



Since morning everybody has been running around at Zeel's house. Arvind uncle and his family were coming home after five years. Five years ago Arvind uncle got a job in Abu Dhabi. Since then he had lived there. Zeel and her father went to the Airport to receive them.

After the plane landed, the passengers had to wait for some time to collect their luggage. At last Arvind uncle, Neeta aunty and their children could be seen coming out. "How big Hency and Pal have grown." Father said. Soon many suitcases and bags were loaded into the taxi and everyone was on the way to Zeel's house.

"Hency, you must be very tired after such a long journey. Father told me that Abu Dhabi is far from India," said Zeel.



For the teacher : Show different places to the children on globe or in the world map and discuss about their climate, plants, currency etc.

“We are not tired. Even though it is far, our flight took only two hours, The plane flies very fast.” said Hency.

Zeel was surprised. She remembered that when she had gone on school trip to Delhi, they had spent almost 20 hours in the train. And on the map, Junagadh and Delhi seemed quite near. Zeel, Hency and Pal chatted all the way to home from the airport. Zeel remembered how much fun she had on her school trip. She wanted



Hency to tell them all about her trip from Abu Dhabi.

Sand all around !

“You have seen many interesting things from the plane, isn’t it ?” asked Zeel.

“Most of the time we saw only clouds because the plane was flying so high, even higher than the clouds” said Hency. “But before it went so high, we could see that we were flying over sandy areas. It was sand but the colour of sand kept

changing white, brown, yellow, red, black. We saw mountains made only of sand.” “They are called sand dunes.” added Pal. “I have seen sand only at the sea-shore,” said Zeel. “Then you should come to visit us.” said Arvindbhai.





The countries around Abu Dhabi are located in a desert area. Even if one drives a little away from the city, one can see miles and miles of sand. No trees, no greenery-just sand.

“I used to dream of the thick greenery and cool water

around our home in Gujarat.” Said Neeta aunty. “I am so happy to see all these after such a long time.”

The children have almost forgotten how they feel when it rains. You know it almost never rain in the desert areas. “Water is really very precious over there. No rain, no rivers, no lakes, no ponds. Even below the ground there is no water.” “But, there is lot of oil under the sandy soil. So petrol is easily available in these countries,” added Pal. “In fact petrol is cheaper than water,” said Arvind uncle.

By this time all reached Zeel’s house. Hency and Pal were surprised to see so many fruit trees.

Coconuts, bananas, Jackfruit, papaya, betelnut. So many kind of trees ! Pal said, “We used to see only one kind of tree there - the date palms, because it is the only one that can be grow in the desert.



Nice Gifts and Photographs !

After they had met everyone, Neeta aunty unpacked their bags. They had brought gifts for everyone. They gave dates for everyone to eat. The dates were very sweet and tasty. Pal showed Zeel some currency notes and coins. Hency explained that the money they used in Abu Dhabi is called Dirham. It had some writing in their local Arabic language. They also showed many photographs of the place where they lived.



Arvind uncle gave Zeel a globe. He said, “Zeel, why don’t you find Abu Dhabi on this globe ? And where is Gujarat ? The children enjoyed playing with the globe and

looking for different places on the globe. Zeel found Delhi and Junagadh also.

In the evening everyone sat in the verandah, enjoying the breeze and looking at the photographs. They saw that in Abu Dhabi the buildings were tall with many storeys and big glass windows. Zeel said. “You must be getting nice cool breeze through these big windows.” Arvind uncle said, “We cannot open the windows because of heat. It is air-conditioned inside all houses. As the weather is very hot, people wear loose cotton clothes and keep



themselves fully covered- even the head is also covered. This protects them from the strong heat of sun.”

Zeel enjoyed looking at the pictures and finding out about the other countries from her cousins.



She constantly kept comparing her city with the things that they had described about Abu Dhabi. She decided that she would make a project report about Abu Dhabi for her class.

Discuss and Write :

- You can also make a small report comparing Abu Dhabi with the place where you live. You can use some of these points mentioned below while writing the report. You can also draw pictures or paste photographs.
 - The climate and weather
 - Clothing of people
 - The trees and plants
 - Different kinds of buildings
 - The traffic on the road (kinds of vehicles)
 - The common food items
 - The language
- Why do you think less trees grow in deserts ?

- Do you have any relatives who live in another country ? If yes, where ?



- How long did they live there ? Did they go there for studies or for work ?
Was there any other reason ?



Look at these currency notes :

Write the value of each note in the box near its picture.









Home and Abroad

- To which country does this currency belong ? How did you know ?

- Whose picture can you see on the notes ?

- Take a ten rupee note and observe it carefully. How many languages can you see on the note ?

- Write the name of the bank given on the note.

Observe the coins. Match them according to their heads and tails.



- Which coin remains without match ?

- How many of these coins do you recognise ?





- What is written on each coin other than the value ?

- Look at these notes. Do they all belong to India ? Put a circle around notes that are not Indian. Find out which country do they belong to.

