Chapter 10: Earth — Our Shared Home

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Exercise 10.1 — Activity 1 — My address and the globe

Q1 Fill up your address: Name, House number/building name, Street name, Village/Town/City, District, State/Union Territory, Country, Planet.

SOLUTION

This is a personal activity. Fill in your own details.

Name: (your name)

House number/building name: (your house number or building name)

Street name: (your street or lane name)

Village/Town/City: (your village, town, or city)

District: (your district)

State/Union Territory: (your state or union territory)

Country: India

Planet: Earth

Answer: Fill in your own details for Name, House number, Street, Village/Town/City, District, State/UT. Country: India. Planet: Earth. (Personal details will vary.)

Q2 Use a globe and find out: (a) Are all the oceans on Earth connected with each other? (b) Where is India on the globe?

SOLUTION

(a) Yes, all the oceans on Earth are connected with each other. The Pacific, Atlantic, Indian, Arctic, and Southern Oceans are all joined as one continuous body of water.
(b) India is located in South Asia, in the northern and eastern hemispheres. It is on the southern part of the Asian continent, with the Indian Ocean to the south, the Arabian Sea to the west, and the Bay of Bengal to the east.

Answer: (a) Yes, all the oceans on Earth are connected to each other — they form one continuous body of water. (b) India is in South Asia, on the globe's northern hemisphere, surrounded by the Indian Ocean, Arabian Sea, and Bay of Bengal.

Exercise 10.2 — Write — Story 1: The Travelling Birds (Rosy Starlings)

Q1 Does the rosy starling visit your area? What is it called locally?

SOLUTION

Rosy starlings visit many parts of India during winter, flying from Russia, Mongolia, and nearby countries.

In different regions they may be known by different local names — ask elders in your area.

Whether they visit your specific area depends on where you live.

Answer: Rosy starlings visit many parts of India in winter. (Check with elders or a field guide to find out if they visit your area and what they are called locally — answers will vary.)

Q2 What does this story tell us about nature?

SOLUTION

The story of the rosy starling tells us that nature has no boundaries.

Animals and birds travel freely across countries and continents, showing how deeply all of nature is connected.

These birds also help farmers by eating locusts and grasshoppers, showing that different parts of nature depend on and help each other.

Answer: The story tells us that nature has no boundaries — birds like rosy starlings travel freely across countries. It also shows how nature is interconnected: these birds help Indian farmers by eating pests, even though they come from far-away lands.

Exercise 10.3 — Write — Nature has no boundaries

Q1 What does it mean when we say 'nature has no boundaries'?

SOLUTION

When we say nature has no boundaries, it means that in the natural world, there are no walls, fences, or country borders.

Air, water, clouds, seeds, and animals move freely all over the world.

A bird can fly from Russia to India; a seed can travel by wind or water from one continent to another.

Unlike humans who have drawn borders between countries, nature treats the whole Earth as one connected home.

Answer: 'Nature has no boundaries' means that air, water, seeds, birds, and animals move freely all over the world without stopping at country borders. Nature treats the entire Earth as one connected home.

Exercise 10.4 — Activity 2 — Birds poster and globe tracing (Story 1)

Q1 Make a poster of 5 birds that visit your place in winter. Try to find out where they come from.

SOLUTION

This is a hands-on activity. Observe birds in your area during winter or ask a nature guide or elder.

Five common winter visitor birds in India: 1. Rosy Starling (from Russia/Mongolia), 2. Siberian Crane (from Siberia, Russia), 3. Bar-headed Goose (from Central Asia), 4. Common Teal (from Europe and Central Asia), 5. Painted Stork (some populations migrate from Southeast Asia).

Draw or paste pictures of these birds on your poster and label their home countries.

Answer: Guidance: Observe or ask elders about winter birds in your area. Draw 5 winter visitor birds on your poster and label where each comes from. For example: Rosy Starling (Russia/Mongolia), Siberian Crane (Russia), Bar-headed Goose (Central Asia). (Specific birds will vary by location.)

Q2 Using a string, trace the journey on a globe showing the paths rosy starlings take (Russia/Mongolia to India).

SOLUTION

This is a hands-on globe activity.

On the globe, find Russia and Mongolia in the north. Then find India in South Asia.

Stretch a piece of string from Russia/Mongolia southward to India to show the migration route of rosy starlings.

This helps you see how far these small birds travel every winter.

Answer: Guidance: On a globe, place one end of a string on Russia/Mongolia and stretch it down to India. This shows the long migration route of rosy starlings. Notice how far they travel each winter.

Q3 Imagine you are a bird travelling the world. Write a short postcard or note about what you see and what helps you on your journey (wind, ocean currents, warm weather). Share it with your classmates.

SOLUTION

This is a creative writing activity.

Example postcard: 'Dear friend, I am flying from the cold lands of Russia to warm India. The strong wind helps carry me south. I see vast oceans and mountains below. The warm weather here is wonderful and the food — insects and grain — is plentiful. I am glad I made this long journey! — Your friend, Rosy Starling'

Remember to mention what helps you: warm air currents (thermals), wind direction, the position of the sun, and ocean currents that guide your path.

Answer: Guidance: Write a short postcard as if you are a travelling bird. Include: what you see (mountains, oceans, farmlands), what helps you (wind, thermals, warm weather), and how you feel at the end of the journey. Share your note with classmates.

Exercise 10.5 — Discuss — Story 2: Yoga

Q1 Why do you think yoga became popular in so many countries?

SOLUTION

Yoga became popular worldwide because it helps people keep their bodies healthy and their minds peaceful.

As travellers, scholars, and teachers from India shared yoga with the world, people in other countries discovered its benefits.

Yoga is simple — it needs no equipment, can be done anywhere, and suits people of all ages.

The United Nations in 2014 declared 21 June as the International Day of Yoga, which helped spread awareness globally.

Answer: Yoga became popular in many countries because it is a simple and effective way to keep the body healthy and the mind peaceful. It needs no equipment, suits all ages, and can be practised anywhere. Travellers and teachers from India spread it across the world, and the UN's International Day of Yoga helped make it even more widely known.

Exercise 10.6 — Write — Yoga pose

Q1 Can you name a yoga pose you have tried or seen? What do you think it helps with?

SOLUTION

Some common yoga poses: Tadasana (Mountain Pose), Vrikshasana (Tree Pose), Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose), Balasana (Child's Pose), Surya Namaskar (Sun Salutation).

For example, Vrikshasana (Tree Pose): you stand on one leg and balance. It helps improve balance, strengthen leg muscles, and improve concentration.

Bhujangasana (Cobra Pose): you lie on your stomach and raise your upper body. It helps make the spine flexible and strengthens the back.

Answer: One yoga pose: Vrikshasana (Tree Pose) — standing on one leg with arms raised. It helps improve balance, strengthen legs, and build concentration. (Name any pose you have tried — answers will vary.)

Exercise 10.7 — Write — Story 3: Chilli

Q1 What would happen if chillies disappeared from our kitchens for a week?

SOLUTION

Chillies are used in almost every Indian dish to add heat and flavour.

If chillies disappeared for a week, our food would taste very different — much milder and less spicy.

We would have to use black pepper or other spices to add heat, just as people did in India before chillies arrived.

Many popular dishes like curries, pickles, and chutneys would taste different or could not be made the same way.

Answer: If chillies disappeared for a week, Indian food would become much milder and less spicy. We would need to use black pepper or other spices instead. Many dishes like curries and pickles would taste very different.

Q2 Ask your parents and write down the name of any recipe in which they have used black pepper and not red chillies.

SOLUTION

Before chillies arrived in India, black pepper was the main spice for adding heat.

Ask your parents or grandparents for a recipe that uses black pepper.

Examples: Rasam (a South Indian soup made with black pepper and tamarind), Pepper chicken, Black pepper chai (tea), Mulligatawny soup.

Answer: Example: Rasam (a South Indian soup) uses black pepper as its main spice. Another example is pepper chicken or black pepper chai. (Ask your parents and write the recipe they share — answers will vary.)

Exercise 10.8 — Activity 3 — Chilli journey and food stories

Q1 Using a coloured string, trace the journey of chillies from South America to India on the globe.

SOLUTION

This is a hands-on globe activity.
On the globe, locate South America (in the western hemisphere). Then find India in South Asia.
Stretch a coloured string from South America eastward across the Atlantic Ocean, around the tip of Africa or through Portugal, and onward to India to show the route Portuguese traders took about 400–500 years ago.
This helps you see how far chillies travelled before reaching our kitchens.

Answer: Guidance: On a globe, place a coloured string from South America (where chillies originated) along the route through Portugal to India. This shows the long journey chillies made about 400–500 years ago to reach Indian kitchens.

Q2 Potatoes, tomatoes, peanuts, cashews, and many other foods have similar stories. Find out and write the story of any one of them.

SOLUTION

Example — The story of the Potato:
Potatoes originally came from the Andes mountains in South America, where people grew them thousands of years ago.
When Spanish explorers travelled to South America in the 1500s, they brought potatoes back to Europe.
Over time, the potato spread from Europe to Asia and reached India during the colonial period.
Today, potatoes are one of the most widely eaten vegetables in India — used in sabzi, samosas, chaat, and many other dishes.
It is hard to imagine Indian cooking without potatoes, yet they are not originally from India!

Answer: Story of the Potato: Potatoes originated in South America. Spanish explorers brought them to Europe, and from there they spread to India. Today they are used in countless Indian dishes like sabzi, samosas, and chaat. Like chillies, potatoes became so popular that we cannot imagine Indian food without them.

Exercise 10.9 — Discuss — Story 4: Sugar

Q1 If you could choose one Indian food to share with the world, what would it be?

SOLUTION

This is a discussion prompt with personal answers.
India has given many wonderful foods to the world — rice, mangoes, bananas, and spices like turmeric and cardamom.
A good choice could be mango — India is the birthplace of the mango, and today people all over the world enjoy it.
Another choice could be turmeric — it is now used worldwide in cooking and for its health benefits.

Answer: Model answer: I would choose mango, because India is the original home of the mango and its delicious taste is loved everywhere. (Any food that came from India is a good answer — personal answers will vary.)

Q2 What kind of new food items do you think will travel in the future?

SOLUTION

Today, food travels faster than ever before due to air transport and global trade.
Foods that might travel more in the future: superfoods like quinoa (from South America) spreading further; Indian millets like ragi and jowar becoming popular worldwide as healthy grains; plant-based foods from different countries spreading globally.
As people become more health-conscious and curious about different cultures, more diverse foods will travel across the world.

Answer: In the future, healthy foods like millets (ragi, jowar) from India may travel and become popular worldwide, just as yoga did. Foods from lesser-known cultures may also spread globally as people become more curious about different cuisines. (Answers will vary.)

Exercise 10.10 — Write — Story 5: The Mexican Marigold

Q1 Why do you think both Indian and Mexican cultures use marigolds during their festivals?

SOLUTION

Marigolds are bright orange and yellow flowers that look joyful and celebratory.
In Mexican culture, marigolds are used during the Day of the Dead festival to honour ancestors — their strong scent and bright colour are believed to guide spirits.
In Indian culture, marigolds are used in temples, weddings, and festivals like Diwali because their warm colours represent joy, warmth, celebration, and spirituality.
Both cultures seem to connect the marigold's bright colours and strong fragrance with something special and sacred.

Answer: Both Indian and Mexican cultures use marigolds because of their bright colours (orange and yellow) and strong fragrance. These qualities make them perfect for celebrations — they represent joy, warmth, and spirituality. Even though the two cultures are far apart, they both found beauty and meaning in the same flower.

Q2 Why do you think people in different countries include flowers in their celebrations?

SOLUTION

Flowers are beautiful, colourful, and have pleasant fragrances that make any occasion feel special.
They are natural gifts that symbolise joy, love, beauty, and new beginnings.
Using flowers in celebrations is a way of connecting with nature and expressing happiness.
Different cultures may choose different flowers, but the feeling of joy and beauty that flowers bring is something all people share.

Answer: People across the world include flowers in celebrations because flowers are beautiful, colourful, and fragrant — they make occasions feel joyful and special. Flowers are nature's gifts that symbolise happiness, love, and new beginnings, which is why all cultures value them.

Exercise 10.11 — Write — Story 6: The Cows that Went to Brazil

Q1 What does this story tell us about animals moving from one place to another?

SOLUTION

The story of Indian cows going to Brazil tells us that animals can thrive in new places if the conditions suit them.

Indian cow breeds like Gir, Kankrej, and Ongole were strong, gave good milk, and could handle the climate in Brazil.

Over time, these cows became so important in Brazil that they appear on stamps and coins — a sign of how deeply they became part of Brazilian life.

The story shows that when animals move to new places through trade and travel, they can become a valuable part of that new place's culture and economy.

Answer: The story shows that animals can adapt and thrive in new lands. Portuguese traders took Indian cows (Gir, Kankrej, Ongole breeds) to Brazil, where they became so important that today more than three-fourths of Brazil's milk comes from them. This shows how trade and travel connect people and animals across the world.

Exercise 10.12 — Activity 4 — Cow breeds and things from around the world

Q1 With help of your teacher or an elder find out the names of at least 5 different breeds of cows.

SOLUTION

This is a research activity — ask your teacher or an elder.

Five Indian cow breeds: 1. Gir (from Gujarat), 2. Kankrej (from Gujarat/Rajasthan), 3. Ongole (from Andhra Pradesh), 4. Sahiwal (from Punjab — also found in Pakistan), 5. Red Sindhi (from Sindh region).

Foreign breeds also found in India include Holstein-Friesian and Jersey.

Answer: Five cow breeds: 1. Gir (Gujarat), 2. Kankrej (Gujarat/Rajasthan), 3. Ongole (Andhra Pradesh), 4. Sahiwal (Punjab), 5. Red Sindhi. (Ask your teacher or elder for local breed names — answers may vary.)

Q2 Make a list of a few things in your house or school that may have come from another part of the world. Find out where they originally came from. (Items: Clothing — Jeans; Food; Sports; Musical instruments; Tree)

SOLUTION

Clothing: Jeans — originated in America (invented by Levi Strauss in the USA).

Food: Tea — originated in China; Potatoes — South America; Tomatoes — South America.

Sports: Cricket — originated in England; Football (soccer) — originated in England.

Musical instruments: Guitar — originated in Spain; Violin — originated in Italy.

Tree: Eucalyptus — originally from Australia; Rubber tree — originally from South America.

Answer: Examples: Clothing — Jeans (America); Food — Potato (South America), Tea (China); Sports — Cricket (England); Musical instruments — Guitar (Spain); Tree — Eucalyptus (Australia). (Find items in your own home and school — answers will vary.)

Exercise 10.13 — Activity 5 — Interview and map tracing

Q1 Interview a grandparent or neighbour: Ask them about a food item, song, or custom that was not there in their childhood but is common today. Find out where it came from.

SOLUTION

This is a personal interview activity — talk to a grandparent, elder neighbour, or teacher.
Example findings: Pizza or noodles were not common in Indian homes 40–50 years ago; they came from Italy and China respectively and are now very popular.
Jeans were not worn by most Indians in earlier generations — they came from America.
A song or music style: Western pop music or K-pop (Korean pop music) were not part of Indian life decades ago.
Write down what the elder tells you and note the country of origin.

Answer: Guidance: Ask an elder about one food/song/custom new in their lifetime. Example: Noodles/Maggi came from China and became very popular in India; Pizza came from Italy. Record what they share and note where it came from. (Answers will vary based on what the elder shares.)

Q2 From the stories you have read: List different things that came to India from other countries and those that travelled from India to the world. Then, using two different coloured strings, trace their journeys on a map.

SOLUTION

Things that came TO India from other countries: Chillies (from South America via Portugal), Marigold flower (from Mexico), Paper (from China), Dates and lemons (brought by Arab traders), Jeans (from America).
Things that travelled FROM India to the world: Sugar/jaggery (India to the world), Yoga (India to the world), Indian cows — Gir, Kankrej, Ongole (India to Brazil), Spices like pepper and cardamom (India to many countries), Mangoes, bananas, rice, Indigo dye, Games like chess and snakes-and-ladders.
Use one colour of string for 'came to India' and a second colour for 'went from India' — trace the routes on a globe or map.

Answer: Came TO India: Chillies (South America), Marigold (Mexico), Paper (China), Dates/lemons (Arab countries). Went FROM India: Sugar, Yoga, Indian cow breeds (to Brazil), Spices like pepper, Mangoes and rice, Indigo dye, Chess. Use two coloured strings on the globe to trace each direction.

Exercise 10.14 — Write — Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

Q1 What does 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' teach us?

SOLUTION

'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' is an ancient Sanskrit saying from India.
It teaches us that the whole world is one family.
All people, animals, trees, rivers, air, and sky belong to this one family.
We must live with respect, care, and love for one another and for the Earth that supports all of us.
It teaches us that we are all connected and responsible for each other's well-being.

Answer: 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' teaches us that the whole world is one family. We are all connected — people, animals, plants, rivers, and the Earth itself. We must live with respect, care, and love for each other and for our shared home, the Earth.

Q2 Write the meaning of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' in your own words.

SOLUTION

The phrase 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' comes from Sanskrit.
'Vasudha' means the Earth, 'Eva' means indeed, and 'Kutumbakam' means family.
So it means: 'The Earth is indeed one family.'
In simple words: everyone on Earth — whether from India, Brazil, Russia, or Mexico — is part of one big family sharing the same home.

Answer: In my own words: 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' means the Earth is one big family. All people everywhere, no matter which country they come from, are like family members sharing one home — the Earth.

Q3 How can we live like one big family, even when we are different?

SOLUTION

People across the world speak different languages, eat different food, celebrate different festivals, and have different customs — but we all share the same Earth.
We can live like one big family by: respecting each other's differences, learning about other cultures with curiosity instead of fear, sharing knowledge and resources, caring for nature and the Earth together, and helping each other in times of difficulty.
Just as the stories in this chapter show — birds, plants, ideas, and people have always crossed borders to share and learn — we can continue that spirit of sharing and caring.

Answer: We can live like one big family by respecting each other's differences, sharing knowledge and resources, caring for the Earth together, and learning about other cultures with curiosity. Even though we look different and have different customs, we all share the same planet and depend on each other.

Exercise 10.15 — Let us reflect

Q1 Pick one of the ideas from the chapter. Write a short story about how this idea might have travelled from one place to another long ago. Think about how it helped people change their lives or the way they think.

SOLUTION

This is a creative writing activity. Choose any idea from the chapter — yoga, sugar, chillies, marigold, or migratory birds.

Example story about Sugar: Long ago, a merchant from India set sail with bags of jaggery to trade in faraway Persia. The people there had never tasted anything so sweet — they had only used honey before. The merchant taught them how sugar was made from sugarcane. They were amazed and began growing sugarcane in their own lands. From Persia, the knowledge of sugar spread to Arabia and then to Europe. One small journey from India changed the taste of the whole world!

Answer: Guidance: Choose one idea (e.g., yoga, sugar, chillies, migratory birds) and write a short story about its journey. Include: where it started, who carried it, where it went, and how it changed people's lives. Be creative! (Answers will vary.)

Q2 Write one way you can care for the Earth.

SOLUTION

There are many ways to care for the Earth.

One way: Plant a tree or water plants at home or at school. Trees give us clean air, shade, and a home for birds and insects.

Other ways: save water by turning off taps, reduce plastic use, separate waste for recycling, avoid wasting food, and walk or cycle instead of using vehicles for short distances.

Answer: One way to care for the Earth: Plant a tree or water plants regularly. Trees provide clean air, shade, and homes for birds. Other ways include saving water, reducing plastic use, and not wasting food.

Q3 Identify an item that can travel from India to other parts of the world and write about it.

SOLUTION

India has many things to share with the world.

Example: Turmeric (Haldi) — India is the world's largest producer of turmeric. For thousands of years, Indians have used turmeric in cooking and as a medicine because of its healing properties.

Today, turmeric has become popular all over the world — people in Europe and America use it in teas, face creams, and health drinks called 'golden milk'.

Turmeric's journey from Indian kitchens to the world is a great example of how something special from India can benefit everyone.

Answer: Turmeric (Haldi): India produces most of the world's turmeric. Used in Indian cooking and medicine for thousands of years, it is now popular worldwide in health drinks, face creams, and cooking. It is a great example of an Indian gift to the world. (Other answers are also correct — e.g., millets, Ayurvedic herbs, classical music.)