Chapter 2: Exploring Our Neighbourhood

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2.1 On Our Way Back Home

Q1 Have you or your family members ever sent, or received a letter or a parcel?

Sample answer: Yes, my grandmother once received a parcel from my uncle who lives in another city. She was very happy when the postman delivered it at our door.

Q2 How does the post office help people stay connected with each other?

The post office helps people stay connected by delivering letters and parcels to their destination. It sorts letters by region and sends them across the country, so people can share news, documents, and gifts with others who live far away.

2.2 Interview with Elders

Q1 Letters took a long time to reach other persons. How do you think it affected communication between people in the past?

Because letters took weeks to arrive, people had to wait a long time for news or replies. Important messages were delayed, and it was harder to stay in regular touch with family and friends who lived far away.

Q2 How is it different from the way people communicate now?

Today, people use mobile phones, emails, and internet to send messages and make video calls within seconds. Communication is now much faster, more frequent, and much easier compared to writing letters in the past.

Q3 Today quick messages make sharing the news easier, but sometimes wrong information spreads very quickly too. How can we ensure the news we share is true?

We should check the news from a trusted source, such as a reputed newspaper or official website, before sharing it. If we are not sure whether something is true, it is better not to forward it to others.

2.3 Transport and Connectivity

Q1 Which mode of transportation do you use the most?

Sample answer: I use a school bus the most to travel between home and school every day.

Q2 Can you identify the structures in the pictures, and explain how they have made travel faster and connectivity better?

The six pictures show: a flyover (an elevated road that helps vehicles pass over busy crossings quickly), an arched bridge (connects two sides of a river or valley so people can cross easily), a metro train (runs on an elevated track and carries many passengers fast), an aeroplane (the fastest way to travel long distances through the air), a bullet/high-speed train (travels much faster than ordinary trains on special tracks), and a cable car/ropeway (carries people up steep hills or across valleys where roads are hard to build). All these structures have made travel faster and connected places that were once difficult to reach.

Q3 How did your parents and grandparents go to school or other places, when they were of your age? Is it different from how you travel today? Note it down.

Sample answer: My parents walked to school or took a bicycle, and my grandparents mostly walked. Today I travel by school bus or car, which is faster and more comfortable than walking.

2.4 People at a Hospital

Q1 List the people who work at a hospital or a health centre and write down their role.

Doctor — treats patients and prescribes medicines. Nurse — takes care of patients and assists doctors. Compounder/Pharmacist — prepares and gives medicines. Ambulance driver — brings patients to the hospital quickly. Cleaner — keeps the hospital clean and hygienic.

2.5 Savings for the Future

Q1 If you had to send money to someone, which method would you choose — using a phone, Money Order or some other mode? Why?

Sample answer: I would choose to send money using a phone, because it is the fastest and easiest way. The money reaches the person within seconds, and there is no need to visit a post office or bank.

Q2 If you get pocket money, do you save it? If yes, where do you put your savings?

Sample answer: Yes, I save part of my pocket money in a small piggy bank at home. I plan to use it to buy something useful later.

Q3 Why do you think it is important to save money?

Saving money is important because it helps us meet future needs and unexpected expenses. It also teaches us to be careful about how we spend, so we do not run out of money when we need it most.

Q4 What are some things you could do to save more money?

We can avoid buying things we do not really need, spend less on snacks, and put aside a small amount every week into a piggy bank or savings account. Making a simple budget also helps us track how we spend.

2.6 Visit a Bank

Q1 Other than saving money, what else do people use banks for?

People use banks to take loans for buying a house or starting a business, to transfer money to others, to pay bills, and to keep important documents in a safe locker. Banks also provide debit and credit cards for easy payments.

Q2 What is an ATM and how does it help people?

ATM stands for Automated Teller Machine. It helps people withdraw money from their bank account at any time of the day or night without visiting the bank. They can also check their account balance at an ATM.

Q3 Take an Indian currency note. Look at it closely — (a) What is the value of the note? (b) How many languages do you see on the note? (c) What pictures or symbols are there on the note?

Activity: The question asks students to take a real Indian currency note and look at it closely. Sample answer using a 10 note: (a) The value of the note is ten rupees (10). (b) There are 17 languages on the note — English and Hindi on the front, and 15 regional languages printed on the language panel on the back. (c) The front of the note shows the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi and the Reserve Bank of India seal; the back shows the Sun Temple at Konark (Odisha) and the Ashoka Pillar emblem. Note: Students should observe their own currency note and record what they actually see.

2.7 Looking Around the Neighbourhood

Q1 Look at the picture and write down the places located in the North, East, West, and South of Navya's home.

Looking at the map in the textbook: North — Hospital; East — Chemist (pharmacy); West — Sweet shop; South — Post Office. Navya's home is at the centre of the map where the roads cross.

Q2 Imagine your school at the centre. Name the buildings or areas near your school and write the direction they are situated in.

Sample answer: North — Park; East — Market; West — Hospital; South — Bus Stop. Students should fill in the directions based on the actual surroundings of their own school.

Q3 Imagine you are giving directions to a friend to visit your favourite place near your school. How would you explain it using directions and landmarks?

Sample answer: Go straight from the school gate for about 100 metres. When you see the big banyan tree on your left, turn right. Walk forward till you reach the park entrance — that is my favourite place near school.

Q4 Draw a map showing the route from your school to the public library or any such place near your school. Identify landmarks like parks, shops, hospitals, bus stops, etc. on the map.

Activity: Draw a rough sketch of the route from school to the library. Mark landmarks such as a park, a shop, a hospital, or a bus stop along the way. Use arrows to show the direction of movement and label each landmark clearly.

2.8 Community Services

Q1 Imagine you have 100 to utilise in a month. Plan how to spend and save wisely across categories like stationery, snacks, toys, and savings.

Sample answer: Savings — 30 (kept in piggy bank for future needs); Stationery — 20 (pencils and eraser); Snacks — 30 (occasional treats); Other expenses — 20 (small items as needed). Saving first ensures we always have money when it is really needed.

Q2 Your group is in charge of making your neighbourhood better. Discuss what new services or facilities you would add or improve.

Sample answer: We would add more street lights for safety, plant more trees to keep the air clean, build a community playground for children, and set up proper dustbins at every corner to keep the neighbourhood clean.

Q3 List people in your neighbourhood who helped the community during COVID-19. Discuss how they made the community safer.

Doctors and nurses treated patients in hospitals. Garbage collectors kept the area clean and safe. Shopkeepers ensured essential goods were available. Teachers continued teaching online. Police maintained order and enforced safety rules. All of them worked selflessly to protect the community.

Q4 List the people involved and vehicles used for each of these services: Police Station, Hospital, Fire Station, Post Office, Library.

Police Station — Police officers and constables; patrolling jeep. Hospital — Doctors, nurses, and ward staff; ambulance. Fire Station — Firefighters; fire engine/fire truck. Post Office — Postmen and sorting staff; postal delivery van or bicycle. Library — Librarian and library assistant; no special vehicle, but a mobile library van in some areas.