UNIT 10

ECOLOGY FOR PEACE

Q7S2X8

Pre-task

(A) Write your ideas in this table. Work in pairs.

Detail	Importance in our life
Trees	
Birds	
Butterflies	

(B) Discuss this statement in group and present the main points to the class.
IF WE SAVE NATURE, SHE WILL SAVE US.

(C) Sing these lines in chorus. Write their meaning in brief.

(a) ઈશનું રાજ્ય છે આખું, જે જે આ અવની વિષે, _____

ત્યાગીને ભોગવી જાણો, મા વાંછો ધન અન્યનું. _____

(b) सर्वे भवन्तु सुखिनः सर्वे सन्तु निरामया। _____

सर्वे भद्राणि पश्यन्तु मा कश्चिद् दुःखमाप्नुयात्॥ _____

Read

The Vedas(વેદ) sing about oneness of man and nature. The idea expressed in ancient texts have universal value. We have always tried for preservation and prosperity of all the species including mankind on this earth.

The Atharv Veda gives us a great idea: **यत्र विश्वम् भवति एकः नीडः**। It means the whole world lives as one single unit like a nest. All the living beings have the same right to live and thrive. This can be achieved through co-living only. We are the birds of the same nest. We may wear different skin, different clothes, speak different languages, believe in different religions, belong to different cultures - yet we share the same home: our earth ! Born on the same planet, covered with the same sky, gazing at the same stars, breathing the same air, we must learn to progress and prosper together happily or perish together miserably.

Our idea of peace does not mean just a state of ' no-war', neither it is limited just to men or countries and communities. But it embraces the whole nature and the whole creation. Let's try to understand

this *shanti mantra* from the same Atharv Veda:

ॐ द्यौ शान्तिः अंतरिक्ष शान्तिः पृथिवीः शान्तिः
आपः शान्तिः औषधय : शान्तिः वनस्पतङ्गः शान्तिः ।
विश्वदेवाः शान्तिः ब्रह्मः शान्तिः शान्तिरेव शान्तिः
सा मा शान्तिरेधि शान्तिः शान्तिः शान्तिः ।।

May there be peace in heaven, peace in space, peace on earth.
May there be peace in trees, peace in vegetation and plants.
May there be peace in our gods and in entire creation.
May there be peace everywhere and be it only peace.
That peace, I pray, embrace my being!

This mantra warns us not to disturb nature, not to abuse, pollute or destroy our surroundings upto the heaven. In trying to master and get benefit of our ecology, we are simply destroying ourselves, our own nest. True peace will prevail only when man lives in peace with nature, divine forces and ultimately himself. How can we do this ?

The wise rishi or seer of Ishavasy Upanishad gives us a wonderful advice:

इशावास्यम् इदं सर्वं यत् किंचित् जगत्यां जगत्।

तेन त्यक्तेन भुंजीथाः मा गृध् कस्यस्विद्धनम्॥

The rishi says: everything animate or inanimate that is within the universe is enlivened by the supreme power. One should therefore, accept only these things necessary for oneself. This quote must be enjoyed by renouncing it. Moreover one must not snatch away what belongs to or is required by others. The whole creation is filled with the presence of God.

This is a message against the animalistic greed of human beings. We should not, like a vulture, keep others away from having what we actually don't need. Gandhiji also said: 'There is enough on this earth for everybody's need, but not sufficient for one's greed.' As the crown of creation, man must protect and not exploit and consume other animals. If man stopped destroying animals, trees or other aspects of nature, our world would become less violent and thus a peaceful abode for all.

Mahavir Swami preached *Ahimsa*(non violence) to that extent that all Jain Sadhus put a cloth on their mouth, drink boiled water and do not take food before sunrise and after sunset for not destroying even bacteria. Mahavir Swami believed that we should not disturb or hurt even a stone for a selfish purpose. Rishis believed that every matter in the universe is living. There is nothing like non living. Every thing is in a process of evolution. This was the realism of our ancient seers.

Mahakavi Kalidas has written a play: *Abhijnan Shakuntalm*. In a scene, King Dushyant of Bharatvarsh enters the Ashram of Rishi Kanva. He is in his chariot, chasing a deer for hunting. Two disciples of Kanva see him and immediately ask him not to shoot his arrows at the deer.

न खलु न खलु बाणः संनिपात्योऽस्मिन्।

मृदुनि मृगशरीरे पुष्पराशाविवाग्निम् ॥

They said: O King don't shoot, please, don't shoot the arrow at the tender body of this deer. It is as bad as putting fire on the heap of flowers.

This shows that Ahimsa was very much in the blood of ancient people and it became the tradition of Indian culture.

Our culture has given us a heart as big as this earth; we have a global heart. Ancient wisdom teaches the world a true philosophy of universal peace and harmony.

Glossary

ecology balance of environment, science of environmental harmony **ancient** of very old times, પ્રાચીનકાળનું **prosper** get enriched **species** race, પ્રજાતિ **thrive** prosper **perish** get destroyed **creation** અસ્તિત્વ **embrace** include **abuse** spoil, misuse **animate** living beings **enliven** reside **renounce** give up **snatch** take away **greed** desire to have more **crown** topmost **abode** home **preached** taught **evolution** ઉત્ક્રાંતિ **seer** visionary, દ્રષ્ટા **chase** run after **disciple** student, શિષ્ય **tender** soft

Vocabulary

V. 1 Tick mark the nearest meaning.

1. chase	☐run fast	☐follow to catch	☐ walk behind someone	☐overtake
2. Philosophy	☐religion	☐talking big	☐wisdom	☐thinking on life related ideas
3. prosperity	☐improve quality	☐save	☐enrichment	☐proper development
4. embrace	☐touch	☐improve	☐love	☐accommodate
5. vegetation	☐plants and trees	☐grass	☐vegetable plants	☐crop in the field
6. renounce	☐reproduce	☐renaming	☐saying no to something	☐announce

V. 2 Fill in the blanks using the words in the bracket.

(ancient, species, snatch, greed, evolution, abode)

1. Midas had a _____ for collecting money.
2. Patan is an_____ city.
3. Gir forest is an_____ of lions.
4. Beware of monkeys, they might _____ eatables from your hand.
5. Man as a_____ has the same place on this earth as other species have.

V. 3 Answer these questions using one or more words from the glossary.

1. Why does man have more responsibilities than other species?
2. Through what process do inanimate things become animate beings?
3. What will bring peace to man?
4. What type of leaves do the trees have in the spring?
5. Which aspect is most important for creating and maintaining peace on the earth?
6. Why should we be grateful to our rishis?

Comprehension

C. 1 Write A if you agree or DA if you do not agree with these statements.

1. Real peace means absence of war on this earth. ☐
2. To become happier, we should collect and consume as much as we can. ☐
3. According to our ancient rishis, nothing is lifeless in this universe. ☐
4. We will thrive only if we take care of ecology. ☐
5. Kalidas wanted to kill a deer with his arrow. ☐
6. Together we progress or together we perish. ☐

C. 2 Answer these questions.

1. What are the universal values mentioned in this text?
2. How can giving up lead to peace?
3. What should we not do to make this earth a peaceful home for all?
4. What do you like about Indian culture?
5. How do the Jain sadhus take care of the smallest of living beings?
6. Write three things you will try not to do according to this text.

C. 3 Explain these ideas in three to four sentences.

1. All the living beings have the same right to live and thrive.
2. That peace, I pray. Embrace my being.
3. There is enough for everyone's need but not for their greed.
4. We have a global heart.

Language Practice

Krina is asked by her teacher to describe her family members. Read the description and notice the words highlighted.

Krina's sister

Krupali is my elder sister. I love her a lot. She is as **beautiful** as a film star. She is 18 years **old**. She has just passed her 12th Board exams. She is of **medium height**. She has got **short brown hair**. She has got a **diamond-shaped** face. Her **large blue eyes** make her more **attractive**. She always carries a smile on her face that makes her look **pretty**. She is good at making friends as she is **talkative**, **cheerful** and **outgoing (**મિલનસાર**)**. Although she is **friendly** with everyone, she doesn't like people who are **critical** for her actions.

Krina's mother

The most **loving** person in my life is my mother, Geeta. She is a home maker. She is a **middle aged** woman in her forties. Even at this age she looks **beautiful**. She is **tall** and **thin**. I like her **thick, long straight black** hair. She is very **kind** and **easy going**. She always talks with people **politely**. She is a **responsible**, **dependable** and **patient** woman. She is the closest person to me in my life.

Krina's brother

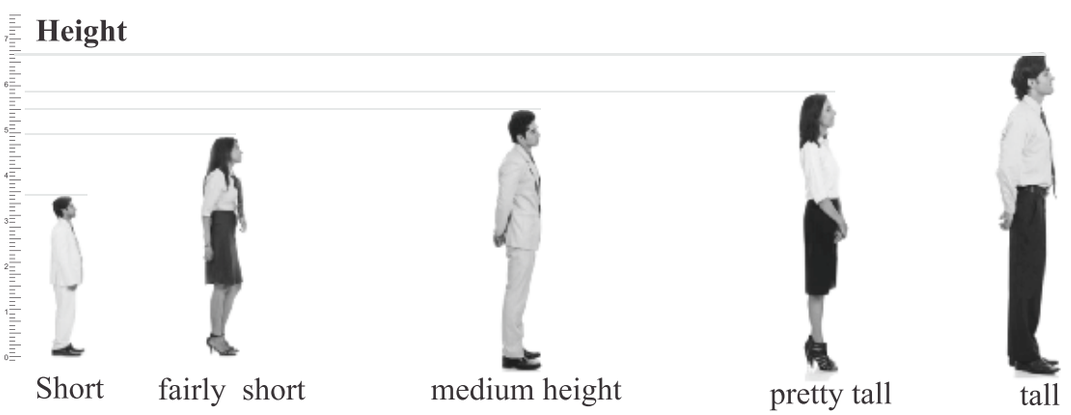
Krutarth is my younger brother. He studies in 9th class. He is **fairly short** and slightly **overweight**. His **round face** makes him look **cute**. He is fond of changing his hair styles. Earlier he had long hair but nowadays he keeps **crew cut** style. Although he is **fashionable**, he is **shy** by nature. He loves **painting** and he is **creative** too. He is very **possessive** about his things. At the same time he is **lazy** too, especially in his homework.

L. 1 Now list out the words used to describe 'physical features' and 'other qualities'.

Physical features	Other qualities

L. 2 Study the words and expressions used to describe people in the table below.

Age	young, middle aged, elderly, old, teenager, adult, in his/her early/mid/late 20s (30s, etc.)
Height	short, fairly short, medium or average height, pretty tall
Body	fat, plump, overweight, thin, skinny, slim, sturdy, well-built,muscular
Hair	dark, red, blond (light coloured), long, short, straight, curly, shoulder-length, bald, ponytail
Face	round, long, oval, freckled (spotted)skin
Skin	fair, dark, pale, light, chocolate coloured
Eyes	dark, big, slanted (ત્રાંસી), almondshaped, thick eyelids, blue / green



Hair	PICTURES		
			
Dark / long	straight/ shoulder length	curly	bald

- **Work in pairs. Describe yourself and your partner using at least five expressions mentioned above.**

I	My partner

L. 3 Read the conversation.

Neha : Hello! I am looking for someone. His name is Anurag.

Information counter : Well, what does he look like?

Neha : He's pretty tall, with short hair. And he generally wears kurta.

Information counter : Ok. And how old is he?

Neha : He's about 40, I guess.

Information counter : Does he wear glasses?

Neha : Yes, he does. He also keeps moustache and beard.

Information counter : Oh, it must be Patil sir then. He will be around the Water Projects section.

Neha : Thank you. I'll go and look for him.

L. 4 Answer the questions in one or two words.

1. How old is your brother / sister / mother / father? _____
2. What does s/he look like? _____
3. How tall is s/he? _____
4. What colour is her/his hair? _____
5. How long is her/his hair? _____

6. Does s/he wear glasses? _____
7. Does he have a moustache? _____
8. Does he keep beard? _____
9. What sort of clothes does s/he prefer to wear? _____
10. What does s/he do? _____

L. 5 Sit with any of your classmates and write 7 to 10 questions about him/her. Then take turns asking and answering the questions. Write a note on your partner.

Example : How tall is Jignesh? Ans: He is 5' tall.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

L. 6 Make a list of some qualities and habits of your English teacher at class VIII. Write a paragraph on that teacher using the words you have enlisted.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

L. 7 Here is an example of a passage on 'My Best Friend'. Read it and then write a passage about your 'best friend'.

My Best Friend

I think I am lucky because Sunil is my friend. He is 14 years old. He lives in the same town. He is my neighbour and we are classmates. — General information

He is of medium height and well-built. He has black curly hair. He has got a round face with black eyes. He has a pointed nose and small mouth. — Physical description

He is helpful, caring and honest. He tries his best to help others in problems. We have the same interests and tastes. I think as time goes by, our friendship will be deeper and stronger. — Qualities and relationship

Writing

W. 1 Look at these pictures and frame a story based on them. Use the words and phrases given below them. Give a proper title to the story. Work in pairs.



Lion – under a bush – swarm of mosquitoes – lion's boasting about his strength – mosquitoes' warning – lion's challenge – mosquitoes' attack – lion's attempts to kill them – mosquitoes bite continuously – lion jumping up and down – lion unable to fight – extremely tired – urged the mosquitoes to let him go – take pity on the lion – fly away.

W. 2 Discuss in groups of five on 'Unity in Diversity – the Essential Characteristic of India'. Write a paragraph on it. You may use the following words, phrases, ideas.

Differences in languages, religions, communities, castes, creeds, regions and yet live as Indians.

REM (RAPID EYE MOVEMENT)

70 to 90 minutes after you fall asleep you start dreaming. Your eyes move about, your brain becomes very active, and your breathing rate and blood pressure rise; your muscles relax so much that your body seems unable to move. Most dreams that last six to ten minutes, are more common; any nightmares you might have usually come towards morning.