Textbook Questions

Q.1. Comment on any points of difference between the native peoples of South and North America.
Ans:
- Owing to topographical differences, South Americans were hunter-gatherers, agriculturists and herders. They were simple people contended with their means.
- In North America, native people used to live in band in villages along the river valleys. They ate fish and meat and cultivated vegetables and maize.
- The natives of South America maintained empire, while the natives of North America did not maintain it.

Q.2. Other than the use of English, what other features of English economic and social life do you notice in 19th century USA?
Ans:
- In the 19th century, the landscapes of America changed immensely.
- The Europeans treated the land in a different way. Some of the migrants from Britain and France were eager to have their own land in America.
- In the prairie grasslands, people from Poland were happy to work.
- They wanted to buy huge properties at low cost.
- They cleared land and developed agriculture. They introduced crops which could not grow in Europe and therefore, could be sold for the profit.
- To protect their farms they hunted wild animals. With the invention of barbed wire in 1873 they felt totally secured.

Q. 3. What did the ‘frontier’ mean to the Americans?
Ans: The conquest and purchase of land by the Americans resulted in the extension of boundaries. The natives of America were compelled to move accordingly. The boundary where natives reached was known as ‘Frontier’.

Q. 4. Why was the history of the Australian native peoples left out of the history books?
Ans:
- European settlers and native peoples interacted on the issue of land after the emergence of North America. They were displaced by the Europeans.
- Early settlers were convicts deported from England. Hence, they were unknown to the area. They had not even their own tradition and history.
- Nothing has been written in American and Australian history textbooks about the native peoples.
- That is why the Australian native peoples were left out of history. It could be made possible from the decade of 1960’s that native peoples started keeping their records.
Q. 5. How satisfactory is a museum gallery display in explaining the culture of a people? Give examples from your own experience of a museum.
Ans: A museum gallery displays the culture of a people in the following ways:

- In museum, we seek information regarding dialects and languages.
- Remains of pots, apparels, ornaments and other things are displayed.
- Books, research papers, survey reports and works of historians and archaeologists are kept in the gallery of museum.
- Icons of the ancient periods, the theology in its basic forms and coins are also found in the museum. In fact, the museum is a storehouse of all the things symbolizing cultures of human beings from prehistoric period to the present. These things display cultures of the respective periods.

Q. 6. Imagine an encounter in California in about 1880 between four people: a former African slave, a Chinese labourer, a German who had come out in the Gold Rush, and a native of the Hopi tribe, and narrate their conversation.
Ans: It is an activity based question. Students are advised to attempt it with the help of their teachers.

Very Short Answer Type Questions

Q. 7. Define the term ‘native’.
Ans: The term ‘native’ refers to the birthplace of a person where he/she lives in. This term was used by the Europeans to describe the inhabitants of colonized country.

Q. 8. Which three European nations began to increase their trading activities after 17th century?
Ans: The three European nations which began to increase their trading activities after 17th century were France, Holland and England.

Q. 9. Who established themselves as a political power in South Africa and how?
Ans: The East India Company established themselves as a political power in South Africa. The company defeated the local leaders and annexed their territories to firmly establish its power.

Q.10. Explain the term ‘Settler’.
Ans: The term ‘Settler’ was used to describe the people who came from outside and settled at a particular place or region. It was used for Britishers in Ireland, Dutch in South Africa and the Europeans in America.

Q.11. Why did the Europeans consider natives of America as uncivilized?
Ans: The Europeans believed that literacy and urbanization are the basis of a civilized society. The natives of America lacked all these. That’s why they considered them uncivilized.

Q.12. What enabled the Europeans to dictate their terms to the natives of North America?
Ans: The natives of North America were quite ignorant about alcohol. But the Europeans gave them alcohol and made them addicted to it. It became their weakness. This way the Europeans became capable of dictating their terms to the natives of North America.
Ans: The people of Poland shifted towards America because of the following:

- Large tracks of land were available at cheaper rates.
- The pasture land available here was of good quality.

Q.14. How did the native peoples lose their land?
Ans: After the expansion of the USA settlement, the natives were forced to move after signing treaties and selling their land. The natives were paid very low price for the land they sold.

Q.15. Discuss any two reasons to show that Gold Rush proved to be a blessing for the USA.
Ans: ‘Gold Rush’ proved to be a blessing for the USA on account of the following reasons:

- Railway lines were laid down across the continent of America.
- Thousands of Chinese workers were employed for this.

Short Answer Type Questions

Q.16. What do you understand by ‘Imperialism’? Name a few countries who encouraged imperialism.
Ans: When a country establishes its economic and political control over any other country it is known as imperialism. The imperial country tries to maintain its strict control over the resources of colonial countries.

The countries which encouraged the policy of imperialism were the following:

- Great Britain
- Spain
- France
- Holland
- Portugal

Q.17. Discuss the physiographic features of the continent of North America.
Ans: Physiographic features of the continent of North America:

- This continent extends from Arctic Circle to the Tropic of Cancer, from the Pacific to the Atlantic Ocean.
- The Rocky Mountain chain is to the east of the Great Plains, the Great Lakes, the valleys of the Mississippi and the Ohio and the Appalachian Mountains.
- The Great lakes, the valleys of Mississippi and Ohio, and the Great Plains lie toward the east of the continent.
- Mexico is situated towards its south.

Q.18. What do you know about the earliest inhabitants of North America?
Ans:

- It is estimated that the earliest inhabitants of North America came from Asia on a land bridge across the Bering Straits about 30,000 years ago. They moved towards the south during the Ice Age 10,000 years ago.
- The oldest artefact was found in America about 11,000 years ago. About 5000 years ago due to climatic stability population began to increase.
Before the advent of Europeans, the native Americans used to live along the river valleys and produced crops such as maize and several kinds of vegetables.

Q.19. Why did the Europeans start to come and settle down in America during 19th century? Write any three reasons behind it.

Ans: The Europeans started to come and settle down in America during 19th century. The possible reasons behind it were the following:

- In France and Britain the younger sons had no right to inherit their father’s property. Therefore, they were eager to buy their own property and took keen interest to settle down in America.
- The farmers of Germany, Italy and Sweden had lost their land to big landlords. Now, they wanted to own some land and migrated to the USA in search of pasture-land.
- The people of Poland also started migrating to America, because here land was available at comparatively less rates. The Polish people were quite happy to work in Prairie grasslands because it reminded them about the steppes to their home town. It encouraged them to buy more land here.

Q.20. Discuss the methods adopted by the Europeans to displace the natives.

Ans: With the expansion of European settlement in America, natives were displaced from the region concerned. The methods adopted by the Europeans to displace the natives were the following:

- They used to inspire the native peoples to abandon those regions.
- In case the natives refused to abandon those areas, they were threatened.

They had deceitfully acquired more land from the natives and forced them out from here.

Q.21. How did the Europeans justify the displacement of the natives?

Ans:

- The Europeans justified the displacement of the natives by saying that they (the natives) did know the judicious use of their land.
- They criticized them by calling them sluggish.
- They were unaware about their crafts skill to produce goods for the market.
- Natives were also criticized on the ground that they were not interested in learning English and wearing western dress.
- So they deserved to die out. Wild bisons were killed on a large scale to clear prairies for farmland.

Q.22. Write on the following:
(i) The Gold Rush
(ii) Position of natives in Australia

Ans:

(i) The Gold Rush

- The Gold Rush: It was expected that there was gold in America. Traces of gold were found in the USA, California in the 1840’s. It only led to the ‘Gold Rush’. A lot of Europeans went to America in the expectation of making a quick fortune.
- It also led to the building of railway lines throughout the continent. Thousands of Chinese
workers were also recruited.

(ii) Position of natives in Australia

- Position of natives in Australia: In the late 18th century, there were about 350-750 native communities. Each community had its own language. Most of the communities resided in the north, i.e. called Torres Strait Islanders. Hence, the word, ‘aborigines’ is not used to describe them as they migrated from different places and belonged to a different race.