the product. By the 1820s, the British found to their horror that opium production in their territories was rapidly declining, but its production outside the British territories was increasing.It was being produced in Central India and Rajasthan, within princely states that were not under British control.In these regions, local traders were offering much higher prices ton peasants and exporting opium to China.



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To the British this trade was illegal. It was smuggling and it had to be stopped. Government monopoly had to be retained.

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**6. How were the poor affected by the enclosure movement?**

**Ans.** For the poor the common land was essential for survival. It supplemented their meager income, sustained their cattle, and helped them tide over bad times when crops failed.

The poor could no longer collect their firewood from the forests, or graze their cattle on the commons.

They could no longer collect apples and berries, or hunt small animals for meat.

Nor could they gather the stalks that lay on the fields after the crops were cut.

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**7. Mention in five points the westward expansion of white settlers in America between 1775 and 1920.**

**Ans.** After the war of Independence from 1775 to 1883 and the formation of the United States of America, the white Americans began to move westward. By the time Thomas Jefferson became president of USA in 1800, over 700,000 white settlers had moved on to the Appalachian plateau through the passes. Seen from the east coast, America seemed to be a land of promise. Its wilderness could be turned into cultivated fields. Forest timber could be cut for export, animals hunted for skin, mountains mined for gold and minerals. In the decade after 1800 the US Government committed itself to a policy of driving the American Indians westward, first beyond the river Mississippi, and then further west. It was however only after the 1860s that settlers swept into the Great Plains across the river Mississippi. In subsequent decades this region became major wheat-producing areas of America. Everything belonged to the landlords, everything had a price which the poor could not afford to pay.

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**8. What was the impact of the westward expansion of settlers in the USA?**

**Ans.** After the American War of Independence from 1775 to 1783 and the formation of United States of America, the white Americans began to move westward.

By the time of Thomas Jefferson becoming President of USA in 1800, over 700,000 white settlers had moved on to the Appalachian plateau through the passes.

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In the decades after 1800 the US government committed itself to a policy of driving the American Indians westward, first beyond river Mississippi, and then further west. Numerous wars were waged in which Indians were massacred and many of their village burnt.

After 1860s the settlers swept into the Great Plains across the River Mississippi.

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**9. Can you illustrate the reasons and affect of recurrent dust storms in the Great Plains in America?**

**Ans.** The expansion of wheat agriculture and overgrazing of the prairies were responsible for the dust bowl tragedy. It was natural as well as man-made as the farmers recklessly uprooted all vegetations. Tractors turn the soil over, and broken the sod into dust. In 1930, terrific dust storms began to blow over southern plains which affected economic and social life of people. The black blizzards were responsible for natural disaster where people were blinded, cattle suffocated to death.

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**10. Why did the British insisted the farmers to grow opium in India?**

**Ans.** The English East India Company was buying tea and silk from china for sale in England. The Tea trade becomes more and more important. But England at this time produced nothing that could be easily sold in China.

Britishers could finance the tea trade only by paying in silver coins or bullion. This would impoverish the nation and deplete its wealth.

To stop this loss of silver they wanted trade opium in China.

As China became a country of opium addicts, British trade in tea flourished. The return from opium sale financed the purchase in china.

Export of opium from India to China proved cheaper for Britishers.