

Unit

4

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Environment

Reading A : What Is Man Without the Beasts?

Reading B : The River (Poem)

Reading C : Can't Climb Trees Any More

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Environment

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Look at the picture and answer the questions that follow.



1. What do you think the picture is about?
2. What can you do to save nature?

What Is Man Without the Beasts?

People choose different ways to protect the environment. Here is a speech delivered by a Red Indian Chief Seattle more than a century ago to save his land.

Chief Seattle became world famous for a moving speech he made in 1854, just before his lands were taken from him and his people. Seattle's words resonate very well in the environmental community, and are in fact considered to be something like 'a gospel of the greens'.

“How can you buy or sell the sky, the warmth of the land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of air and the sparkle of water, how can you buy them from us?”

Every part of the Earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clear and humming insect are holy in the memory and experience of my people. The sap which courses through the trees carries the memory and experience of my people. The sap, which courses through the trees, carries the memories of the red man.





We are a part of the Earth and it is a part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadows, the body heat of the pony, and the man, all belong to the same family. So, when the Great Chief in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land, he asks much of us. The Great White Chief sends word, that he will reserve us a place so that we can live comfortably to ourselves. He will be our father and we will be his children. So we will consider your offer to buy land. But it will not be easy. For, this land is sacred to us.

This shining water that moves in streams and rivers is not just water but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you land, you must remember that it is the sacred blood of our ancestors. If we sell you land, you must remember that it is sacred, and you must teach your children that it is sacred and that each ghostly reflection in the clear water of the lakes tells of events in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father.

The rivers of our brothers quench our thirst. The rivers carry our canoes and feed our children. If we sell you our land, you must remember to teach your children that the rivers are our brothers, and yours, and you must henceforth give the rivers the kindness that you would give my brother.

Precious

The air is precious to the red man, for all things share the same breath - the beast, the tree, the man - they all share the same breath. The white man does not seem to notice the air he breathes. Like a man dying for many days, he is numb to the stench. But if we sell you our land, you must remember that the air is precious to us, that the air shares its spirit with all the life it supports. The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also receives his last sigh. And if we sell you our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a place where even the white man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow's flowers.

So we will consider your offer to buy our land. If we decide to accept, I will make one condition - the white man must treat the beasts of this land as his brothers.

I am a savage and do not understand any other way. I have seen thousands of rotting buffaloes on the prairie, left by the white man who shot them from a passing train. I am a savage and do not understand how the smoking iron horse can be made more important than the buffalo that you kill only to stay alive.

What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of the spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man. All things are connected.

Respect

You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers. So that they will respect the land, tell your children that the Earth is rich with the lives of our kin. Teach your children what we have taught our children, that the Earth is our mother. Whatever befalls the Earth befalls the sons of the Earth. If men spit upon the ground, they spit upon themselves.

This we know - the Earth does not belong to man - man belongs to the Earth. All things are connected like the blood which unites one family. All things are connected.

Whatever befalls the Earth - befalls the sons of the Earth. Man did not weave the web of life - he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.



Even the white man, whose God walks and talks with him as a friend to a friend, cannot be exempt from the common destiny. We may be brothers after all. We shall see. One thing we know, which the white man may one day discover - our God is the same God. You may think now that you own Him as you wish to own our land, but you cannot. He is the God of man, and His compassion is equal for the red man and the white. The Earth is precious to Him, and to harm the Earth is to heap contempt on its Creator. The whites too shall pass, perhaps sooner than all other tribes.

But in your perishing you will shine brightly, fired by the strength of the God who brought you to this land and for some special purpose gave you dominion over this land and over the red man. The destiny is a mystery to us, for we do not understand when the buffaloes are slaughtered, the wild horses tamed, the secret corners of the forest heavy with the scent of many men, and the view of the ripe hills blotted by talking wires. Where is the thicket? Gone. Where is the eagle? Gone. The end of living and the beginning of survival.”

About the speaker

Chief Seattle (1786-1866) was the leader of Dewanish and other Pacific Northwest tribes. The city of Seattle, Washington, bears his name. In 1854, Chief Seattle reluctantly agreed to sell tribal lands to the United States Government and to move to Government established reservations. Though the authenticity of the speech has been challenged, most agree that it contains the substance and perspective of Chief Seattle’s attitude towards Nature and the White race.



Glossary

resonate (v)	:	continue to have a powerful effect or value
course (v)	:	(of liquid) flow
canoe (n)	:	a small light narrow boat, pointed at both ends and moved using a paddle
savage (n)	:	a member of a people regarded as primitive and uncivilized
prairie (n)	:	(in North America) a large open area of grassland.
strand (n)	:	a single piece of thread, wire, hair etc.
compassion (n)	:	a strong feeling of sympathy and sadness for the suffering and bad luck of others and a desire to help them
perish (v)	:	die especially in an accident or by being killed, or to be destroyed

dominion (n)	:	control over a country or people - the British dominion
blotted (v)	:	kept from being seen; concealed
talking wire (n)	:	telephone wire
thicket (n)	:	an area of trees and bushes growing closely together

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Why does Chief Seattle say that the Earth is sacred to his people?
2. The speaker says, 'I am a savage'. Who do you think is a savage, the Red Indian or the White? Why?
3. Why does the Chief say 'The destiny is a mystery to us'?
4. "What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of the spirit." Why?
5. Is man the sole owner of the Earth? Pick out sentences from the speech to justify your answer.
6. Why does the speaker say that if we spit on the ground, we spit on ourselves?
7. "All belong to the same family." The speaker says this to mean
(a) all animals belong to one family (b) all animals and plants belong to the same family (c) everything on the earth belongs to one family.
8. In his speech Chief Seattle asks the audience a number of questions. He also creates vivid pictures in the minds of the audience. What are the other features of the speech? List them.



Vocabulary

Read the following expression.

The warmth of the land

The word **warmth** here suggests love, care, affection, intimacy, etc.

I. Which of the following words can be used to work out new combinations with the word warmth?

friendship love honesty relationship hatred freedom

e.g. the warmth of friendship

- Why do you think certain combinations are not possible?
- Are there any other expressions of this kind in the reading material?
- Work out new combinations and use them in your own sentences.

In the speech you can see a few words suggesting movement. For example, in the sentence ‘The sap which courses through the trees carries the memories of the red man’ the word ‘course’ means ‘flow’ or ‘move rapidly’.

II. Pick out from the speech other words that denote movement. If necessary, refer to a dictionary.



Grammar



The Verb Phrase

Read the following sentences taken from the text.

1. We are a part of the Earth.
2. You must teach your children that the ground beneath their feet is the ashes of our grandfathers.
 - *What is the relationship of the above underlined parts with the first part of the sentences?*
 - *What type of word do you see at the beginning of the underlined part?*
 - *Which is the most important word in it?*

You have learnt earlier that a sentence contains the subject and the predicate. The underlined parts of the sentences given above are predicates. The important word in a predicate is the verb.

As you can see, each of these predicates has at least one verb (sentences 1 and 2). In the second sentence ‘*must*’ is the helping (auxiliary) verb and ‘*teach*’ is the main verb.

I. List all the verb phrases in the following passage. Identify the main verbs.

Look at the river. It has very little water in it. Once it was flowing well. Now it is dying. Can’t you hear the cries of the dying river? The water in it is polluted. Do you get its stink? You cannot drink it. You cannot give this water even to animals. Animals will not go near it. We must make the river live forever. We must make the river our own companion.

II. Analyse the verb phrases you have already identified and list the main verbs and the auxiliary verbs in each of them.

4. If Lalit had helped him do his homework,
5. If I were the class teacher of class-IX,



Writing

Read the last part of the speech of Chief Seattle once again.

Are all the sentences of the same length? Obviously, not. The speech contains long sentences (But in your ... over the red man), short ones (Where is the thicket?) and even fragments (Gone). Why do writers vary the length of the sentences? Again, why do they use different types of structures (sometimes statements, questions, exclamations, fragments, etc.)?

Good writers vary their sentences to make them interesting.

Sentence length can influence the mood of the piece. If you're concerned that your writing is either too choppy or too flowery, review it with an eye on the sentence length.

- Is it varied?
- Does it fit the mood you're trying to convey?

Do you heavily favour short, simple sentences, or does the piece contain too many paragraph-long sentences?

To make your texts more interesting, you should use sentences of varying lengths with a variety of structures.

Read the following text.

Dogs are our great companions, aren't they? Any idea when the friendship between man and dogs began? Maybe, thousands of years back. Who knows! What is important is that they are man's best friends for obvious reasons. Dogs, as such, need to be walked. Walks keep their owners healthy; and the owners can talk to their dogs. They never tell secrets. Dogs don't care what their owners observe while walking or what they watch on TV. As long as dogs are taken care of, they are happy.

What are the features of this write-up? In this the variety in sentences has been obtained in a number of ways:

- Using different sentence types (statements, questions, exclamations, etc.)
- Using elements such as tags, connectives (and, as such, etc.)

Read the following write-up.

You must have heard about the Hussain Sagar Lake. It is in Hyderabad. It is one of the largest man-made lakes. Hyderabad and Secunderabad are the twin cities of the State. The lake connects these cities. It was originally constructed to supply drinking water. Now it is not used as a drinking water source. People say, “This is sad. There is plenty of water. Nobody can drink it.” The lake faces a few threats. The main threat is encroachment by both private and public agencies. The lake also faces the problem of pollution. One of the locals said: ‘Oh, sometimes it stinks horribly.’ This is due to the continuous discharge of domestic wastes and industrial chemicals. Hence it is our duty to save the Hussain Sagar Lake.

I Rewrite the sentences according to the directions given in the brackets.

1. The lake connects these cities. (Change into a question).
2. It is in Hyderabad. It is one of the largest man-made lakes. (Combine the two sentences using ‘and’.)
3. Hyderabad and Secunderabad are the twin cities of the State. The lake connects these cities. (Begin the sentence with ‘The lake ...’ and connect the two sentences.)
4. It was originally constructed to supply drinking water. Now it is not used as a drinking water source. (Connect using ‘though’)
5. “This is sad, ...?” (Complete the sentence with a question tag.)
6. “Oh, sometimes it stinks horribly.” (Rewrite the sentence beginning with ‘How’)

Read the speech made by Chief Seattle once again and reflect on the following features.

- The beginning and ending of the speech
- The arguments and the building up of arguments in a sequential manner
- The emotive and argumentative language used
- The variety of sentences used
- Mental images created

II Prepare a speech that you would like to make on ‘The World Environment Day’. You can make use of the following hints.

- The threats to animal and plant life
- The pollution of air, water and earth and the consequences
- The need to preserve our environment for ourselves and for the future generations



Study Skills

Study the following table, which shows the ranking of districts in Andhra Pradesh in terms of industrial pollution intensity.

Pollution Rank	District	Region	Pollution Intensity per 1000 sq. km.	With Kadapa as norm
1	Krishna	Coastal Andhra	57.63	8.8
2	East godavari	Coastal Andhra	56.48	8.6
3	Srikakulam	Coastal Andhra	50.66	7.7
4	Guntur	Coastal Andhra	46.87	7.2
5	Visakhapatnam	Coastal Andhra	40.29	6.2
6	West Godavari	Coastal Andhra	35.53	5.4
7	Vizianagaram	Coastal Andhra	24.92	3.8
8	Chittoor	Rayalaseema	22.89	3.5
9	Nellore	Coastal Andhra	17.86	2.7
10	Kurnool	Rayalaseema	14.43	2.2
11	Prakasam	Coastal Andhra	10.09	1.5
12	Anantapur	Rayalaseema	9.62	1.5
13	Kadapa	Rayalaseema	8.65	1.3

(Source: The Indian Economic Review, Dated 9th Nov. 2012)

I. Answer the following questions.

1. Which district tops the list in pollution intensity?
2. Which region of Andhra Pradesh has the least pollution intensity?
3. What percentage of land is affected by industrial pollution in Guntur?

4. What percentage of land is not affected by industrial pollution in Krishna district?
- *5. What are the comparisons that you can make related to the two regions in terms of pollution intensity?

II. Write an analytical report on the pollution intensity in Andhra Pradesh.



Listening

Listen to the 'Earth Song' by Michael Jackson and answer the following questions.

1. How does Michael Jackson respond to man's attack on Nature?
2. What is the mood of the song? Indicate by putting a tick (✓).
a. sadness b. anger c. anguish d. joy



Oral Activity

Discuss the following in groups.

1. Why do writers often write about these things (things like the earth)?
2. In what ways does nature influence man?
3. Can it shape one's personality?



Literary Terms

Literary elements: The essential techniques used in literature (e.g., characterization, setting, plot, theme).

Literary devices: Tools used by the author to enliven and provide voice to the writing (e.g., dialogue, alliteration).

Metaphor: The comparison of two unlike things in which no words of comparison (*like* or *as*) are used (e.g., *That new kid in the class is really a squirrel.*)

Narrative: A story, actual or fictional, expressed orally or in writing.

Personification: An object or abstract idea given human qualities or human form (e.g., *Flowers danced about the lawn.*)

Satire: A literary tone used to ridicule or make fun of human vice or weakness.

Simile: A comparison of two unlike things in which a word of comparison (*like* or *as*) is used (e.g., *She eats like a bird.*)

Metaphor vs. Simile : A metaphor is a direct relationship where one thing is another (e.g. "Juliet is the sun"). A simile, on the other hand, is indirect and usually only likened to be similar to something else. Similes usually use "like" or "as" (e.g. "Your eyes are like the ocean").