Chapter 3: Nurturing Nature

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Exercise 3.1 — Let us discuss — Neem Baba (Fact Sheet)

Q1 Fill the fact sheet: LET US KNOW OUR NEEM. Complete: Common name, Given by, Period of birth, Born at, Found in, Common names in India, Names given by scientists, Names given by others.

SOLUTION

Common name: Neem
Given by: Iranians
Period of birth: Millions of years ago
Born at: North India or Myanmar
Found in: Many Asian and African countries, and some parts of America
Common names in India: Nimb (Hindi), Nim, Leemba, Nimori, Nimbamond, Nimbe, Nimo
Names given by scientists: 1. bitter grace of God 2. nature's gift to man 3. cleanliness-parting tree
Names given by others: 1. magic tree 2. the tree of the twentieth century

Answer: Common name: Neem (given by Iranians); born millions of years ago in North India or Myanmar; found in Asia, Africa, and America; Hindi names: Nimb, Nim, Leemba, Nimori, Nimbamond, Nimbe, Nimo; scientist names: bitter grace of God, nature's gift to man, cleanliness-parting tree; other names: magic tree, tree of the twentieth century.

Exercise 3.2 — Let us discuss — Neem Baba (Uses of Neem)

Q1 How is neem useful to farmers?

SOLUTION

Neem seed powder mixed in water and sprayed on plants keeps locusts away.
When used in rice fields with standing water, it stops mosquito breeding and increases crop yield.
It saves crops from termites that eat roots.
It also stops other crop-eating insects from breeding.

Answer: Neem seed powder sprayed on plants keeps away locusts, termites, and other insects. In rice fields, it stops mosquitoes from breeding and helps increase crop yield.

Q2 Mention some of the uses of the neem tree.

SOLUTION

Medicinal: Leaves, bark, flowers, fruits, and roots make medicines to cure many diseases.
Dental care: People clean their teeth with neem twigs.
Clothing: Neem leaves protect stored clothes.
Farming: Neem seed powder keeps away locusts, termites, and other insects; stops mosquito breeding.
Household: Neem seed powder saves stored grains from insects.
Products: Neem oil is used to make soaps and toothpaste.
Furniture: Neem wood furniture is not eaten by termites.
Environment: Neem purifies the air.

Answer: Neem is used for medicine, cleaning teeth, protecting clothes and grains, making soaps and toothpaste, building termite-resistant furniture, helping farmers fight pests, and purifying the air.

Exercise 3.3 — Let us think and reflect — Neem Baba

Q1 Write any two facts about the neem tree that surprised you the most.

SOLUTION

This is an open-ended question; model answers based on the text:

1. Neem was born millions of years ago and its family has spread to Asia, Africa, and even America.
2. Every part of the neem tree — leaves, bark, flowers, fruits, and even roots — can be used to make medicines.

Answer: Two surprising facts: (1) Neem originated millions of years ago and is found across Asia, Africa, and America. (2) Every part of the neem tree can be used to make medicines.

Q2 Complete the following sentences: (1) Amber played in the shade of _____. (2) Neem seed powder protects crops from _____. (3) _____ is a cost-effective method to stop mosquitoes from breeding in stagnant water. (4) One reason why doctors advise us to use neem leaves for someone suffering from measles is _____.

SOLUTION

1. Amber played in the shade of the neem tree in her courtyard.
2. Neem seed powder protects crops from locusts, termites, and other insects.
3. Putting the powder of neem seeds in stagnant water is a cost-effective method to stop mosquitoes from breeding.
4. One reason why doctors advise neem leaves for measles is that neem leaves have chemical properties that destroy germs and give comfort by reducing itching.

Answer: (1) the neem tree in her courtyard; (2) locusts, termites, and other insects; (3) Putting neem seed powder in stagnant water; (4) neem leaves have chemical properties that destroy germs and reduce itching.

Q3 Which parts of the neem tree are used to make medicines?

SOLUTION

The leaves, bark, flowers, fruits, and even the roots of the neem tree can be used to make medicines.

Answer: Neem leaves, bark, flowers, fruits, and roots are all used to make medicines.

Q4 Why is the story of the neem tree thought-provoking?

SOLUTION

The story of the neem tree is thought-provoking because of how it got its name.
Neem was born in India and given Sanskrit names like Arishta, Nimba, and Nimbaca.
When Iranians came to India, they gave it the name 'Neem'.
Today it is known by many different names across India and the world, showing how widely it spread and how different cultures valued it.

Answer: The story of neem's name is thought-provoking because it originated in India with Sanskrit names, but was renamed 'Neem' by Iranians. It has spread across the world and is valued by many different cultures.

Exercise 3.4 — Let us learn — Neem Baba (Compound Words)

Q1 Sort the following compound words into open, closed, and hyphenated types: something, neem oil, cleanliness-parting, well known, grandmother, seed powder, childhood, well trained, thought-provoking.

SOLUTION

Open compound words (space between words): neem oil, well known, seed powder, well trained
Closed compound words (no space): something, grandmother, childhood
Hyphenated compound words (hyphen between words): cleanliness-parting, thought-provoking

Answer: Open: neem oil, well known, seed powder, well trained. Closed: something, grandmother, childhood. Hyphenated: cleanliness-parting, thought-provoking.

Q2 Match the present-tense verbs in Column 1 with their past-tense forms in Column 2: (1) become, (2) find, (3) make, (4) discover, (5) tell, (6) give — with (i) made, (ii) gave, (iii) told, (iv) became, (v) found, (vi) discovered.

SOLUTION

1. become → (iv) became
2. find → (v) found
3. make → (i) made
4. discover → (vi) discovered
5. tell → (iii) told
6. give → (ii) gave

Answer: 1-iv (became), 2-v (found), 3-i (made), 4-vi (discovered), 5-iii (told), 6-ii (gave).

Exercise 3.5 — Let us discuss — What a Bird Thought

Q1 Read the poem again and identify the main idea of each stanza. Choose from: (1) The bird steps out into the world. (2) The bird lived happily in a small world. (3) The bird becomes blind due to leaves. (4) The bird flies away as an adult. (5) The bird is unhappy with the straw nest. (6) The bird lived in a cosy nest with its mother. (Two sentences are extra.)

SOLUTION

Stanza 1: (2) The bird lived happily in a small world.
Stanza 2: (6) The bird lived in a cosy nest with its mother.
Stanza 3: (1) The bird steps out into the world.
Stanza 4: (4) The bird flies away as an adult.
Extra (not to be used): (3) The bird becomes blind due to leaves. (5) The bird is unhappy with the straw nest.

Answer: Stanza 1: (2) The bird lived happily in a small world. Stanza 2: (6) The bird lived in a cosy nest with its mother. Stanza 3: (1) The bird steps out into the world. Stanza 4: (4) The bird flies away as an adult.

Q2 Answer the following with a word from the poem and check with your partner: (1) What was the shape of the bird's first house? _ O ___ (2) What was the bird's second nest made of? __ R __ (3) What did the bird see when it came out of its nest? L ___ E _ (4) What did the bird do at the end? ___ W

SOLUTION

1. ROUND (shape of the first house — egg/shell)
2. STRAW (the nest was made of straw)
3. LEAVES (the bird saw leaves when it came out)
4. FLEW (the bird flew away at the end)

Answer: 1. ROUND; 2. STRAW; 3. LEAVES; 4. FLEW.

Exercise 3.6 — Let us think and reflect — What a Bird Thought

Q1 Write whether the following sentences are True or False: (1) The bird changed its house two times. (2) The neighbours tell the bird about the world.

SOLUTION

1. True — the bird first lived in a shell (egg), then in a straw nest, so it changed house two times.
2. False — the bird says 'I don't know how the world is made, and neither do my neighbours.' The neighbours also don't know; they do not tell the bird about the world.

Answer: 1. True. 2. False — the neighbours also do not know how the world is made.

Q2 Read the lines: 'I thought the world was made of straw, / And nestled by my mother.' (i) Who lived in the nest along with the baby bird? (ii) The bird thought the world was made of straw because _____. (A) it lived in a straw hut (B) its nest was made of straw (C) its mother fed straw to it (D) there was straw all around. (iii) Which word tells us that the baby bird was warm and comfortable?

SOLUTION

(i) The baby bird's mother lived in the nest along with it.

(ii) Answer: B — its nest was made of straw, so the bird thought the whole world was made of straw.

(iii) The word 'nestled' tells us the baby bird was warm and comfortable.

Answer: (i) The baby bird's mother. (ii) B — its nest was made of straw. (iii) 'nestled' — it means to be warm and snug.

Q3 Read the lines: 'I said the world is made of leaves, / I have been very blind.' (i) Why did the bird think the world was made of leaves? (ii) What does the set of words 'I said' mean? (A) flew (B) shouted (C) spoke (D) cried. (iii) Fill in the blanks: The bird felt it had been very blind because it could not ___ the leaves from __ n __ __ __ e the nest.

SOLUTION

(i) When the bird fluttered out of its nest, it could see only leaves all around the tree. So it thought the whole world was made of leaves.
(ii) Answer: C — 'I said' means spoke.
(iii) The bird felt it had been very blind because it could not SEE the leaves from INSIDE the nest.

Answer: (i) When the bird left the nest, it saw only leaves around the tree and thought the world was made of leaves. (ii) C — spoke. (iii) SEE / INSIDE.

Q4 Why did the baby bird think that its first world was small, round, and blue?

SOLUTION

The baby bird's first home was the egg (shell).
The shell was small, round, and pale blue in colour.
Since the bird had never seen anything else, it thought the whole world was like its shell — small, round, and blue.

Answer: The baby bird's first home was its egg shell, which was small, round, and pale blue. Since it had never seen the outside world, it thought the world looked just like its shell.

Q5 Where did the bird go when it fluttered from its straw nest?

SOLUTION

When the bird fluttered from its straw nest, it went out to see what it could find.
It flew among the leaves of the tree and eventually flew beyond the tree into the wider world.

Answer: The bird fluttered out of its nest to explore. It first saw leaves all around, then flew beyond the tree into the wider world.

Q6 What quality did the bird say it had when it flew away?

SOLUTION

When the bird flew beyond the tree, it said it was 'quite fit for grown-up labours'. This means the bird felt it had grown up and was ready and capable for adult tasks and hard work.

Answer: The bird said it was 'quite fit for grown-up labours,' meaning it had grown up and was ready for the hard work of adult life.

Q7 Who do you think were the bird's neighbours? Why do you think so? Discuss.

SOLUTION

The bird's neighbours were likely other birds living in the same tree or nearby.

The poem says 'I don't know how the world is made, and neither do my neighbours', suggesting the neighbours were other birds who also had limited knowledge of the world.

Just like the bird, its neighbours had only seen the world from their own small nests.

Answer: The bird's neighbours were most likely other birds in the same tree. Like the bird, they too had a limited view of the world from their nests, so they also did not fully know what the world was made of.

Exercise 3.7 — Let us learn — What a Bird Thought (Rhyming Words)

Q1 Find the rhyming word pairs from each stanza of the poem. The example given is: well / shell (Stanza 1). Find pairs for Stanzas 2, 3, and 4.

SOLUTION

Stanza 1: well / shell (lines 2 and 4)
Stanza 2: other / mother (lines 2 and 4)
Stanza 3: find / blind (lines 2 and 4)
Stanza 4: labours / neighbours (lines 2 and 4)

Answer: Stanza 1: well/shell. Stanza 2: other/mother. Stanza 3: find/blind. Stanza 4: labours/neighbours.

Exercise 3.8 — Let us think and reflect — Spices that Heal Us

Q1 Read: 'When I was a child, I learnt them from my grandmother. She used to find cures for most of the weather-related common illnesses in the kitchen.' (1) Where exactly in the kitchen did her grandmother find the cures? (2) Give one example of a weather-related common illness. (3) What kind of relationship did the speaker have with her grandmother?

SOLUTION

1. Her grandmother found the cures from the spices and herbs kept in the kitchen.
2. One example of a weather-related common illness is cough and cold.
3. The speaker had a close and loving relationship with her grandmother — she learnt home remedies from her as a child and still remembers and shares that knowledge.

Answer: (1) The cures came from spices and herbs in the kitchen. (2) Cough and cold. (3) The speaker had a warm, close relationship — she learnt traditional cures from her grandmother as a child.

Q2 Fill in the blanks: Daadi soaked methi seeds overnight and drank the water in the morning to manage _____ and _____.

SOLUTION

Daadi soaked methi seeds overnight and drank the water in the morning to manage sugar level and body weight.

Answer: sugar level and body weight.

Q3 Circle the spice that is NOT useful for body pain according to Daadi's letter: (1) Turmeric (2) Fennel seeds (3) Ginger (4) Black pepper.

SOLUTION

Fennel seeds (saunf) are mentioned for helping with digestion, not body pain. Turmeric, ginger, and black pepper are all mentioned as helpful for body pain. Answer: (2) Fennel seeds.

Answer: (2) Fennel seeds — they help with digestion, not body pain.

Q4 Why did Daadi ask Vikram and Vaibhavi to share the natural cures with their friends?

SOLUTION

Daadi wanted Vikram and Vaibhavi to share these natural cures because this knowledge is valuable and helpful.

Just as her own grandmother had passed these remedies to her, she wanted them to continue passing this traditional knowledge to others.

These are simple, natural home remedies that can help people with common illnesses.

Answer: Daadi wanted them to share the cures so that this useful traditional knowledge would pass on to more people, just as her grandmother had shared it with her.

Q5 What was Daadi's final advice to Vikram and Vaibhavi?

SOLUTION

Daadi's final advice was: 'You must consult an elder before you use them.'

She told them to go into the kitchen and try to identify the herbs and spices, but always ask an elder before using any of them.

Answer: Daadi's final advice was to identify the herbs and spices in the kitchen but always consult an elder before using them.

Q6 How do we know that natural cures are passed from one generation to another?

SOLUTION

We know this because Daadi says she learnt these cures as a child from her own grandmother.

Now she is sharing the same knowledge with Vikram and Vaibhavi, who are the next generation.

She also encourages them to share these cures with their friends, continuing the tradition further.

Answer: Daadi learnt the cures from her grandmother as a child. Now she passes them on to Vikram and Vaibhavi, who are encouraged to share them further. This shows how natural cures travel across generations.

Q7 Why do you think we should know about the healing properties of spices?

SOLUTION

We should know about the healing properties of spices because they are natural, easily available in our kitchens, and can give relief from common illnesses.
They are cost-effective and have been used for thousands of years.
This knowledge helps us take care of ourselves and our families while keeping traditional wisdom alive.

Answer: Knowing about spices' healing properties helps us use natural, affordable remedies for common illnesses. It also helps preserve traditional knowledge that has been trusted for thousands of years.

Exercise 3.9 — Let us learn — Spices that Heal Us (Modal Verbs)

Q1 Match the modal verbs in Column A with their functions in Column B: (i) may, (ii) should, (iii) can, (iv) must, (v) need to, (vi) used to — with A. past habit, B. suggestion, C. compulsion, D. advice, E. ability, F. necessity.

SOLUTION

(i) may — B. suggestion (may also express permission)
(ii) should — D. advice
(iii) can — E. ability
(iv) must — C. compulsion
(v) need to — F. necessity
(vi) used to — A. past habit

Answer: (i) may — suggestion/permission; (ii) should — advice; (iii) can — ability; (iv) must — compulsion; (v) need to — necessity; (vi) used to — past habit.

Q2 Complete the dialogues with any four modals (use each only once): Ajay: Anand had fever last week. He (i) _____ take good rest. Suman: Yes, he (ii) _____ or he will fall ill again. Ajay: He (iii) _____ take grandmother's natural cures. Suman: Yes, we (iv) _____ remember how effective they are.

SOLUTION

(i) should — taking rest is good advice for someone with fever.
(ii) must — compulsion/strong need so he does not fall ill again.
(iii) can — ability/option to take natural cures.
(iv) need to — necessity to remember effective remedies.

Sample answer: (i) should, (ii) must, (iii) can, (iv) need to.

Answer: (i) should, (ii) must, (iii) can, (iv) need to. (Other valid combinations using four different modals are also acceptable.)

Exercise 3.10 — Let us explore — Spices that Heal Us (Riddles)

Q1 Guess the spice from the riddle: 'When your tummy felt funny / I was used by your granny / I made you fit and fine / And brought back your smile. Who am I?'

SOLUTION

The riddle describes a spice used by grandmothers for stomach troubles.
According to Daadi's letter, heeng (asafoetida) was put on babies' tummies to relieve gas.
Answer: Heeng (Asafoetida).

Answer: Heeng (Asafoetida) — used to relieve tummy gas and stomach troubles.

Q2 Guess the spice from the riddle: 'I come from under the ground / Thousands of years, I've been around. / For cooking you use me daily / From cold I can cure you surely. Who am I?'

SOLUTION

The riddle describes a spice that grows underground, has been used for thousands of years, is used daily in cooking, and cures cold.
The letter says ginger has been used in cooking for more than 4000 years and helps with cough and cold.
Ginger grows as a root underground.
Answer: Adrak (Ginger).

Answer: Adrak (Ginger) — grows underground, used in cooking for over 4000 years, and helps cure cough and cold.