

6

Some Unique Places

Chapter Notes:

Andaman and Nicobar Islands

- **Location:** Southernmost part of India, in the **Bay of Bengal**.
- **Southernmost tip:** Indira Point.
- **Definition:** An **island** is a piece of land surrounded by water on all sides.
- **Unique Features:**
 - Home to special birds like the **Andaman Wood Pigeon** and **Andaman Hornbill**.
 - Trees have **strong, spreading roots** that support them.
 - Forests are home to **many animals, colourful birds, butterflies, and insects**.
- **Importance:** Many plants and animals are **found only** here — they must be protected.
- **Safety Tip:** Always wear a **life jacket** when travelling by ferry or boat.



Life Under the Sea

- **Marine Life:** Includes **corals, fish, starfish, jellyfish, dolphins, sea turtles, and seahorses**.
- **Corals:** Tiny sea animals that build **reefs**, which provide shelter to many creatures.
- **Importance of Marine Life:**
 - Keeps the **balance of nature**.
 - Helps maintain a **healthy planet**.
- **North Sentinel Island:**
 - Home to people who live like ancient hunter-gatherers.
 - They depend on **nature** and survived the **2004 tsunami** by observing **natural signs**.

Sundarbans: The Mangrove Forest

- **Location:** Where the **River Ganga** meets the sea.
- **Special Trees:** **Mangroves** – grow in muddy and salty land.
- **Roots:** Stick out of water to help trees **breathe**.
- **Importance of Mangroves:**
 - Prevent soil erosion.
 - Protect land from sea waves.
 - Provide homes and food for people and animals.
- **People:** Depend on the forest for **livelihood** and live **in harmony with nature**.

Northeast India – The Green Hills

- **States:** The **Seven Sisters** (Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura) + Sikkim.
- **Features:**
 - Rich in **forests, rivers, animals, and birds.**
 - Known for **festivals, music, dance, and crafts.**
- **Unique Structures:** Houses built on **bamboo stilts** to protect from floods.
- **Special Bird:** Hargila (Greater Adjutant Stork) – protected by local women and children.
- **Living Root Bridges:** Made from **tree roots**, strong enough to walk across.

The Western Ghats

- **Location:** Long chain of hills along the **western coast** of India.
- **States Covered:** Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat.
- **Unique Wildlife:** Lion-tailed macaque, Indian giant squirrel, elephants, tigers, hornbills.
- **Importance:**
 - Source of many rivers like **Godavari, Krishna, and Kaveri.**
 - Rich in **medicinal plants.**
 - Home to **tribal communities.**
- **Silent Valley National Park (Kerala):**
 - Protected rainforest saved by people's "**Save Silent Valley Movement**".
 - Example of how people can **protect nature together.**

Protected Areas

- Areas like **National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, and Tiger Reserves.**
- Help protect **rare plants and animals.**
- More than **50 protected areas** in the Western Ghats.

New Terms

Word	Meaning
• Island	- Land surrounded by water on all sides
• Coral	- Tiny sea animals forming colourful reefs
• Mangrove	- Tree growing in salty, muddy land
• Ferry	- Boat used to carry people or goods
• Protected Area	- Land or forest kept safe for animals and nature

Find out

Q. Look at the map for the southernmost point of India.

Answer: The southernmost point of India is Indira Point, located in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Find out

1. In which sea are the Andaman and Nicobar Islands located?

Answer: The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are located in the Bay of Bengal.

2. Name the other islands you know.

Answer: Other islands of India are:

- Lakshadweep Islands (in the Arabian Sea)
- Sriharikota Island
- Elephanta Island
- Majuli Island (in the Brahmaputra River, Assam)

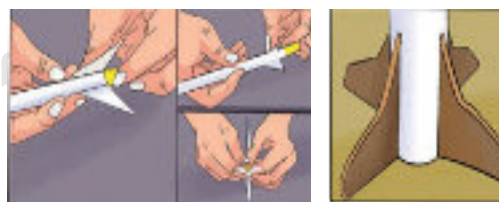
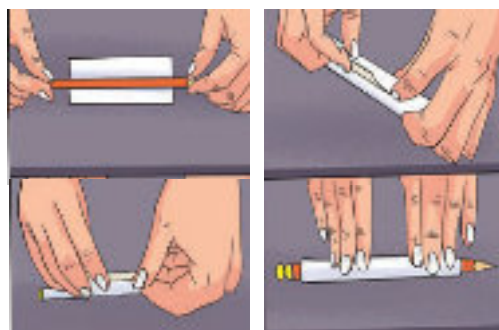
Activity 1

Q. Take a rectangular piece of newspaper or used paper, and roll it into a thin tube. Glue the edges so it does not open. Then, make it stand it up on a flat surface. Does it stay up? Now, cut 3–4 small triangles from thick paper. Stick the triangles evenly around the bottom of the roll. Rest the paper on a flat surface again. Does it stay upright now? The base supports the roll like the roots support the tree to stand upright.

Answer: When the paper roll is made to stand without the triangles, it does not stay upright and falls easily.

After sticking 3–4 triangles at the bottom, the roll stands upright because the triangles act as a strong base.

Conclusion: The base supports the roll just like roots support a tree to stand firmly upright.



Andaman hornbill



Andaman wood pigeon

Q. Why do you think some birds and animals are found only on these islands?

Answer: Some birds and animals are found only on these islands because the islands are far away from the mainland, and the animals there have adapted to the unique environment. They live in special conditions that are not found anywhere else.

Write

1. Draw or write about your favourite fish or other sea animal.

Answers: My favourite sea animal is the **dolphin**. It is a **smart** and **friendly** mammal that can jump and play in the water. Dolphins live in groups and communicate using sounds.

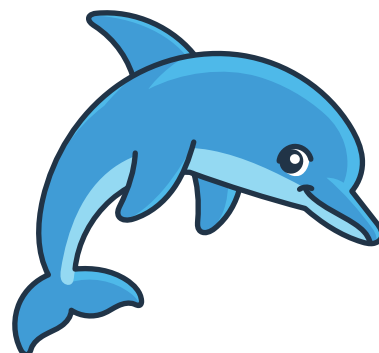
2. List at least three living things found in the sea.

Answers: Three living things found in the sea:

i. Starfish

ii. Octopus

iii. Sea turtle



Discuss

1. Why do you think life under the sea is just as important as life in the forests?

Answers: Life under the sea is just as important as life in the forests because it helps to keep the Earth's balance. Marine life provides oxygen, food, and shelter to many creatures and keeps the water clean and healthy for all living beings.

2. How do you think the coral reef helps the fish and other sea creatures?

Answers: Coral reefs help fish and other sea creatures by giving them shelter, food, and protection. Many small sea animals live, hide, and lay eggs among the corals, making reefs a safe home for marine life.

Discuss

Q. How do you think their knowledge might have helped the people of North Sentinel Island stay safe?

Answer: The people of North Sentinel Island have a deep understanding of nature. Their knowledge of changes in the wind, sea, and the behaviour of animals helped them sense danger before the tsunami. This awareness allowed them to move to safer places and stay safe.

Write

1. What do you see in the mangrove forest? List three things that live there.

Answers: Things found in the mangrove forest:

i. Mangrove trees

ii. Crabs

iii. Royal Bengal Tigers

2. What do you think makes this place different from other forests?

Answers: The Sundarbans mangrove forest is different from other forests because it grows in muddy and salty water near the sea. The trees have roots that stick out of the water to help them breathe.

Write

Q. In what ways do people in Sunderbans depend on the mangrove forests?

Answer: People in the Sunderbans depend on the mangrove forests for their livelihood. They collect wood, honey, fish, and crabs from the forest. The mangroves also protect their villages from sea waves and storms, helping them live safely near the sea.

Discuss

Q. Why do you think it is important to take care of places like the Sundarbans?

Answer: It is important to take care of places like the Sundarbans because they protect the land from floods and sea waves, provide homes to many animals and birds, and help keep the environment clean and balanced. If we protect such places, we also protect ourselves and nature.

Find out

1. Look around yourself.

Do you see any living thing that has something special to help it live there? What is it?

Answers: Living thing with something special:

- A camel has humps to store fat and can live in the hot desert without water for many days.
- A duck has webbed feet that help it swim easily in water.

2. Why would someone wear a mask on the back of their head?

Answers: People living near the Sundarbans wear masks on the back of their heads to confuse tigers, because tigers usually attack from behind. The mask makes the tiger think that the person is looking at it, so it does not attack.

Northeast India: Green Hills and Great Traditions

Q. Can you name the seven Northeastern states?

Answer: The seven Northeastern states of India, also known as the Seven Sisters, are:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| i. Assam | ii. Arunachal Pradesh | iii. Manipur |
| iv. Meghalaya | v. Mizoram | vi. Nagaland |
| vii. Tripura | | |

Write

1. Look at the picture. Can you spot three things being sold in the market?

Answers: Three things being sold in the market:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| i. Fruits and vegetables | ii. Bamboo baskets | iii. Handwoven clothes |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|

2. Can you identify the festival from the above picture?

Answers: It is the Bihu Festival of Assam (or another local harvest festival celebrated in Northeast India).

3. Why do you think the houses are built on bamboo structures?

Answers: The houses are built on bamboo stilts to stay safe from floods, rainwater, and wild animals.

4. What animals can you see in the picture?

Answers: Hornbill and elephant.

5. What does this picture tell you about the people who live with nature in the Northeast of India?

Answers: The people of Northeast India live close to nature, respect the environment, and use natural materials like bamboo and wood in their daily lives. They celebrate their culture and festivals joyfully while living in harmony with nature.

Discuss

Q. In small groups, choose an animal or bird near you that needs protection. What can you do to help?

Create a protection plan and share it with the class.

Answer:

- **Animal chosen:** Sparrow 🐦
- **Why it needs protection:** Sparrows are disappearing from cities because of pollution, lack of trees, and fewer nesting places.
- **Protection Plan:**
 - i. Put earthen pots or nest boxes on balconies and trees for sparrows to build nests.
 - ii. Keep bowls of water and grains for birds, especially during summer.
 - iii. Plant more trees and shrubs where sparrows can live safely.
 - iv. Avoid loud noises and harmful chemicals near bird areas.
 - v. Spread awareness among friends and neighbours to protect small birds.

Conclusion: By giving sparrows safe homes and food, we can help bring them back to our surroundings.

Activity 2

Q. In small groups, collect twigs, leaves and soft materials like cotton or paper available around you.

Create a small bird's nest using the materials. What makes a good nest? What does the nest need to keep the eggs safe?

Answer: A **good nest** is one that is soft, strong, and safe for birds to lay their eggs.

Things that make a good nest:

- It is made of twigs, leaves, grass, cotton, and feathers.
- It is built in a quiet and hidden place to protect the eggs from danger.
- It should be warm, soft, and comfortable for the eggs and baby birds.
- The nest must be strong enough to stay in place even when there is wind or rain.



Conclusion: A good nest keeps the eggs safe, warm, and protected until the chicks hatch.

Activity 3

Q. Try a 'Root bridge challenge' in class. Can you connect two chairs using string or sticks in a way that will hold a small toy?

Answer: In the 'Root Bridge Challenge', two chairs can be connected using strings, sticks, or threads to make a small bridge.

Steps and Observations:

- i. Tie the strings or sticks tightly between the chairs to make the bridge strong.
- ii. Place a small toy on the bridge to test its strength.
- iii. If the bridge holds the toy without breaking, it means the design is strong and balanced.

Conclusion: Just like living root bridges in Meghalaya, the connected strings or sticks work together to share weight and provide support. This activity shows how nature inspires strong and lasting designs.

Write

1. Look at the map, locate the Western Ghats and name the six states it passes through.

Answers: The Western Ghats pass through the following six states:

- | | | |
|---------------|-----------------|----------------|
| i. Gujarat | ii. Maharashtra | iii. Goa |
| iv. Karnataka | v. Kerala | vi. Tamil Nadu |

2. What animals can you spot in the forest?

Answers: Animals found in the Western Ghats forests:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| i. Lion-tailed macaque | ii. Indian giant squirrel | iii. Elephant |
| iv. Tiger | v. Hornbill | |

3. What are the people doing in the picture given below?

Answers: Exploring the forest, observing animals, and studying nature.

Some may be farmers or local villagers who depend on forest plants and trees for their livelihood.

4. Why do you think forts were built on hilltops instead of flat land?

Answers: Forts were built on hilltops because:

- Hilltops provided better protection from enemies.
- It was easier to see approaching attackers from a height.
- The location made the fort stronger and harder to capture.

Write

Q. Write Give the names of three rivers that start from the Western Ghats.

Answers: Three rivers that start from the Western Ghats - Godavari River, Krishna River, Kaveri River

Activity 4

Q. Pick a fruit or vegetable that grows in your state. It may have varieties. With the help of your teacher or elders make a list of how many types and varieties of fruits and vegetables are locally known.

Answer: Example for Gujarat-

Fruit chosen: Mango 🍌

Different varieties of mango grown in my state: Kesar, Alphonso (**Hapus**), Rajapuri, Langra, Totapuri

Other locally grown fruits and vegetables:

- Fruits:** Chikoo, Guava, Banana, Papaya
- Vegetables:** Brinjal, Tomato, Okra (Lady's Finger), Bottle Gourd

Conclusion: There are many local varieties of fruits and vegetables in every state. Knowing them helps us value local farming and biodiversity.

Write

Q. List three protected areas in the Western Ghats.

Answer: Three protected areas in the Western Ghats are:

- Silent Valley National Park – Kerala
- Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary – Kerala
- Bandipur National Park – Karnataka

Let us reflect

1. What surprised you the most about the places visited in this journey across India? Why?

Answers: I was most surprised by the living root bridges in Meghalaya. It is amazing how people use tree roots to make real bridges that become stronger with time and nature's help.

2. Which place would you like to visit the most and what would you do there?

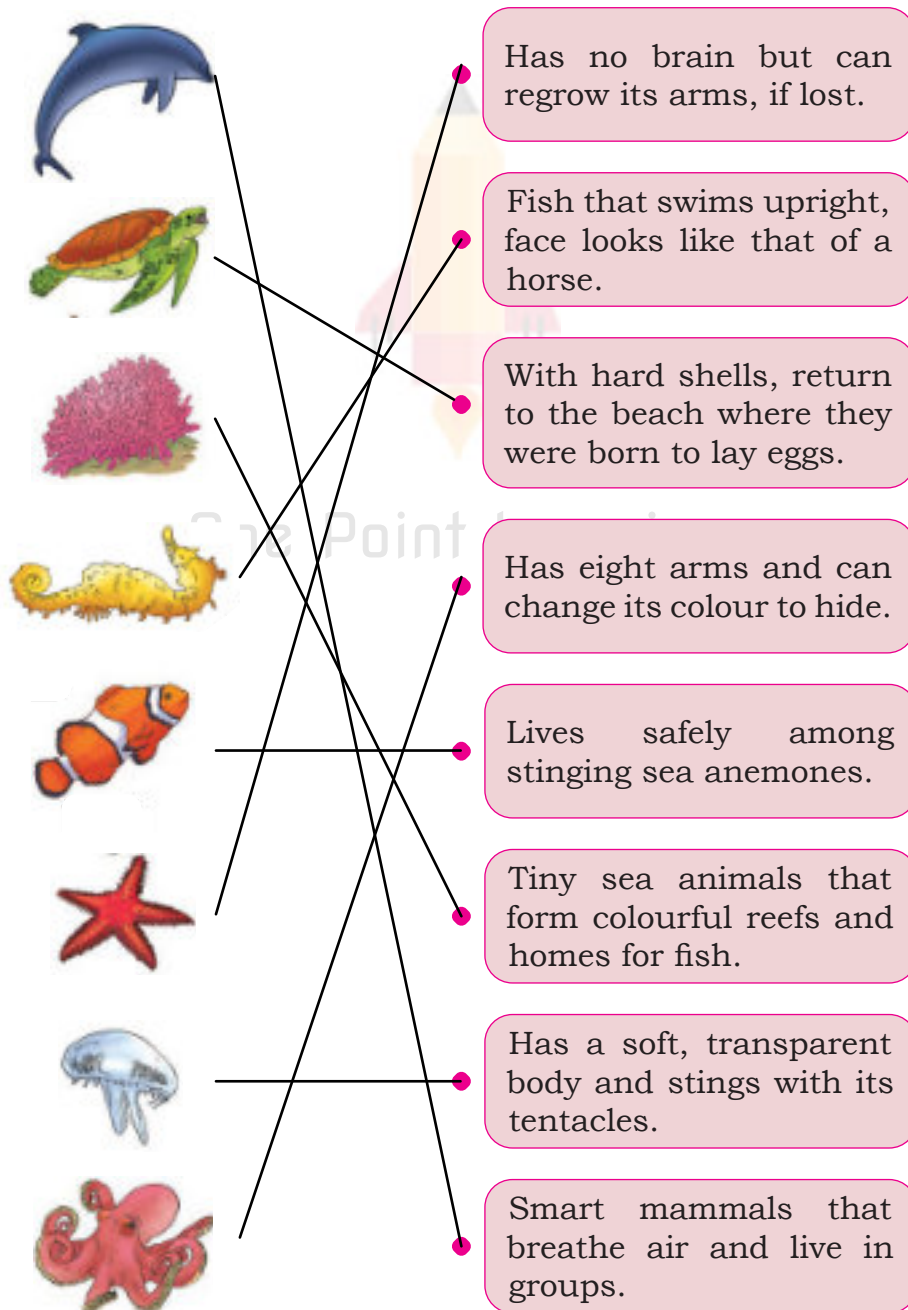
Answers: I would like to visit the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. I would explore the beautiful beaches, see coral reefs, and learn about marine animals and island life.

3. How is your region similar or different from one of the places in the story?

Answers: My region is different from the Andaman Islands because it is on the mainland, not surrounded by water. But it is similar because people here also depend on nature and try to protect trees and animals.

4. Match the following aquatic animals with their features.

Answer:



5. What is special about mangroves?

Answer: special about mangroves:

- Mangroves grow in muddy and salty water where most other trees cannot grow.
- Their roots stick out of the water to help them breathe.
- They hold the soil together, protect the land from sea waves, and provide a home for many animals and birds.

6. How do people in different regions live in harmony with the nature?

Answer: People in different regions live in harmony with nature:

- People in the Sundarbans depend on mangroves for wood, honey, and fish but take care not to harm the forest.
- In the Northeast, people build bamboo houses and living root bridges using natural materials.
- In the Western Ghats, people use forest plants for medicine and help protect wildlife.

👉 Everywhere, people use nature wisely and respectfully, keeping a balance with their surroundings.

7. Make a collage by pasting pictures depicting vibrant India.

Answer: To make a collage showing “Vibrant India”, you can use pictures that represent India’s diverse culture, people, and nature.

