

## Lesson -11

# Save Water Save Life

1. Why is there a scarcity of water everywhere ?
2. What should we do to save water ?

Mayank lives in a small village. There is scarcity of water in the village. The villagers decide to save each and every drop of water during this rainy season. They resolve to execute this idea as soon as it starts raining. This news gets published in the newspapers. Mayank receives a letter from his cousin Priya in this regard. He gives a quick reply.

Village and Post Kevadeshwar,

Tehsil and District Indore,

Date: 5.7.06

Dear Priya,

I am really very happy to receive your letter. Actually I was expecting it from you. I am happy that you read the newspapers daily and you are aware of the things going around. I very much appreciate your curiosity and thirst for information. Keep it up, these qualities will definitely help you grow into an alert citizen. You have rightly guessed that I attended the inaugural function of water conservation programme in my village.

The word conservation literally means to save something. It may be water, energy, soil or some species of animals and plants. In terms of conservation of water it means that we all should save rain water in the rivers, ponds, wells and in the fields to raise the ground water level of the earth. At the same time we should use water with economy. When the rain water percolates down into the earth, it no longer remains thirsty.

We are living in a very challenging era. Ruthless cutting of trees and destruction of forests have resulted in scanty rainfall. We see scarcity of water growing almost everywhere which is adversely affecting the cultivation of crops. How can we be happy with thirsty soil? If the fields do not have plenty of water it affects the production of food grain and the country faces shortage of food. Our brothers and sisters who live in villages start

migrating to the cities and towns in search of work. The cities fail to accommodate them and there arise many social and economic problems.

You can realise that ours is the new generation which has to play a very important role in the future. It is our duty to remain awake and share the responsibility to find solution to the problem of scarcity of water. The Government has motivated all the sections of the society to come forward to save each and every drop of water. We receive water through rainfall. This is very unfortunate that most of the water flows down the rivers and reaches the sea, thus it remains unused. We are a witness to the emptied and dried up rivers, ponds, wells and tubewells. We should not sit silent. Under water conservation programme we are trying to harvest rain water at different levels. The farmers will store water in their fields by building Medha Bandh around their fields. They will also dig small ponds in their fields to accumulate rainwater. Similarly old structures like wells and ponds will be deepened and cleaned. The stop dams on the rivulets and the rivers will be repaired and made functional to hold back sufficient water. What a wonderful scene it will be for us to have the river of the village full of water throughout the year! We will again have the enjoyable time of swimming in the rivers of our own which we had a few years ago. You can easily understand that if the rivers and the ponds of a place are full of water, the tubewells will automatically be recharged and will continue to give us water throughout the year.

I would like to mention that the Government alone cannot do everything. Similarly only shouting slogans will not be of any help. Water is everybody's essential need so everybody including we children should participate in the water conservation programme. I have seen all the people voluntarily coming forward and working hand in hand and shoulder to shoulder for this noble cause.

Hope you will be benefitted with what I have written in this letter. Do share it with your friends. Keep writing similar letters on other burning topics also.

Please convey my regards to everybody in the family.

Your cousin,

Mayank

## EXERCISES

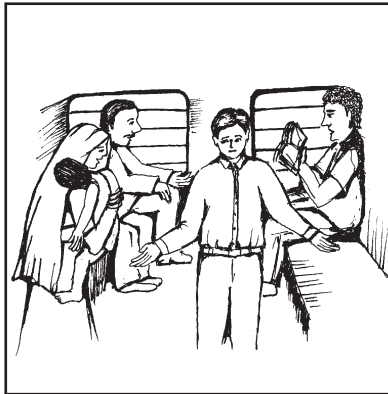
### Read and Learn

|                |             |            |            |                      |
|----------------|-------------|------------|------------|----------------------|
| determined     | curious     | migrate    | execute    | regards              |
| hand in hand   | inaugural   | percolate  | scarcity   | conservation         |
| aware of       | conserve    | functional | appreciate | literally            |
| burning issues | accommodate | sufficient | ruthless   | shoulder to shoulder |

### Word Power

A) Look at the pictures and the sentences given below them and fill in the blanks, choosing the correct words given in the box:

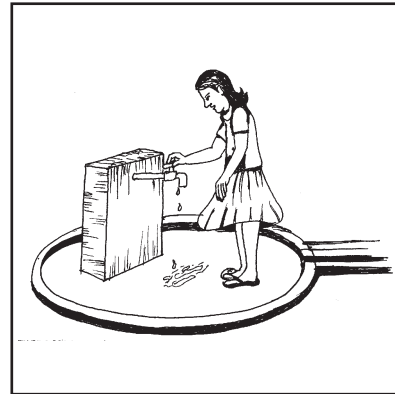
accumulate, migrate, ruthless, sufficient, conserve, accommodate



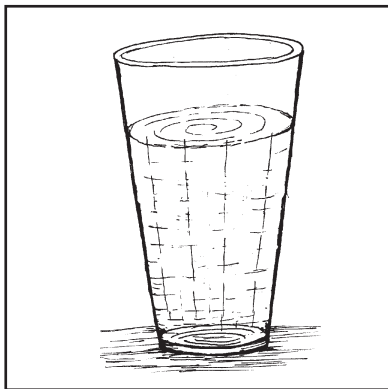
We should ..... other passengers also.



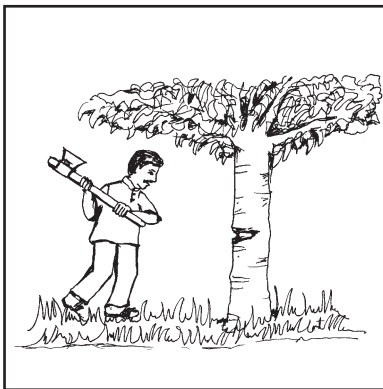
Birds .....from one place to the other.



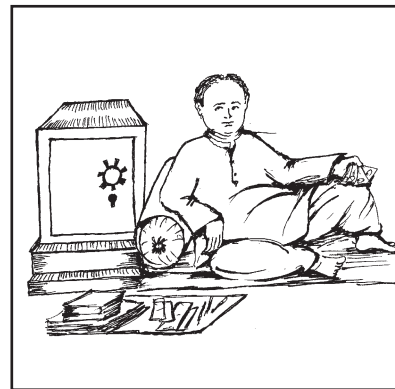
We must..... water.



There is ..... water in the glass.



..... cutting of the trees has resulted in scanty rainfall.



To ..... money and wealth sometimes creates problems.

**B) Complete the following paragraph using the words given below:**

|                |           |            |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| information    | villagers | appreciate |
| burning issues | motivate  |            |

The ..... don't have enough ..... about many ..... . It is our duty to ..... them to know about these. We should draw the best out of them and ..... their efforts.

**Comprehension**

**Answer the following questions:**

- a. Where does Mayank live?
- b. Who wrote a letter to Priya and why?
- c. What programme was launched in the village?
- d. What is meant by the word conservation?
- e. Why do the villagers migrate to cities and towns?
- f. What are we trying to do under water conservation programme?
- g. Choose the correct answers:
  - (i) A dam is :
    - a) a river
    - b) a big wall across a river
    - c) a pond
    - d) a well
  - (ii) A burning issue means:
    - a) a painful topic
    - b) an unwanted topic
    - c) an important topic
    - d) a useless topic
  - (iii) A 'slogan' means:
    - a) words or phrases giving message attractively and quickly
    - b) sentences used in advertisements
    - c) dialogues in a film or television serial
    - d) a show gun

- (iv) We receive water for irrigation
- through rainfall
  - by melting snow
  - from the sea
  - by dismantling dams

## Let's Learn

Read the following sentences noting the time of their action:

| Simple Present Tense  | Simple Past Tense   |
|---|---|
| a. Mayank <u>lives</u> in a small village.                                      | a. Mayank <u>lived</u> in a small village till last year.                     |
| b. Priya <u>writes</u> letters to Mayank regularly.                             | b. Priya <u>wrote</u> letters to Mayank regularly two years back.             |
| c. The residents of the village <u>attend</u> all the functions in the village. | c. The residents <u>attended</u> all the functions in the village last month. |

In the examples, given above you find that simple past tense is used to express actions completed in the past (time spent) and have no relation with the present.

- \* Mayank lived in a small village. (Now, he does not live in a small village)
- \* Priya wrote letters to Mayank regularly two years back. (An earlier event not a present one.)
- \* The residents attended all the functions in the village last month. (An earlier event not a present one)

Also see how verbs have been changed in Simple Past Tense:

| Verbs in Simple Present Tense | Verbs in Simple Past Tense |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| lives                         | lived                      |
| writes                        | wrote                      |
| attend                        | attended                   |

**Now change the following sentences into simple past tense:**

- (i) A small river flows near the village.
- (ii) Priya lives in Itarsi.
- (iii) Mayank receives a letter from Priya.
- (iv) He appreciates her efforts.
- (v) She wants to write an article.
- (vi) People speak a lot about water conservation.
- (vii) I always think ahead.
- (ix) They run fast.

| Verbs in the present form | Verbs in the past form |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| flow                      | flowed                 |
| live                      | lived                  |
| receive                   | received               |
| appreciate                | appreciated            |
| want                      | wanted                 |
| speak                     | spoke                  |
| think                     | thought                |
| run                       | ran                    |

### **Let's Talk**

Make groups of five in your class and talk to one another using the table given on the next page. Fill in the table as you carry on your talk.

| S. No. | Name of the group members | Name of the sources of water near them | Whether the source is in working order | How it can be maintained                            | Anything else              |
|--------|---------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------|
| 1.     | Aparajita                 | tubewell                               | yes                                    | by allowing water to percolate down into the earth. | to use water with economy. |
| 2.     |                           |  |  |   |                            |
| 3.     |                           |  |  |   |                            |
| 4.     |                           |  |  |   |                            |
| 5.     |                           |  |  |   |                            |

## Let's Read

Read the following passage carefully:

### A Letter from a Parent to a Teacher

He will have to learn, I know, that all men are not just, all men are not true.

But teach him also that for every scoundrel there is a hero,  
that for every selfish politician, there is a dedicated leader.

Teach him that for every enemy there is a friend.

Teach him that a dollar earned is of far more value than five found.

Teach him to learn to lose and also enjoy winning.

Steer him away from envy, if you can.

Teach him the secret of quiet laughter.

Teach him the wonder of books, but also give him quiet time to ponder over the eternal mystery of birds in the sky, bees in the sun and flowers on a green hillside.

In school, teach him it is far more honourable to fail than to cheat.

Teach him to have faith in his own ideas,  
even if everyone tells him they are wrong.

Teach him to be gentle with gentle people and tough with the tough.

Try to give him the strength not to follow the crowd when everyone is getting  
on to the bandwagon.

Teach him to listen to all men, but teach him also to filter all he hears on a  
screen of truth and take only the good that comes through.

Teach him to close his ears to a howling mob;  
and to stand and fight if he thinks he's right.

Treat him gently but do not cuddle him, because only the test of fire makes fine  
steel.

Let him have courage to be impatient, let him have the patience to be brave.

Teach him always to have sublime faith in his creator and faith in himself too,  
because then he will always have faith in mankind.

This is a tall order but please see what you can do.

He is such a fine little fellow, my son!

- Abraham Lincoln

**A) Now answer the following questions:**

- a) Who is the writer of this letter?
- b) Why did he write the letter?
- c) Who did he write the letter to?
- d) What did he ask the teacher to teach his son? (any one)
- e) In whom one should have sublime faith and why?

**B) Given below is a circle having words which are nouns and verbs. Join the words as given in the example and write them in blank spaces:**



| Verb  | - | noun     |
|-------|---|----------|
| laugh | - | laughter |
| _____ | - | _____    |
| _____ | - | _____    |
| _____ | - | _____    |
| _____ | - | _____    |
| _____ | - | _____    |
| _____ | - | _____    |
| _____ | - | _____    |



**C) Match the columns:**

| A  | B  |
|--|--|
| * Try to give him the strength             | * to fail than to cheat.                     |
| * To stand and fight                       | * even if everyone tells him they are wrong. |
| * Treat him gently but do not cuddle him   | * not to follow the crowd.                   |
| * It is far more honourable                | * only the test of fire makes fine steel.    |
| * Teach him to have faith in his own ideas | * if he thinks he is right.                  |

**Let's Write**

**Power Saving**

**We know that electricity is generated in power plants:**

- \* Hydroelectric Power Stations - They are at dams where water is used to generate electricity.
- \* Thermal Power Stations - They use coal to generate electricity.
- \* Nuclear Power Stations - They use radio-active metals to generate electricity.

Saving water is in some or the other way related to producing and saving electricity. We should know the worth of it.

**Write a paragraph on "Saving Electricity." Here are some clues for you:**

- \* Switch off lights
- \* Power saving lamps and devices
- \* Work during day time
- \* Unnecessary electric decoration
- \* Well ventilated and lighted houses
- \* Unnecessary use of electrical appliances
- \* Automatic electric iron
- \* Television and radio is on though nobody is watching or listening to it.

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**Let's do it**

- a) Write what you and people around you are doing to save water. Write about the results of the efforts. Collect photographs and news cuttings. Display them on the notice board of your school.
- b) Give way to the waste water of your house to your kitchen garden.
- c) See that the taps are not left open and they do not leak.