Chapter 9: Different Lands, Different Lives

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9.1 Back to School from Holidays

Q1 You might have visited some places during your vacation. Write the name of the places and something special about them. Ask two or three of your friends about the places they had visited, and fill the table given below.

Sample answer: I visited Shimla (mountains) — snow-covered peaks and pine forests were special. Fill in names of places, type of region, and something special you remember about each place.

Q2 Which type of place do you find interesting?

Sample answer: I find coastal regions most interesting because of the wide sandy beaches, colourful sea shells, and the sound of ocean waves.

Q3 What similarities and differences do you find in the place you visited, and those visited by your friends?

Sample answer: A similarity is that all places have local food and festivals. A difference is that mountain places are cold and have thick forests, while coastal places are warm and have sandy beaches.

9.2 In the Land of Agriculture, with Gurpreet

Q1 What kind of land do you see in the picture?

The picture shows flat, fertile land with wide open fields — this is the plains region. The land is used for farming with crops growing in green fields.

Q2 List the activities that people are engaged in.

People are drawing water from a well, doing household work, riding bicycles, and ploughing fields. A tractor is seen on the road, and women are cooking or working near the houses.

Q3 Which animals do you see in the picture?

Cows and buffaloes are seen in the picture, kept near the houses in the plains village.

Q4 Do you notice anything unique about the clothing of the people?

Women wear colourful salwar suits with dupattas, and some have their heads covered. Men wear turbans and kurtas. The clothing is bright and suited to the warm plains.

Q5 What is the most popular food in your region? Can you list the main ingredients used in its preparation?

Sample answer: In Punjab, the most popular food is makki di roti and sarson da saag. Ingredients: corn flour (for roti), mustard leaves, spinach, garlic, and butter (for saag).

9.3 In the Land of Endless Sand, with Ritika

Q1 What kind of land do you see?

The picture shows a dry, sandy desert landscape with large sand dunes. There is very little water and vegetation. Wind turbines and a communication tower are also visible.

Q2 What types of plants do you see in the picture? How are they different from the plants you see in your locality?

Cactus plants and tall palm-like trees near a small pond of water are seen in the picture. A leafy green tree (khejri type) also grows near the water. These are very different from local plants — they are thorny or have thick stems to store water and survive in dry conditions.

Q3 Is there something unique about the way people in this village are dressed?

Yes — women wear long colourful ghaghra skirts and carry pots on their heads. Men wear bright turbans. The women's clothes are very colourful with patterns, typical of Rajasthani traditional dress.

Q4 How do you think people travel in deserts?

People travel by camel in deserts. Camels are called the 'ships of the desert' because they can walk long distances on sand and survive without water for many days.

Q5 What do you like the most in the picture?

I like the big golden sand dunes the most — they stretch across the whole landscape and look like giant waves of sand.

Q6 Ask your family members about the folk songs and dances from your region, and note them down in the table below.

Sample answer: Ask parents or grandparents and fill the table. For Rajasthan: Dance forms — Ghoomar, Kalbeliya; Folk music — Maand, Panihari.

Q7 Why do you think water is scarce in the desert?

Deserts receive very little rainfall, so there are no rivers or ponds nearby. The hot sun also makes water evaporate quickly, making water very scarce in desert regions.

9.4 On the Seashore, with Chandni

Q1 List the different kinds of activities that the people are doing.

People are fishing with nets from a boat in the sea, making sand sculptures on the beach, collecting sea shells, and flying a kite. A turtle is also seen near the shore.

Q2 What kinds of trees are found near the sea, and how are they different from those in the deserts and plains?

Coconut palm trees are found near the sea. They are tall and slender, unlike the thorny cactus plants in deserts or the broad crop plants in the plains. Their long trunks help them survive in sandy, windy coastal soil.

Q3 List the fun activities you would like to do on a beach.

Sample answer: I would like to collect sea shells, build sand castles, take a boat ride, watch sand art, and swim in the sea.

Q4 What is special about the dresses people wear in the coastal regions?

People wear light, bright cotton clothes. A Sambalpuri saree with woven colourful patterns is seen on a woman — this is the special traditional dress of Odisha's coastal region.

Q5 Write your observations on how the life around a coastal region differs from the life in a desert.

In coastal regions, people depend on fishing and the sea. They have plenty of water, eat fish and rice, and wear light cotton clothes. In deserts, water is scarce, people depend on farming and animal rearing, eat roti and dal-bati, and wear thick, colourful clothes to protect from heat.

Q6 Why is it important to keep our beaches clean?

Clean beaches protect sea animals and birds that live there. Plastic and waste can harm turtles, fish, and corals. Clean beaches also attract tourists and keep the water safe for fishing and swimming.

9.5 Can You Identify These Creatures

Q1 Can you identify these creatures? (sea turtle, crab, dolphin, corals, seaweed, starfish)

Row 1 (left to right): Sea turtle — the green creature with a hard shell and flippers. Crab — the round dark creature with claws and many legs. Starfish — the orange/red star-shaped creature with five arms. Row 2 (left to right): Dolphin — the smooth grey sea mammal jumping in the water. Corals — the colourful pink and purple branching structures growing on the sea floor. Seaweed — the green bushy plant growing in the sea.

9.6 Living with Challenges

Q1 What are the adverse effects of a cyclone?

Cyclones bring strong winds, heavy rain, and floods that damage homes, crops, and roads. Trees are uprooted, electricity goes off, and people and animals can get seriously hurt.

Q2 How can communities be better prepared for such situations?

Communities can listen to early weather warnings, keep emergency supplies ready, move to safer areas before the cyclone hits, and help neighbours who are old or unwell. Government agencies can build strong shelters and send timely alerts.

9.7 In the Mountains, with Nayan

Q1 What type of animals do you see in the picture?

A yak is seen in the picture — a large animal with a thick shaggy black coat and big horns, being tended by a person in the mountains.

Q2 How are the dresses worn by people living in the mountains different from those worn in your region?

People in the mountains wear thick, warm, layered traditional clothes. Women wear long robes in bright colours. The clothing is much heavier and more layered than the light cotton clothes worn in warmer regions, to protect against the cold.

Q3 Describe the trees found in the mountains.

Tall conifer trees (like pine) with pointed tops are seen on the mountain slopes — they are green and grow densely on the hillsides. There is also a stupa (Buddhist monument) visible, surrounded by greenery.

Q4 How does the cold climate in mountain regions affect the way people live and dress?

People in cold mountain regions wear thick, layered clothing to stay warm. They eat warm foods like thukpa (noodle soup) and sel roti, and build wooden houses with slanting roofs to let snow slide off easily.

Q5 What traditional clothes are worn in your region? How do they match with the local climate?

Sample answer: In Rajasthan, people wear light cotton lehengas and turbans. The light fabric keeps them cool in the hot desert climate, while the turban protects the head from the strong sun.

Q6 Why do you think certain trees, like pine and oak, grow better in the mountains?

Pine and oak trees can survive cold temperatures and grow well in rocky, hilly soil. Their needle-like or waxy leaves reduce water loss, which helps them thrive in cold, dry mountain conditions.

Q7 How do animals like yak survive in the cold climate of Sikkim?

Yaks have a very thick, shaggy coat of fur that keeps them warm in the freezing mountain temperatures. They are also strong animals that can walk on steep, rocky slopes and eat tough mountain grasses.

9.8 Mountain Houses and Challenges

Q1 Why do you think traditional houses in Sikkim are built with wood and have slanting roofs?

Wood is a locally available material in mountain forests and is a good insulator that keeps homes warm. Slanting roofs help snow slide off easily, preventing the roof from collapsing under heavy snowfall.

Q2 Does your house have any feature that is similar to the houses in the mountains?

Sample answer: Yes, our house also has a slanting roof so that rainwater flows off quickly during monsoons, similar to how mountain houses shed snow.

Q3 Why are landslides common in mountains during the rainy season?

During heavy rains, the soil on steep mountain slopes becomes very wet and heavy. The water weakens the grip of soil and rocks, causing them to slide down — this is called a landslide.

Q4 What do you think can be done to keep people safe during the landslides?

People should be warned early and moved away from danger zones. Planting more trees on slopes helps hold the soil. Strong walls and barriers can also be built to prevent rocks and mud from reaching villages.

Q5 What can communities do to help people who lose their homes or get affected by natural disasters?

Communities can provide food, water, and shelter to affected families. Volunteers can help with clean-up and rebuilding. Everyone can donate clothes and supplies, and government teams can provide medical help and temporary housing.

9.9 Life in my Landform

Q1 Draw the landform around you in the space given below. Name the area, the type of landform, some interesting features of the people, their professions, food, houses, plants and animals.

Activity: Draw your local area and label it. Sample answer: Area — Delhi; Landform — Plains; Profession — farming, trade; Food — roti, dal, sabzi; Houses — brick and concrete; Plants — mango, neem, pipal; Animals — cows, dogs, sparrows.

9.10 Compare the Landforms

Q1 Compare life in the mountains and plains by capturing the differences in trees, animals, houses, clothes, food, festivals and art forms.

Plains — Trees: mango, neem, banyan; Animals: cows, buffaloes; Houses: brick/mud; Clothes: cotton kurta, saree; Food: roti, dal, rice; Festivals: Baisakhi, Holi; Art: Madhubani. Desert — Trees: cactus, khejri, babool; Animals: camel, lizard, eagle; Houses: mud with thatched roof, tanka; Clothes: colourful ghaghra, turban; Food: dal-bati-churma, ker sangri; Festivals: Gangaur, Pushkar Fair; Art: Ghoomar dance, bandhini. Coastal — Trees: coconut palm, casuarina; Animals: fish, turtles, crabs; Houses: wooden/brick; Clothes: light cotton, Sambalpuri saree; Food: dalma, pakhala, rasagola; Festivals: Rath Yatra; Art: Odissi dance, sand art. Mountains — Trees: pine, oak, walnut, chestnut; Animals: yak, snow leopard; Houses: wooden, slanting roofs; Clothes: bakhu, dumdyam, thick layers; Food: thukpa, sel roti; Festivals: Loosong, Namsoong; Art: chaam mask dance.

Q2 Design and draw a landform by combining your favourite features from mountains, plains, coasts, and deserts. (a) What made you choose different features for your landform? (b) How does each feature benefit people, animals or plants? (c) What difficulties might people face living in your landform?

Activity: Draw your imaginary landform combining chosen features. Sample answers — (a) I chose a coastal plain with some hills because I like the sea breeze, flat farmland, and cool green hills together. (b) The coast gives fish and trade routes; the plains give fertile farmland; the hills provide cool air and timber. (c) People may face floods near the coast, landslides on the hills, and dry spells on the plains.