

Lesson-12

Cottage Industries of Assam



Picture-1



Picture-2



Picture-3



Picture-4



Picture-5



Picture-6

Take a close look at the picture on the previous page. What do you see? What are the people doing in the picture? What materials/items do we get from the work they do? Complete the list with the help of the teacher-

Picture no	What do we call the person who does the work	What items are they making?	Name the raw material required to do the work?	What tools are being used?
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				
6.				

In the picture on the previous page we can see, people like carpenter, bell-metal worker, potter, blacksmith, weaver, etc. are producing different materials required in our daily lives. For producing the materials they use some locally available materials such as wood, cane, paat-muga (Assam Silk and Muga), bell metal and brass. Machinery is rarely used in the manufacture of such materials. They are also produced by a small number of people, mainly through manual labour. In such a system, less money or capital is required. By doing so, some of the materials required in the daily life of

human beings are prepared. Thus an enterprise that needs less capital, less labour, less machinery to produce the required materials are called cottage industry. Through this type of cottage industry, various small scale industries have sprung up in Assam notable among them are terracotta of Asharikandi, brass industry of Hajo, bell metal industry of Sarthebari, mask making craft of Majuli, Paat-Muga (Assam silk) of Sualkuchi etc.

Assam is famous for bamboo and cane, paat muga, bell, brass and pottery craft.

Raw materials collected from our environment are used to make various items or materials. These objects or materials are used for various purposes.



What do you see in the picture above? Say the names.

➤ Write down the names of some of the items/aids made of bamboo/cane and describe their functions.

The raw materials required for making bell-metal and brass are melted in the kiln and cooled to the extent that it can be touched by hand. Hammer is used to beat the material to make different shapes of utensils by heating with fire from time to time. Brass bell metal utensils include saucers, bowls, vessels, glass, pot, 'sharai', 'bota', ladle, spoons and flower vases. These materials are made by some people on a commercial basis. Similarly, bell metal and brass industries have sprung up in some parts of Assam. These industries are traditionally run by some people as a tradition.



bell-metal

Sarthebari in Assam is famous for its bell metal industries and Hajo is famous for its brass industry.



weavers weave cloth in looms.



loom tools seen in the picture

Look at the picture above. Write the names of the loom tools seen in the picture

Most of the people in our village have weaving looms at home. The loom consists of many small and large tools or objects made with wood, bamboo and cane. The weavers of Assam weave different types of cloth in looms.

Comfortable cotton cloth worn in summer days are made of cotton yarn. Eri sheets used in the days of winter are made of Endi yarn. The looms usually weave cotton endi and muga cloth. Assam silk muga and endi cloth have gained popularity at home and abroad.

For business purpose large amount of clothes needs to be woven. This requires greater number of looms. Weaving by placing large number of looms together is called **weaving centre**. In this way many women in Assam have become financially self-sufficient by setting up weaving centres and have helped dozens more to become self-sufficient.

Assam is famous for paat-muga (Assam silk) certain sections of the people of Assam were engaged in producing, weaving and carrying on the trade of silk, endi and cotton clothes at home from early times. Endi, muga and silk yarn is produced from silk worm and this yarn is used for weaving clothes by weavers in their loom.



In many parts of present day Assam, these paat-muga, endi clothes are being made on a commercial basis, either individually or through self-help groups. In this way a 'weaving centre' has been formed. Assam's Suwalkuchi, Dhakuakhana and other places are famous for their paat (silk) muga clothes. In Tezpur, Kamrup, Baksa, Morigaon, Kokrajhar and other places, cotton and endi weaving industries have sprung up.

The weaving centres are centred around Suwalkuchi. So this place is known as Bastra Nagari.

The potter's wheel is used to make various clay objects on a commercial basis with the help of a small number of people. To give shape and form to these items, sticky soil is needed. Some of the items used in our daily life such as- saru, lota, pot, saucer, dishes, glass, bowl etc. are made of clay. In addition to this various decorative objectives like vases, statues, figurines etc. are also made of clay. These are **pottery**.

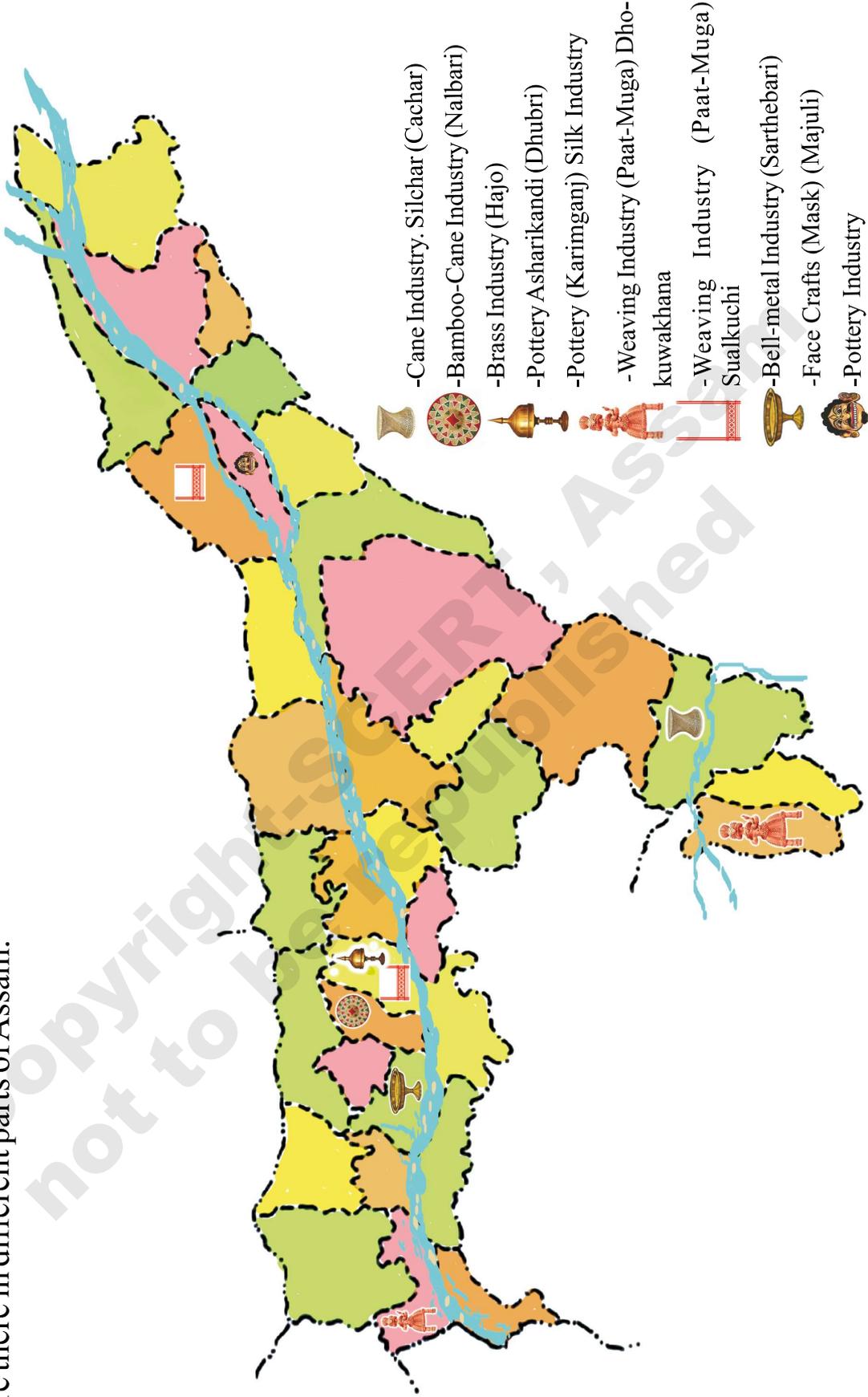


One of the attractions of pottery is 'Terracotta'. In this industry clay (sticky) and sandy soils are mixed to make various objects such as statues, figurines and animals of different shapes. These earthenwares are then dried in the sun and then burned in the fire in a fire place. In this way in some places, **pottery centres** have sprung up and made ready. Places in Assam such as **Asharikandi, Hajo, Majuli, Karimganj etc. are famous for pottery industry.**



Nalbari district of Assam is famous for its various cane products and 'japis'. The nearby Cachar district is famous for its production of planks and cane products.

There are several notable cottage industries in Assam for the production of various materials. These cottage industries have become famous in some parts of Assam. Look at the map and say what cottage industries are there in different parts of Assam.



Complete the list below with the help of the map given in the previous page-

Name of the cottage industry	Place or district it is located	Name of the product	Name of the raw materials used

Mask-craft:

Locally available ingredients like bamboo, straw, dung, loamy soil/clay, cotton clothes, dyes etc. are used to make the face. Bamboo strings are used to make the frame. Shape is given with the help of straw, cotton cloth, muddy soil, cow dung mixed soil etc. Finally the colour is added and the masks are completed. These faces are usually created in harmony with characters from ‘Bhauna’, ‘Raas’ and drama. Majuli in Assam is famous for mask craft.



- Try to make terracotta figurines and masks with the help of teachers or elders.

There are various types of cottage industries in almost all the districts of Assam. People produce their necessities in these cottage industries. The people of Assam are mainly farmers though a number of people are making a living by setting up cottage industries or engaging in various industries. These cottage industries therefore contribute to the economic development of the country. In addition, the products made in these industries not only preserve our art and culture but also help in cultural exchange with different states or countries.

Do the following project with the help of your teacher.

- Observe what cottage industries are there in your locality. What raw materials are required in that industry and what materials are produced. Prepare a list similar to the one give below-

Name of the industry	Essential items required	Tools	Time taken to prepare the item	Its uses	Benefits of the item

Exercise

1. Answer the following-

- Name two items made of bell metal.
- Name two items made of cane.
- Name of four cottage industries of Assam.
- Name of three types of locally available raw materials.

2. Prepare a chart showing to which cottage industry do the items given below belong to-

Pot	'Bota'	Urn	Dishes, Bowls	'Gamochha' (towel)	'Mekhela-chadar'
'Sarai' (tray with a stand)	'Banbati' (cup with foot)	Ladle (ladle)	Lamp stand (lamp stand)	Saucer	'Seleng-sador'
'Riha'	Earthen lamp				

3. Match the place with the industry from the boxes given below:

Sarthebari	Pottery
Dhokuwakhana	Brass industry
Cachar	Bell metal industry
Asharikandi	Weaving industry
Hajo	Weaving industry
Sualkuchi	Cane industry

- Draw few objects produced by cottage industry in your area.
- Write a note about the works done in any cottage industry available in your locality (write in 5/6 sentences)
- Draw a picture of an item made of clay/bell metal/brass and keep it as a decorative item in the classroom.



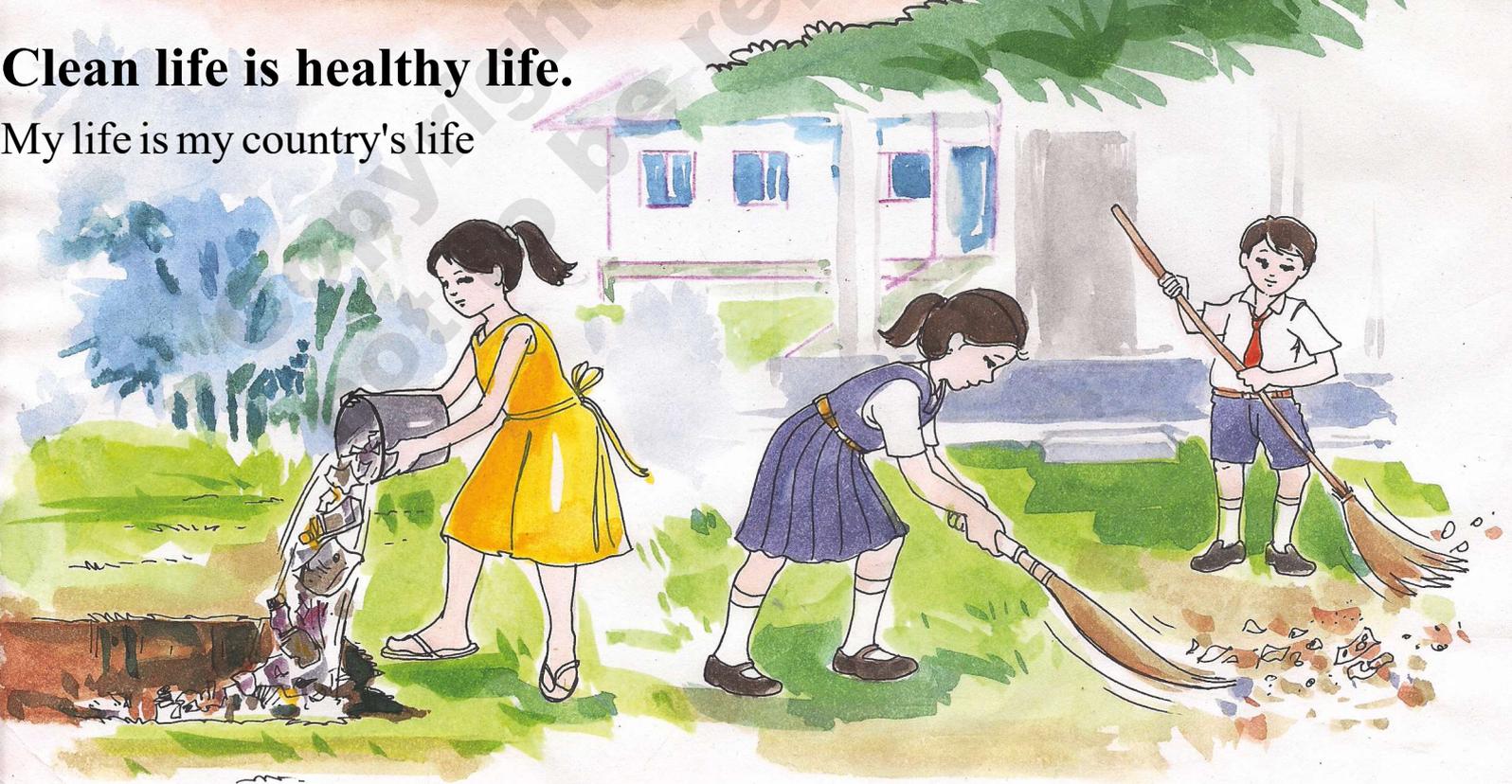
Let's make a clean Assam

One step towards cleanliness



Clean life is healthy life.

My life is my country's life



**One must throw the waste materials into the dustbin or the pit.
It is necessary to clean our neighbourhood and surroundings along with our home and school.**

To prevent Covid-19 infection:

While coughing or sneezing, handkerchiefs should be used or the mouth should be covered by hands, and later hands should be properly washed.



You should not spit in public places.

Avoid touching the nose, mouth, etc. with hands.

Wear your mask properly.

Wash your hands with soap and use sanitizer frequently.



Always maintain social distance.

(At least a distance of six feet.)

It is necessary for everyone to be vaccinated.

