

# NTSE

NCERT Solutions for Class 9 Social Science  
HISTORY – Peasants and Farmers



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**1. Who became the President of the USA in 1880?**

**Ans.** Thomas Jefferson became the President of the USA in 1800.

**2. Where in India did the British encourage cultivation of opium and why?**

**Ans.** The British encouraged cultivation of opium in the rural areas of **Bihar and Bengal**, because there were poor peasants who never had enough to survive. They were offered a loan and the cultivator were tempted to accept.

**3. What were the two major commercial crops of early 19<sup>th</sup> century in India?**

**Ans.** Indigo and opium.

**4. How did Western merchants start illegal opium trade in China?**

**Ans.** Western merchants began an illegal trade in opium. It was unloaded in a number of sea ports of south-eastern China and carried by local agents to the interiors.

**5. Why were threshing machines opposed by some labourers?**

**Ans.** The poor in England opposed threshing machines because:

- 1) Rich farmers began buying the new threshing machines as they wanted to reduce their dependence on labourers.
- 2) The land owners tried to cut wages and the number of workmen they employed.
- 3) The unemployed poor travelled from village to village and those with uncertain jobs lived in fear of a loss of their livelihood.
- 4) The income of labourers became unstable, their jobs insecure and their livelihood precarious.
- 5) The poor left their villages in large numbers.

**6. Why did the British parliament supported Enclosure Movement of 18<sup>th</sup> century?**

**Ans.** For the following reasons the British parliament supported Enclosure Movement of 18<sup>th</sup> century:

- When the price of wool went up in the world market in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, rich farmers wanted to expand wool production to earn profit.
- In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, enclosure was necessary for grain production.
- The increasing population needed more foodgrains.
- Moreover, Britain at this time was industrialising. More and more people began to live and work in urban areas. They added to the demand of foodgrains.

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- Men from rural areas migrated to towns in search of jobs. To survive, they had to buy foodgrains in market.
- For higher production, enclosure was necessary. Also it was necessary to make long term investments on land and plan crop rotation to improve the soil.
- Enclosure also allowed the richer landowner to expand the land under their control and produce more for the market.

**7. Describe any five effects of enclosure on the poor farmers?**

- Ans.** (1) Land became the exclusive property of one landowner. The poor could no longer collect their firewood from the forests, or graze their cattle on the commons.  
(2) They could no longer collect apples and berries, or hunt small animal for meat. Nor could they gather the stalks that lay in the fields after the crops were cut.  
(3) Everything belonged to the landlords, everything had a price which the poor could not afford to pay.  
(4) The poor were displaced from the land. They found their right were gradually disappearing.  
(5) Deprived of their rights and driven off the land, they travelled in search of work.

**8. Who was Captain Swing? What did the name symbolize or represent?**

- Ans.** Captain Swing was a mythical name used in the threatening letters issued after attacking the threshing machine in England.
- Captain Swing was the symbol of danger for landlords.
  - Captain Swing was represented the deprived workmen who were struggling for their livelihood due to using machines in agriculture.

**9. Describe the major features of the 'open field' system prevailing in the villages in England in the 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century.**

**Ans. The condition at the time of open fields were as under:**

- The countryside was not partitioned into enclosed lands privately owned by landlords.
- Peasants cultivated on strips of land around the village they lived in.
- These strips allotted in an public meeting varied in quality and size and were scattered at different places.

**Life of the farmer:**

- Besides the strips for cultivation, all the farmer had access to the commons.
- Here, they pastured their cows, grazed their sheep, collected the fuelwood for fire and berries and fruits for food.
- They fished in the rivers, ponds and hunted rabbits in common forests.

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*M. Pareek*

An  
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**10. What did the American settlers do on reaching Mississippi valley?**

**Ans.** (1) The American settlers moved into Mississippi valley between 1820 and 1850.

(2) The American settlers slashed and burnt forests, pulled out stumps, cleared the land for cultivation.

(3) They built log cabin in the forest clearings.

(4) Then they cleared larger areas and erected fences around the fields.

(5) They ploughed the land and sowed corn and wheat.

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