UNIT 11

VALLEY OF FLOWERS

P1C4E1

Pre-task

(A) Read this information.

1. **Sanctuary :** A wildlife sanctuary is a protected area, where limited human activity is allowed. The ownership of this type of protected area can be in the hands of either a government or in any private organization provided the regulations are governed by the government. Inside a wildlife sanctuary, the hunting of animals is completely prohibited. Additionally, the trees cannot be cut down for any purpose. Rights of land can be of people. People can graze their animals in a sanctuary. A sanctuary can be upgraded to a National Park.
2. **National Park :** A national park has a defined boundary, through which no person can get into the park without permission. Only permitted persons can enter a national park. The visitors can observe the park by a vehicle which routes through defined trails and they cannot get out of the vehicle for any reason. Right of land don't belong to people. People cannot graze their animals in a national park. A national Park cannot be degraded to a sanctuary.

(B) Fill in the missing information.

Sanctuary or National Park	Name	Location and how to reach from Ahmedabad Total kilometers (in bracket)
Lion	Gir Forest	By bus (327 kms)
Tiger	Ranthambhor (Rajasthan)	By bus (650 kms)
Bear		
Blackbuck		
Dolphin		
Birds		
Marine animals		

(C) Read this poem.

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the Milky Way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced, but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A Poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

- William Wordsworth

Now say whether these statements are true or false.

1. The poet was moving in a daffodil park.	T	F
2. The poet looked at the flowers from the sky.	T	F
3. All the daffodils were dancing on the bank of lake.	T	F
4. He saw flowers on the hills of the Himalayas.	T	F
5. One thousand daffodils were dancing together.	T	F
6. The sight of dancing daffodils delighted the poet.	T	F
7. The poet's heart also started dancing.	T	F

(D) Draw the flower you like most. Why do you like it?

I love _____

I love this flower because _____

_____

_____

_____

Read





Imagine yourself standing at the height of 14000 feet in the west Himalayan range. All around you and as far as your eyes can see, there are flowers and flowers ! Emerald mountains, green meadows, white clouds and colourful patches of flowers create a dreamlike panoramic view. What place is this ? Can you guess ?

It is a vibrant and splendid national park hidden in the Himalayas. This alluring place is known as the Valley of Flowers. A vast area of 87.5 square kilometres and a huge variety of alpine flowers make this place colourful for nature lovers, botanists and photographers.

The Valley of Flowers is located near Ghaghariya town in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. It is about 300 kms north of Rishikesh, near Badrinath. There is a motorable road upto Govindghat and from there the track of this Valley starts.

This place was little known to outside world due to its remote location. In 1931, it was discovered accidentally by three British mountaineers. They lost their way while returning from a successful expedition. Theycame down to this beautiful valley searching for a way out from the mountains in the Himalayan range. Stunned by the variety and colours of the flowers, they named it as the 'The Valley of Flowers'. Thereafter, renowned mountaineers, trekkers and botanists started pouring in. Writers and poets have written essays, travelogues and poems on the enchanting beauty of this place. This Valley was declared as a National Park in 1982 and in 1988 it was included in the World Heritage Sites. Interestingly, there is a reference about this place in the Ramayana. In the battle between Ram and Ravan, Laxman was struck with an arrow shot by Meghnad, the son of Ravan. Laxman became unconscious; Ram called Sushen, the vaidya of Ravan. They

prescribed sanjeevani- a miraculous medicinal plants found only on the Himalayas, far away from Shrilanka in the north part of Bharat Varsha. Hanuman flew to that place and brought the sanjeevani along with the hill. That place was the Valley of Flowers! Many Indian yogis have come here and sat for long years in meditation. Such legends are associated with this wonderful place.

'Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Park' is the official name of this site. It is designated as a centre of plant diversity. The Forest Research Institute, in 1992, recorded 600 species of angiosperms(Magnolya, a flower plant) and 30 pteridophyts(unrolling fern) in the valley surrounding. The botanists discovered 58 new plants. Many of these species are globally threatened. In 1988, 31 species of rare and endangered categories were identified in this park. Local village people are found to use 45 medicinal plants. Brahmkamal is the most famous flower for medical use and as a religious offering to the Goddesses-Nanda Devi and Sunanda Devi. The dominant family in the Valley of Flowers is Asteraceae(family of sunflower) with 62 species! Other beautiful flowers are: Vajradanti Ajwayan, Blue poppies, Kanphuliya, Sallampanja, Banfsa, Balsam, Bariti, Haldiphool etc.

The park is rich in fauna. A total of 13 species of mammals are recorded and all of them are rare or endangered. There are snow leopards, grey langurs, Himalayan black bears, red foxes, Himalayan weasels, musk deer,ghorals, thars, bharals or blue sheep, flying squirrels etc. Moreover 114 species of birds are seen in this park. The main attractions are: Himalayan vultures, yellow and red billed choughs, koklass pheasants, monal pheasants, yellow-nape wood peckers, blue throated barbets and snow pigeons. There are several varieties of reptiles, butterflies and other insects too.

The Valley remains covered with thick blanket of snow during winter. It is in full bloom during July, August and September. This is the best time to explore the splendour of this magnificent place. Pushpawati riverbed is spread 6km in the Valley. Its water bifurcates the Valley into two parts.

Dewdrops on flowers, the rhythmic sound of water, rich flora and fauna, and delightful breeze of cool air are waiting for you. Listen to the call of the Valley and the dream of walking through this Valley with your friends.

Glossary

range chain, a line of hills **emerald** a bright green gem પોખરાજ **meadows** fields of grass and flowers **patches** spots, small areas **panoramic** a vast view **vibrant** lively with bright colours **splendid** beautiful and impressive ભવ્ય **alluring** very attractive **alpine flower** flower growing on high mountains પર્વતીય પ્રદેશનું ફૂલ **trek** long difficult journey on foot **remote** distant, difficult to reach **expedition** journey with a particular purpose **stunned** astonished, સ્તબ્ધ **pouring in** coming in large number **travelogue** પ્રવાસ વર્ણન **enchanting** magically pleasant **heritage** વારસો **healer** one who cures, a doctor **miraculous** giving unbelievable effect ચમત્કારિક **legend** old time popular stories, myth **designated** named by authority **diversity** variety **botanist** a person who studies the science of plants વનસ્પતિશાસ્ત્રી **threatened** at risk **endangered** in danger of **dominant** major, wide spread **fauna** wild life **flora** plant life **mammals** સસ્તન પ્રાણીઓ **pheasant** a long tailed brightly coloured bird કુકડા જેવું પક્ષી **barbet** a coloured tropical bird ઉષ્ણકટિબંધનું એક પક્ષી **magnificent** splendid **bifurcates** divides into two parts

Vocabulary

V. 1 Fill in the blanks using the words in the bracket.

(enchanting, travelogue, alluring, stunned, miraculous, panoramic)

Once we visited a natural park. We were _____ when we saw a _____ view of nature. It was really _____. The flowers were so _____ that we can't avoid touching. It has a _____ effect on me that I wrote a _____ on it.

V. 2 Here is a list of words. Find out the sentences in which they are used and understand their meanings.

Vibrant, splendid, alluring, enchanting, miraculous, diversity, magnificent

Comprehension

C. 1 Check these facts about the Valley of Flowers [VF]. Mark true or false.

1. The VF is a National Heritage Park.	T	F
2. The VF is a very interesting place for the botanists.	T	F
3. Hanuman brought sanjeevani plant from the VF.	T	F
4. The Govindghat is the gateway of the VF.	T	F
5. The river Pushpavati is 6kms long.	T	F
6. We can see the snow leopards and the snow pigeons in the VF.	T	F
7. The plants and flowers in the VF are just for beauty.	T	F
8. Diwali vacation is a suitable time for trekking in the VF.	T	F

C. 2 Complete the table using information from the text.

WELCOME TO THE VALLEY OF FLOWERS

Official name	
Location	
Area	
Important dates	**1.** **2.** **3.**
Flowers	
Wild life	
Months for visit	
Major attractions	

C. 3 Answer these questions.

1. Why is the beauty of VF called 'dreamlike'?
2. What tempts photographers to VF?
3. How would you reach the VF from Ahmedabad?
4. What is the connection between the VF and the Ramayan?
5. How did the VF get its name?
6. Why are plants and flowers in the VF important?
7. Make a list of phrases describing the beauty of the VF.

C. 4 Draw a picture of the VF on a drawing sheet using different colours. Arrange the exhibition of such pictures collected from the students of your class.

Language Practice

L. 1 Read the conversations given below.

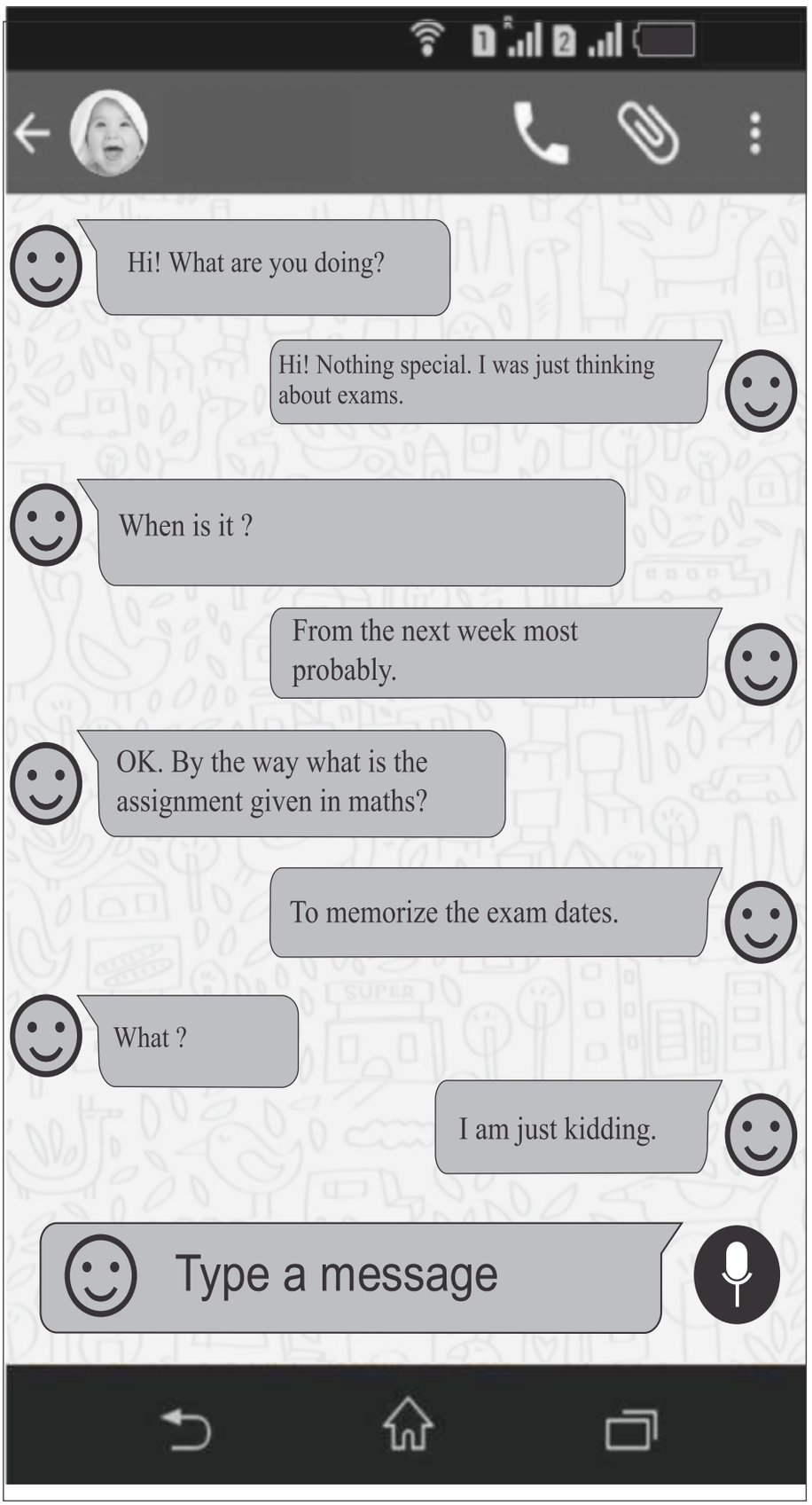
Conversation : 1

A : **Where** are you going?
B : I am going to Ahmedabad
A : **Why** are you going?
B : I have a function to attend at Ahmedabad.
A : **When** are you going?
B : Tomorrow morning.
A : And **how** have you planned to go there?
B : By train.
A : And **when** will you be back?
B : hmmm… a day after tomorrow. But **why** are you inquiring so much?
A : Actually, I need your bike.

Conversation : 2

A : Hello!
B : Hi!
A : What are your plans for tomorrow evening?
B : Thinking of going for a movie.
A : Which one?
B : That's a surprise. You just be ready.
A : Alright. But tell me, what time are we going?
B : A night show. Around 9 o'clock.
A : OK. And how should we reach the place?
B : I will pick you up from your home.
A : That's great. Who else is joining us?
B : Your teacher. My father!

3. Now complete the conversation using your imagination.



L.2 Put a tick mark (√) against the correct question:

• Where he is going? □ • Where is going he? □	• Why worried are you? □ • Why are you worried? □
• When you are going to pay the electricity bill? □ • When are going to pay you the electricity bill? □	
• Which one is your cycle? □ • Which one your cycle is? □	• Why you look so anxious? □ • Why do you look so anxious ? □ • Why so much anxious you look? □

L. 3 Frame 'wh-' questions as shown in the examples.

Example : (when / you / go to school?)
When do you go to school?

1. (what / you / do?)

_____.

2. (where/ you/ live?)

_____.

3. (where/ Rajesh / come from?)

_____.

4. (when / you / go to bed?)

_____.

5. (when / Rajesh / come back home?)

_____.

6. (how often / he / go for movies?)

_____.

7. (how often/ he/ study English?)

_____.

8. (why/ he / seem worried?)

_____.

L. 4 What would you say in these situations?

You happen to meet a new person in a family gathering. Ask him (i.e. where he works. i.e... Where do you work?)

1. You want to know the number of holidays in the current month. Ask your friend.

   :…….....

2. You are looking for your friend at a theater. At last you make a call and ask him about his location.

   :…….....

3. You have forgotten the date of your exams. Ask your friend.

   :…….....

4. You had given your bicycle to your friend. And now you are looking for it in the parking. Ask him about it.

   :…….....

5. You want to know where your teacher is. Ask your friend.

   :…….....

6. You've forgotten when the school reopens after summer vacation. Ask your friend.

   :…….....

L. 5 A popular host of a quiz programme, Amitabh, is answering the questions. Fill in the gaps with the appropriate words given in the brackets.

(how far, how long, how often, how many, what, what, what kind, when, where, who)

	Quiz Master	Amitabh
1.	…… is Garampani sanctuary situated?	In Assam
2.	…….. is the science that studies insects known as?	Entomology
3.	……was an Italian astronomer who discovered the telescope?	Galileo
4.	……. was the battle of Plassey fought?	In 1757
5.	……. is a game of Kabaddi?	40 minutes
6.	…….. are the Olympic games held?	Every 4 years
7.	…….. player has scored the most runs in a single Test innings?	Brian Lara
8.	…… folk dance form is associated with Punjab?	Bhangra
9.	……. is known as the father of English Poetry?	Chaucer
10.	…….. centimeters are there in a foot?	30 cms.

Writing

W. 1 Write a paragraph on: The Natural place I like most. Focus on these points.

Place, how to reach there, major attractions, reason for your liking, your memories of visiting that place

W. 2 Write a letter to your friend insisting on visiting the VF. Use details from the text and C.2.

W. 3 Plan a one day picnic to a nearby place. Work in a group of four, discuss with your group members and write the planning in a dialogue form.

You can begin like this:

Kandarp : Friends, hurrah! tomorrow is a holiday.
Rahim : What shall we do tomorrow?
Nisarg : Shall we plan for a picnic?
Firoz : That's a great idea. Where shall we go?.....

Now complete this dialogue. .....
.....
.....