

# 4

## The Peacock – Our National Bird

### A. Warmer

Have you ever heard birds chirping and twittering?  
Can you name some birds whose chirping and twittering you may have liked? Which bird do you like most and why?

**Teacher** : Good morning, Students !

**Students** : [Standing] Good morning, Sir !

**Teacher** : (shows them a picture of peacock and asks) : Can you tell the name of the bird ?

**Students** : Yes, Sir. It's a peacock.

**Teacher** : Well done! Today we are going to talk about our National Bird—the peacock. There are various species of peacock. You know, in India only the blue peacock is found. Has anyone of you seen it ?

**Ruby** : Yes Sir, I've, I've seen it in the Patna Zoo. It's very beautiful.

**Teacher** : Yes, you're absolutely right. It looks very attractive. Its feathers are multi-coloured and its large oval body is bright and colourful. It has a small head



and a slender neck. A male peacock is more colourful than the female one - peahen. Its plumes are matchless in beauty and are used for decoration.

**Abhishek :** Sir, I've heard that a peacock eats up even a snake.

**Teacher :** Yes, you're right. It eats not only snakes but also plants, seeds, fruits, insects. It devours frogs and lizards as well.

**Imran :** Sir, in my village, I've seen the dance of 'Mor' and 'Morni' in a marriage ceremony.

**Teacher :** (Nodding) Well ! In marriage ceremonies, two persons dance in the guise of a peacock and a peahen. But in reality, the peacock dances mostly in the rainy season. When the sky is overcast with clouds, the peacock dances with delight, spreading its colourful feathers. Has anyone seen a peacock without feathers ?

**Students :** No, Sir.  
(The bell rings)

**Students :** Thank you, Sir !

**Teacher :** That's right !

### Glossary and notes

national (adj)	related to a nation, राष्ट्रीय
various (adj)	several/many, अनेक
species (n)	group having common traits, प्रजाति
absolutely (adv)	completely, exactly, पूर्णतः
multi-coloured (compound adj.)	of various colours, बहुरंगी
oval (adj)	egglike, अंडाकार
slender (adj)	thin, दुबला
plumes (n)	feathers, पंख
decoration(n)	beautification, सौन्दर्यीकरण
devours (v)	swallows, निगलता है
nodding (v)	shaking head in appreciation, स्वीकृति में सिर हिलाते हुए
in the guise of (prep. phrase)	in dress and manner of, के वेश में

**B. Let's Comprehend****B.1. Think and Tell****B.1.1. Answer these questions orally:**

- (a) Which is the national bird of India ?
- (b) What type of peacock is found in India ?
- (c) What does a peacock eat ?
- (d) When does a peacock usually dance ?
- (e) Do you like peacocks ?

**B.2. Think and Write****B.2.1. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements:**

- (a) A peacock has multi-coloured feathers.
- (b) It has a thick neck.
- (c) It is a plant eating bird.
- (d) The peahen is more beautiful than the peacock.
- (e) The peacock dances when it rains.

**B.2.2. Tick (✓) the correct options :**

- (a) The body of a peacock is \_\_\_\_\_ .
  - (i) round      (ii) oval      (iii) cylindrical

- (b) The peacock has a \_\_\_\_\_ neck.  
(i) thick      (ii) thin      (iii) slender
- (c) Its plumes are matchless in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(i) beauty      (ii) size      (iii) shape

**B.2.3. Pick out suitable words from the lesson and fill in the blanks :**

- (a) The \_\_\_\_\_ peacock is found in India.  
(b) The male - peacock is more \_\_\_\_\_ than the peahen.  
(c) The feathers of peacock are used in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(d) The peacock \_\_\_\_\_ lizards and frogs.  
(e) The peacock dances in \_\_\_\_\_ season.

**B.2.4. Answer each of these questions in not more than 50 words.**

- (a) Describe the features of a peacock.  
(b) How does a peacock differ from a peahen in appearance?  
(c) Do you like birds ? Why ? Give reasons in support of your answer.  
(d) Why do you think that the peacock is the national bird of India ?

**C. Word Study**

**C.1. Correct the following mis-spelt words :**

Peacock, nasional, slendr, ploome, decoretion.

**C.2. Match the words in Column 'A' with their meanings in Column 'B':**

A	B
various	function
oval	swallow
devour	egglike
matchless	different
ceremony	incomparable

**C.3. Write ten words with the suffix 'less', as shown in the examples.**

match + less = matchless

use + less = useless

**D. Grammar**

Look at the following sentences :

(i) When the sky is overcast with clouds, the peacock dances with delight.

(ii) Has anyone seen a peacock without feathers ?

In the sentences given above, 'with' relates 'sky' and 'clouds'. Similarly in the second sentence, 'without' relates a 'peacock' and 'feathers'. Both 'with' and 'without' in these sentences are prepositions.

A preposition is a word which is used before a noun or pronoun to establish relation of that noun or pronoun with

the other words in the sentence. 'With' is used in the sense of 'having' whereas 'without' gives the sense of 'not having'. 'With' is used also in the sense of 'company' or 'togetherness' to show an association with an instrument etc.

**D.1. Tick (✓) the correct option in each of the following:**

1. He shot the bird with/without a gun.
2. A diabetic usually takes tea with/without sugar.
3. We write with/without a pen or pencil.
4. The old man had lost his stick. He went on walking, with/without a stick.
5. She was going to market with/without her husband.

**E. Let's Talk**

**Work in groups**

Excessive use of chemical affects human beings as well as birds and animals. How ?

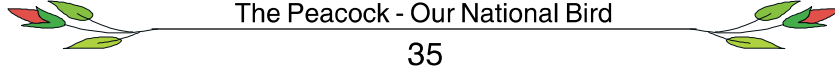
**F. Composition**

Write a paragraph of about 100 words on the topic discussed in E above.

**G. Translation**

**G.1. Translate the following into English.**

भारत में अनेक प्रकार के पक्षी पाये जाते हैं ।



वे विभिन्न रंग और आकार के होते हैं ।  
उनमें से कुछ देखने में बहुत सुन्दर होते हैं ।  
मोर उनमें से एक है ।  
यह भारत का राष्ट्रीय पक्षी है ।

**H. Activity**

**H.1. Collect pictures of four birds you like most and paste in the boxes given below :**
