

Chapter 4: The Story of Amrita

Question 1:

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Is there a place near your house, school or along the road side, where trees have been planted?

Answer:

Yes, there is a jogger's track situated close to my home, where trees have been planted.

Question 2:

Why were they planted there?

Answer:

The trees were planted there because they provide shade and oxygen, and also reduce pollution.

Question 3:

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Have you seen anyone taking care of the trees? Who does this?

Answer:

Yes, I have seen three people taking care of those trees. Probably they have been appointed by our local municipality.

Question 4:

Have you seen fruits on any of the tree? Who eats these fruits?

Answer:

Yes, I have seen fruits on the jackfruit and guava trees. The birds eat those fruits, and the people who look after the trees eat these fruits.

Question 5:

Lalita feels that grass and small plants growing near her school wall have not been planted by anyone. Do you know of any place where grass, small plants or trees are growing on their own without being planted by anyone?

Answer:

Yes, grass, small plants and trees grow on their own without being planted along the roads, in the fields, in the parks. They can sustain themselves on their own.

Question 6:

Why do you feel they are growing on their own?

Answer:

Sometimes seeds of plants are transported from one place to another by birds, animals and wind. Nobody plants these trees. So, they grow on their own with the help of water, air and sunlight.

Trees in Danger

Question 1: (Page 34)

Do you remember what the elders of this village used to say?

Answer:

The elders of this village used to say— '*Agadh pedh hain to hum hain*', which means we cannot survive without plants.

Question 2:

Do you think we could survive if there were no trees and no animals? Discuss this in your class.

Answer:

No, I do not think we could survive without trees and animals. Trees and animals are essential components of our environment, and we are dependent on them for our survival. Trees provide us with fruits, vegetables, medicine, wood, and oxygen. We also depend on animals for meat, eggs, milk and fur. Animals also help us in transportation and carrying loads.

The Village is Protected

Question 1:

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Do you remember that in Class III, you had made a tree your friend? How is your friend now?

Answer:

Yes, I can remember that I made a tree my friend in Class III. It was a papaya tree, and it has grown to be quite a tall tree.

Question 2:

Why don't you make a new friend this year? Have you seen how your friends—the trees, change in some ways, in different months of a year.

Answer:

Yes, I will make a new friend this year, and it will be with a jackfruit tree.

It is a big tree. Between February and March, flower blooms, and the fruits ripen in June and July.

Write about any one tree.

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Question 1:

Does the tree flower?

Answer:

Let's talk about a jackfruit tree. Yes, the tree flowers.

Question 2:

Do the flowers remain on the tree throughout the year?

Answer:

No, the flowers do not remain on the tree throughout the year, and the flowers bloom between February and March only.

Question 3:

In which month do their leaves fall?

Answer:

Their leaves fall during autumn, which is October and November.

Question 4: (Page 36)

Do fruits grow on the tree?

Answer:

Yes, fruits grow on the tree. Jackfruits are the sweetest and most delicious fruit with a unique smell.

Question 5:

In which months do they grow?

Answer:

The fruits grow and ripen in late summer, in June.

Question 6:

Have you eaten these fruits?

Answer:

Yes, I have eaten these fruits, and they are very tasty.

Discuss

Question 1:

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Why do people hunt?

Answer:

People hunt animals for their skin, flesh, teeth, horns etc. and sell them to earn money. Sometimes people also hunt just for their entertainment.

Question 2:

There are rules against hunting of some animals. People can be punished for hunting. Why do you think there is this punishment?

Answer:

Hunting of animals has led to a rapid decline in their population. Hunters kill mostly rare and endangered species of animals because they sell their nails, skin and horns at high price. The government has imposed punishments for the offenders to stop such killing because each and every animal species is important for the environment.

Question 3:

Talk to your grandparents and find out—

Which birds did they see around them when they were of your age?

Answer:

When my grandparents were my age, they saw crows, pigeons, woodpeckers, vultures, sparrows and eagles.

Question 4:

Have the number of some of these birds become less?

Answer:

The number of vultures has decreased. Similarly, sparrows and eagles are seen in significantly few numbers.

Question 5:

Are there some birds or animals which they cannot see any more?

Answer:

Well, they say they cannot see parrots and *mynah* that much. In animals, they cannot see much of fishing cats and civets.

Shanti's grandfather told her that when he was a small child, he saw more birds like sparrows and *mynah* than he sees today.

Question 6:

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Can you make two guesses why their numbers have become less?

Answer:

The number of those animals have become less because of the following reasons—

- (i) Construction of buildings and factories has led to deforestation and due to this the birds are losing their natural habitats.
- (ii) The birds are not getting the proper amount of food due to the loss of trees.
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Question 7:

The *Khejadi* tree was the most common tree that grew in Amrita's village. Which kind of trees can you see a lot of, in your area? Name two such trees.

Answer:

I can see many coconut and banyan trees in my locality.

Question 8:

Find out more about these trees from your elders.

Answer:

Coconut trees are tall trees that yield coconut. They are abundant in areas with warm climates, and they mainly grow along the beaches. Sometimes they are also planted in plantations for farming. A coconut tree matures within five years.

A banyan tree is massive in structure, and it has characteristic roots coming down from the branches. A banyan tree provides shelter to many birds, animals and insects and people love to enjoy its shade during the summers. Married women tie sacred threads around banyan trees for some religious rituals.
