Chapter 6: Living in Harmony

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6.1 Discuss — Animals and Plants at Home (Page 73)

Q1 Do any of these animals, birds, insects and plants live with you in your house?

Sample answer: Yes, we have a tulsi plant on our balcony and a pet dog lives with us at home.

Q2 Do you and your family take care of them?

Sample answer: Yes, we water the tulsi plant every morning and feed our dog biscuits and water every day.

6.2 Find Out — Animals Not in the Picture (Page 73)

Q1 Are there any animals, birds and insects that you have spotted that are not in the picture given on page 72? Try to find out their names and write them in the table given below.

Sample answer: Animals I have spotted that are not in the picture — Crow (seen on the roof), Lizard (on the wall), Butterfly (in the garden), Ant (on the floor), Pigeon (on the window ledge).

6.3 Discuss with Elders — Animals and Plants They Kept (Page 73)

Q1 Discuss with elders in your family which animals and plants they kept at home when they were young. Ask them to share any story about these animals and plants.

Sample answer: My grandfather kept a cow and a dog when he was young. He fed the cow green grass and bathed it daily. Once the dog barked loudly at night and saved the family from a thief — that is the story he loves to tell.

6.4 Discuss in Pairs — Uninvited Visitors (Page 74)

Q1 Which are the uninvited animals, birds and insects that visit your home?

Sample answer: Crows, pigeons, lizards, ants, mosquitoes, and squirrels visit our home without being invited.

Q2 Why do you think they come to your homes?

They come looking for food, water, and shelter. Our homes provide them warmth and safety.

Q3 How do you feel about their presence in your home?

Sample answer: I feel happy seeing birds and squirrels, but I feel a little scared when I see lizards or cockroaches.

Q4 Which of them do you like?

Sample answer: I like sparrows, butterflies, and squirrels because they are colourful and lively.

Q5 What do you do when you do not like them?

Sample answer: When I see insects I do not like, I ask an elder to gently move them outside. We try not to hurt them even if we do not like them.

6.5 Discuss — Plants, Animals and Us (Page 77)

Q1 How are we dependent on plants and animals?

We depend on plants for food, fresh air, shade, medicines, wood, and fibre for clothes. We depend on animals for milk, food, and companionship.

Q2 How do plants help animals?

Plants give animals food and oxygen. They also provide shelter — birds nest on trees and animals rest in their shade.

Q3 How do animals help plants?

Animals help plants by dispersing seeds far and wide. They also make the soil fertile through their waste, which helps plants grow and spread.

Q4 How do you look after plants and animals in your surroundings?

Sample answer: I water the plants at home, keep a bowl of water for birds on the terrace, feed stray dogs, and make sure not to hurt any animals or uproot any plants.

Q5 How do animals and plants depend on us?

Animals and plants depend on us for care, protection, and love. We give them food, water, shelter, and a safe place to live.

6.6 Activity 1 — Get to Know an Animal (Page 78)

Q1 Name and describe the animal or bird that you have chosen.

Sample answer: I have chosen a crow. It is a medium-sized black bird with a loud cawing sound. It has sharp eyes and a strong beak.

Q2 When and where did you first see it?

Sample answer: I first saw it in the morning on the window ledge of our kitchen.

Q3 Was it there alone or with its friends?

Sample answer: It was with two other crows sitting on the same ledge.

Q4 Describe its movement.

Sample answer: It hopped on the ledge, flapped its wings, and flew away quickly when it spotted food on the roof.

Q5 What sounds did it make?

Sample answer: It made a loud caw-caw sound, especially when other birds came near.

Q6 Did you see it eating, sleeping, talking to its friends or maybe fighting sometimes?

Sample answer: Yes, I saw it eating a piece of bread and calling other crows to share it. Once it chased away a pigeon that tried to take its food.

Q7 Did it do anything that surprised you or made you laugh?

Sample answer: Yes! It picked up a shiny candy wrapper and flew away with it. I laughed because it looked like it thought the wrapper was treasure.

6.7 Activity 2 — Busy Busy Ants: Make a Guess (Page 79)

Q1 Who will come for the food?

Ants will most likely come for the food, especially the sweet item. Small insects, flies, or birds may come too.

Q2 Which will be their favourite food?

Their favourite food will be the sweet item like sugar or jaggery. Ants are very attracted to sweet things.

Q3 Will any ants come to your food?

Yes, ants will definitely come, especially to the sweet food.

Q4 Where would they come from?

Ants come from their nests or anthills nearby — from cracks in the floor, holes in the wall, or from the garden.

Q5 Will all the ants look the same?

No, all ants do not look the same. Some may be black, some red or brown, and they may differ in size too.

Q6 What food item will they go to first?

They will go to the sweet item first, since ants are most attracted to sugar and jaggery.

Q7 How many ants will come to the food?

Many ants will come — once one ant finds food, it leaves a scent trail and many more follow.

Q8 What will they do with the food?

The ants will carry tiny pieces of food back to their nest to store it and share with the whole colony.

6.8 Activity 3 — Guess Who I Am (Page 80)

Q1 Gopa's friend Ali whispered 'Frog' into his ear. What do you think Gopa did?

Gopa must have crouched down and jumped repeatedly, acting like a frog leaping from one place to another.

Q2 Sukhiya's friend Surya whispered 'Peepal tree' into her ear. What do you think Sukhiya did?

Sukhiya probably stood very still with her arms stretched out wide like branches of a big tree, swaying gently as if in the breeze.

6.9 Let us Reflect — A. Discuss (Page 81)

Q1 How are we dependent on plants and animals?

We depend on plants for food, fresh air, shade, medicine, wood, and cloth fibre. We depend on animals for milk, food, and loving companionship.

Q2 How should we care for plants and animals in our environment?

We should water plants regularly, keep them in sunlight, leave grains and water for birds, feed animals with kindness, and never hurt or harm any living creature.

Q3 How do plants and animals depend on us?

Plants and animals depend on us for protection, care, food, and water. Without our help, many of them would struggle to survive.

6.10 Let us Reflect — B. Write (Page 81)

Q1 Complete these sentences with the names of plants, birds, animals or insects:
a. I like looking at _____ because _____
b. _____ make me laugh because _____
c. My friend _____ likes _____ because _____
d. I would like to take care of _____ because _____

Sample answers:
a. I like looking at peacocks because their feathers are so colourful and beautiful.
b. Puppies make me laugh because they wag their tails and tumble over each other.
c. My friend Riya likes parrots because they repeat whatever she says.
d. I would like to take care of a stray dog because it needs love and someone to look after it.

Q2 a. Which is your favourite animal, bird, insect or plant among those you have named above?
b. Why do you like it?
c. Write down the names of all the animals, birds, insects that you have seen or learned about from the smallest to the largest.

Sample answers:
a. My favourite animal is a dog.
b. I like dogs because they are loyal, playful, and always happy to see me.
c. From smallest to largest: Ant, Mosquito, Butterfly, Sparrow, Squirrel, Rabbit, Cat, Dog, Goat, Cow, Horse, Elephant.

6.11 Let us Reflect — C. Draw (Page 82)

Q1 Name and draw animals, birds and insects that have:
a. Two legs
b. Four legs
c. Six legs
d. Eight legs

Draw activity — blank drawing box on page 82 (no pre-printed figure). Students name and draw their own choices in four sections.
Two legs — Myna, Sparrow, Pigeon, Crow (any bird has two legs).
Four legs — Goat, Cat, Dog, Cow, Horse (the chapter shows a goat and a cat on page 72).
Six legs — Grasshopper, Dragonfly, Ant, Butterfly (the chapter shows a grasshopper and a dragonfly on page 72; all insects have six legs).
Eight legs — Spider, Scorpion.
Draw one animal per section and write its name below the picture.

6.12 A True Story — Grey Wagtails of Valparai (Page 83)

Q1 Do you know why these birds are called Wagtails? Find out!

These birds are called Wagtails because they constantly wag (move) their tails up and down. This tail-wagging is a special habit that gives them their name.

Q2 Do you want to give a title to the story?

Sample answer: "Welcome, Wagtails!" or "The Little Birds of Valparai".