Chapter 7: Water — A Precious Gift

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7.1 Rain — Observing and Guessing

Q1 Are there any clues that help you guess if it will rain? Write at least 2 clues for why you think it WILL rain today.

Sample answer: I think it will rain today because the sky is dark and cloudy, and there is a cool, moist breeze blowing.

Q2 Write at least 2 clues for why you think it will NOT rain today.

Sample answer: I think it will not rain today because the sky is clear and bright blue, and the sun is shining strongly.

Q3 Observe the rain. Is it a heavy rain or a light one? Are the raindrops big or small? Does the rain fall straight down or does it slant?

Sample answer: The rain I observed was heavy, with big drops falling fast. The rain was slanting because of the wind — it was not falling straight down.

Q4 Collect rainwater in a vessel. Does it look clean or dirty?

Sample answer: The collected rainwater looks slightly dirty because it picks up dust from the air and from the surface it falls on.

Q5 Draw a picture of the rain that you observed.

Activity: Draw rain falling diagonally from dark clouds over a house or field. Show big drops and slanting lines if the rain was heavy and windy, or small straight lines if it was light and still. You may add puddles on the ground.

Q6 Did the rain make you happy? Did it make everyone happy?

Sample answer: Yes, the rain made me happy because it was cool and refreshing. But farmers waiting for rain to grow crops may be especially happy, while someone travelling outside might not be happy.

7.2 What Happened to the Rainwater?

Q1 Where does rainwater go after it falls on different surfaces?

Rainwater gets absorbed into the soil, collects in puddles, or flows away into streams and rivers. Some soaks deep underground between rocks and soil, forming the water in our wells.

Q2 What happens to the rainwater after the sun comes out?

After the sun comes out, the water on hard surfaces slowly dries up (evaporates). Rainwater soaked into the soil flows underground to join streams or ponds.

Q3 Is there a stream, river, pond or lake near your village or city? Find out its name and some information about it.

Sample answer: There is a lake near our city called Hussain Sagar. It collects rainwater and is used for boating. Many birds come to drink water from it.

7.3 Water is a Precious Gift — Where Does It Come From?

Q1 Where do you get water from at home? Where does the water in your taps come from?

Sample answer: We get water from taps at home. The water comes through pipes from a big storage tank on the rooftop, which is filled from a larger water supply system in our area.

Q2 How is water drawn from a well?

Water is drawn from a well using a pulley, a hand pump, or an electric pump. The water in the well comes from rainwater that soaks into the ground.

Q3 Do you know anyone who faces difficulty in getting water every day?

Sample answer: In some villages, people walk long distances to fetch water from a distant well or river, because there are no taps or pipelines nearby.

7.4 Water in Our Daily Lives

Q1 List all the activities you can think of for which we need water.

We need water for drinking, cooking, bathing, brushing teeth, washing clothes and utensils, cleaning the house, watering plants, and flushing toilets.

Q2 Have you ever faced a situation when you did not get any water? What did you do then?

Sample answer: Once the water supply stopped for a day. We used the water stored in buckets at home for drinking and cooking, and waited for the supply to resume.

Q3 Why do we store water at home?

We store water because we do not always get water through taps all the time. In some places, people do not have pipes at home and must bring water from rivers or wells, so storing it ensures they have water when needed.

7.5 Storing Water — Vessels and Materials

Q1 What are some vessels used for storing water at home? What materials are they made of?

We store water in clay pots, copper vessels, brass pots, steel pots, aluminium pots, glass bottles, plastic bottles, and plastic buckets. They are made of clay, copper, brass, steel, aluminium, glass, and plastic.

Q2 Ask your grandparents: How did they get water and how did they store it? Was it different from what we do today?

Sample answer: My grandmother told me that she used to fetch water from a well using a rope and bucket. She stored it in large clay pots, which kept the water cool. There were no plastic containers or electric pumps in her time.

7.6 Every Drop Counts — Sharing Water

Q1 Why is water considered sacred?

Water is considered sacred because it is absolutely essential for the survival of all living beings — humans, animals, and plants.

Q2 Don't you think everyone must get clean drinking water anywhere, anytime? What can you do about it?

Yes, every person has the right to clean drinking water. We can help by offering water to people who come to our door, keeping a pot of water outside for thirsty passers-by, and not wasting water.

Q3 Look at the pictures — drinking water for animals in a tank, free drinking water for people, and a birdbath. What do they show?

The three pictures show that people share water with everyone around them. The first picture shows a covered water point where anyone who is thirsty can get free drinking water. The second picture shows a stone tank filled with water so that animals like cows can drink. The third picture shows a birdbath — a shallow container with water placed outside so that birds can drink and cool down. Together they show that water is shared with people, animals, and birds — it is an act of kindness to keep water available for all.

7.7 Let Us Reflect — Write

Q1 You watched how raindrops fell, collected rainwater, and saw what happened to rainwater on different surfaces. Write a few lines on your observations of the rain.

Sample answer: I observed that the rain fell in big drops from dark clouds. The water collected in a vessel looked slightly muddy. On the soil, the rainwater soaked in quickly, but on the road it collected in puddles and flowed to the side. After the rain, the sun dried up the puddles slowly.

Q2 You found out the name and information about a stream, river, well, pond or lake near your place. Write a few lines: Is this water used for drinking? How is it carried to your home? If not used, why not? Was it used in the past?

Sample answer: There is a river called the Godavari near our town. Its water is cleaned at a water treatment plant and then sent through pipes to our taps. In the past, people used to directly carry water from the river in pots.

7.8 Let Us Reflect — Draw

Q1 Draw a picture of your birdbath. Write the names of the birds and insects that come to drink water from it.

Activity: Draw a shallow, wide bowl or a base of an old pot. Inside it, draw a few small stones for birds to perch on, and water in the bowl. Around the birdbath, draw birds such as sparrows and pigeons drinking or splashing in the water, and insects like butterflies nearby. Write the names of the birds and insects next to your drawings.

7.9 Let Us Reflect — Discuss

Q1 Water is very precious. Discuss and list activities in your house or outside due to which water gets polluted or wasted. How can we avoid wastage? Write three solutions.

Water gets wasted by leaving taps open while brushing teeth, and gets polluted by throwing garbage into rivers or using too much chemical soap. Three solutions: (1) Turn off the tap when not in use. (2) Reuse water used for washing vegetables to water plants. (3) Never throw waste or chemicals into ponds, lakes, or rivers.