

1.3 the call of the soil

Ice breakers

- Discuss the following with your partner and complete the following sentences. One is done for you.

(1) Before eating apples brought from the market, I wash and peel them to get rid of dirt and pesticides.

(2) In a farmers' market, we find locally-grown fresh fruits and vegetables, plants, seeds, meat, poultry, etc. and other farm related holthings.

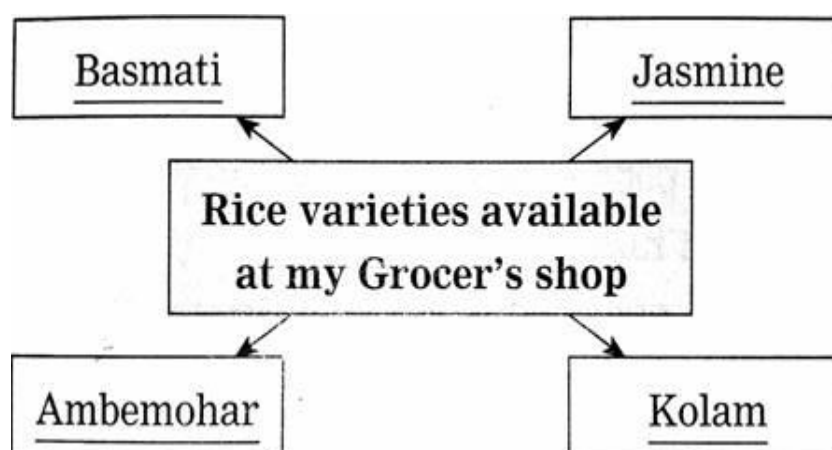
(3) Food adulteration means the addition of an inferior substance to a food item in order to increase the quantity or sale value of the food item.

(4) Organic food is grown by using natural fertilizers, natural pesticides and traditional seeds.

(5) Organic fertilizer means fertilizers of organic origin such as compost manure, green manure and bone meal.

- Complete the following web diagram.

Ans.



- (i) Find out from your parents the names of vegetables and fruits they had eaten in their childhood, and mention how the vegetables and fruits are different from the ones today:

Ans. Do it your own

(ii) You might have learnt about organic farming. Make groups and discuss the difference between conventional farming and organic farming and write it down.
Ans.

Sr. No.	Conventional Farming	Organic farming
1	Chemical fertilizers	Natural/Organic fertilizers
2	Chemical pesticides	Natural/Organic pesticides
3	Hybrids, GM seeds used	Traditional seeds used

BRAINSTORMING

(A1) (i) Read the extract and state whether the following statements are true or false. Correct the false statements.

(a) Growing in abundance is more important than the quality of the crop.

Ans. False

Explanation: According to author, the quality of the crop is more important than quantity.

(b) The author wanted to grow the desi variety of rice.

Ans. True

(c) The author did not succeed in finding Kasbai.

Ans. False

Explanation: The author succeeded in finding kasbai but with great difficulty.

(d) The aroma of the 'desi' rice would spread around the village.

Ans. True

(e) Newer hybrid crops have a great appetite for chemicals.

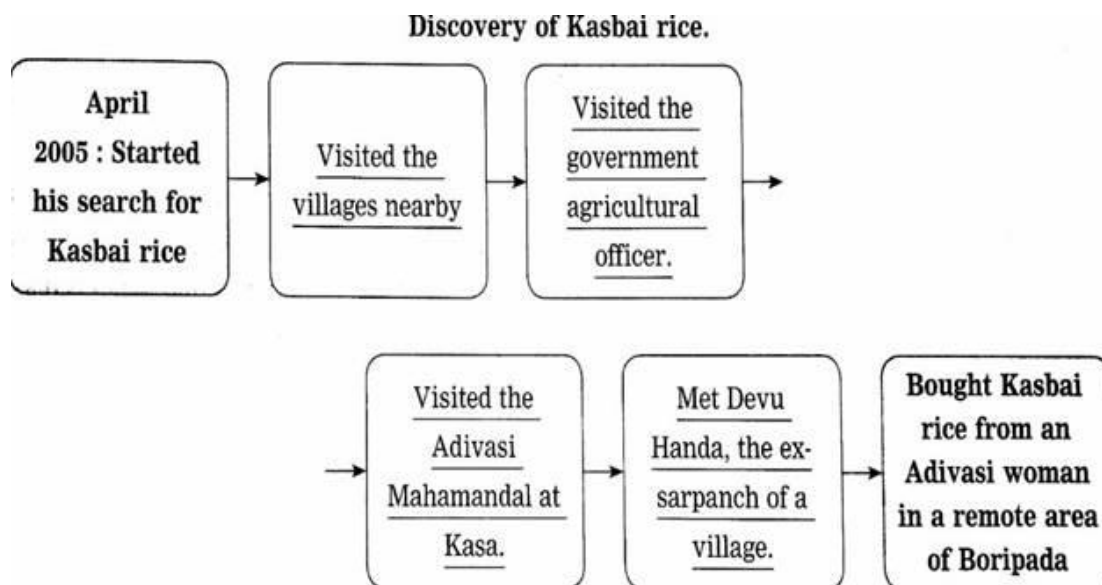
Ans. True

(f) The author is an example of 'reverse migration'.

Ans. True

(ii) Complete the flow chart. Consider this to be an example of Note-Making.

Ans.



(iii) Read the text and fill in the blanks. One is done for you.

(a) The author wanted to grow organic moong.

Ans. Organic moong

(b) Moru Dada wanted to spray..... on the moong crop.

Ans. Some pesticide

(c) Baban's father and some elders mentioned the name of..... .

Ans. Kasbai

(d) "Hybrids need more.... ", said Devu Handa.

Ans. Water, fertilizer and pesticides

(e) The author bought..... of rice from an Adivasi woman who lived in remote hills.

Ans. Ten

(A2) (i) List the reactions of the agricultural officer to the author's inquiry about Kasbai rice seeds. One is done for you.

Ans. The government officer:

(1) told the author that the villagers were hand deceiving him.

(2) said that there was no rice by the name of Kasbai./ He had not heard of Kasbai.

(3) rattled off the names of a number of hybrids.

(4) offered to give the author some of the hybrids free of cost for trial.

(ii) Go through the text once again and note down Devu Handa's fond memories of Kasbai in your exercise book. One is done for you.

Devu Handa has fond memories of Kasbai. They are as follows.

Ans. a. It needs less rain.

b. It has an alluring aroma.

c. It is a long duration of rice

(A3) (i) The writer says he grew 'an awful lot of moong'. Explain the word awful' in this sentence.

Ans. The word 'awful' in this context means 'a large amount'

(ii) The word scent is different from its synonyms 'aroma', 'fragrance' or 'perfume. Explain how the word 'scent' in the subtitle 'Scent of the Rice', has a deeper meaning than 'perfume' or 'fragrance'. Tick phrases having a similar meaning from the following:

(1) in pursuit of

(2) to smell a rat

(3) to be keen

(4) on the trail of

(5) to feel under the weather

Ans.

Phrase	Meaning	Sentence
(1) in pursuit of	an effort to attain or secure something	One should not lose one's values in pursuit of wealth.
(2) to smell a rat	to begin to suspect that something is wrong	The teacher smelt a rat when the class began to laugh.

(3) to be keen	to be enthusiastic or eager	The scientist was keen to see the results of his research.
(4) on the trail of	trying to find someone or something	The sniffer dogs were on the trail of the escaped convict.
(5) to feel under the weather	to be or to feel ill	Tina began to feel under the weather the moment the flight took off.

(A4) Read the following sentence:

(i) She muttered in reply and we looked at Jeevan for a quick interpretation.

(ii) These are two complete sentences underlying the above sentence.

(a) She muttered in reply.

(b) We looked at Jeevan for quick interpretation.

These two sentences are put together by using the co-ordinating conjunction and".

Such sentences which are joined by co-ordinating conjunctions (and/ but/ either...or; neither...nor) are called compound sentences.

Sentence 'a' and 'b' are Simple Sentences.

Each of them has only one subject and one predicate.

Sentence 'a' and 'b' can be written in another way.

"As she muttered in reply, we looked at Jeevan for a quick interpretation.

This sentence begins with a subordinating conjunction 'As'.

This is a complex sentence.

Two simple sentences joined by subordinate conjunctions are called complex sentences. The subordinate conjunction need not always be in the beginning of the sentence.

Make pairs and groups and find out some more simple, complex and compound sentences from the text.

Ans. Simple - It was April 2004.

Compound - It was just before sunrise and the sky was turning a bright orange.

Complex - I stood watching the sunrise above the towering trees across the fence and slowly made my way back to the house, a white structure in the middle of this greenery.

Prepare a list of subordinating conjunctions.

Ans. Subordinating conjunctions join the main clause with the subordinate (dependent) clause.

Some examples: after, before, when, where, why, how, therefore, since, till, else, unless, until, as, if, though, although, that, because, for, etc.

(A5) (i) Planting and growing more crops a year seems to be progress by normal standards; but the chapter makes a case against it. Give reasons.

Ans. The author says that by growing hybrids the farmer may get better yields initially, but in the long run the yields decrease. Besides, hybrids need more water, chemicals and fertilizers, and the amounts needed increase each year. Ultimately, this will lead to reduction in the fertility of the soil and the depletion of water resources. The effect of the chemicals on humans, too, may be disastrous. Hence, planting and harvesting more crops may look attractive initially, but what we actually need are the traditional methods which hold onto the rich biodiversity of our land.

(ii) Describe in about 150 words your experience similar to the writer's when you pursued something and reached your goal.

Ans. Some years back I was having a problem with my eyes. I needed glasses, and the number was increasing day by day. Suddenly I read in a magazine about an ophthalmologist who, through regular eye exercises, could bring down the number. Only the doctor's surname was given in the article. I looked up the net but could not find that particular doctor. I telephoned the magazine, and made inquiries about the doctor. They did not know. I asked them about the reporter who had interviewed the doctor. Could I contact him? Initially they refused, but I did not give up. I phoned them repeatedly. Finally, hearing the plea in my voice, they gave me his contact number. I got the doctor's name and address from the reporter, and made my way there the very next day. Fortunately for me, the doctor, was the right one. I had reached my goal. The number of my glasses reduced dramatically after just a month of eye exercises!

(iii) The writer goes in search of an invaluable indigenous variety of seeds. List three reasons for the importance of keeping records of our indigenous agricultural practices.

Ans. Reasons for the importance of keeping records of our indigenous cultural practices :

(1) Communities have from ages lived in harmony with the environment and have utilised resources without harming nature's capacity to regenerate them.

(2) Indigenous knowledge can be used for conservation and development activities to ensure the efficient and productive use of natural resources. This will help promote biodiversity and conservation.

(3) Indigenous people have developed enormous volumes of knowledge about

the soil, water, climate, forest, wildlife, minerals etc., in the locality over the centuries, by directly interacting with the environment. This ready-made knowledge could be used to educate the younger generations.

(iv) Write a blog in about 100 to 150 words on organic farming.

Ans. Go Organic - Save our Planet!!

Yes, I know, organic farming presents many challenges. It may not be as profitable as conventional farming. It may be more expensive, more laborious and the yield may be less. But at least we will be alive and healthy to enjoy the produce! We will have water to drink! We will not have to deal with crops that require more and more water and pesticides each year and a land which gobbles up fertilizers! We will not have newer incurable diseases. The quality of our life will improve. Yes, and those of my friends who eat meat and poultry products- they will not have to worry about growth hormones and antibiotics injected in livestock, which will affect them through the meat they consume. Heard of soil degradation and erosion? Well that too may be minimized by organic farming. And finally-don't we have a responsibility to our future generations to hand over a healthy and thriving planet-instead of an earth riddled with problems?

(v) Write a short paragraph in about 120 words, to be used as Counter-View for the following topic. 'Buy a bigger cloth for your coat'.

View Section:

(a) We cannot survive by the dictum 'Cut your coat according to your cloth' in today's world.

(b) In the modern world we should Think Big'.

(c) Think of increasing your income instead of reducing your needs.

(d) We cannot deny ourselves, what the new world offers us.

Ans.

Cut your coat according to your cloth

Greed, or avarice, is an insatiable longing for material gain. It could be a desire for food, money, status, or power. It is a never-ending desire to acquire or possess more than one needs. Hence, thinking of increasing one's income' is always going to be an on-going process, never ending, and never satisfying. What is the point of living a life where one is never content, never happy?

The new world offers us a plethora of things. However, it is our choice what we accept and what we reject. There are enough examples around us of people 'buying a bigger cloth' and ending up in the debtor's prison. No, we should 'think big' in terms of human values and not about the latest model of the iphone. The

bottom line is: Be content with what you have, whatever the modern world may have to offer.

(vi) 'Organic farming is the need of the time'. Write your views in favour and against the statement.

Ans.

Views	Counterviews
Protects the environment	Expensive and laborious
Minimizes soil degradation and erosion	Lesser yield; farmers do not make much profit
Maintains long-term fertility of the soil	Longer duration for harvest; fewer crops can be grown in the same time space
Recycles resources efficiently	Food will be in short supply for the ever-increasing population

(vii)Appeal to your classmates to say 'No to Junk Food'. Write an appeal to prefer organic food over junk food.

Ans.

Say 'NO' to Junk Food

You Are What You Eat!

Take care of your Insides

For that will show Outside!!

Junk Food—If you eat this

You are a fool



And not cool.

Organic food – If you eat this

You are cool



And not a fool.

Eat to Live and not Live to Eat!

So : Say 'NO' to Junk Food

(A6) Projects:

(1) Plant the seed of a flower or fruit of your choice in a pot or in your garden. Note its growth every day and maintain a diary recording its progress.

(ii) Find out more career opportunities in the field of agriculture, organic farming, sales, storage, distribution and marketing research.

Ans. *Student Do it your own*