

Winds of Change



Reflect and Respond

- I Does anyone in your family use a hand fan? What do you call it in your language? What is it made of?
- II Work in pairs. Study the pictures given below carefully and complete the information. Discuss your answers with your classmates and teacher.



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Fans			
The State it is from	Assam	Kerala	Uttar Pradesh
Shape	_____	_____	_____
Made of	_____	Palm leaf	<i>Moonj</i> grass

- III Work in pairs. Match the underlined words in Column 1 with their meanings in Column 2 given on the next page. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

I visited the crafts fair yesterday. It was a wonderful experience. Each indigenous artefact was an innovative creation of industrious craftspersons with its intricate design. It invoked a sense of respect for the initiatives taken by the government to showcase them.

Column 1	Column 2
1. indigenous	(i) hardworking
2. innovative	(ii) actions to improve a situation
3. industrious	(iii) brought out
4. intricate	(iv) local — from where it originated
5. invoked	(v) new and original in approach
6. initiatives	(vi) elaborate/detailed



Reading for Meaning

The word *punkha* or *pankha* originates from the word ‘*pankh*’, which means feather of a bird. Pankha is used to refer to all fans, whereas the word *pankhi* denotes a small plumed fan used in ancient India. Evidence of the existence and use of *pankhi* in India can be found in Buddhist wall paintings at Ajanta. These wall paintings date back to the 2nd century CE. Other representations of the *punkha* can be found in embroidery work, sculptures, and carvings. In ancient times, *pankhas* were used in temples to fan deities. They were also used in royal courts to fan kings. *Pankhas* varied in size from a tiny two inch one to large ones requiring a person’s full arm strength to move them.

Over time, *pankhas* became significant cultural goods distributed through trade routes. They were considered exotic and stylish. Although there was substantial commonality in their use across India, different villages and towns developed their own varieties of traditional *pankhas*. Each place developed *pankhas* with distinct materials or a variety of intricate designs, that set them apart from one another. Bamboo, cane, palm leaf, silk,



brass, leather, and silver pankhas, with decorative beads and stones were used depending on geographies, cultures, and traditional rituals.

In modern times, the use of pankhas has been restricted to decorative purposes, and they have become traditional craft items in India. The structure of each fan reflects the cultural core of the region that crafts it. For instance, the appliqué hand fan of Rajasthan is an antique pankha made of pieces of fabric in different shapes and patterns sewn onto another cloth with the use of ornamental needlework. Furthermore, the zardozi hand fan of Rajasthan differs in its use of glittering ornate and **encrusted** gold threadwork. In Rajasthan, temple hand fans are popular too. These are made by engraving brass and have a long handle. The painted hand fan, a cardboard pankha featuring various images, is usually offered to gods.

encrusted:
covered or
decorated



The adjoining state of Gujarat has its own indigenous take on pankhas. These hand fans are elegant pure cotton-based fans embellished with mirror work. The beads hand fan is covered with colourful beads and has a silver handle. Gujarat is the centre for bead craft in India and these dainty pankhas are commonly used as wall decorations. Kutch is recognised for its hand-stitched leather hand fans decorated with thread and wool at its seams. Gujarat's industrious home-based women workers have worked tirelessly in the handicraft of pankha-making to produce embroidered hand



fans with traditional mirror work and cross-stitch embroidery in different shapes and sizes.



sola:
a type of
water grass

perpetually:
constantly

antiquity:
the distant
past

advent:
arrival

Artisans in Bengal make delicate pankhas from the beautiful milky-white spongy centre of the **sola**. The palm leaf hand fans are locally referred to as *Tal Patar Pankha*. They are easy to carry and are **perpetually** kept as an article of possession in Bengali households.

Other states in India have their own variations of fans as well. The *Phadh* hand fans of Uttar Pradesh are adorned with pure gold, silver zari, silk, and satin frills. The large palm leaf fans of Odisha as well as Bihar's colourful and sturdy bamboo hand fans, are all recognised across India due to their **antiquity** and rarity.

Many tribes in India have adopted this handicraft to make their own versions of the handheld fan. Materials such as grass and metal are embedded into the fans using bamboo sticks and grass. Cane and palm leaves are used, with silk and brass being reserved for antique pieces of these hand fans. The use of geometrical patterns and the white ink and red background combinations have helped the tribes create multiple beautifully designed pankhas.

With time and the **advent** of technology and innovative creations, the beautiful culture of pankhas runs the risk of slowly losing its presence among Indians. Once made for personal use, over time this handicraft has transformed into

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a commercial business and now provides some form of livelihood to India's artisans. The slight increase in popularity and demand is significantly factored by the different versions of the pankha being crafted.

One of the first steps to preserve the essence of the craft is by celebrating pankhas, and appreciating the culture, stories, and artistry that this handicraft invokes. This allows contemporary pankha makers to demonstrate their craft and regain its popularity. It also helps provide them with a commercial platform to create a sustainable livelihood. Initiatives such as pankha-making workshops, both within and outside the handicraft exhibitions help spread awareness about the beauty and importance of this craft in India's culture.



Check Your Understanding

- I Work in pairs to complete the table on pankha. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

State	Type of Fan	Material Used
Rajasthan	appliqué hand fan	_____
	_____	gold thread
	temple hand fans	_____
Gujarat	mirror work hand fans	_____
	_____	beads
	_____	leather, decorated with thread and wool
West Bengal	<i>sola</i> hand fans	_____



Uttar Pradesh	_____	pure gold, silver zari, silk and satin frills
Bihar	_____	bamboo



Critical Reflection

I Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. *Over time, pankhas became significant cultural goods distributed through trade routes. They were considered exotic and stylish. Although there was substantial commonality in their use across India, different villages and towns developed their own varieties of traditional pankhas. Each place developed pankhas with distinct materials or a variety of intricate designs, that set them apart from one another.*

(i) State whether the following sentence is true or false.

Pankhas were one of the most popular items of commerce.

(ii) Why has the word ‘traditional’ been used to describe pankhas?

(iii) Complete the following statement.

The sentence ‘They were considered exotic and stylish’ is an opinion and not a fact because _____.

(iv) Infer one reason for commonality in the use of pankhas across India.

(v) Select which one of the two statements is the correct assertion for the given reason.

Reason: Pankhas were made of indigenous materials, unique to the region, with elaborate designs.



A. Each kind of pankha could be distinguished from the other.

B. Pankhas were used by many people.

2. *With time and the advent of technology and innovative creations, the beautiful culture of pankhas runs the risk of slowly losing its presence among Indians. Once made for personal use, over time this handicraft has transformed into a commercial business and now provides some form of livelihood to India's artisans. The slight increase in popularity and demand is significantly factored by the different versions of the pankha being crafted.*

(i) Infer one negative impact of technological advancement on pankha.

(ii) Complete the statement with an appropriate reason.

The writer refers to 'pankhas' not just as an object but as a 'culture' because _____.

(iii) Select a line from the extract which depicts how the role of the pankha has changed over the years.

(iv) List one way in which the increase in demand of pankhas might benefit artisans.

(v) Select the factor that has contributed to the commercialisation of pankhas.

A. cultural preservation

B. economic demand

C. technological advancements

D. artisan initiative

II Answer the following questions.

1. How does the title 'Winds of Change' capture the essence of the chapter?

2. Support the following statement with any two relevant examples from the chapter.

'The structure and design of pankhas are testimony to the cultural identity of the region.'



3. The chapter mentions pankhas running the risk of slowly losing their presence among Indians. Evaluate how the balance between preserving traditional craftsmanship and incorporating innovative designs in the creation of pankhas will help in this regard.
4. How might initiatives such as pankha-making workshops contribute to the preservation of this traditional craft?
5. The writer mentions celebrating pankhas in the concluding part of the chapter. Assess how this could be beneficial to artisans and the craft.
6. How does the restriction of the use of pankha for decorative purposes reflect the changing cultural role of these traditional fans in modern India?



Vocabulary and Structures in Context

I Read the following pairs of words from the text.

exotic and stylish	villages and towns
thread and wool	silk and brass
ornate and encrusted	within and outside

1. Classify the pairs of words given above in the following categories. One example has been done for you.

Appearance	Place	Material
	within and outside	

Now, find more such word pairs from the text and share them with your classmates and teacher.

- II Find the word pairs for the following fixed expressions. Write the meanings of these expressions by selecting them from the box given below. One example has been done for you.



Some common expressions with 'and' have a fixed order which cannot be changed. The shortest expression comes first. For example, bread and butter (*not butter and bread)

Word 1	Word 2	Fixed Expression	Meaning of the Expression
1. high	tear		
2. cut	fast		
3. fact	sundry		
4. all	thin	all and sundry	(v) everyone, not just a few special people
5. wear	figures		
6. time	run		
7. thick	again		
8. hard	dry		

Now, match the following meanings with the correct word pairs created above.

- (i) in a difficult situation, without help or money–
- (ii) the damage to object due to normal use –
- (iii) accurate and detailed information –
- (iv) even when there are problems or difficulties–
- (v) everyone, not just a few special people–
- (vi) often; on many or all occasions–
- (vii) To make a quick or sudden escape –

III Read the following word combinations from the text.

- ☀ sustainable livelihood
- ☀ aesthetically pleasing
- ☀ appreciating the culture



The given phrases are conventional combinations just like fixed expressions. Such combinations are called **collocations**.

1. Choose the appropriate word collocations for the following sentences.
 - (i) The students have to (take/give) the English exam tomorrow.
 - (ii) The interviewer asked the candidate to (take/have) a seat.
 - (iii) My scooter (dashed against/ran into) a car.
 - (iv) I must (take/own) responsibility for my success.
 - (v) I would like to (tone up/improve) my grammar.

IV Read the following sentences. Underline the verbs.

1. In modern times, pankhas have become traditional craft items in India.
2. Gujarat's industrious home-based women workers have worked tirelessly in the handicraft of pankha-making.
3. Many tribes in India have adopted this handicraft.
4. Once made for personal use, this handicraft has transformed into a commercial business.

The underlined verbs refer to the past, but have relevance to the current or present time. This form of tense is called the **present perfect tense**. Recently completed actions also take the present perfect form of tense.

Now, fill in the blanks with the present perfect form of verbs in the following paragraph. One example has been done for you.

Puppets have long fascinated (fascinate) audiences worldwide. Puppeteers (i) _____ (create) intricate characters and captivating



stories with their skillful artistry. They (ii) _____ (master) the delicate movements that bring these lifeless figures to life, entertaining both children and adults. Over the years, puppetry (iii) _____ (evolve), using modern technology while preserving traditional techniques. Many puppeteers (iv) _____ (pass) down their craft through generations, ensuring its continuity. They (v) _____ (perform) in theatres, on television, and at festivals, conveying important cultural narratives.



Listen and Respond

- I You will listen to a dialogue between a boy and a girl discussing which type of pankha they should choose as a gift. As you listen, choose four statements out of seven that are true from 1–7 given below. (Transcript for teacher on page 263)
1. Rohan thinks Grandma prefers heavier items because they feel more substantial.
 2. Priya suggests getting a pankha that can be easily moved around.
 3. Rohan believes Grandma enjoys sitting in the verandah during the evenings.
 4. Priya knows Grandma likes to keep special items close to her.
 5. Rohan thinks a pankha with intricate designs would be too delicate for Grandma's liking.
 6. Priya suggests choosing between a bamboo pankha with beadwork or an embroidered pankha with mirror work.
 7. Rohan decides they should buy the pankha without consulting their mom.





Speaking Activity

I Work in groups of four. Look at the pictures of the four different kinds of fans given below.



Hand fan



Ceiling fan



Table fan



Handheld fan

- ✿ Each of you in the group will pick one kind of fan.
- ✿ Imagine yourself to be that fan.
- ✿ Use the points given in the box below.

- Introduce yourself as the fan which you have chosen.
- Describe yourself, for example, your features, etc.
- What do you like about yourself?
- What do you feel is your weakness?
- What makes you unique?



Writing Task

I Describe an artefact you have made in your craft class or learnt from someone.

Begin with collection and organisation of the facts with the help of the pointers given above. Do not include your opinion in the factual description.



Learning Beyond the Text

I Identify any art or craft item from your region and make a presentation describing its features, materials, and process involved in making it, its usage, etc. You may refer to the points given on the next page.



1

- ☀ Name of the object and its physical characteristics—appearance, shape, size, colour, etc.
- ☀ What is it made up of?

2

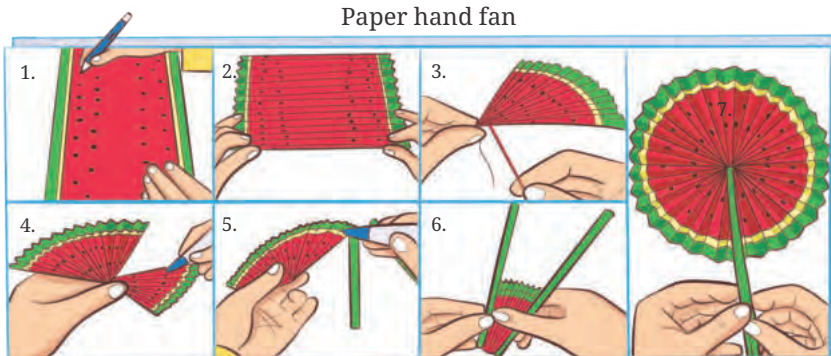
- ☀ Which region does it belong to? How has it been used traditionally?
- ☀ Is there an origin story associated with it? How has it evolved over time?

3

- ☀ How can it be used effectively and safely in today's time?



II You can also make your own hand fan. Take ideas from the pictures given below and in groups of four, make your own hand fan. Display the hand fans in the class and describe the process used to make it.



III You must have read stories about the impact of art, painting, etc. in your life, in English and in your own languages. Now, read and enjoy the story given below.

The Last Leaf

Sue and Johnsy, two young artists, shared a small flat. The flat was on the third storey of an old house.

Johnsy fell very seriously ill in November. She had pneumonia. She would lie in her bed without moving, just gazing out of the window. Sue, her friend, became very worried. She sent for the doctor. Although he came every day there was no change in Johnsy's condition.

One day the doctor took Sue aside and asked her, "Is anything worrying Johnsy?"

"No," replied Sue. "But why do you ask?"

The doctor said "Johnsy, it seems, has made up her mind that she is not going to get well. If she doesn't want to live, medicines will not help her."

Sue tried her best to make Johnsy take an interest in things around her. She talked about clothes and fashions, but Johnsy did not respond. Johnsy continued to lie still on her bed. Sue brought her drawing-board into Johnsy's room and started painting. To take Johnsy's mind off her illness, she whistled while working.

Suddenly Sue heard Johnsy whisper something. She quickly rushed to the bed and heard Johnsy counting backwards. She was looking out of the window and was saying, "Twelve!" After sometime she whispered "eleven", then "ten", then "nine", "eight", "seven". Sue anxiously looked out of the window. She saw an old ivy creeper climbing half-way up the brick wall opposite their window. In the strong wind outside, the creeper was shedding its leaves. "What is it, dear?" Sue asked.



“Six,” whispered Johnsy. “They are falling faster now. Three days ago there were almost a hundred leaves. There are only five left now.”

“It is autumn,” said Sue, “and the leaves will fall.”

“When the last leaf falls, I will die,” said Johnsy with finality. “I have known this for the last three days.”

“Oh, that’s nonsense,” replied Sue. “What have old ivy leaves to do with your getting well? The doctor is confident that you will get better.”

Johnsy did not say anything. Sue went and brought her a bowl of soup.

“I don’t want any soup,” said Johnsy. “I am not hungry... Now there are only four leaves left. I want to see the last one fall before it gets dark. Then I will sleep forever.”

Sue sat on Johnsy’s bed, kissed her and said, “You are not going to die. I can’t draw the curtain for I need the light. I want to finish the painting and get some money for us. Please, my dear friend,” she begged Johnsy, “promise not to look out of the window while I paint.”

“All right,” said Johnsy. “Finish your painting soon for I want to see the last leaf fall. I’m tired of waiting. I have to die, so let me go away peacefully like one of those poor, tired leaves.”

“Try to sleep,” said Sue. “I have to paint an old miner. I will call Behrman up to be my model.”

Sue rushed down. Behrman lived on the ground floor.

He was a sixty-year-old painter. His lifelong dream was to paint a masterpiece but that had remained a dream. Sue poured out her worries to Behrman. She told him how Johnsy was convinced that she would die when the last leaf fell.



“Is she stupid?” asked Behrman. “How can she be so foolish?”

“She is running a high temperature,” complained Sue. “She refuses to eat or drink and that worries me a lot.”

“I will come with you and see Johnsy,” Behrman said.

They tiptoed into the room. Johnsy was sleeping. Sue drew the curtains together and they went to the next room. She peeped out through the window. There was only one leaf on the creeper. It was raining heavily and an icy-cold wind was blowing. It seemed as though the leaf would fall any minute now. Behrman did not say a word. He went back to his room.

Johnsy woke up next morning. In a feeble voice she asked Sue to draw the curtains. Sue was nervous. She drew back the curtains very reluctantly.

“Oh!” Sue exclaimed as she looked at the vine creeper. “Look, there is still one leaf on the creeper. It looks quite green and healthy. In spite of the storm and the fierce winds, it didn’t fall.”

“I heard the wind last night,” said Johnsy. “I thought it would have fallen. It will surely fall today. Then I’ll die.”

“You won’t die,” said Sue energetically. “You have to live for your friends. What would happen to me if you die?”

Johnsy smiled weakly and closed her eyes. After every hour or so she would look out of the window and find the leaf still there. It seemed to be clinging to the creeper.



In the evening, there was another storm but the leaf did not fall. Johnsy lay for a long time looking at the leaf. Then she called out to Sue.

“I have been a bad girl. You have looked after me so lovingly and I have not cooperated with you. I have been depressed and gloomy. The last leaf has shown me how wicked I have been. I have realised that it is a sin to want to die.”

Sue hugged Johnsy. Then she gave her lots of hot soup and a mirror. Johnsy combed her hair and smiled brightly.

In the afternoon the doctor came. After examining his patient, he told Sue, “Johnsy now has the will to live. I am confident she’ll recover soon. Now I must go downstairs and see Behrman. He is also suffering from pneumonia. But I am afraid, there is no hope for him.” The next morning Sue came and sat on Johnsy’s bed. Taking Johnsy’s hand in hers she said, “I have something to tell you. Mr Behrman died of pneumonia this morning. He was ill for only two days. The first day the janitor found him on his bed. His clothes and shoes were wet and he was shivering. He had been out in that stormy night.”

Then they found a ladder and a lantern still lighted lying near his bed. There were also some brushes and green and yellow paints on the floor near the ladder. “Johnsy dear,” said Sue, “look out of the window. Look at that ivy leaf. Haven’t you wondered why it doesn’t flutter when the wind blows? That’s Behrman’s masterpiece. He painted it the night the last leaf fell.”

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(An abridged version of the original story)

