

2.2 A true story of sea turtles

... Warming up...

(a) Tiger :

(Points: lives in tropical. evergreen forests - eats different types of prey, mostly other large mammals-humans hunt them for their skin and destroy their habitats - If extinct, other species will run wild - ecosystem damaged.)

(b) Monkey:

(Points: proper name rhesus macaque - herbivorous - eats fruits, rhesus seeds. macaque - roots, bark. cereals, etc. - found mostly in Asia-friendly and comes close to human habitations - in demand for research programmes because close to humans in behaviour - intelligent -fear of diseases being spread through these animals - important part of ecosystem.)

(c) Indian wild dog or the Dhole :

Point: Hi there! You may wonder who I am, for I am not as popular as some of the other animals. I am called 'dhole', or the red wolf, or the Indian wild dog. I live only in Asia, in the mountainous regions, generally in the forested areas.

I am a very social animal and live together with my whole family. I am reddish in colour, and my home is a 'den'. I am carnivorous, and mostly hunt during the day. My food is deer, monkeys, buffaloes, etc. I compete with tigers and leopards for food.

I am endangered today because of the loss of the habitat in which I live and lack of food. There is severe competition from other species too. I am also hunted for fun by humans. Unfortunately, many diseases have been transferred to me from domestic dogs, and many of my family members are dying due to these diseases. Today, there are less than 2,500 of us adults left. I ask you for your help in my conservation. Thank you.

(d) Whale:

(Points: marine animal-mammal - largest animal on earth - extinction due to overfishing, pollution, etc. - help regulate the flow of food - ensure that certain species do not overpopulate the ocean and threaten others.)

2. Hold a classroom discussion on the following topics and later on, expand the themes on your own. (10-15 lines)

1. Why human beings need to use more and more natural resources.

Ans. (Points: we don't need to use more natural resources but to conserve them - we must conserve wood, oil, minerals, forests, water, etc. - we cannot create these things quickly - take years and years to form - must use them sparingly.)

2. Should we conserve only the most beautiful and most useful things in nature?

Ans. (Points: what is beautiful to one may be dangerous to others - example : leopards

seem beautiful to city dwellers but are dangerous to villagers - many animals like pollinating insects, bees, slugs - not beautiful but useful - nothing useless - every animal and plant contributes to the ecosystem in some way or the other - nothing should be allowed to become extinct.)

3. What is beautiful' or 'useful'? Who has the right to decide that?

Ans. (Points: no one is judge of what is useful and what is beautiful - no one has the right to decide that - beauty lies in the eyes of beholder - what is beautiful to one may be dangerous to others - we must live in such a way so as to conserve as much flora and fauna as possible.)

... English workshop...

1. Form groups. Discuss the first two paragraphs. Try to present their content in the form of a series of conversations among the

(a) volunteers

(b) the volunteers and the villagers.

(a) Conversation between volunteers :

Ans. Volunteer A: Look, what are these things here? They look like egg shells! Where have they come from?

Vol. B: Egg shells? Where? Oh, yes, there they are. Deep in that pit in the sand!

Vol. C: I have never seen so many egg shells around here before!

Vol. A: It's certainly unusual. Let's ask these villagers about it.

Vol. B: I just asked. They say that they are turtle egg shells.

Vol. C: But we have never come across any turtle eggs in all our walks along the beaches of this region.

Vol. A: I wonder how this is possible.

Vol. B: I made some more enquiries. This beach has been sealed to the public for nearly one month.

Vol. C: Why?

Vol. B: To prevent the smuggling of silver bricks, it seems.

Vol. A: That means that these eggs are seen only after the beach has been sealed to the public.

Vol. C: Oh, Oh. Do you know what that implies?

(b) Conversation between the volunteers and the villagers :

Ans. Villager 1: Why have you brought us here?

Volunteer A: We wanted to ask you about these egg shells. What are they?

Vill. 2: These are turtle egg shells, sir.

Vol. B: We have never seen them before, in all our walks along the Konkan coast.

Vill. 3: Well, sir, this beach has been sealed to the public since the past month to prevent smuggling activities.

Vol. C: Turtle eggs? But turtles are a protected species.

2. Prepare a short note on sea turtles with the help of the information given in the passage.

Ans. There are seven types of sea turtles in the world, five of which are found in India. The Olive Ridley turtles nest along the entire coastline of Maharashtra. Green turtles and Hawkbills have also been found. When the female turtle reaches maturity at about the age of fifteen years, she returns to the shore to lay her eggs at the same place where she was born. The female comes to the shore just to make a nest in the sand and lay her eggs, and immediately returns to the sea. She does not return to the nest after that. The eggs hatch after a period of 40-50 days, using natural heat. Innumerable dangers await the eggs on the land and the hatchlings in the deep sea, and they have to face them all on their own. Their survival rate is therefore very low. Turtles perform an important function - they keep the sea clean. Thus they occupy an important place in marine ecology.

3. Prepare a poster to illustrate how the turtle eggs were/are protected. Include the following in the poster.

- Some pictures of sea turtles and their habitat
- Information about turtle nests and eggs
- A picture and information about a 'protected nest'
- Appeal to the public to spread awareness about their conservation
- Some data (figures) regarding the achievements so far

Ans. (Student have to do it your own.)

4. Prepare a simple brochure regarding the 'homestay' facilities made available in the villages. Form groups and discuss the points you will use in the brochure. Remember to include the precautions that tourists have to take at the site, in your brochure.

Ans.

Welcome to: Kasav Mahotsav
Homestay facilities: 'Nisarg' Homestay



- * Close to the beach
- * Spacious and clean rooms
- * Private toilets for every room
- * Delicious, fresh, home-cooked food
- * Green surroundings A home away from home!

Additional facilities :

- * 24-hour wifi
- * tour guides



- * boat ride in the sea

Precautions :

- * No flash to be used while photographing the hatchlings
- * Restricted entry into the sea
- * Barricades and rules to be respected

Contact us on :

Mobile: 98194 XXXXX

Email: nisargforyou@xxx.com

5. Explain the idea of 'Conservation of Nature through Livelihood' briefly, using the example given here.

Ans. Nature has to be conserved and protected. If, while doing this, people are also provided with employment, it becomes sustainable. In Velas village, tourists came in hordes to see the turtle hatchlings. These tourists were given food and accommodation by the villagers. This brought in business and money for them. However, in order to earn that money, it was important to protect the hatchlings, which the tourists came to see. Therefore, they took pains to protect the turtles, hence conserving this bit of nature. This is the idea of 'Conservation of Nature through Livelihood'.

6. Prepare bullet point presentation on the following:

(a) Scope for tourism in your locality:

Ans. • There is an old abandoned lake in the vicinity hidden by trees and bushes, away from the hustle and bustle of the city. This small piece of land is slowly turning into a dumping yard with people dumping trash in the lake and the woods surrounding it. Its stench is not the only problem but it is also turning out to be a health hazard.

- The lake could be turned into a beautiful spot of attraction after a clean-up. The woods surrounding it could be turned into a park after working on its landscape. Putting up strong fencing and gates, planting new flower shrubs, installing benches, and building a play area for kids could give the city the park it needs.

- Also, a fountain, a walking and jogging track, a few types of equipment for exercise could help citizens catch a fresh breath and work out to be fit and healthy.

2. Prudent utilisation of natural resources:

Ans. • Natural resources are a gift from nature.

- There are two types of natural resources, namely renewable and non-renewable.
- Renewable resources are the ones that 1 gets renewed.
- Non-renewable resources like oil, minerals, coal will soon get depleted.
- Overuse of these resources not only causes pollution but will also deplete them sooner.
- We should try and harness all the renewable resources of energy which are actually a green source of energy.

7. Read the following entries in the 'Language Study' pages :

(a) clause (b) sentence

Underline the main clause in the following sentences.

(1) There are a few people in every village who keep combing the beach in the early hours of the morning, throughout the year.

(2) When the female turtle comes on shore to nest and to lay eggs, she leaves behind a trail just like a track of wheels on the sand.

(3) The egg hunters follow this trail right up to the nest which is about half a metre deep.

8. Read 'Last Chance to See' by Douglas Adams and Mark Carwardine

Ans. Its an activity for students.