

18 Caves of Ramgarh



There is a place near Ambikapur called Ramgarh. There are many old sites worth seeing there. The people come from far off places to see them.

Amita lives in Ambikapur, but she never visited these places. Amita thought what was in it to see.

Amita enjoys playing. Amita has a wooden horse. With this she plays many types of games.

One day, her father told her that the horse she has, was very old. When he was a child, he himself used to play with it.

Amita was surprised that even her father was young some day. Then she asked a lot of questions to her father. Like :

When you were young, what did you wear?

Where did you study?

How was the school?

Who were the friends?



Now, think what more questions Amita could have asked.

.....

To answer these questions, her father showed some of his childhood things to Amita. He told some very interesting things about Amita's grandfather and great grandfather.

Amita's father also told her that their house was very old while their neighbour's house was made after Amita's birth-just a few years ago. There are many differences between these two houses. For example, the old house was a mud house while the new house is a brick house. There are differences between their doors and windows also.

What are the differences between new and old houses in your surroundings . Find out about them and fill in the table.

Old House	New House

Amita started enjoying listening about old things and people. Now she started thinking about their dresses and their way of living, and how they used to travel from one place to the other.

Discuss with the elderly people and find out what they used to wear when they were young.

.....

What were the eating habits?

.....

What were the crops?

.....

How did they travel?

.....

Was there any school?

.....

How was the road?

.....

One day Amita expressed her desire to visit the places worth seeing at Ramgarh.

Fathers took Amita to the hills of Ramgarh and they had a close look of the caves.



First of all, they saw a tunnel. In it, there was a small tank.

Amita's father told her that this tunnel is called Hathipol and the 'Kund' is called Sitakund. This tunnel is as big as an elephant. Perhaps, that is why it is called Hathipol.



Hathipol

They went ahead. There was a theatre nearby. This is called Sitabengara. In ancient times, people used to organize plays and dance there. This was made by cutting a stone.



Sitabengara

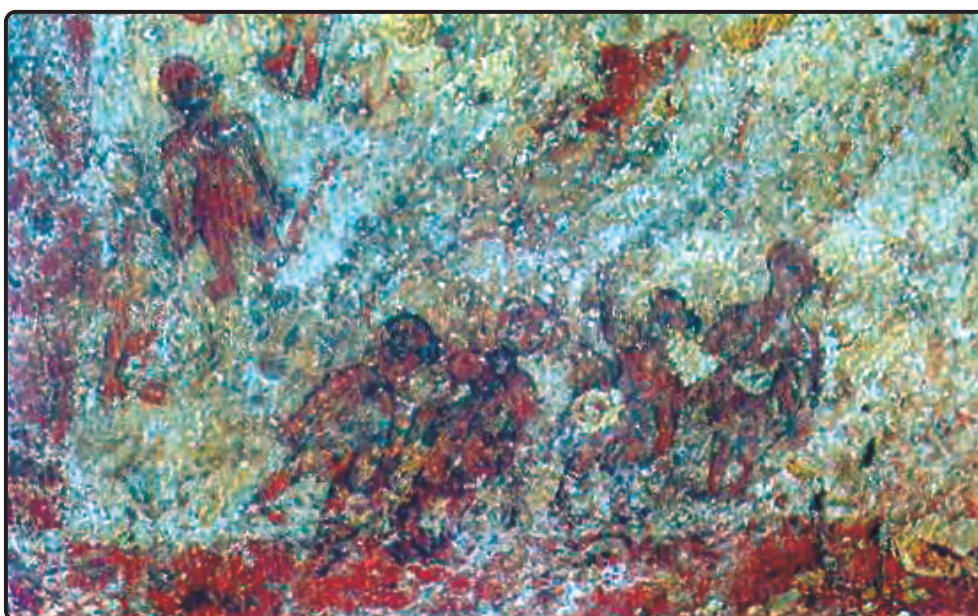
Then they saw one more cave having pictures of older times. Father told this is Jogimara cave.

In ancient times, the people used to make pictures in the caves. There are some pictures of these times here also. When they looked carefully, they could see them.

Amita asked how old those places were. Father told that they were quite old. May be about, two thousand five hundred years old.

Amita exclaimed with surprise. So old!

Having known the history of Ramgarh, Amita was quite happy.



Pictures on the rocks of Jogimara

Some pictures of Jogimara are given.

Look at these pictures carefully.

What can you see in them?

.....

Draw these pictures in your notebook.

Looking at these pictures, what do you know about the older times?

.....

Something is inscribed on a big stone here. This is a style of writing. This style is known as Brahmi Script. This script was used to pass on information.



Brahmi Script

In your school you see information on notice boards. Write some of them here.

.....

.....

Write down some information for your friends.

.....

.....

Do you get any information from coins and currency notes/ Collect some new and old coins & currency notes. Write what all information you can get from them. Compare two coins of the same amount and find out the changes.

What did we learn

Oral

1. What is the name of your village/City/Area?



2. How did your village get its name? Find it asking your elders.

Written

1. Go and see an old building of your area.
 - a. Write its name.
 - b. How did the building get its name?
 - c. What type of materials have been used in it?
 - d. Find out how old it is.
 - e. What do people say about it?
2. What caves are there on the hills of Ramgarh?
3. For what purposes was Brahmi script used?
4. Match the column :-

1. Brahmi script	-	Ambikapur
2. Theatre	-	Jogimara cave
3. Hatipol tunnel	-	Sitabengara
4. Ramgarh	-	Sitakund.

Find out

1. Draw a picture of Jogimara cave on a card sheet. And stick it on the wall of your class.
2. Visit the historical places which are nearby. Know about them from newspapers and magazines.
3. Find out and write what are our responsibilities for the maintenance of historical buildings.