

CHAPTER – 4

THE STORY OF AMRITA

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Question 1: Why were they planted there?

Answer:

Trees are planted in the gardens and along the roadsides. They are planted in gardens in schools and houses because they look beautiful and provide greenery. Trees also give us fresh air as they produce oxygen. Trees are planted along the roadside as they provide shade to the travelers during summers.

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Question 1: Have you seen anyone taking care of the trees? Who does this?

Answer:

Yes, gardeners take care of trees and plants planted in the gardens, parks and along the roads.

Question 2: Have you seen fruits on any of the trees? Who eats these fruits?

Answer:

Yes, trees bear fruits in particular seasons. Human beings and animals, such as squirrels and monkeys, eat these fruits.

Question 3: 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?

Answer:

Forest is a place where grass, small plants and trees grow on their own without being planted.

Question 4: Why do you feel they are growing on their own?

Answer:

In forests, seed dispersal takes place by means of air, water and animals. The conditions required for the germination of seeds are present in the forests. Seed germination takes place in the presence of air, water and warmth of sunlight. During this process, a seed gives rise to a seedling, which further grows into a plant. In this way, plants grow on their own in forests.

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Question 1: Do you remember what the elders of this village used to say?

Answer:

The elders of this village used to say “Agar perh hain to hum hain”. According to them, plants and animals can survive without humans, but it is impossible for humans to survive without them.

Question 2: Do you think we could survive if there were no trees and no animals? Discuss this in your class.

Answer:

No, it is not possible for us to survive without trees and animals.

Trees are very important for us as they provide oxygen for breathing. They also give us fruits, vegetables, wood and various other products.

Similarly, animals provide meat, eggs, dairy products (milk, cheese, etc.), wool, etc. They are also used by humans for various other purposes such as carrying loads, protecting house from thieves, etc.

Thus, we can say that we cannot survive without trees and animals.

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Question 1: Write about any one tree.

- * Does the tree flower?
- * Do the flowers remain on the tree throughout the year?
- * In which month do their leaves fall?
- * Do fruits grow on the tree?
- * In which months do they grow?
- * Have you eaten these fruits?

Answer:

Mango tree

- * Yes, the mango tree is a flowering plant.
- * No, the flowers do not remain on the tree throughout the year.
- * The mango tree is an evergreen plant. It possesses leaves throughout the four seasons; the old leaves are shed and replaced by young new leaves. The leaves are usually shed round the year.

✳ Yes, fruits grow on a mango tree.

✳ The fruiting period of a mango tree is from May to July.

✳ Yes, I have eaten mangoes.

Disclaimer: *This is a sample answer. The answers of the students may vary.*

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Question 1: Why do people hunt?

Answer:

People hunt animals for their meat, skin and bones. In ancient times, people used to hunt animals just for recreation, which is morally wrong.

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:

Due to excessive hunting, some species of animals, such as blackbucks, tigers, etc., are on the verge of extinction. To save them, the government has set rules against hunting. But, some people ignore these rules and illegally hunt animals. There should be appropriate punishment to stop such people from hunting.

Question 3: Which birds did they see around them when they were of your age?

Answer:

Birds such as sparrow, *mynah*, peacock, crow, pigeon, parrot and dove were commonly seen in those days.

Question 4: Have the number of some of these birds become less?

Answer:

Yes, the population of birds such as sparrow and parrot have greatly decreased over the years.

Question 5: Are there some birds or animals which they cannot see any more?

Answer:

Birds like sparrow, dove and parrots are rarely seen now-a-days.

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Question 1: Shanti's grandfather told her that when he was a small child he saw more birds like sparrows and *mynah* than he sees today. Can you make two guesses why their numbers have become less?

Answer:

Deforestation (cutting of trees), increase in the number of buildings and pollution are the main reasons behind the reduced number of sparrows and *mynah*.

Question 2: Find out more about these trees from your elders.

Answer:

Disclaimer: The purpose of this section is to make the students interact actively with people and surroundings to enhance their observation skills. Keeping this in mind, it is highly recommended that the students prepare the answer on their own.