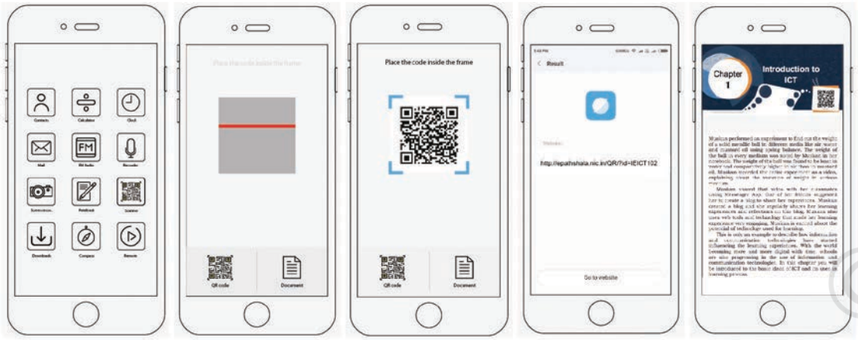
Step-by-step guide for users to access e-resources linked to QR Codes

The coded box placed on the top corner of every chapter is called Quick Response (QR) Code. It will help you access e-resources, such as audios, videos, multimedia, texts, etc., related to the themes given in the chapter. The first QR code is to access the complete e-textbook. The subsequent QR codes will help you access the relevant e-resources linked to each chapter. This will help you enhance your learning in a joyful manner.

Follow the steps given below and access the e-resources through your smartphone or tablet.



Install the QR Code Scanner app from Play Store	Open the app to view the QR code scanning window	Place the scanner above the QR code	Select and click on the link	Use available e-resource for learning

For accessing the e-resources on a computer or laptop follow the steps stated below.

1. Open the web browser Firefox ( ), Chrome ( ), etc.
2. Go to the ePathshala website (http://ePathshala.nic.in)
3. Click on the menu 'access e-resources'
4. Type the alphanumeric code given under the QR code ( )
5. Search for the e-resources from the links that have appeared.

Maps Shape Our World View

Maps that we see everyday on our classroom walls shape and manipulate our mental images of the world. All maps unfortunately are misleading in some ways because they are flat, two-dimensional projections of a three-dimensional sphere. Map making, or cartography, involves using map projection to represent the two-dimensional curved surface of the earth on a flat piece of paper.

The most widely displayed map of the world is the rectangular Mercator world map. This is the map used in this book and in the world political map supplied with this book. This map was developed in 1569 in Germany primarily for the purposes of accurate navigation during European colonial expansion. It produces serious visual distortion by altering the relative size of land masses, as we move away from the equator. For example, Greenland (840,000 square miles) appears roughly comparable to Africa (11,700,000 square miles) which is actually about 14 times larger.

Peter's Projection map, printed on the back cover of this book was developed in 1973 in order to correct the distortions of the conventional map. This map represents the relative size or area of various continents and countries quite accurately, though it distorts their shape somewhat. Proponents of the Peter's Projection map claim that this map offers a non-biased view of the world.

Read the two maps on the back cover and compare the relative size of different regions of the world in these two. Note the size of western Europe, Greenland, Scandinavia and Russia on the one hand and the size of South America, Africa, India and China on the other hand in these two maps. What differences do you notice? Similarly what would happen if we draw the map of the world by keeping the South Pole at the centre? Can you think of more maps of this kind? Does this reading and thinking change your world view?