

# UNIT 3

# DREAMS AND DISCOVERIES

0773CH03

## MY BROTHER'S GREAT INVENTION

**Let us do these activities before we read.**

I Work in pairs and guess the invention.

1. I am a concept invented by ancient Indian mathematicians. I add value to numbers. Without me, calculations in the modern digital world would be impossible. Who am I?
2. I am an ancient Indian practice, now popular globally. I focus on physical and mental well-being. What am I?

II Discuss in groups of four what you think the world today would have been like without inventions and discoveries.

III Fill the grid given below with missing letters to complete the words. These words display qualities of an inventor.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | R | | A | T | | V | | T | | | | |
| C | U | | | | | I | T | Y | | | | |
| R | I | | | - | T | | K | | N | G | | |
| D | E | T | E | | | I | N | A | T | I | | |
| I | | | G | I | | A | | I | O | N | | |

© NCERT not to be republished

## Let us read

# I

**racket:** a loud and disturbing noise

**sopping:** soaking

**scowling:** having an angry or frowning expression

**rigged up:** assembled something temporarily

**tinkering:** experimenting or fiddling

**dynamos:** electric generator

"Who put that water bag here?" roared my father from the front doorstep. "Your burglar alarm," I hissed to my brother Anand, who was getting ready to disappear from the house. Ma rushed in to see what the racket was all about and found Papa standing there, sopping wet and scowling.

"I want to know who is behind this nonsense," Papa said grimly.

"I think it's supposed to be a burglar alarm," Ma said, in a soothing voice.

"I don't care what it's supposed to be," Papa said.

"Where's that boy? I'm sure he rigged this up."

Anand had vanished by this time and reappeared only after dinner when Papa had cooled down.

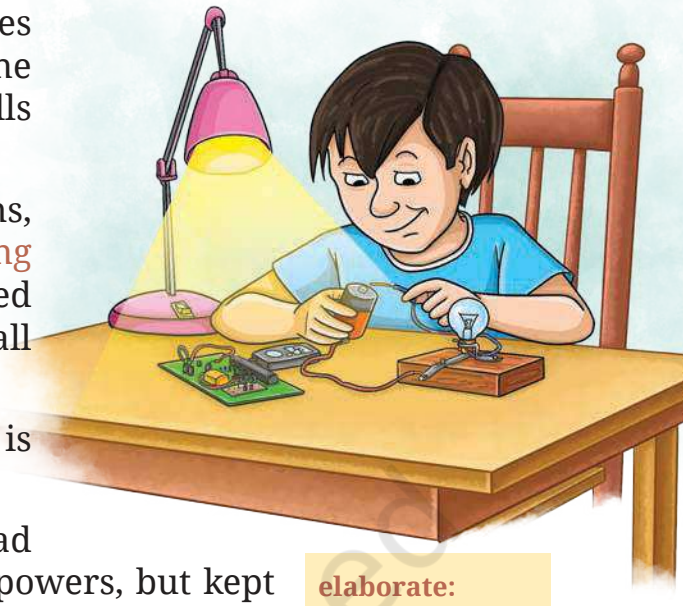


Before this story, let me put you in the picture. I am Anita, fourteen years old. My brother Anand, one year younger than me, caused all that hoo-ha with his burglar alarm. And this is not the first time he's got on Papa's nerves or frightened someone half to death in the house. The trouble with him is that he thinks he is a scientist. He loves tinkering with all sorts of electrical gadgets, tools, dynamos, planks of wood, and things like that. And he keeps creating 'inventions' that never work out as they are supposed to.

Recently there had been a rush of thefts in the colony and Anand had got it into his head that what was needed was a burglar alarm. So, the minute Papa left for the office and Ma for the market, he started on his latest scheme. As usual I had to be involved, though I'd have preferred to finish my novel. "If you get a shelling, don't bring me in," I warned Anand.

"Nothing will go wrong this time. I've planned it out carefully. See the blueprint."

© NCERT not to be republished



Anand loves words like blueprint—it makes him feel professional! Anyway, I looked at the elaborate drawing of doors, wires, and bells and asked, "How does this thing work?"

"It's quite simple. The moment the door opens, this alarm is tripped off and makes a clanging sound. Then this water bag here is loosened and falls on the thief's head. By then we call the police—simple!"

"But how does the alarm know that a burglar is opening the door?"

"I've taken care of that," Anand said loftily. I had my own doubts about the alarm's guessing powers, but kept them to myself because when Anand is in one of his inventive moods, nothing stops him.

"You see," Anand explained smugly, "A thief tries to open the door stealthily. I've rigged it up so that the alarm works only when the door is opened gently."

I was sceptical. "Remember, if Papa asks, I'm not involved," I warned. "Now clean up this mess before anyone gets home."

As you already know, my doubts about the alarm were quite justified. Papa, who always opens the door softly, was thoroughly soaked and angry as angry could be. Anyway, for a week after this, Anand did not dare try out anything new. Then we saw this film 'Back to the Future'. I don't know if you have seen it, but it's all about a time machine. Well, that was the end of peace and quiet in the house.




My brother decided that he had to make a time machine too. Papa locked up his tool box and hid the key while Ma kept a wary eye on her oven and mixer. Because, as I told you, when Anand is on one of his inventing binges, he takes apart all the gadgets in the house to collect parts. You can't imagine the noise that

**elaborate:** detailed

**clanging:** a loud ringing sound like that of a metal being hit

**smugly:** proudly

**stealthily:** quietly or carefully so that one is not seen or heard

**sceptical:** doubtful

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27

was going on—hammering and sawing and clattering. Anand's room, next to our room, was transformed into a network of wires, springs, levers, and bulbs. There was an enormous panel which was to be control switchboard. As for Anand, he went around looking like a savage. When Ma didn't notice, the fellow didn't even comb his hair.

**frantic:** hurried and disorganised

Anand just wouldn't let anyone into his room. Finally, after a fortnight of frantic activity, the time machine was ready. "We can try it out tonight," Anand announced to everyone at home at lunch time.

"I don't know what you've been up to in that room, but you're not trying out anything new," Papa said firmly.

"But it's a time machine! I've invented it," Anand protested.

"When I say NO, I mean NO," Papa said, glaring.

**crestfallen look:** sad and disappointed appearance

"Poor boy," Ma said noticing Anand's crestfallen look.

"At least let's take a look at it."

Papa sighed. "All right, but if the house falls, it's your fault."

As it turned out, we could not try out the time machine that day at all. The next day, Papa and Ma were going to Kharagpur, a few hours away from Calcutta (now Kolkata), for a wedding. Ma was worried about leaving us alone, but we reassured her. "We're old enough to look after ourselves, Ma," I said. "And we can go next door to Sharma Aunty if we need anything."

"And it's only one night," Anand added.

**offended:** felt upset or hurt

"All right. But promise me you won't do anything with that time machine till we come back," Ma said sternly, looking at Anand. He promised half-heartedly, offended at this lack of respect for his creation. I breathed a sigh of relief.

## Let us discuss

I Complete the cause-and-effect table given below.

| Causes | Effects |
|---|---|
| 1. Anand set up his burglar alarm and rigged it to work when the door was opened softly. | |

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27

| | |
|---|---|
| 2. | Anita was able to avoid any responsibility as Anand faced the consequences alone. |
| 3. We watched the movie 'Back to the Future'. | Anand: |
| 4. Papa firmly said 'NO' to trying out the time machine. | |

II Do you think Anand was able to keep his promise regarding the time machine? If yes, why? If no, why not?

## II

They left by the afternoon train and were coming back the following evening. Anand fell asleep immediately, but I stayed up to finish a novel. At about eleven thirty I thought I heard a scratching at the front door. Telling myself it was only my imagination, I went back to the book. A little later there was a rattle and a click. I was really scared, I can tell you, what with a murder story before me and then strange noises in the middle of the night! I shook Anand and whispered, "Listen, there's someone at the door."

"Go and open it then," he muttered groggily.

"You silly! Someone's trying to get in," I said.

Anand sat up. "Who? What?"

"I don't know," I said. "What shall we do?"

"Let's holler for help," he said. Before we could do anything, the door swung open and we found ourselves looking at a ruffianly fellow with a green scarf around his neck. Anand gasped.

"Hey, it's Boppa!" I whispered. It was indeed the fellow who had recently begun sweeping out the compounds in our row of houses. So, he was the thief, and no wonder. He knew exactly when the occupants were out, leaving the coast clear.

The fellow gave an evil grin. "One squeak out of you and see what happens," he said, brandishing his cudgel and backing out of the room. We heard him slide the latch in.

"What do we do now?" I asked in a low voice.

**groggily:** sleepily

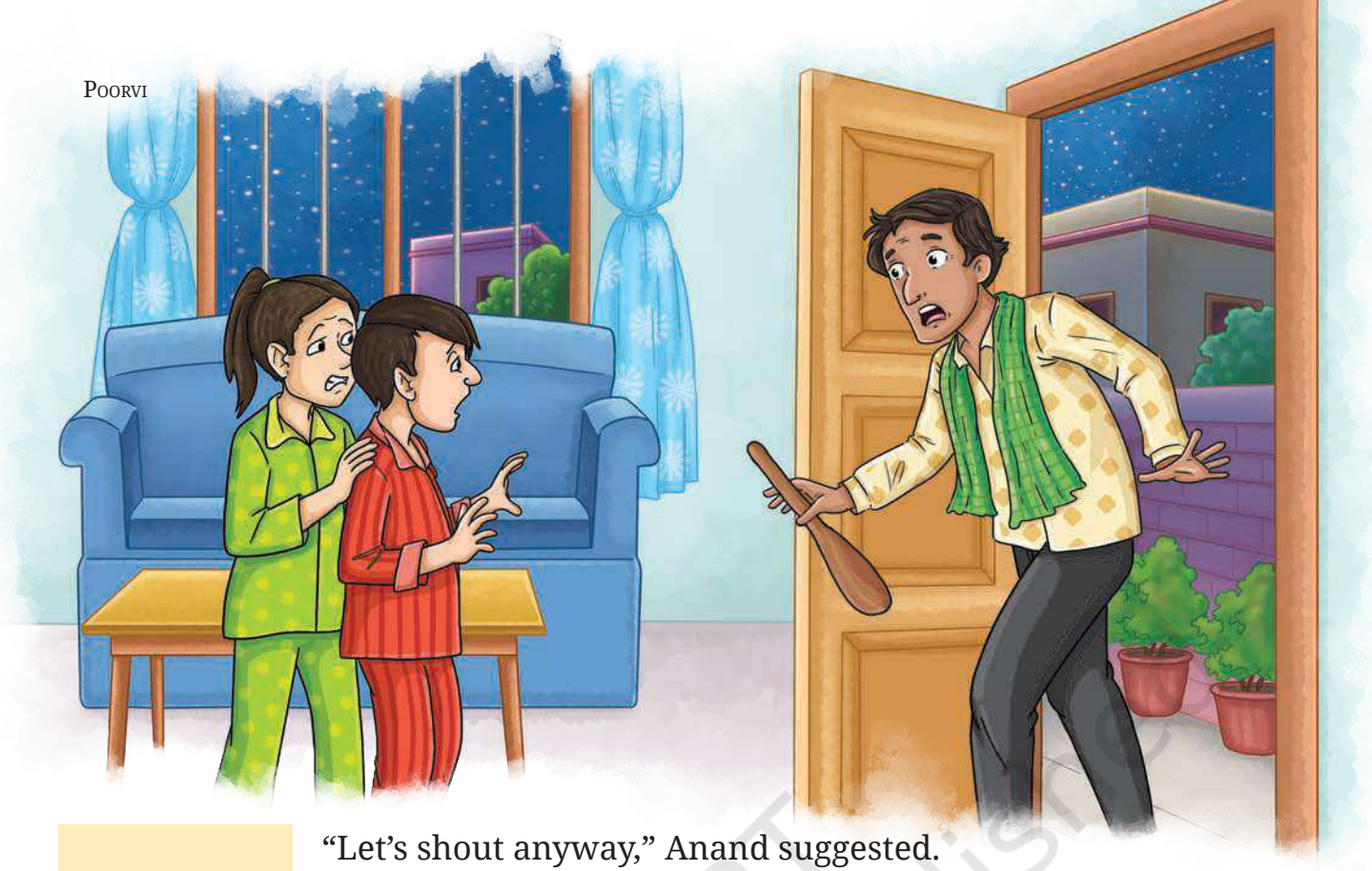
**ruffianly:** rough or violent looking

**gasped:** took a short, deep breath in surprise

**brandishing:** waving

**cudgel:** a short, thick stick used as a weapon

© NCERT not to be republished



"Let's shout anyway," Anand suggested.

The door opened suddenly again in the middle of our discussion.

"No noise from you! Now, where is your father's room?"

I was about to direct him upstairs when Anand said quickly, "The one next to this one."

"You silly goose!" I said angrily as soon as the man had gone.

"That's your room. He'll come back as mad as mad can be."

"At least it will give us some time to think of something," Anand said. "He'll take a while to locate the light switch. Let's shout." All of a sudden there was a crash followed by a loud scream. More strange noises emerged from the next room—a few muffled thumps, an eerie whine, and a low, humming sound.

**muffled:** not a very clear and loud sound

**eerie:** strange

**clattering:** continuous loud noises

"My time machine, he's started it!" Anand gasped. "I wish we could get out of this room and see what is happening out there."

There was another howl, much fainter this time, and a great deal of clattering. We shouted for all we were worth. In a few minutes, we heard footsteps running up our drive. Thankfully we recognised Mrs. Sharma's voice, along with her husband and Dr. Mohan—also a neighbour.

"Anand! Anita! Children, what's the matter? Where are you?"

© NCERT not to be republished

"Here!" we shouted in unison. In a minute the door was unlocked.

**unison:** together

"What on earth has been happening here, children?" Sharma Uncle asked. Both Anand and I fell over ourselves trying to explain. "Where is the fellow now?"

"The last we heard, he was in the time machine," I explained hastily, seeing everyone looking rather puzzled.

**hastily:** quickly



We entered the room cautiously and turned on the lights. The time machine was still humming softly but otherwise there was no other sound from the room.

"Well, where is he?" Dr. Mohan asked, peering behind the door. "Did you imagine this?"

**peering:** looking carefully

"Oh no," I protested. "How could both of us have imagined the same thing?"

"Maybe he ran out," Anand suggested.

"I'm sure we'd have seen him. There's only one way out of this house and we came the same way as soon as we heard you," Sharma Uncle sounded very sure.

"Look!" Anand said, pointing to the floor. "He was wearing that." Near the panel of switches was the green scarf.

© NCERT not to be republished

**indulgently:** fondly

**intruders:** people who enter a place without permission

**dismantled:** taken apart

**niggling:** slight feeling (of)

"Let's search the house—perhaps he's still around," Dr. Mohan said, going upstairs.

Boppa was nowhere to be seen. "Well maybe he did run out and we missed him," Mrs. Sharma said at last, "I can't imagine what else could have happened."

"My time machine! He's gone through that!" Anand burst out, his eyes shining.

"What an imagination this boy has!" Mr. Sharma said, smiling indulgently. "Now off to bed, both of you. I'll spend the night here so you needn't worry about any more intruders now."



Needless to say, Boppa was never seen again. Anand insists that his time machine worked and he disappeared into the past. The machine itself was dismantled because Papa thought it wasn't safe (maybe he also had a niggling suspicion that it worked), so we couldn't try it out.

As for Anand, he is convinced that he is a genius and has launched a new project—something about a telephone to contact creatures in outer space. Tell you all about it next time.

ANITA RAU BADAMI

## Let us discuss

Arrange the following events in the correct order of occurrence.

1. The door swings open, and they see Boppa, standing there with an evil grin.
2. Boppa is nowhere to be found, but his green scarf is lying near the time machine.
3. Mrs. Sharma, her husband, and Dr. Mohan unlock the door and enter the house to help the children.
4. Anita wakes Anand up, informing him that someone is trying to get into the house.
5. Anand misleads Boppa into entering his room instead of his father's room.

© NCERT not to be republished

## Let us think and reflect

I Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.



1. *Before beginning this story, let me put you in the picture. I am Anita, fourteen years old. My brother Anand, one year younger than me, caused all that hoo-ha with his burglar alarm. The trouble with him is that he thinks he is a scientist. He loves tinkering with all sorts of electrical gadgets, tools, dynamos, planks of wood, and things like that. And he keeps creating 'inventions' that never work out as they are supposed to.*

   (i) Complete the following sentence suitably by choosing the correct option from those given in the brackets.

   When Anita says, "...let me put you in the picture", she wants to _____ (introduce/summarise) the situation for the benefit of the readers.

   (ii) Anand loves 'tinkering' with all sorts of electrical gadgets. This means that he enjoys _____ gadgets.

   A. dismantling and creating B. labelling or naming

   C. repairing or improving D. collecting and displaying

   (iii) Which of the following options most suitably describes Anand's personality?

   A. methodical and cautious B. creative and experimental

   C. energetic and hasty D. shy and reserved

   (iv) Based on the extract, compare what Anita thinks of her brother Anand with what he thinks of himself.



2. *I was about to direct him upstairs, when Anand said quickly, "The one next to this one."*

   *"You silly goose!" I said angrily as soon as the man had gone.*

   *"That's your room. He'll come back as mad as mad can be."*

   *"At least it will give us some time to think of something," Anand said. "He'll take a while to locate the light switch. Let's shout." All of a sudden there was a crash followed by a loud scream. More strange noises emerged from the next room—a few muffled thumps, an eerie whine, and a low, humming sound.*

   (i) Complete the sentence given below with a suitable reason.

   Anita was angry with Anand because _____.

   (ii) Which action of Anand shows his presence of mind?

© NCERT not to be republished

(iii) What might be the cause of the strange noises emerging from the next room?

A. The intruder moving furniture around

B. Anand's time machine getting activated

C. The intruder locating the light switch

D. Anand's invention malfunctioning

(iv) Which of the following best describes the atmosphere in this extract?

A. relaxing B. peaceful C. tense D. sad

E. suspenseful F. joyful

(a) A, D and E (b) B and F (c) C and E (d) Only D

II Complete the table with the suitable traits of the characters based on evidence from the text. Choose the traits given in the box below. An example has been done for you.

creative curious careful responsible bothersome confident

| Character | Traits | Evidence from the Text |
|---|---|---|
| Anand | 1. bothersome | *And this is not the first time he's got on Papa's nerves or frightened someone half to death in the house.* |
| | 2. _____ | *He loves tinkering with all sorts of electrical gadgets, tools, dynamos, planks of wood, and things like that. And he keeps creating 'inventions' that never work out as they are supposed to.* |
| | 3. _____ | *"Nothing will go wrong this time. I've planned it out carefully. See the blueprint."* |
| Anita | 1. _____ | *"We're old enough to look after ourselves, Ma..."* |
| | 2. _____ | *"But how does the alarm know that a burglar is opening the door?"* |
| | 3. _____ | *"Now clean up this mess before anyone gets home."* |

© NCERT not to be republished

III Answer the following questions.

1. What prompted Anand to create the burglar alarm?
2. How did Anand's father become the target of the burglar alarm?
3. How did Anand's parents and sister react to his ideas?
4. How did Anand behave when he was on his 'inventing binges'?
5. Why did Mr. Sharma not believe Anand when he spoke about his time machine?
6. Give an ending to this story, explaining what might have happened to Boppa.



## Let us learn

I Read the highlighted word in the following sentence.

*It's quite simple. The moment the door opens, this alarm is tripped off and makes a **clanging** sound.*

Such sound words are called onomatopoeic words.

**Onomatopoeia** is the use of words that imitate actual sounds of the thing they describe. The 'boom' of a firework exploding, the 'ding-dong' of a bell, the 'pitter-patter' of rain drops, the 'tick-tock' of a clock are all examples of onomatopoeia.

1. Read the sound words used in the story in Column 1. Complete Column 2 by matching expressions from the box given below. An example has been done for you.

whispered angrily
constant and loud construction noises
sudden loud sound of breaking
a continuous low and soothing sound

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|---|---|
| (i) Crash | sudden loud sound of breaking |
| (ii) Humming | |
| (iii) Hissed | |
| (iv) Hammering, sawing, clattering | |

© NCERT not to be republished

II Read the highlighted phrase in the following sentence from the text.

*Well, that was the end of **peace and quiet** in the house.*

The highlighted phrase displays a combination of two words generally used together in a fixed order. Such phrases are called binomials.

**Binomials** are expressions consisting of two words, usually linked by a conjunction such as 'and' or 'or' that are commonly used together in a fixed order. The two words convey a single meaning or an opposite.

1. Match the words in Column 1 with the correct pairs in Column 2 to make binomials.

| Column 1 | Conjunction | Column 2 |
|---|---|---|
| (i) safe | and | A. break |
| (ii) odds | | B. cons |
| (iii) make | | C. never |
| (iv) pros | or | D. take |
| (v) now | | E. sound |
| (vi) give | | F. ends |

2. Complete the following sentences with suitable binomials from 1.

(i) This project will be a _____ moment for our team's success.

(ii) After a long journey, we were relieved to arrive home _____.

(iii) Every friendship works well when there is a balance of _____.

(iv) She organised all the _____ in the cupboard, to make space for new clothes.

(v) Before making a decision, it is important to weigh the _____ carefully.

(vi) This is our final chance to perform on stage, it is _____.

3. Complete the paragraph by using the phrasal verbs given in the box below.

tripped off  let up  turned out  ran out of  rigged up

© NCERT not to be republished

It had been raining and we (i) _____ time to set up for the function, so we quickly (ii) _____ some decorations using whatever materials we had. We accidentally (iii) _____ the fire alarm because of the smoke from the bonfire. Thankfully, the rain (iv) _____ just as the guests were arriving, and despite all the chaos, the function (v) _____ to be a huge success.

III Read the highlighted expressions in the following sentence from the text.

*And this is not the first time he's* ***got on Papa's nerves*** *or* ***frightened someone half to death*** *in the house.*

The highlighted expressions are called idioms.

An **idiom** is a phrase or expression that has a meaning different from the literal meaning of the individual words. It is like a special saying that people understand in a specific way. For example, 'It is raining cats and dogs' means it's raining very heavily.

Complete the following sentences by filling in the blanks with suitable idioms from the text given in the box below.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| leaving the coast clear | get on our nerves | fell over ourselves |
| frighten me half to death | get a shelling | |

1. Shekhar knew he would _____ for breaking his mother's favourite flower vase.
2. We _____ trying to help the injured dog and get it to the vet as quickly as possible.
3. Faizy distracted Kanchan, _____ for us to get inside the room to prepare the birthday surprise.
4. The constant power fluctuations during meetings can _____.
5. When I am alone at home, any unexpected loud noise in the night can _____.

IV Read the highlighted words in the given sentence.

*It* ***was*** *indeed the fellow who* ***had*** *recently* ***begun*** *sweeping out the compounds in our row of houses.*

Here we refer to two completed actions—the recent past (new action) and the later past (old action).

© NCERT not to be republished

1. Underline the verbs in simple past and past perfect tense for the following sentences from the text.

   (i) Ma had rushed in to see what the racket was all about and found Papa standing there, sopping wet and scowling.

   (ii) Anand had vanished by this time and reappeared only after dinner when Papa had cooled down.

2. Fill in the blanks with the simple past or past perfect form of the verbs given in brackets.

   (i) After Rohan A. _____ (finish) his homework, he B. _____ (decide) to go for a walk. He C. _____ (leave) the house and D. _____ (realise) he E. _____ (forget) his keys inside.

   (ii) By the time we A. _____ (reach) the station, the train B. _____ (already/leave). We C. _____ (wait) for the next one to arrive.

3. Combine the pairs of sentences using the time expressions in the boxes given below and rewrite them using the past perfect tenses. An example has been done for you.

   Example: Rohan had packed his suitcase before he left for the airport.

| Old Actions | Time Expressions | New Actions |
|---|---|---|
| (i) Rohan packed his suitcase. | before, after, by the time, when | He left for the airport. |
| (ii) We started work. | | He arrived in the morning. |
| (iii) They set up the tents. | | The others brought food and medicine. |
| (iv) The students became quiet. | | They heard the teacher coming. |
| (v) The villagers left the village. | | The flood submerged the entire area. |

© NCERT not to be republished



## Let us listen

I You will listen to a conversation between Anita and Toby. Toby is a Martian and is stranded on Earth. He has become Anita's friend. As you listen, choose the **true** statements from 1–5 given below. (Transcript for the teacher on pg. 136)

1. Toby misses his school.
2. Anita accepts Toby as her friend.
3. Anita asks Toby about one of his facial features.
4. Toby tells Anita that she had a banana for breakfast.
5. Toby shares that he can see much clearer with a closed eye.

II Listen to the conversation again and fill in the blanks with the exact words you hear.

1. Toby: I miss my _____ and home.
2. Toby: Well, we _____ don't need to eat anything. We get our _____ from the Sun.
3. Anita: Oh! Don't you ever feel like having ice creams and _____?
4. Anita: Okay, tell me one thing. How are you able to see with only_____ eye?
5. Toby: I can see beyond mountains and _____, woods and even _____.



## Let us speak

I Read the following sentences from the text.

*As usual, I had to be involved, though I'd have preferred to finish my novel.*

*"We're old enough to look after ourselves, Ma," I said.*

The word 'though' is pronounced to rhyme with the word 'low'. The word 'enough' is pronounced to rhyme with the word 'puff'.

In English there are many words ending with –ough, which are pronounced very differently. Listen to the teacher say these words aloud and notice how they are pronounced.

| | |
|---|---|
| bough | dough |
| through | cough |
| thought | plough |

© NCERT not to be republished



Now, work in pairs. Pronounce these words out loud and put them in the correct boxes given below.

| Sounds like 'oo' | Sounds like 'off' | Sounds like 'o' | Sounds like 'ow' | Sounds like 'aw' |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | |

Share more words that sound similar to the words in the table.

II Read the story given below aloud. Check the correct pronunciation with the teacher.

In spite of a nagging **cough**, the woman continued working in her farm, right **through** the **rough** weather. She filled up the **trough** with water for her cows and **ploughed** the fields to plant the seeds. She then plucked some raw mangoes from a low **bough** of a mango tree to make a spicy chutney. **Though** the day had been **tough**, she smiled peacefully as she had already prepared **dough** to make **enough** rotis for dinner.

III Now try saying this tongue twister fast as many times as you can clearly.

*The boy with the tough dough on the rose bough fell in the trough and caught a cough.*



## Let us write

Think about different vocations that you see around or you are currently studying.

For example: electrician, mechanic, chef, nurse, graphic designer. You may add more vocations to the list given here.



© NCERT not to be republished

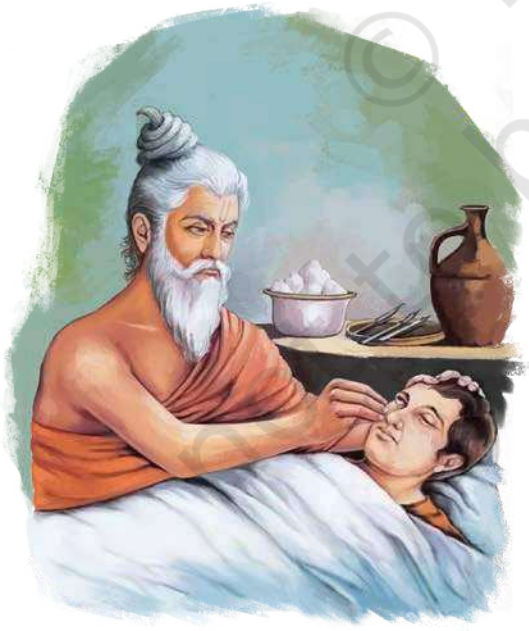
Now, choose a vocation and write a paragraph. You may use the hints given below.

- why you like this vocation
- what training is needed
- what tools and equipment are required
- who would your co-workers be
- highlight the importance of team work
- how you would deal with the customers
- how you plan to pursue it with a sense of pride

## Let us explore

Creativity is 'thinking new things'; innovation is 'doing new things' and an invention is 'bringing ideas or objects together in a novel way to create something that did not exist before'. All it takes is a simple idea.

Human beings are naturally very curious and creative, and this has led to many scientific and technological inventions. You must have heard about many famous inventions. Some of them are mentioned below. You may look for the names of more such Indian inventors and their inventions.



- Sushruta (sixth century B.C.), was a pioneer figure in medical science. His innovations in surgery paved the way for modern surgery.

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27



- Dr. Janaki Ammal (Padma Shri) was a brilliant woman scientist of India who made a significant contribution to the field of cytogenetics.

- Under the directorship of Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (Bharat Ratna), Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched the satellite Rohini in near-earth orbit with India's first Satellite Launch Vehicle in 1980 (the project was named 'SLV-III').





- Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany (Padma Vibhushan) is known as Father of Fibre Optics. He played a pivotal role in inventing fibre optics. He was named one of the seven 'Unsung Heroes of the Twentieth Century' for his invention.

© NCERT not to be republished

# Paper Boats

## Let us do these activities before we read.

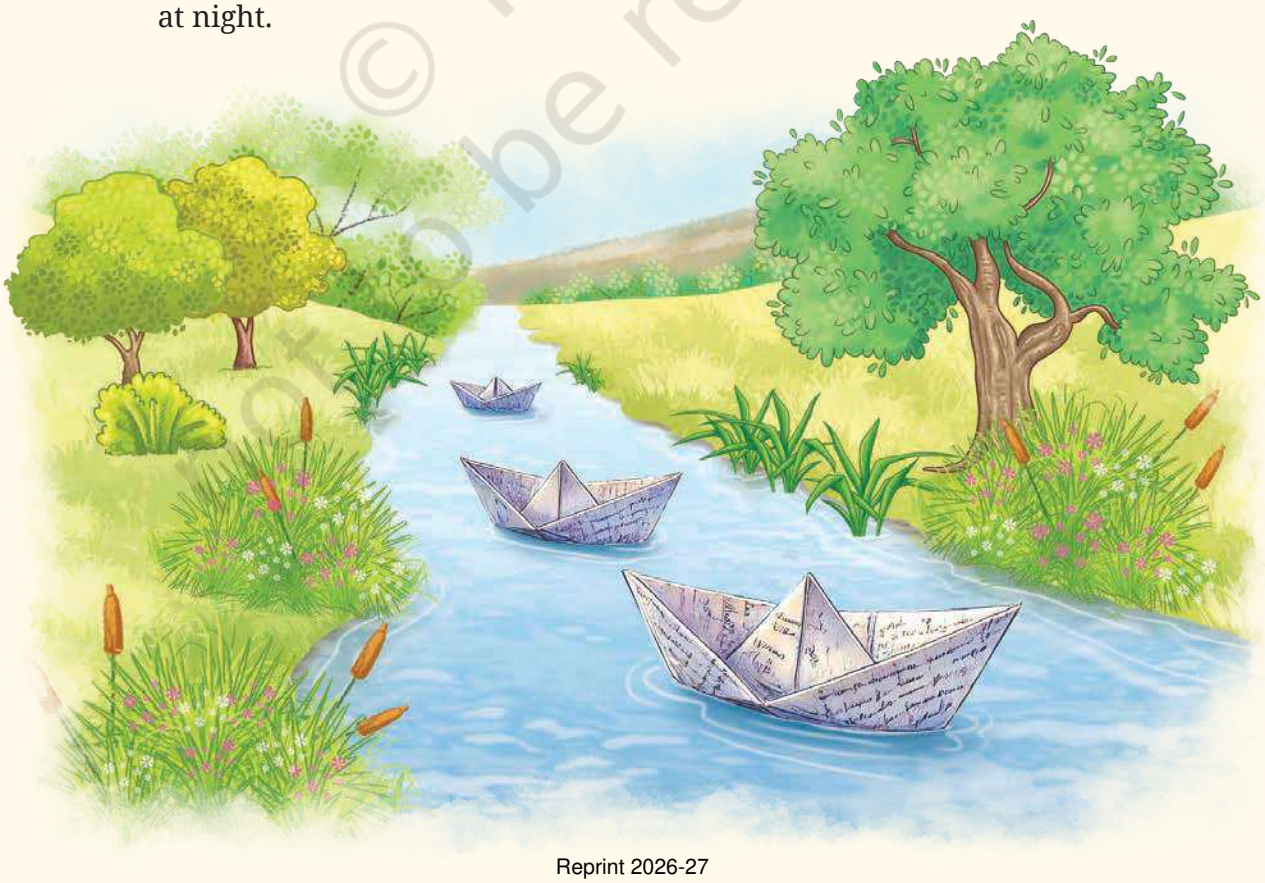
I Read the questions given below. Share your answers with your classmates and the teacher.

1. What comes to mind when you think about 'paper boats'?
2. What do you think someone might hope for when they send a paper boat down a stream?
3. Read the title of the poem 'Paper Boats' and predict what the poem might be about.

II Read the given paragraph and match the highlighted words with their meanings given in the box below.

loading  speedily flowing  swelling  putting  bouncing

I love to play beside a 1. **running** stream at a short distance from my grandparent's house. I love to see it 2. **skipping** along to join a river. On the river, I can see boats with 3. **bulging** sails moving swiftly. Some of them take the people from one shore to the other while in some of them people can be seen 4. **lading** things too. I can spend hours watching the busy river and dreaming about them, 5. **burying** my head in my pillow at night.



© NCERT not to be republished

## Let us read

Day by day I float my paper boats one by one down the running stream.

In big black letters I write my name on them and the name of the village where I live.

I hope that someone in some strange land will find them and know who I am.

I load my little boats with shiuli flower from our garden, and hope that these blooms of the dawn will be carried safely to land in the night.

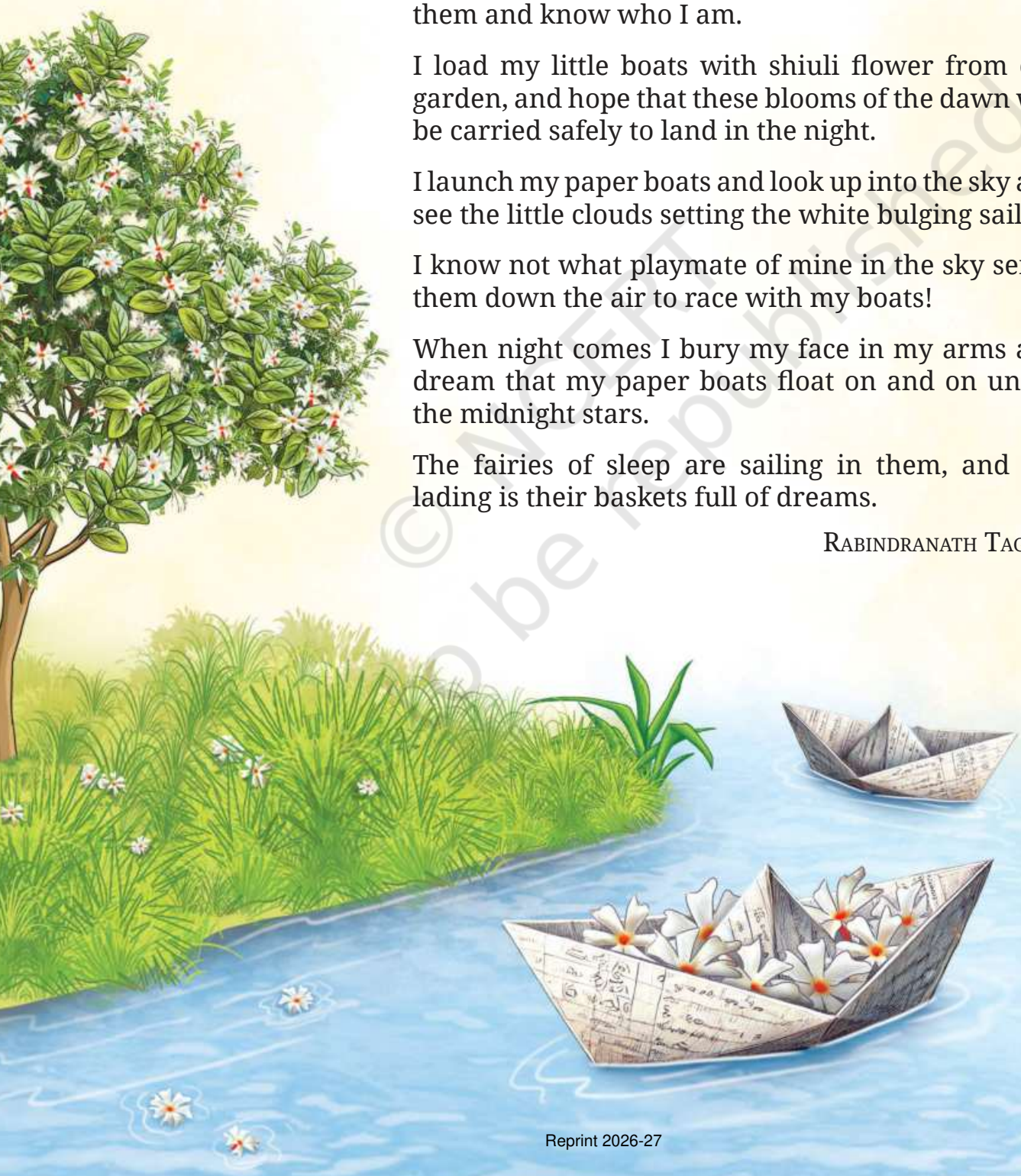
I launch my paper boats and look up into the sky and see the little clouds setting the white bulging sails.

I know not what playmate of mine in the sky sends them down the air to race with my boats!

When night comes I bury my face in my arms and dream that my paper boats float on and on under the midnight stars.

The fairies of sleep are sailing in them, and the lading is their baskets full of dreams.

RABINDRANATH TAGORE



© NCERT not to be republished

## Let us discuss

I Choose the correct words from the brackets to complete the summary of the poem given below.

The poet sends paper boats down a 1. _____ (stream/river) each day, writing his name and the name of his 2. _____ (school/ village) on them. He hopes that someone in a 3. _____ (strange/familiar) land will find them and know who he is. The poet fills his boats with 4. _____ (rose/shiuli) flowers from his garden, hoping they will be safely carried to another land at 5. _____ (night/morning). As he launches his boats, he imagines that the 6. _____ (clouds/birds) in the sky are like friends, racing with his boats. At night, he dreams that his paper boats continue to 7. _____ (swim/float) under the midnight stars, with the fairies of sleep sailing in them, their baskets full of 8. _____ (dreams/fruits).

II Choose the correct option for the following.

The theme of the poem is _____.

1. innocence
2. imagination
3. ignorance
4. playfulness
5. travel

(i) 1, 2 and 3 (ii) 3, 4 and 5 (iii) 1, 4 and 5 (iv) 1, 2 and 4

III Identify whether the following statement is **true** or **false**.

The setting of the poem is a natural, outdoor environment.

IV Complete the following sentence by choosing the correct word given within the brackets.

The tone is _____ (sad and serious/gentle and wishful) and the mood is _____ (thoughtful/boring).

V Identify the examples of alliteration from the poem.

VI Fill in the blanks with suitable words from the poem.

1. The repetition of words _____ and _____ emphasises the passage of time.
2. The poet uses imagery like _____ and _____ to create a clear picture in the minds of the readers.

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27

VII Match the descriptions in Column 1 with what they symbolise in Column 2.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|---|---|
| 1. the child's innocence, dreams, hopes, and messages sent out into the world | (i) midnight stars |
| 2. purity, beauty, and the start of a new day | (ii) paper boats |
| 3. the vast universe and the child's dreams continuing through the night | (iii) shiuli flowers |

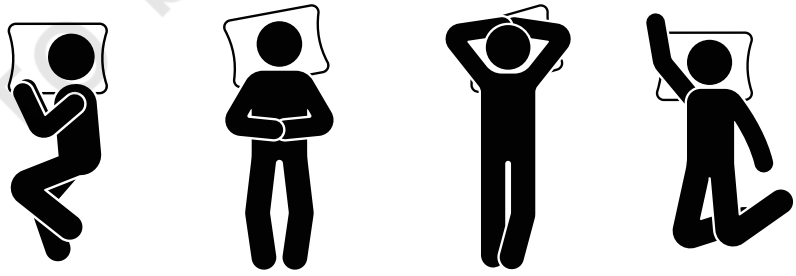


## Let us think and reflect

I Read the extract given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. *When night comes I bury my face in my arms and dream that my paper boats float on and on under the midnight stars. The fairies of sleep are sailing in them, and the lading is their baskets full of dreams.*

(i) Select the option that is most likely to be the speaker as per the extract.



A. B. C. D.

(ii) What can be inferred about the speaker's feelings when night comes?

(iii) What kind of beings are the 'fairies of sleep' imagined as? Select the most appropriate option.

A. mischievous B. gentle C. fearsome D. playful

© NCERT not to be republished

(iv) Fill in the blank by selecting the correct option from those given in the brackets.

The phrase 'lading is their baskets full of dreams' suggests that the speaker imagines the fairies of sleep carefully _____ (carrying his dreams /collecting his wishes) in their baskets.

II Answer the following questions.

1. Why do you think the poet writes his personal details on the paper boats?
2. The poet talks about the imagination of a child. Support this view with examples from the poem.
3. How does the poet bring together imagination and reality to make the poem more interesting?



## Let us learn

I The poet has used phrases like 'blooms of the dawn' and 'fairies of sleep' in the poem. In the same way we can create phrases. Now, select words from Column 1 and Column 2 and combine them with 'of'. Write as many phrases as possible in Column 3. An example has been done for you.

| Column 1 | | Column 2 | Column 3 |
|---|---|---|---|
| wings | | the birds | wings of the wind |
| waves | | the wind | |
| dreams | | the evening | |
| songs | | the children | |
| glimmers | of | the rain | |
| cries | | the stars | |
| tears | | the thunder | |
| roars | | the ocean | |
| shadows | | the clouds | |

© NCERT not to be republished



II The poet uses words like 'dawn', 'night' and 'midnight' to show different parts of the day. The box given below has some more words. Write the words in the appropriate columns.

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| twilight | dawn | dusk | sunrise | noon | daybreak |
| nightfall | sunset | midnight | sunup | forenoon | sundown |
| noontime | night-time | noonday | midday | | |

| Morning | Afternoon | Evening | Night |
|---|---|---|---|
| | | | |

III Match the words from the text given in Column 1 with their opposites in Column 2.

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|---|---|
| 1. strange | (i) halt |
| 2. dawn | (ii) emptying |
| 3. launch | (iii) sink |
| 4. bulging | (iv) dusk |
| 5. float | (v) ordinary |
| 6. lading | (vi) shrinking |



## Let us listen

You will listen to a conversation between a girl and her father about the art of paper folding called origami. As you listen, select the **true** statements from 1–7. (Transcript for the teacher on pg. 137)

© NCERT not to be republished

1. Sai was trying to make an origami boat.
2. Sai's father used to do origami as a child.
3. Paper was very expensive so it was used only for special occasions.
4. People have been making paper cranes for thousands of years.
5. There is a belief that if you make a thousand paper cranes, your wish will come true.
6. The art of origami is about enjoying the process.
7. Sai's father suggests making a paper bookmark next time.

## Let us speak

Create any craft item using eco-friendly materials. Make a presentation in front of your classmates and teacher about the craft item you have made.

Your presentation should include the following information:

- Introduction of the item
- Description of how you made it
- Reason why you like the craft
- Conclusion



Use the phrases given below to make your presentation.

- Today, I'm going to show you a... I made.
- This... is made of... (materials)
- It's... (describe colour, shape, size)
- It can be used to...
- First, I started by...
- Then, I used... (tool or material) to...
- The most difficult part was to...
- This... is special to me because...
- I hope you enjoyed seeing my craft and learning about it.
- Thank you for your attention.

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27

## Let us write

A diary entry is a personal document. It records an individual's account of a day of her or his life expressing the thoughts, feelings and opinions in the individual's mind.

The guidelines to compose a diary entry include:

- mentioning day, date and time of writing it
- beginning with a general sentence describing the day or feelings towards an event or experience
- giving details
- concluding with a final remark

Now, write a diary entry expressing your joy experiencing a rainy day. You may begin as given below:

Friday, 15 July 20XX 6:30 p.m.

Dear Diary,

It was quite humid today. On my journey back from school, I wished that it would rain. And it did! ...

© NCERT not to be republished

## Let us explore



I *Shiuli* flowers often find a mention in Rabindranath Tagore's poems. These flowers are found in many parts of our country.

Look at the pictures of *shiuli* flowers and recall what you call them in your language.

1. Find out names of some more trees or plants in your locality which have fragrant flowers. Write their names in your language and English language. Draw any two flowers and colour them.

II Solve the riddles given below. Share your answers with your classmates and the teacher.

1. I have water that you cannot drink,
People come to see how in me the Sun sinks.
I can be rough, I can be calm,
I hold within myself plenty of charm.
My depths tell a never-ending tale.
Who am I with dolphins and the whale?





2. I sit in stillness, but move with the wind,
My surface mirrors the world you are in.
The trees around me live happily,
In me, you can take a dip daily.
Home to ducks, frogs, fish, and all,
Can you guess what I am, after all?

3. I gently travel through valleys deep,
My soft murmur can make you sleep.
Little paper boats float on me in rain
The merry laughter of the kids I gain.
You may sit beside me without any fear,
Who am I who skips along, crystal clear?





4. I have a bed, but I do not sleep.
I have a bank, but no money I keep.
I carry stories, old and new,
High mountains to the oceans blue.
I journey far to meet the sea,
Can you guess, who I can be?

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27

# North, South, East, West

## Let us do these activities before we read.

I Work in pairs. Discuss the place that you have enjoyed travelling to. Talk about who you went with, how you travelled, and what you learnt from the experience.

II Which State or Union Territory of India do you live in? Write the following details about it.

1. Part of the country—North, East, Northeast, West, South or Centre
2. Its capital
3. Language
4. River(s)
5. Tourist attraction
6. Food

III Work in pairs. Recall the names of the states of our country which have 'Pradesh' in their names. Mention if it is in the North, East, Northeast, West, South or Centre of our country. Recall any special feature about each 'Pradesh'. Share your answers with your classmates and the teacher.

| First Part of the Name | Second Part of the Name | Part of the Country | Special Feature |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Pradesh | | |
| 2. | | | |
| 3. | | | |
| 4. | | | |

© NCERT not to be republished

## Let us read

Shaana, who lives in Rameswaram island, is travelling the length and breadth of the country with her parents, exploring the many landscapes, people and cultures of India. She shares her travel experiences through postcards that she writes to her friends back at school. Let us read these postcards.

30 April 20XX

Hi everyone,

You won't believe where I am!

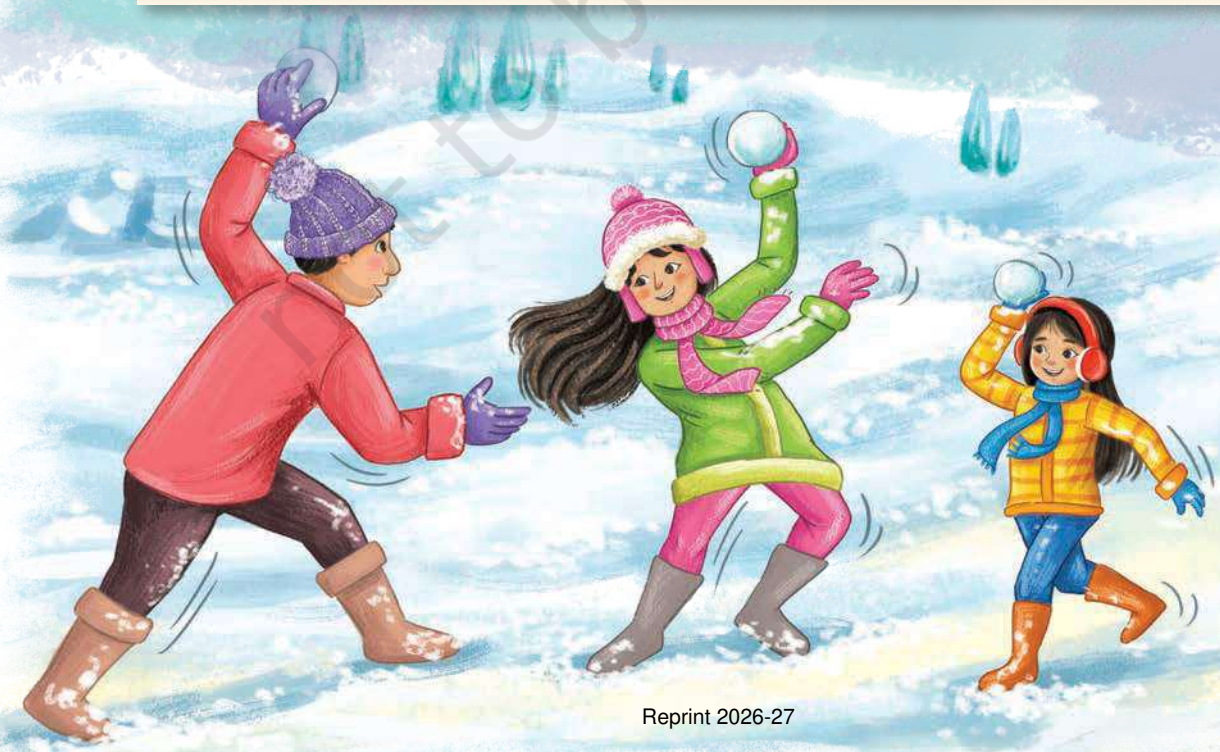
I'm way up north, at the Thajiwas glacier in Kashmir. The glaciers are white and blue and we have to wear four layers of clothes. Appa and Amma love it here, and they like throwing snowballs at each other. But they say there was much more snow last year.

I also like the snow, but my hands are shaking from not wearing gloves, so I don't think I can write any more.

Send my love to PT Miss and Library Ma'am.

Love,

Shaana



© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27

10 May 20XX

Dear class,

We took another train yesterday and reached Himachal Pradesh. It is very quiet, and we can see so many mountains from our cabin. Colourful birds wake me with their chirping when the Sun rises in the east.

I also think I hear bears growling in the west when it gets dark. But Amma says that's just Appa snoring. I would love to meet a bear and give it a hug.

With love from your best friend,
Shaana



**chirping:** short, sharp sound made by birds

**snoring:** making a loud noise as one breathes while sleeping

17 May 20XX

Hi everyone,

Did you know that Arunachal Pradesh is far away from Himachal Pradesh? Himachal is in the north but Arunachal is all the way in the east. I thought all the Pradesh states sat next to each other.

We took two trains and drove a long time to get here. This morning, we walked through a forest to reach our treehouse. The forest here is so thick that if you blink or stop to tie your shoelaces, you will get lost.

I love Arunachal the best so far and am beginning to enjoy myself. I hope we get to see red pandas.

With love,
Shaana

© NCERT not to be republished

24 May 20XX

Dear classmates,

It did not take any time at all to travel south west and get to the Sundarbans in West Bengal. Today, Amma and Appa took me out onto the river in a small boat. Amma tells me that places like the Sundarbans are called wetlands. I never knew such a place existed, and that it was possible for trees called mangroves to grow in seawater! But Amma is sad about how much this place floods today.

We also saw crocodiles and a lonely snake while boating. I hope they don't follow us home.

How is everyone? Are you missing me yet?

Love,

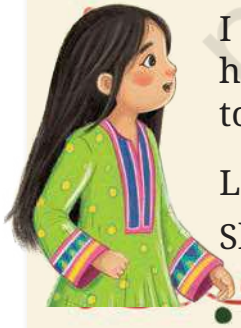
Shaana

30 May 20XX

Hi everyone,

We travelled across the country, all the way from east to west, from West Bengal to Gujarat, and it took us two-and-a-half days!

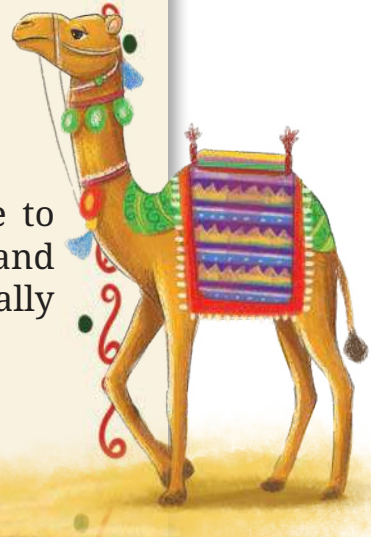
I don't know why my Amma and Appa brought me to the middle of the desert. It's hot, dry, and there's sand everywhere. It's like a beach without the sea! But I do really love the clothes here. They're so pretty and colourful.



I am sure you're all busy with your holiday homework. Amma gave me a surprise test today, and I passed with 88 per cent.

Love,

Shaana



© NCERT not to be republished

7 June 20XX

Dear class,

Today was the best day ever! We drove east from the desert to the Narmada river, which flows all the way to the centre of India, and it only took us six hours. In the afternoon, Amma, Appa, and I went rafting in the river and you won't believe how wild and scary it was. I always thought rivers were calm, but up close they're really fast. Appa says that there used to be a lot more water, and rafting was much scarier then.

**rafting:** the sport of travelling down a river in an air-filled rubber boat

I was fully wet by the time I was done, and Appa was so scared that he decided never to go rafting ever again. I love the water so much and can't wait to go back.

Your best friend,

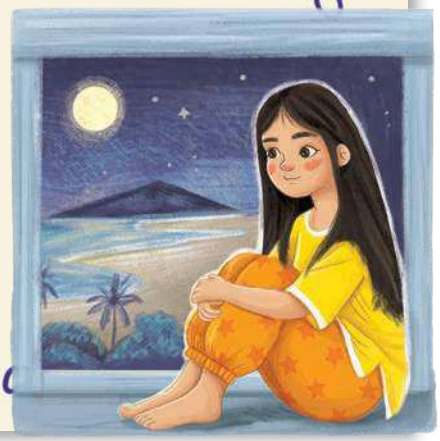
Shaana

12 June 20XX

Dear classmates,

Amma and Appa are fast asleep, and I should be sleeping too, but I just love looking out of the window. I think we're in the southwest part of the country, in Goa, and you won't believe how nice the plateaus look. There are so many hills here, and beaches too.

There are also a lot of tunnels that the train goes through. I used to be afraid of tunnels, but I'm not any more. Someday, I wish we could all go on a tour of the plateaus. Maybe when we're in Class 11.



Love,

Shaana

© NCERT not to be republished

17 June 20XX

Dear friends,

I can't believe we're in the same state again! We travelled south, and I will be home soon.

We reached Chennai yesterday, and on the way to Puducherry, we decided to learn how to surf. I think I'm good at it now because I only fell down twice. Amma and Appa splashed water on each other and behaved like children. It's a good thing I was there to control them.

The beaches here are not like the ones we have on our island. The waves are a lot rougher and the water is browner, but I still like it here.

Your best friend,

Shaana

**surf:** (here) a water sport that involves standing on a long lightweight board and riding a wave to the seashore



22 June 20XX

Hi everyone,

I just crossed the Pamban bridge.

I could see the ocean on both sides. How amazing that a train can travel across the sea like this!

I'm almost home, and I can't wait to give you my final letter in person.

Love,

Shaana

© NCERT not to be republished

24 June 20XX

Dear classmates,

I thought Amma and Appa would be tired from all our travelling, but we made one last stop at the Olaikaadu beach before we reached home. And I'm so happy we did.

Amma wanted to teach me how to dive, but they did not have diving suits my size, so I spent the day floating and looking at the fish while my parents dove below me.

We found all sorts of pebbles on the beach, and I can't wait to give them to you in person tomorrow.

Your best friend,

Shaana

**dive:** (here) swim underwater with special breathing equipment; (past tense: dove)

**pebbles:** small, smooth stones



© NCERT not to be republished

25 June 20XX

Dear Amma and Appa,

I can't believe we travelled across the whole country! I know we're going to miss visiting the forests, glaciers, deserts, wetlands, plateaus, and mountains. And we are going to miss hearing all those new languages and meeting all those different people. But we're finally home now, and we can join our friends again.

I hope we get to travel like this again, and maybe next time we can take our friends with us.

With love,

Shaana

C.G. Salamander

(Excerpts from *North, South, East, West)*

## Let us discuss

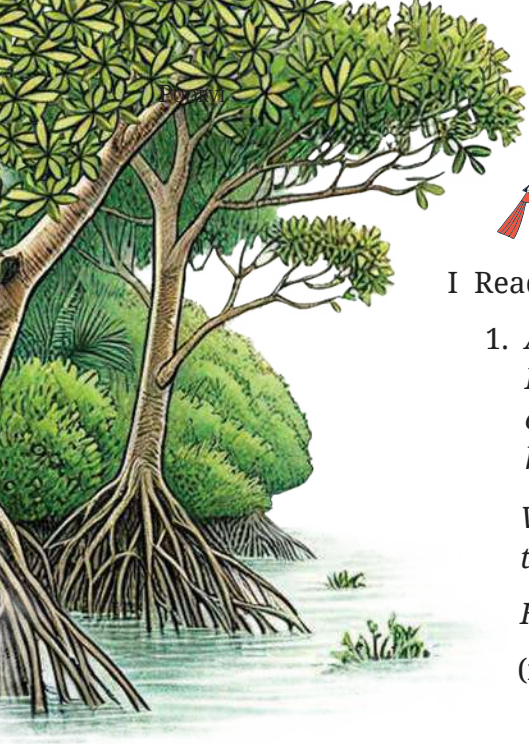
Complete the table given below based on Shaana's postcards. An example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and the teacher.

| Places Visited | Interesting Descriptions and Activities |
|---|---|
| 1. Thajiwas glacier, Kashmir | white and blue glaciers; throwing snowballs |
| 2. Himachal Pradesh | |
| 3. | walking through a thick forest to reach the tree house |
| 4. Gujarat | |
| 5. The Narmada river | |
| 6. Chennai | |
| 7. | floating and looking at the fish; Appa and Amma went for a dive |

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27



## Let us think and reflect

I Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. *Amma tells me that places like the Sundarbans are called wetlands. I never knew such a place existed, and that it was possible for trees called mangroves to grow in seawater! But Amma is sad about how much this place floods today.*

   *We also saw crocodiles and a lonely snake while boating. I hope they don't follow us home.*

   *How is everyone? Are you missing me yet?*

   (i) What feeling does Shaana most likely experience when she says, "I never knew such a place existed..."?

   A. pride  B. hope  C. relief  D. wonder

   (ii) Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.

   Amma is sad about the frequent flooding in Sundarbans because _____.

   (iii) Select the evidence from the text that reflects a feeling of the speaker's slight nervousness.

   (iv) Select the option that applies to both the Assertion and the Reason.

   Assertion : The speaker is missing her friends.

   Reason : The speaker wishes to know the well-being of her friends.

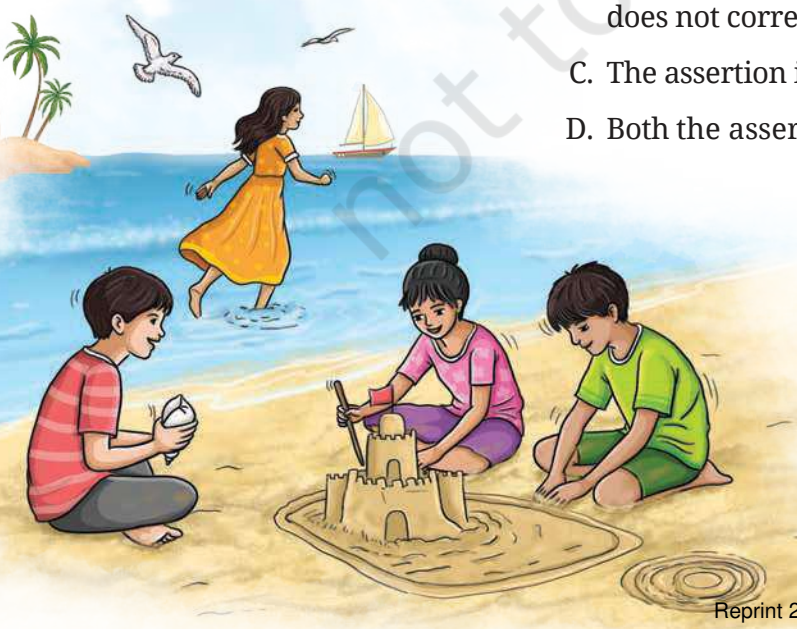
   A. Both the assertion and the reason are true, and the reason correctly explains the assertion.

   B. Both the assertion and the reason are true, but the reason does not correctly explain the assertion.

   C. The assertion is true, but the reason is false.

   D. Both the assertion and the reason are false.

2. *Amma and Appa are fast asleep, and I should be sleeping too, but I just love looking out of the window. I think we're in the southwest part of the country, in Goa, and you won't believe how nice the plateaus look. There are so many hills here, and beaches too.*



© NCERT not to be republished

*There are also a lot of tunnels that the train goes through. I used to be afraid of tunnels, but I'm not any more. Someday, I wish we could all go on a tour of the plateaus.*

(i) Complete the sentence with a suitable reason.

The speaker chooses to stay awake because _____.

(ii) What does the speaker mean by saying, 'You won't believe how nice the plateaus look'?

(iii) What has been the change in the speaker's attitude towards tunnels?

A. from fear to comfort B. from courage to confidence

C. from doubt to clarity D. from fascination to delight

(iv) Fill in the blanks with the correct option from those given in the brackets.

The speaker's wish to share the experience of touring the plateaus with others indicates her _____ (ability to communicate/sense of connection) as well as the value she places on _____ (shared experiences/updating information) with her peers.

II Answer the following questions.

1. Shaana mentions that she used to be afraid of tunnels. What could have been the most likely reason for her to be scared of tunnels?
2. Do you think Shaana's Appa and Amma enjoyed themselves, just like children do? Support your answer with evidence from the text.
3. Shaana mentions less snow in the glaciers and more flooding in the Sundarbans. Explain what these observations indicate.
4. Shaana's visits to different parts of the country highlight the diversity of India's geography. Support this statement with evidence from the text.
5. How does Shaana use language to convey her excitement, curiosity, and sometimes her fears about the places she visits?
6. What might Shaana have learnt from her travels across India? How would it impact her understanding of the country?
7. What could be the author's purpose of presenting the text in the form of postcards?

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27

## Let us learn

I Read the words from the text given in Column 1 and match them with suitable pictures in Column 2.

| Column 1 | | Column 2 |
|---|---|---|
| 1. glaciers | (i) |  |
| 2. treehouse | (ii) |  |
| 3. wetlands | (iii) |  |
| 4. plateaus | (iv) |  |
| 5. pebbles | (v) |  |
| 6. rafting | (vi) |  |

© NCERT not to be republished

II Read the situations given in Column 1. Choose the associated words from the text given in the box below and write them in Column 2. An example has been done for you.

blink scary existed amazing splashed floating

| Column 1 | Column 2 |
|---|---|
| 1. In the middle of the night, the little boy heard a loud noise. He felt so afraid that he couldn't sleep. | scary |
| 2. There used to be a bookstore near my house. But it is now shifted to the town. | |
| 3. The flashes of light from the car made her suddenly close and open her eyes several times. | |
| 4. The children jumped into the pool and threw water at each other with loud noises. | |
| 5. My grandmother's place is so beautiful with all green paddy fields and palm trees. It was a great experience. | |
| 6. When I looked up at the sky, the clouds were not staying at one place. They were moving across the sky. | |

III The following word grid has six words related to 'travel' used in the lesson. Circle the words in the grid. You can search horizontally and vertically. The last letter of each word has been highlighted.

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| C | E | H | B | O | A | **T** | T | R | A |
| T | M | A | T | B | D | R | O | V | **E** |
| R | F | T | F | Y | I | O | U | F | I |
| P | G | I | C | A | K | I | **R** | B | F |
| D | R | A | S | T | R | A | I | **N** | T |
| N | E | X | R | S | E | A | F | A | A |
| W | A | L | K | E | **D** | R | M | E | U |
| S | C | Z | L | K | G | A | E | W | G |
| M | H | N | M | B | R | L | J | S | D |
| L | E | K | D | E | N | S | K | Q | Y |
| E | **D** | S | Q | U | A | B | L | R | M |

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27

IV Read the following sentences from the text and underline the subject and the verb.

1. *Amma and Appa are fast asleep.*

   (When the subject of a sentence has two or more nouns or pronouns that are connected by 'and', we use a plural verb).

2. *It's hot, dry, and there is sand everywhere.*

   (In case the subject is 'it', the verb that follows is either 'is' or 'was' depending on the tense of the sentence).

3. *There are so many hills here, and beaches too.*

   (When we begin a sentence with 'there', the subject comes after the verb).

The subject of a sentence is closely linked to the verb. The verb form changes depending on whether the subject is singular or plural and if it is in the third person. Choosing the correct verb based on the subject is called **subject-verb agreement**.

Let us understand subject-verb agreement better.

- A subject and its verb must agree, even if other words or phrases come between them.

  The formation of paragraphs **is** important in writing.

- When the subjects are considered individually, we use a singular verb.

  Every man and woman **has** the right to vote.

- Collective nouns such as 'class', 'committee', 'audience', 'team' can be singular or plural, based on the context of the sentence. If the sentence implies the group is acting as one unit, the noun is singular and takes a singular verb.

  The committee **decides** on the new policy tomorrow.

- The indefinite pronouns 'each', 'either', 'every', 'much', and 'neither' always require singular verbs.

  Each of the children **was** given a gift.

- Subjects that look plural because they end in 's' but refer to one thing are singular.

  Mathematics **is** an interesting subject.

- Some nouns (like glasses, scissors, pants, and tongs) are plural but take a singular verb when the phrase 'pair of' is placed before it. Here, 'pair' is the subject.

  This pair of scissors **is** sharp.

© NCERT not to be republished

- When subjects are joined by 'or' or 'nor', the verb should match the subject that is closer to it.
  - ✓ Neither the students nor the teacher **wants** to cancel the trip.
  - ✓ Either the manager or the employees **are** responsible for the mistake.

V Choose the correct option from the words given in the brackets.

1. A pair of sunglasses _____ (is/are) essential when travelling to sunny destinations.
2. Either the tour guide or the tourists _____ (has/have) to arrive first at the meeting point.
3. The information on travel expenses _____ (is/are) useful for first-time travellers.
4. Neither the flight crew nor the pilot _____ (was/were) aware of the delay.
5. The news about the heavy rains _____ (makes/make) many people reconsider their vacation plans.
6. A pair of binoculars _____ (is/are) useful for spotting wildlife on a safari.
7. The hill stations in India _____ (remains/remain) a popular travel destination during winter.
8. Keeping accounts _____ (is/are) important for spending money wisely during travel.
9. Either the ticket or the bus passes _____ (need/needs) to be used for travelling in the tourist bus.
10. Neither the passengers nor the taxi driver _____ (was/were) aware of the best route to the hotel.



## Let us listen

You will listen to a girl speak about the story of how Agartala got its name and the importance of *agar*. As you listen, choose the correct option for the questions given below. (Transcript for the teacher on pg. 138)

1. What does the word 'Agartala' mean?

   (i) under the agar tree (ii) beside the agar tree

   (iii) around the agar tree

© NCERT not to be republished



2. Which of these is another name for agarwood trees?

   (i) gharuwood (ii) sandalwood (iii) rosewood

3. What kind of smell does agarwood have?

   (i) woody and citrusy (ii) woody and flowery

   (iii) fresh and citrusy

4. How is agarwood formed?

   (i) when the tree dries (ii) when the tree dies

   (iii) when the tree gets infected

5. What is agarwood used to make?

   (i) incense and edible oil

   (ii) perfumes and wood carvings

   (iii) gum and candies



## Let us speak

Read the questions listed below.
Which of the two given options do you prefer?

1. How do you like to travel?

   Bus ☐ train ☐

2. What kind of a trip do you like?

   Family trip ☐ school trip ☐

3. Where would you like to go?

   Beaches ☐ mountains ☐

4. What do you like to do on a trip?

   Adventure activities ☐ sightseeing ☐

5. When do you like to travel?

   Winter ☐ summer ☐

6. What kind of places would you like to visit?

   Historic monuments ☐ wildlife sanctuaries ☐

7. How long a trip would you like?

   Short ☐ long ☐

© NCERT not to be republished



Reprint 2026-27

Now, work in pairs and tell each other about your preferences with respect to the questions. You may use the phrases given below to speak about your choices.

- I prefer... to... because...
- I would rather... than... because...
- I like... better than... as...
- ... is or are better than... because...
- ... appeal or appeals to me more than... as...
- I am alright with both, but I prefer... because...
- Given a choice, I would go for... over... as...



## Let us write

Imagine that you have to travel to your hometown to attend a family event. Write an application to the Principal of your school, requesting leave of absence. Remember to include the duration of the leave, the reason for the leave and mention how you will complete your school work. Use the format of the application and the verbal cues given below.

_____ (House no. and street)
_____ (City)
_____ (State or Union territory)
_____ (Date)

The Principal
_____ (Name of your school)
_____ (City)
_____ (State or Union territory)

Subject: Request for leave for... days

Dear _____ (Madam or Sir),

I am writing to request _____ days leave with effect from _____ to _____ in order to attend _____.

I would like to assure you that I would _____.

I would be grateful if you could grant me the leave.

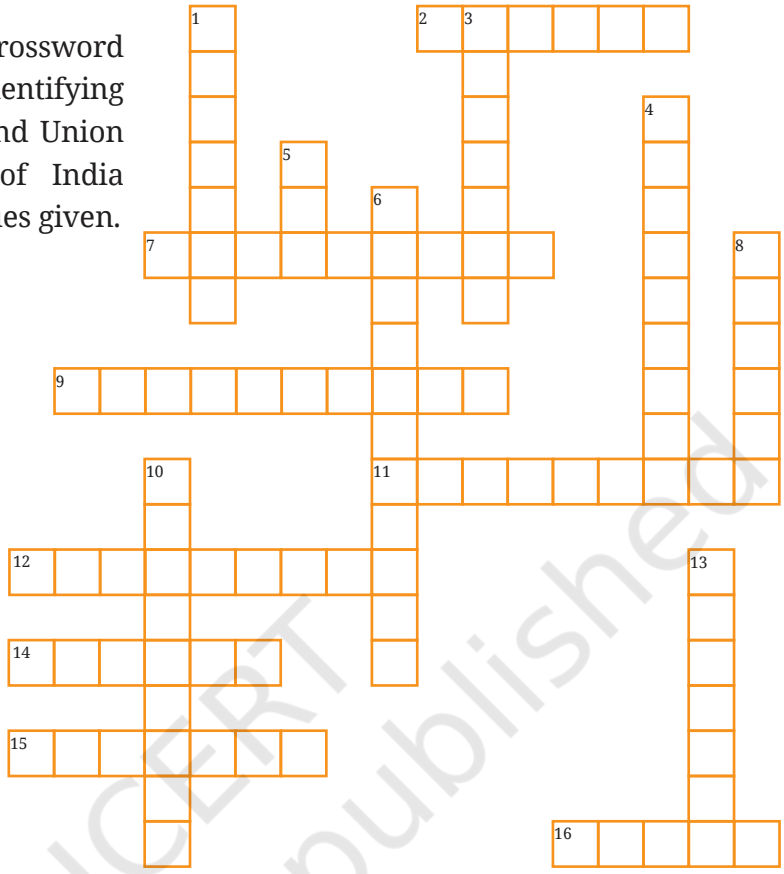
Yours sincerely,
_____ (Name)
_____ (Class, Section, Roll Number)

© NCERT not to be republished



## Let us explore

I Solve the crossword puzzle by identifying the States and Union Territories of India using the clues given.



**Across**

2. Pangong Lake
7. Thar Desert
9. Serenity Beach
11. Hampi
12. Nagarjuna Sagar Dam
14. Thangka Paintings
15. Rann of Kutch
16. Nalanda University

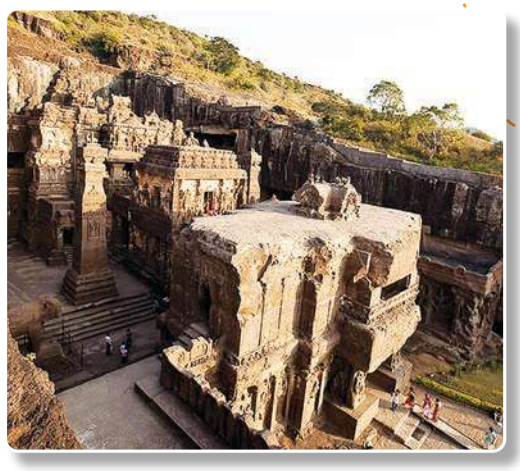
**Down**

1. Dampa Tiger Reserve
3. Cellular Jail
4. Double Decker Living Root Bridge
5. Dudhsagar Falls
6. Gangotri Glacier
8. Chilika Lake
10. Chota Nagpur Plateau
13. Kurukshetra



© NCERT not to be republished

II There are many ancient places to visit in India. For example, Kailasa, the majestic cave temples of Ellora. They are officially listed on the World Heritage list by UNESCO. These caves were carved out of the vertical basalt cliffs of the Sahyadri hills. You may visit this site to know more about these caves- https://indianculture.gov.in/stories/kailasa-majestic-temple-ellora



The Kailasa Temple
Source: UNESCO

1. Rani-ki-Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) is located at Patan, Gujarat and is also on the World Heritage list by UNESCO. Stepwells are a distinctive form of water resource and storage systems on the Indian subcontinent, and were constructed during ancient times. They evolved over time from what was basically a pit in sandy soil towards elaborate multi-storey works of art and architecture.



Rani-ki-Vav
Source: UNESCO

Now, find out about the unique places in your village, region or state and share the details with your classmates and the teacher.



III The Hornbill festival is a unique festival that is held annually in the Kisama village near Kohima, the capital of Nagaland.

In groups of four, find out about this festival—when it is held, who participates in it, what its purpose is, what events are held, etc. Share your findings with your classmates and the teacher.

© NCERT not to be republished

# TRANSCRIPTS

## My Brother's Greatest Invention



### Let us listen *(refer to page 105)*

I You will listen to a conversation between Anita and Toby. Toby is a Martian and is stranded on Earth. He has become Anita's friend. As you listen, choose the **true** statements from 1–5.

**Anita** : Hi, Toby! Do you miss your planet?

**Toby** : Very much, Anita! I miss my people and home.

**Anita** : Oh! I wish I could do something about it! But I am happy to have you as my friend.

**Toby** : Thank you, Anita!

**Anita** : Er... could you tell me something more about yourself?

**Toby** : Why not! What do you want to know about me, Anita?

**Anita** : What do you eat for breakfast?

**Toby** : Well, we Martians don't need to eat anything. We get our energy from the Sun.

**Anita** : Oh! Don't you ever feel like having ice creams and chocolates? I can't think of life without them!

**Toby** : No, Anita! We are made of different stuff.

**Anita** : Okay, tell me one thing. How are you able to see with only one eye? I see only one big eye in the centre of your face.

**Toby** : My friend, we Martians need only one eye to see clearly. In fact, I can see even with my eye closed. I can see beyond mountains and clouds, wood and even metals. I can see that you are carrying a toy in your pocket. It's a blue aeroplane. Isn't it? And yes! That apple you just had for breakfast is going round-and-round in your stomach right now!

**Anita** : *(gasps in disbelief)* Oh my goodness!

II Listen to the conversation again and fill in the blanks with the exact words you hear.

© NCERT not to be republished

# Paper Boats



## Let us listen *(refer to page 114)*

You will listen to a conversation between a girl and her father about the art of paper folding called origami. As you listen, select the **true** statements from 1–7.

**Father** : Sai dear! What are you working on there with all that paper?

**Sai** : Baba, I am trying to make an origami crane, but it's a bit tricky. I keep messing up the folds.

**Father** : Ah, origami! I remember doing that when I was your age. You know, Sai, origami has a really interesting history.

**Sai** : Really? I thought it was just something fun to do with paper.

**Father** : It is fun, but it's also an age-old art form. Origami started in Japan over a thousand years ago. Back then, paper was really expensive, so it was only used for special occasions, like religious ceremonies.

**Sai** : Wow, I didn't know that. So, it wasn't just for doing crafts?

**Father** : It wasn't until the seventeenth century that people began making animals, flowers and other designs just for fun.

**Sai** : So, people have been making paper cranes for hundreds of years?

**Father** : Yes, and the crane is especially important in Japanese culture. It's a symbol of peace and long life. There's even a belief that if you fold a thousand paper cranes, you can make a wish, and it will come true.

**Sai** : A thousand cranes? That's a lot! But it sounds like a really nice tradition.

**Father** : It is. Origami isn't just about the final shape—it's about the process, the patience and the creativity involved. And over the years, it's spread all over the world, with people adding their own styles and techniques.

**Sai** : I had no idea origami had such a long history. It makes folding this crane feel even more special.

**Father** : I'm glad you think so, Sai. Perhaps we can start with something simpler next time. How about we make an

© NCERT not to be republished



origami paper boat next? It's easier, and we can float it in the stream outside.

**SAI** : A boat sounds awesome! Let's do it! But first, I want to finish this crane. Can you help me with the last few steps?

**FATHER** : Of course! Let's finish this crane together. After that, we'll sail our paper boat.

## NORTH, SOUTH, EAST, WEST



### Let us listen *(refer to page 131)*

You will listen to a girl speak about the story of how Agartala got its name and the importance of *agar*. As you listen, choose the correct option for the questions given below.

Hi everyone,

We all know that Agartala is the capital of Tripura. But did you know how Agartala got its name? It's made up of two words: '*agar*', which is a type of tree, and '*tala*', meaning underneath. So, Agartala means 'under the agar tree'. These trees are also called aloeswood, eaglewood, or gharuwood. It is also referred to as 'wood of the gods'.

Agarwood, the wood from these trees, is really special. It smells amazing—like a mix of woody and flowery scents. It is one of the rarest and the most expensive woods in the world. People have used it for thousands of years in medicines, perfumes and rituals. It has been described as early as 1400 BCE in the Vedas. The Egyptians are believed to have used agarwood incense as part of their rituals more than 3,000 years ago.

Here's something even more remarkable—agarwood only forms when the tree is hurt or infected with a bug or virus. Instead of dying, the tree creates this dark, sticky, sweet-smelling substance called agar oil which protects it from further infection.

Agarwood is very important to people in Agartala. It's used to make perfumes, incense, and the hand carvings which Tripura is famous for.

And here's the best part: the tree was once almost extinct, but now, thanks to people taking care of it, you can find it in almost every house in northern Tripura. How great is that!

© NCERT not to be republished