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1. A rich farmer
2. A labourer
3. A peasant woman

(3) For peasant women, the open field system was a good way of community living wherein everything was shared between the rich and the poor. They would use the common lands for grazing their cattle, gathering fruits and collecting firewood. However, all these activities were negatively affected because of the disappearance of open fields.

- Increasing population and due to it increasing demand for food grains and other things led to the enclosure in England.
- The rising prices of agricultural products such as wool, wheat, milk, fruits etc. also played a role as a factor in promoting enclosures in England.
- Industrialisation and war needs made foodgrain prices soar, making it necessary to take steps to increase its production.
- In the nineteenth-century, enclosure were seen necessary to make long-term investment on land and plan crop rotations to improve the soil.
- Enclosures also allowed the richer landowners to expand the land under their control and produce for the market.

Threshing machines were opposed by the poor in England because they thought that these machines would deprive workmen of their livelihood. They believed that with the help of machines the richer farmers and big landlords would encourage enclosure movement. The commons would be distributed among rich farmers, and poor farmers, labourers, peasants women would have to- struggle for their jobs and they would be jobless.

- Captain Swing was a mythic name used in threatening letters, written by the workmen against the use of threshing machines by rich farmers.
- The name symbolised anger or unhappiness of the labourers against the use of threshing machines by rich farmers or big landowners.

Solution

The westward expansion of settlers in the USA led to a complete annihilation of American Indians who were pushed westwards, down the Mississippi river, and then further west beyond that. They fought back, but were defeated; their villages were burnt and cattle destroyed. Also, with the cultivation of land for agricultural purposes, all grass and trees were razed. This led to terrible dust storms and blizzards in the 1930s, causing much death and destruction.

#490531

What were the advantages and disadvantages of the use of mechanical harvesting machines in the USA?

Solution

The advantages of the use of mechanical harvesting machines in the USA were:

- The price of wheat was high and demand limitless. These new machines allowed farmers to quickly clear tracts, break up the soil, remove the grass and prepare the ground for cultivation.
- The work could be done within a shorter time period and with a lesser number of labourers.
- With power-driven machinery, four men could plough, seed and harvest 2,000 to 4,000 acres of wheat in a season.

However there were some disadvantages for the poorer farmers too:

- They were thrown out of their jobs and they lost their means of livelihood.
- Many of them bought this machine too but it adversely affected them as the machines were expensive and once the demand crossed its limit there was enough surplus grain in the market.
- Thus, farmers needed to pay back the loan they had taken from banks to buy these machines, and the farmers had no money.

#490532

What lessons can we draw from the conversion of the countryside in the USA from a bread basket to a dust bowl?

Solution

The expansion of wheat agriculture in the Great Plains created the Dust Bowl. The American dream of a land of plenty had turned into a nightmare.

We need to learn a lesson from this. Use of land is good but overuse of land is bad. We need to realise that land is a precious natural resource which needs to be preserved and conserved. It serves as a warning sign against the exploitative use of land for commercial purposes only leads to degradation and depletion. This gives rise to serious consequences. We must realise that we need to respect the ecological conditions of each region and work towards sustainable development and look after our earth.

#490534

Why were Indian farmers reluctant to grow opium?

Solution

The Indian farmers were reluctant to grow opium due to:

- The crop had to be grown on the best land, on fields that lay near the villages and were well manured.
- This land was usually used for growing pulses. If opium was grown on fertile and well manured land then pulses would have to be grown on less fertile land and yield would not be good in quality as well as quantity.
- The cultivation of opium was difficult and time-consuming as the plants required looking after. As a consequence, the cultivators would not have time to look after their other produce.
- The farmers had to pay the rent for their land to the landlords. This rent was very high. The cultivators owned no land.
- Finally, the price the government paid for the opium produce was very low and would provide the farmers with no profits.