Chapter 5: Plants and Animals Live Together

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5.1 Animals Living with Plants (picture observation)

Q1 Which of these animals do you recognise from the pictures? Which of them have you seen before?

The pictures show: elephants feeding on grass, a moth resting on a leaf, a caterpillar chewing a leaf, earthworms on leaves and soil, a tailorbird singing, a woodpecker on a tree trunk, ants building their nest using leaves, a colourful stink bug on a leaf, a frog resting on a leaf, a butterfly perched on a leaf, squirrels using tree hollows to hide and rest, and a barbet using a tree hollow for nesting. I have seen butterflies, ants, frogs, squirrels, and woodpeckers near plants and trees.

Q2 Which of these animals live under the ground?

Earthworms live under the ground. They are found in the soil near leaves and roots.

5.2 Animals on Page 63 (observation and description)

Q1 Which of the animals (birds and insects) shown on page 63 have you seen before? Describe where and how you saw them.

Sample answer: I have seen butterflies in a garden, ants on the ground near plants, and a tailorbird sitting on a branch. Butterflies were perched on flowers and ants were carrying food along a leaf.

Q2 Why do these animals choose to live near plants?

Animals choose to live near plants because plants provide them food, shelter, and a safe place to rest or build nests. Plants also offer leaves, nectar, fruits, and hollow trunks that animals use every day.

5.3 Life in the Soil (activity)

Q1 What colour is the soil under your feet (near a plant)?

Sample answer: The soil near the plant was dark brown in colour. Soil near plants is usually darker because it has old leaves and roots mixed in it.

Q2 How does the soil look and feel? Is it dry, damp, rough, smooth, hard or grainy? Did you find any leaves or insects in the soil?

Sample answer: The soil felt rough and slightly grainy. It was a little damp and had small leaves and a few tiny insects like ants in it.

Q3 Did you find any differences in the look, feel and smell of the soil collected a day after it rains compared to the earlier sample?

Sample answer: Yes, the soil collected after rain was darker, wetter, and softer. It also had a fresh earthy smell, unlike the drier soil collected before rain.

Q4 Pick up soil from a place far away from any plants. Is it different from the soil near plants? In what ways?

Sample answer: Yes, the soil far from plants was lighter in colour, drier, and harder. It had fewer leaves and insects compared to the soil near a plant.

Q5 What is soil made up of?

Soil is made from tiny pieces of broken rocks, as well as old leaves, roots, stems, and living and dead animals like insects. It is the topmost layer of the Earth's surface.

5.4 Monsoon Plants and Animals

Q1 In the monsoons, you may find many more plants and animals around. Where did these new plants and animals come from? Why could you not see them earlier?

Many insects like earthworms and millipedes stay hidden in the soil and come out when rain makes the soil wet. Seeds of plants remain buried in the soil for a long time and begin to sprout only when it rains and the soil gets enough water.

5.5 Observation Activity — Animals Near Plants

Q1 Stand near your plant friend and look around. How many different animals can you spot? Describe them.

Sample answer: I spotted a small hopping grasshopper on the grass, red bugs on a rotting fruit, and ants climbing along a leaf. The grasshopper was jumping, the bugs were feeding on the fruit, and the ants were carrying tiny pieces of food.

5.6 How Animals Use Plants

Q1 How many of the animals (camels, owls, squirrels, crows, monkeys, sunbirds, butterflies, tailorbirds, bats, leopards, caterpillars) have you seen? How do animals, birds and insects use different parts of plants?

Sample answer: I have seen monkeys, squirrels, butterflies, and crows. Animals use plants in many ways — camels eat leaves, monkeys eat fruits, caterpillars munch leaves, sunbirds and butterflies drink nectar, tailorbirds stitch leaves to build nests, squirrels and crows use twigs for nests, owls use tree hollows to raise their young, and bats and leopards rest on branches.

5.7 Sounds of Birds (activity)

Q1 Close your eyes and try to listen to the sounds of birds. Do you hear any bird sounds? Can you recognise which birds are making these sounds?

Sample answer: Yes, I heard some bird sounds. I could recognise the cooing of a pigeon. Some sounds I could not name, but they seemed to come from small birds hiding in the leaves.

Q2 If you do not hear any sounds of birds, what do you think is the reason?

If there are no bird sounds, it could be because of too much noise from vehicles or people nearby. Birds may also be hiding or sleeping, or there may be few trees and plants in the area to attract them.

Q3 Do you hear more bird sounds in the early morning, afternoon, or evening?

Sample answer: I hear more bird sounds in the early morning. Birds are most active and call out loudly at that time to communicate with each other.

5.8 Let Us Reflect — A. Discuss

Q1 What was the colour and texture of the two soil specimens that you collected? In which month did you pick them up? Did they smell different?

Sample answer: The first soil (collected in summer) was light brown, dry, and rough. The second soil (collected after rain) was dark brown, damp, and soft. The wet soil had a fresh, earthy smell, while the dry soil had almost no smell.

Q2 During which month did fresh new leaves appear on the plant that you were observing?

Sample answer: Fresh new leaves appeared on my plant in June or July, when the monsoon rains began. The plant grew faster and looked greener after the first rains.

Q3 Which animals, birds and insects did you notice around plants?

Sample answer: I noticed butterflies, ants, small beetles, grasshoppers, a crow, and a pigeon near the plants. After rain, I also found earthworms in the soil near the plant roots.

Q4 Recall and write about how animals, birds and insects rely on plants. Which one was your favourite example?

Animals, birds and insects rely on plants for food, shelter, and nesting. For example, caterpillars eat leaves, monkeys eat fruits, tailorbirds stitch leaves for nests, and owls use tree hollows to raise young ones. My favourite example is the tailorbird stitching leaves together to make a cosy nest.

Q5 What is soil made up of?

Soil is made up of tiny pieces of broken rocks, old leaves, roots, stems, and living and dead animals like insects. It forms the topmost layer of the Earth's surface.

5.9 Let Us Reflect — B. Write

Q1 Write the names of two animals you observed near or on plants. Describe their shape, size and colours. Guess why they were staying near these plants. What other interesting things did you notice about them?

Sample answer: (1) Butterfly — small, light, with colourful wings of orange and black. It was staying near plants to drink nectar from flowers. It fluttered gently from one flower to the next. (2) Ant — tiny, black, with a thin body and six legs. It was near the plant to collect food and carry it back to its nest. Ants walked in a straight line and worked together as a team.

5.10 Let Us Reflect — C. Draw

Q1 Draw your plant friend and use different coloured small dots to show the places where you spotted animals, birds or insects.

Draw your plant carefully showing the roots, stem, branches, and leaves. Use coloured dots — for example, green dots on leaves where you saw a caterpillar or butterfly, red dots on the soil where you found ants or earthworms, and blue dots on branches where a bird was sitting.

5.11 Let Us Reflect — D. Put in Order

Q1 Suma observed a caterpillar on a tagar plant. Arrange the following changes in the correct order: (a) Now it was a butterfly. (b) The caterpillar formed a cocoon. (c) It flew away gently. (d) One day it stopped eating. (e) It came out of the cocoon.

The correct order is: (1) One day it stopped eating. (2) The caterpillar formed a cocoon. (3) It came out of the cocoon. (4) Now it was a butterfly. (5) It flew away gently.