Chapter 9: Hekko

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9.1 Let us Think — Answer the following

Q1 What does the word 'Hekko' mean?

The word 'Hekko' comes from 'Hek' meaning to challenge and 'ko' meaning tiger. So 'Hekko' means 'Challenging the tiger.'

Q2 What are the two teams in the game called?

The two teams in the game are called Aami (The Man) and Aakho (The Tiger).

Q3 How many players are there in each team?

There are 11 players in each team.

Q4 What do the players in the Aami team do inside the circle?

The Aami team players stay inside the circle by making a human chain. They also try to catch the players of the Aakho team by surrounding them.

Q5 Why do you think the Aakho team (Tiger) must say 'Joko' when they are caught?

Sample answer: The Aakho team must say 'Joko' (surrender) because it is the rule that shows the Aami team has won that moment. Saying 'Joko' means the player accepts defeat fairly, just as the tiger in the folk story had to accept the challenge from the humans.

9.2 Let us Think — Think and discuss

Q1 If you were playing the game Hekko, would you prefer to be in the Aami or Aakho team? Why?

Sample answer: I would prefer to be in the Aami team because I like the idea of working as a group inside the circle, forming a human chain, and trying to catch the opponents together. It feels like a great teamwork challenge.

Q2 If you could add a new rule to the game, what would it be? What would be the benefit of the new rule?

Sample answer: My new rule would be that if an Aami player who was pushed out cheers loudly for their team, one player from the Aakho team loses a point. This would keep the spirit of all players alive even after they are out of the circle.

9.3 Let us Learn — Homophones (their/there, two/too, through/threw, caught/cot, right/write)

Q1 Choose the correct option: ……..…… (their/there) is a beautiful park in my neighbourhood.

There is a beautiful park in my neighbourhood.

Q2 Choose the correct option: They completed ……..…… (there/their) work very fast.

They completed their work very fast.

Q3 Choose the correct option: ……..…… (Two/Too) of my friends participated in the poster-making competition.

Two of my friends participated in the poster-making competition.

Q4 Choose the correct option: I was ……..…… (two/too) tired after playing.

I was too tired after playing.

Q5 Choose the correct option: The bowler ……..…… (through/threw) the ball towards the batsman.

The bowler threw the ball towards the batsman.

Q6 Choose the correct option: I can see the clouds ……..…… (through/threw) my window pane.

I can see the clouds through my window pane.

Q7 Choose the correct option: My mother ……..…… (caught/cot) me eating an icecream at night.

My mother caught me eating an icecream at night.

Q8 Choose the correct option: I sleep on a ……..…… (caught/cot) when I am at my grandmother's village.

I sleep on a cot when I am at my grandmother's village.

Q9 Choose the correct option: While crossing the road, look to your …….…… (right/write), then left, then right again and then cross the road.

While crossing the road, look to your right, then left, then right again and then cross the road.

Q10 Choose the correct option: ……..…… (Right/Write) in a neat and legible handwriting.

Write in a neat and legible handwriting.

9.4 Let us Learn — Write names of pictures (st, ch, gl blends)

Q1 Look at the pictures and write their names. The pictures show words beginning with blends 'st', 'ch', and 'gl'. One has been done for you: Stairs.

st — Stairs (given), Star; ch — Chair, Chain; gl — Glass, Glue

9.5 Let us Learn — Match animals with their sounds

Q1 Match the animals with their sounds: Tiger — (coos / trumpets / roars / neighs / whoops / bleats)

Tiger — roars

Q2 Match the animals with their sounds: Horse — (coos / trumpets / roars / neighs / whoops / bleats)

Horse — neighs

Q3 Match the animals with their sounds: Elephant — (coos / trumpets / roars / neighs / whoops / bleats)

Elephant — trumpets

Q4 Match the animals with their sounds: Dove — (coos / trumpets / roars / neighs / whoops / bleats)

Dove — coos

Q5 Match the animals with their sounds: Goat — (coos / trumpets / roars / neighs / whoops / bleats)

Goat — bleats

Q6 Match the animals with their sounds: Monkey — (coos / trumpets / roars / neighs / whoops / bleats)

Monkey — whoops

9.6 Let us Learn — Fill in the blanks using past simple (-ed)

Q1 Fill in the blank using -ed: Last week, we ..... (visit) the park for a while.

Last week, we visited the park for a while.

Q2 Fill in the blank using -ed: My mother ..... (point) at the children playing kabbadi.

My mother pointed at the children playing kabbadi.

Q3 Fill in the blank using -ed: On our way home, my sister ……..... (jump) in a puddle and muddied everyone's clothes.

On our way home, my sister jumped in a puddle and muddied everyone's clothes.

Q4 Fill in the blank using -ed: I ……..... (enjoy) my visit to the park.

I enjoyed my visit to the park.

Q5 Fill in the blank using -ed: My sister ……..... (want) to go to the pond.

My sister wanted to go to the pond.

Q6 Fill in the blank using -ed: I ……..... (decide) to stay and watch the game of kabbadi.

I decided to stay and watch the game of kabbadi.

Q7 Fill in the blank using -ed: I ……..... (watch) the game for a while.

I watched the game for a while.

Q8 Fill in the blank using -ed: I ……..... (join) my mother and sister.

I joined my mother and sister.

Q9 Fill in the blank using -ed: I ……..... (spot) a goldfish.

I spotted a goldfish.

Q10 Fill in the blank using -ed: My sister ……..... (notice) two tadpoles in the pond.

My sister noticed two tadpoles in the pond.

9.7 Let us Listen — Identify traditional games of India

Q1 Listen: In this game, we stack seven stones on top of each other. The first team throws a ball to knock them down. Members of the first team hurriedly rearrange the stack while the opponent team tries to hit them with the ball. If you are hit by the ball, you are out. Can you guess the name of the game?

This game is Pittu Garam (also called Lagori or Saat Pathar). It is a traditional Indian game played with seven flat stones and a ball.

Q2 Listen: In this game, there are two teams. One player from the first team crosses into the second team's side while chanting the name of the game continuously without taking a breath. The goal is to tag as many players as possible and return before being caught. If the player is caught, the other team scores. Can you guess the name of this game?

This game is Kabbadi. It is one of the most popular traditional games of India, also played at the national and international level.

Q3 Listen: This game is played with two wooden sticks — a short one and a longer one. The goal is to hit the shorter stick and make it jump in the air, then strike it again to send it flying. Players measure how far the shorter stick travels to score points. Can you guess the name of this game?

This game is Gilli-Danda. It is an ancient traditional Indian game played with a small stick (gilli) and a larger stick (danda).

Q4 Listen: In this game, two children form an arch with their arms while others walk under it, singing a song. When the song ends, the arch drops, and the player caught joins in. It is a fun and rhythmic game played in many parts of India. Can you guess the name of this game?

This game is Atya Patya or a similar traditional arch-gate game often called 'London Bridge' or 'Gate Gate' in different regions. It is a fun singing game enjoyed by children across India.

Q5 Listen: In this game, children use a small round shaped glass object, aiming to knock out other glass round objects placed in a circle. Players flick the glass object with their fingers, trying to hit the target objects and win them. Can you guess the name of this game?

This game is Kancha (also called Marbles or Goti). It is a popular traditional outdoor game in which children flick small glass marbles to knock others out of a circle.

9.8 Let us Speak — Identify games in pictures and discuss

Q1 Look at the pictures and identify the games being played. Have you played any of these games before? Discuss with your partner about the games you recognise. Which one is your favourite? Why do you enjoy playing it?

The four pictures show: (1) Skipping (jump rope) — two children skip while one turns the rope; (2) Hoop rolling — a boy rolls a large hoop/tyre alongside him; (3) Kite flying — two children fly a kite together; (4) Spinning top (Lattu) — a girl and boy play with a spinning top. Sample answer: I can see children playing skipping, hoop rolling, kite flying, and spinning top (lattu) in the pictures. I have played kite flying and skipping before. My favourite is kite flying because it is exciting to watch the kite soar high in the sky and I enjoy the challenge of keeping it up in the air.

9.9 Let us Write — Write about a new game

Q1 You read how the people of Nagaland made the game of Hekko. Use the space given below to write about a new game that you would like to play. Include: Game name, Time, Number of players, Material needed, Rules, and Foul.

Sample answer: Game: Colour Tag. Time: 20 minutes. Number of players: 10. Material needed: coloured bands (red and blue). Rules: Divide into two teams. Each player wears a coloured band. The red team tries to snatch blue bands and the blue team tries to snatch red bands. The team that collects more bands in 20 minutes wins. Foul: Pushing, holding, or grabbing a player instead of their band is a foul and the player must sit out for 2 minutes.

9.10 Let us Explore — Hornbill Festival of Nagaland

Q1 Nagaland is a land of festivals. Hornbill is one of the festivals to promote the culture of the state. Find out more about it.

The Hornbill Festival is held every year from 1 to 10 December in Kisama Heritage Village, near Kohima, Nagaland. It is called the 'Festival of Festivals' because it brings together all the Naga tribes to showcase their traditional music, dances, crafts, food, and games. The festival is named after the Hornbill bird, which is a symbol of pride in Naga culture and appears on many traditional warrior shields.