

UNIT-6

The Tarnetar Fair

ACTIVITY - 1

Recall an experience that you had at a cultural event.

- Was it a drama in an auditorium; a musical night; a folk dance event; something else.
- What impressed you the most or what did you enjoy the most at that event?
- Share your experience with your partner.....A few students could come in front of the class and narrate their experiences. Avoid a repetition.

ACTIVITY - 2

Read it silently:

India has a rich cultural heritage. Every state has its uniqueness in practically all aspects of life..... food, clothes, arts and crafts, entertainment, philosophy, mannerisms and the very way of living.

Gujarat, too, is proud of its culture. It has a vast variety of dances with its accompanying music and colourful costumes. The natives of each village or town have special occasions when they burst into their dancing revelry.

If you think you are prepared to walk out of your mundane experience and freefall into a whirlwind of colours, romance and music, then head for the Tarnetar Fair.

For further information visit www.gujarattourism.com.



ACTIVITY - 3

Listen to the story as your teacher reads it. Then you read it silently.

The Tarnetar Fair



(1)

Based on the legend of Draupadi's swayamvara, this fair is a celebration of ethnic Gujarat's folk-dance music, costumes and the arts, centred around young tribal men and women seeking marriage partners. But even for those not interested in finding a spouse, the romance and excitement in the air is captivating, and every year the fair seems only to grow in popularity, attracting visitors and tourists from Gujarat, elsewhere in India, and even abroad.

(2)

Here the many coloured costumes, glittering ornaments and free-spirited movements of folk dances as, all combine to create a memorable scene. As the dancers surge in waves of circular movement, the incessant throbbing of the drums keeps them moving in unison, and the drum beats continue throughout the day even as the dancers change from one group to the next.

Many kinds of folk dances are performed. By far the most popular is the raas, in which dancers hold sticks to clack against those of other dancers. As many as one to two hundred women perform rasadas in a single circle, to the beats of four drums at a time and tunes of jodia pavas (double flutes). You may also see people break out into a spontaneous hudo.

(3)

Rabari women of nearby Zalawad perform the famous circular folk dance rahado. Their marital status is indicated by their costumes; a black zimi, (skirt) means she is married. But if a woman is wearing a red zimi, it means she has not yet tied the knot, probably seeking a husband. The potential husbands seeking brides are elegantly dressed in colourful dhotis, artistically designed waistcoats and head-cloth twisted at an angle, moving about the fairground at Tarnetar with striking umbrellas, advertising the bachelorhood they are keen to relinquish.





(4)

Numerous sadhus and bhajan mandlis (religious music groups) are engrossed in singing continuously, accompanied by folk instruments.

(5)

The Tarnetar Mela covers a large part of the Tarnetar village with a huge number of stalls put up to sell beautiful local handicrafts unavailable elsewhere, along with ethnic jewellery statues of deities and traditional attire with tiny mirrors embroidered into the clothing. There are also merry-go-round rides, photographers' stalls, magic shows and tattoo artists who attract a large variety of visitors.



(6)

The fair is held for three days every year during the Hindu calendar dates of Bhadarva Sud-4th, 5th, and 6th (during the Gregorian calendar months Aug.-Sept.)

(7)

The Tarnetar fair is held 8 km from the town of Thangadh, in Surendranagar district. This is the nearest railway station, on the Ahmedabad-Hapa broad gauge line. The nearest town with road transportation to other places is Chotila, 25km from Thangadh, which is connected by ST buses from Rajkot (75km), Jamnagar (162km), Ahmedabad (196km) or Porbandar (252km). From Bhavnagar, Chotila can be reached either via Rajkot, a trip of 264km, or via Botad, a shorter journey of 190km. Chotila, Thangadh and Tarnetar are well connected by ST buses and other modes of transportation. The nearest airport is Rajkot, 75km away.

(8)

The Kolis of Saurashtra initiated the custom of embroidering umbrellas, which are exquisitely elaborate in terms of embellishments. The embroidery of each is unique and rises from the edges all the way to the top, with beadwork and patchwork in the design as well. Small colourful handkerchiefs are attached all around the edge, to attract further attention. These men spend over a year embroidering their umbrellas. Their intention is to entice the girls with their art, clothes and headgear and impress them, so that they can propose them for marriage. It is not surprising that, before the fair is over, they usually meet the lady of their choice.

ACTIVITY - 4

Match A with B.

A	B
mundane	connected with a nation/race/people that shares a cultural tradition
whirlwind	one of its kind
ethnic	dull/ordinary
unison	begin/set in motion
surge	enchanted
spouse	extremely beautiful/carefully made
spontaneous	constant
captivating	all do something at the same time
exquisitely	the sound when hard objects hit each other
unique	decorations/embroidery
embellishments	happening very fast
initiate	not planned
clack	quickly and with force in a particular direction
incessant	a husband or wife
potential	persuade
entice	capability



ACTIVITY - 5

A) Tick mark the option that is most appropriate. (References are given)

1. Rashmi, a Rabari girl, participates in the Rahado. She is dressed in a dazzling red zimi. Which statement is true ? (Ref. Para 2)
 - a) A potential husband may seek her as a bride.
 - b) She is a married girl, taking part in the festivities.
 - c) It is a tradition and therefore she must join in the dance.
2. A group of tourists, from Bhavnagar wishes to attend the Tarnetar Fair. The cheapest and shortest route, you could advise them to take is...(Ref. Para 7)
 - a) to go to Chotila via Rajkot and then take the ST bus to Thangadh.
 - b) to go to Chotila from Ahmedabad and then take the ST bus to Thangadh.
 - c) to go via Botad to Chotila and then take the ST bus to Thangadh.
3. If you are planning to attend the Tarnetar Fair , you will do the bookings for the month of(Ref Para 6)
 - a) June-July
 - b) Aug-Sept
 - c) Oct-Nov
4. A young Koli plans to impress the girls at the fair. Therefore he spends over a year preparing himself by...(Ref. Para 8)
 - a) making small colourful handkerchiefs
 - b) embroidering exquisite designs on his umbrella
 - c) practising his art and getting ready his clothes and headgear.

B) Answer briefly in about 60-70 words

1. How would you account for the growing popularity of the Tarnetar Fair ?
2. The Tarnetar Fair is a whirlwind of colour, romance, music and dance. Do you agree? Justify your answer.
3. In many ways the Tarnetar Fair is a typical village fair. How far is this statement true?
4. Bring out the significance of the embroidered umbrella.
5. Can the Tarnetar Fair be called a 'Swayamvar' ? Why ?

ACTIVITY - 6

Given below are some jumbled words. Unravel them (spell them correctly) and fill in the blanks with the suitable word. All the words are in the text.

aeptnliot; ergusd; tniceh; qinueu; tneeic;
ansnoptseou

Sentences:

1. Many foreigners who visit Gujarat, shop for _____ clothes and jewellery.
2. The gates opened and the crowd _____ in waves forward.
3. The low prices at the exhibition are expected to _____ customers.
4. Let's train these students well, for they are our _____ leaders.
5. The audience was so taken up by the comedians that they burst out into _____ applause.
6. Each one's fingerprints are _____.



ACTIVITY - 7

A Brain Teaser..... Find the answers from the clues given. Use the words in sentences of your own. (All the words are in the text)

1. By its initial sound you are reminded of the first day of the week and the routine ahead.
2. Bang two hard objects and there you have it !
3. For better or for worse. They are with each other always.
4. In the monsoon, it may describe the rain, in the factory the noise, at a wedding reception the music.
5. It is never separate or one after the other. Always together !
6. Begin with a headgear, go to a drink/beverage, and then keep waiting.

ACTIVITY - 8

Use the correct form of the word:

1. Every year the fair seems to grow in _____
(popularity/popular/popularised)
Every year the fair seems to become more _____
(popularity/popular/popularised)
2. Here the many _____ costumes, create a memorable scene.
(colours/coloured/ colourful)
Here the costumes of different _____ , create a memorable scene. (colours/coloured/ colourful)
3. It is a _____ to wear that attire.
(traditional/tradition/ traditionally)
They wear their _____ attire.
(traditional/tradition/ traditionally)

4. The girl is _____ seeking a husband.
(probability/ probably/ probable)

It is a _____ that the girl is seeking a husband.
(probability/ probably/ probable)

5. There are tattoo artists who _____ a large variety of visitors. (attractive/ attraction/ attract).

There are tattoo artists who become an _____ for a large variety of visitors. (attractive/ attraction/ attract).

6. Their _____ is to entice the girls.
(intention/ intentionally/intend)

They _____ to entice the girls.
(intention/ intentionally/intend)

7. They wear their clothes and headgear to _____ the girls.
(impressive/ impression/ impress)

They wear their clothes and headgear to make an _____ on the girls. (impression/ impress/ impressive)

ACTIVITY - 9

- A) When you read the word “class”, different words associated with it come to your mind and create mental pictures. e.g. students, the screeching sound of chalk, teachers etc. Refer to the lesson and write all the words connected with the following:

DANCERS

MUSIC



DANCES

FAIR

B) If you consult the dictionary, you will learn how some letters are silent or not pronounced in certain words.

Examples.

Drum (M is pronounced) but Dumb (B is silent)

Plum (M is pronounced) but Plumb (B is silent) and
Plumber (B is silent)

Clique is (click) but Queue is (Q)

Depth (the 'pth' is pronounced) but debt (B is silent)

Now read the following words and underline the letters which are not pronounced.

honesty, locked, listen, wrong, walked, know, thick,
badge, writer, knitted

C) Let us read and practise the 'sh' sound.

show; shock; shall; shake; sharp; shorter; shopper
brush; sugar; sure; fish; machine; corruption; pressure

Now listen and observe how these words are pronounced

Measure; occasion; conclusion; casual; usually

ACTIVITY - 10

You are the secretary of a club. You are planning a tour/holiday for the members and their friends. Divide the class into three groups and assign one of the following tasks to each group.

- Write a letter to a resort to book your stay:(it has to be a formal letter-----addressed to the manager of the resort-----include details like the dates and time of arrival and departure-----the type of rooms -----the rates settled for-----the number of people----the mode of payment)
- An ITINERARY is a plan of a journey, including the route and the places you will visit.Plan an itinerary : (time of arrival-----a rough timetable -----places to be visited-----what to expect there -----the attractions of the place)
- Put up a notice: (this is to attract more members-----mention all the details----place/dates/payment/contact person)