

10. Displacing Indigenous Peoples

1. Comment on any points of difference between the native peoples of South and North ?

Answer:

The natives of South America: They practiced extensive agriculture; the surplus yield enabled them to establish kingdoms and empires.

The natives of North America: They lived in bands, in villages along river valleys. They ate fish and meat, and cultivated vegetables and maize. They did not hunt animals more than their requirement for food. They practiced unique culture of making formal alliances and friendships, and exchanging gifts.

2. Other than the use of English, what other features of English economic and social life do you notice in nineteenth-century USA?

Answer:

1. With the arrival of European settlers, the landscapes of America changed drastically in the nineteenth century.
2. The Europeans treated the land of the natives as their private properties.
3. Immigrants from Germany, Sweden and Italy cleared land and cultivated rice and cotton; they sold the yield in European markets for profit.
4. They killed many wild animals to protect their huge farms; they were hunted to extinction. The colonisers also invented the barbed wire in 1873.

3. What did the 'frontier' mean to the Americans?

Answer:

1. Countries such as Canada and the United States of America emerged out of a fraction of the land colonised by Europeans at end of the eighteenth century. However, gradually, they expanded their territories through purchase and settlements.
2. For example, the USA purchased land in the south from France (the 'Louisiana Purchase'), from Russia (Alaska), and occupied much of southern America from Mexico.
3. This territorial domination was done by cheating and killing the natives living in these areas.
4. This situation had created the western 'frontier' of the USA beyond which the natives were forced to move from their traditional territories.

4. Why was the history of the Australian native peoples left out of history books?

Answer:

1. The history of the Australian native peoples was left out of history books because it was written by European settlers.

2. Till the middle of the twentieth century, Australian history textbooks hardly mentioned the native peoples except to suggest that the latter were hostile to Europeans.

Answer in a short essay

5. How satisfactory is a museum gallery display in explaining the culture of a people? Give examples from your own experience of a museum.

Answer:

1. A museum gallery display is one of the best ways to explain the culture of a people, because it effectively spreads the features of the cultural pasts of a community.
2. Cultural museum also categorizes artifacts chronologically and preserve other historical and artistic objects.
3. General public, students and researchers can easily access cultural artifacts and study them thoroughly. It transfers cultural knowledge to the future generation.
4. Museum gallery display can enable us to understand the culture of a community which is facing cultural destruction, or has vanished already in history.

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