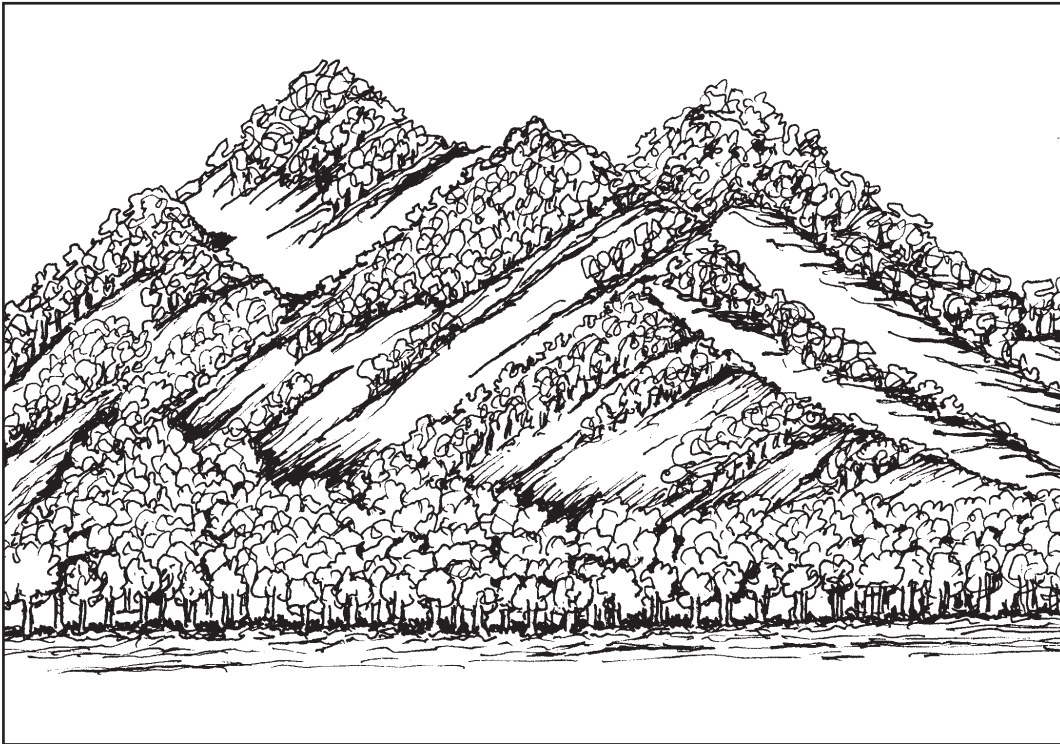


Lesson -4

Trees : Our Saviours

1. Name different kinds of trees.
2. What do we get from trees?



The forests of the Himalayan region have played an important role in the life of the people of Uttarakhand. They have been supplying fodder for their cattle, wood for fuel, fruits for food and herbs for medical treatment. The forests have also prevented floods and soil erosion in the area during the monsoon season.

During the 1970's, however deforestation began. Trees were cut down. As a result, there was nothing to hold the soil. The rushing rain water carried away not only the soil, but also huge rocks, causing landslides, filling up the rivers, leading to floods. Further owing to the forest trees being taken away, the people who depended on them for food and fuel, faced great difficulty. They had to walk longer distances to collect firewood for cooking, plants for food and medicines, and to graze their

cattle.

The people were angry but helpless. They did not know what they, the simple villagers, could do to stop the destruction of their forests.

For a long time rich forests had been destroyed by the contractors. One morning in March 1973, a group of people from a factory that made railway goods arrived at the village of Gopeshwar, in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand. They had come to cut the ash trees. The wood was to be used to make sleepers for the railways in the plains. The villagers requested the axemen to go back, but they refused to return. The people decided that they would not let the axes touch the trees, no matter what happened. They said,

“Let us save our precious trees. Let us hug them so that no one can reach them.”

And they all rushed forward shouting, “Chipko Chipko.” The axemen were frightened by the turn the situation had taken and ran away. The people had succeeded in saving their trees!

Thus began the movement called “Chipko” or “Hug the Trees”. It was a non-violent movement of the mountain people to save their trees by hugging them.

The villagers of Gopeshwar had saved its trees but the contractors were not going to give up easily. They chose another forest which was about 60 kilometres away from Gopeshwar. News of this reached Gopeshwar. So the entire village men and women, old and young, began to march in a procession. They carried drums and trumpets and banners with messages like-

“Chop me - not the tree.”

and

“Kill us first, before you cut a single tree.”

The axemen could not raise their axes. They fled. The “Chipko” idea had once again won. Trees had been saved. The message began to sweep through the region. The people knew that if they could save their forest, the forest would save for them their soil, their water and their livelihood.

Many such incidents took place. Over the years the people's movement became well known all over India and abroad. Thus, people have come together to work to protect their forests. They have organised themselves especially the

women through organisations such as the Dasohli Gram Swarajya Mandal to regenerate the degraded forests.

This is how the Chipko movement has proved very valuable in the conservation of forests. It has taught an important lesson to the people in the conservation of the forests.

EXERCISES

Read and Learn

destroy	situation	trumpet
arrive	succeed	incident
refuse	non-violent	organisation
precious	procession	conservation

Word Power

A) The letters 'dis' and 'un' before a word often mean 'not'. Make new words by adding the correct prefixes.

Example :

like	-	dislike, unlike
friendly	-	unfriendly
happy	-	
continue	-	
agree	-	
fair	-	
kind	-	
approve	-	

B) Fill the right word in the right place:

1. _____ are made of _____. (cloth/clothes)
2. My _____ brother obviously is _____ than me. (elder/older)
3. My grandfather is old and is _____, but my uncle often behaves in a _____ manner which I don't like. (child-like / childish)
4. We can _____ to western ways of living but not _____ them. (adopt / adapt)

C) The word 'landslide' is made of two separate words-

land + slide = landslide

similarly

fire + wood = firewood

axe + men = axemen

These words are known as '**Compound Words**'.

Now match the words given in the two boxes to make compound words.

black, tooth, news tea, note, rain, farm, fore, suit, bar	+	pot, brush, coat, case, paper, board, book, head, graph, house	blackboard, _____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____, _____
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Comprehension

A) Answer the following questions:

1. Why did the workers from a factory come to the village of Gopeshwar?
2. What did the villagers decide when the axemen refused to return?
3. What did the axemen do when the villagers hugged the trees and shouted "Chipko, Chipko"?
4. What did the villagers do when the contractors chose another forest?
5. What is the work of "Dasohli Gram Swarajya Mandal"?

B) Say whether the following statements are True or False:

1. Trees were being saved by the contractors. []
2. In 1953, a group of people from a factory arrived at the village of Gopeshwar. []
3. 'Chipko' or 'Hug the trees' was a non-violent movement of the mountain people to save their trees. []
4. Dasohli Gram Swarajya Mandal is an organisation to regenerate the degraded forests. []
5. Chipko Movement proved very valuable in the conservation of forests. []

Let's Learn

Read the following sentences carefully.

- A) Look at Reena. is studying. Mother and father have come to see . are glad to see studying. is also glad to see .

The words that can replace nouns-
he / she / it / they / I / you / we / them / are **Pronouns**.

Now fill in the blanks with suitable pronouns.

Leena was on her annual visit to uncle's house. always enjoyed because was allowed to spend most of the day down at the mango grove. Reena's uncle was a friend of the man who owned the grove and always gave mangoes at a special rate. This year aunt joined , and together set off across the fields to the grove. The branches of the trees were covered with fruits, and so bowed down with the weight that almost touched the ground. spent hours picking the , eating most of and sleeping in the shade.

- B) **The Past Perfect Tense** is used to indicate an action which was completed before or after another action in the past. Read the following sentences carefully to understand this.

1. The train had left before I arrived.
2. I had finished my work before you came.
3. I had answered all the questions before the bell rang.

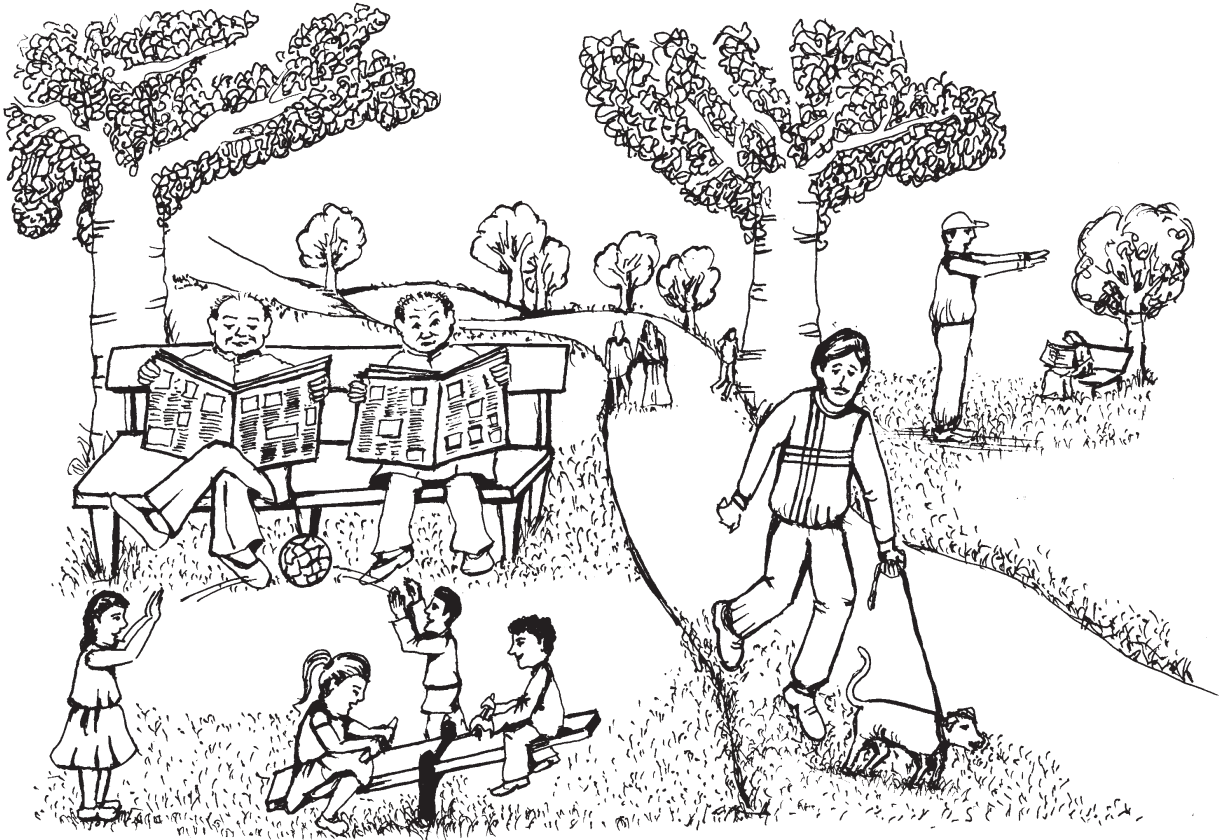
Use the words given in the box in the blanks below to make the Past Perfect Tense.

1. Harry _____ before the doctor came.
2. The rain _____ before you arrived.
3. I _____ the school before the bell rang.
4. There was a storm after the plane _____.
5. The thief _____ away before the police came.

run
stop
died
reach
land

Let's Talk

Look at the picture given below carefully -



Imagine you went to a park for a morning walk. Your friends wanted to know about your visit. The answers you gave are given below. Frame the questions related to the answers.

Q.1 _____ ?

Ans. I went for a morning walk.

Q.2 _____ ?

Ans. My mother and sister went with me.

Q.3 _____ ?

Ans. We saw a large number of people and children there.

Q.4 _____ ?

Ans. Some were walking about, some were reading newspapers. Some were _____, children were _____ and some of them _____.

Q.5 _____?

Ans. We came back at 9 o'clock.

Q.6 _____?

Ans. Yes, we enjoyed and returned home full of energy.

Let's Read

Read the following notice which the Cultural Secretary of Vallabh Bhai School put up on his school noticeboard and answer the questions given below:

Vallabh Bhai School, Bhopal
Notice
Tree Plantation Ceremony

A tree plantation ceremony will be held in the school premises on 15th Oct. 2006. Students are invited to participate in this ceremony with wholehearted cooperation to make it a grand success. A minimum of five plants should be contributed by each class. We intend to give a **green and clean environment** to the school.

Anurag
Cultural Secretary

A) Fill in the blanks.

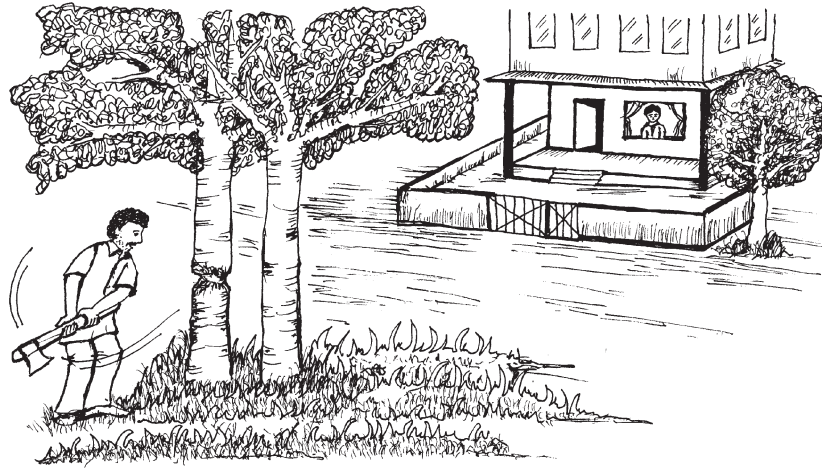
1. Anurag has put up a _____ on his school noticeboard.
2. Anurag is the _____ secretary of Vallabh Bhai School.

B) Answer the following questions:

1. Which ceremony was being held at Vallabh Bhai School?
2. How many plants are to be contributed by each class?
3. Write the name and designation of the student who has written the notice.
4. Which word in the notice has the meaning 'complete and enthusiastic'?

Let's Write

Imagine you are Anu/Anurag. You live at 403, D. K. Rainbow, Chunna Bhatti, Bhopal. One day you saw some people cutting a green, flourishing tree near your house. It appeared that they had some commercial purpose behind it. You were sad to see this. Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper complaining against the cutting of trees, with the help of guidelines given in the box.



Guidelines:

- trees are valuable to all
- bring rain, keep the air clean, fruits beauty
- threat to environment
- disturb the ecology
- concerned authorities to take immediate steps/strict action

403, D. K. Rainbow
Chunna Bhatti
Bhopal

The Editor
The Hindustan Times
Bhopal
15th Oct, 2006

Sir

I would like to draw your attention to the cutting of trees
prevailing in our ...

Yours truly
Anurag

Let's do it

Draw pictures of at least five trees and write two uses of each in your note book/ drawing sheet.