

HISTORY OF INDIGO
CASE STUDY
HISTORY CHAPTER – 3
CLASS VIII

The oldest known fabric dyed indigo, dated to 6,000 years ago, was discovered in Huaca Prieta, Peru. Many Asian countries, such as India, Japan, and Southeast Asian nations have used indigo as a dye (particularly silk dye) for centuries. The dye was also known to ancient civilizations

In Mesopotamia, Egypt, Britain, Mesoamerica, Peru, Iran, and West Africa, Indigo was also cultivated in India, which was also the earliest major center for its production and processing. The *tinctoria* species was domesticated in India. Indigo, used as a dye, made its way to the Greeks and the Romans, where it was valued as a luxury product.

India was a primary supplier of indigo to Europe as early as the Greco-Roman era. The association of India with indigo is reflected in the Greek word for the dye, *indikón*. The Romans latinized the term to *indicum*, which passed into Italian dialect and eventually into English as the word indigo.

Peasants in Bengal revolted against unfair treatment by the East India Company traders/planters. Which came to be known as the Indigo revolt in 1859, during the British Raj of India. The play *Nil Darpan* by Dinabandhu Mitra is based on the slavery and forced cultivation of indigo.

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS :

- 1. Where was the first indigo dyed fabric found?*
 - 2. Name the Asian countries which used indigo as a dye.*
 - 3. Name one of the oldest human civilization, where indigo was used as dye.*
 - 4. In which continent Egypt is located?*
 - 5. In which continent Iran is located?*
 - 6. Name two early processing centers of indigo.*
 - 7. From where indigo reached to India?*
 - 8. Write the Greek name of indigo.*
 - 9. Write the history of the term 'indigo'.*
 - 10. Name one literary piece which is based on indigo revolt.*
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