



FORESTS - TRIBALS



Every forest is a beautiful place on this earth. It is the habitat for different animals and plants. To know more about forests, let us talk to the people living in the forest.

7.1. Observe the picture and discuss



- Who are the people in this picture? What are they doing?
- Where do you think they live ?
- How is their dressing? Name this dance form?
- What is their life style?
- Differentiate between tribals and others. Do you know about them?

7.2. Life style of the Tribals

How beautiful the photo is! The girl standing at the left corner is none other than me. That photo was taken last month when I went to Bhadrachalam in Bhadrachalam district to participate in the State Level Science Fair. The people dancing in the photo are the tribals residing at Adilabad district. Their dance is called "Gussadi". It is the special dance form of Adilabad tribes.

Think and say

- ◆ Who are the tribals? Where do they live?
- ◆ What are the different types of tribes in your region?
- ◆ Do you know about their dance forms? Name them.
- ◆ Name the dance forms of your region.

On that day, cultural programmes were arranged in the evening. The tribals performed their traditional dance wearing traditional costumes. Everyone enjoyed it. As I was tired due to a long journey I wanted to retire early. So I went to my room to rest. Two more girls, 'Barjutayi' from Adilabad and 'Chomcharu' from Nagar Kurnool shared the room with me. During the introduction, I felt that their names were a little weird. I shared my feelings with them. Then Barjutayi told me that she came from Adilabad and belongs to a tribe called 'Gond'. She also said that not only their names but also their habits, clothing, customs, language and other life styles are also different from the other people. I was surprised to know all this. So, I asked her for some more information.



Barjutayi said that the Gonds are the tribals who live in the hilly region. They construct small huts and live in groups in the forests. They construct walls with stones and cover the surfaces with thick and smooth mud.

They place bamboo sticks and forest grass on the roof. Though it is a hut, separate rooms are provided for cooking, puja and for the ladies.

The women draw and paint beautiful pictures on the walls and the floor with the colours prepared from different plants.

They decorate the pujaroom with special interest. They consider their house as most sacred. Hence, they consider entering the house with footwear as sin. They honour the guests with fruits and tobacco cigars available in the forests.

The Gonds collect the fruits, honey, tamarind etc; from the forest and live on them. Some Gonds are engaged in agriculture. After the harvest they celebrate a special festival and offer their first crop to their village diety 'AKIPEN' and only then use it.



Pictures on the walls of Gonds houses



Gond Men & Women

Group work

- ♦ Write the differences you have observed in the decor of Gond's house and your house.
- ♦ Say and write the similarities and differences between the hospitality offered by Gonds and your family.

Think and say

- ♦ Do you have the custom of offering grains to the Gods or to the fields in your region?

7.3. The Nagoba fair

"Oh! I remember one thing", said Chomcharu. She said that she had heard about the Nagoba fair which is celebrated in a grand way by the Gonds.

"Yes", replied Barjutayi. A Nagoba fair is very a important fair of the Gondus. Nagoba temple is located at Kesapur village of Indravelli Mandal in Adilabad district. A five day fair is held every year and Gonds from other states also participate in this.



The important aspect of this fair is the Gond's traditional dance. Gonds decorated with peacock feathers perform the special dance called Gussadi. A large number of people other than Gonds also come to watch the dance.



I was excited to know about these amazing things and thought as if I were in a new world. Would the life style of all the people living in forests be the same?

Think and say

- ◆ What are the difficulties faced by the people while visiting the fair?
- ◆ What type of cheating do they face ?
- ◆ Write the precautions that should be taken while visiting fairs.



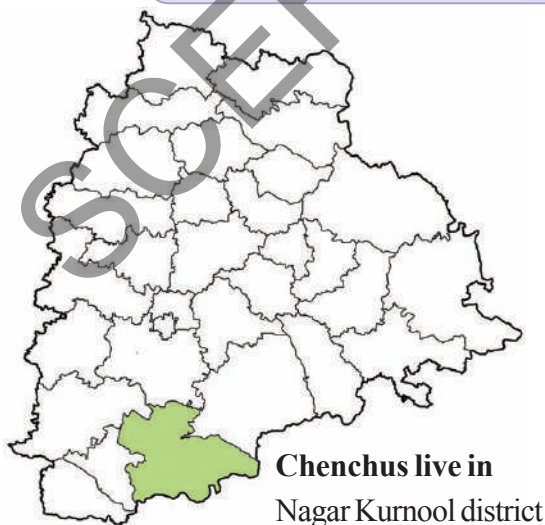
7.4. Life style of the Chenchus

I enquired Chomcharu, whether they have the same customs as of the Gonds. She said "No, our traditions, customs, clothing and language are different".



We belong to the tribe called "Chenchu". The Chenchu people live in Nallamala forests of Telangana State. They are mainly found in the Nagar Kurnool District. They speak Chenchu language which is similar to Telugu.

- Mention some of the languages you know. Which of them are tribal languages?



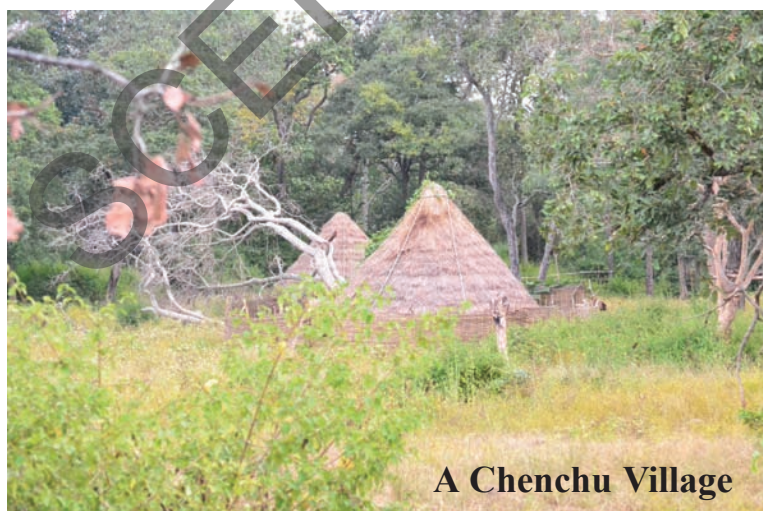
Chenchu's food is quite different from our food. They depend mainly on forest for their food. That is why, they worship the forest as 'Adavi Thalli'. They collect different fruits like custard apple, mango, jaamun etc., different roots and tamarind from forests and take them as food. Chenchus are experts in collecting honey. My father hunts the forest pigs, deer etc., with the help of small arrows and knives and share the meat with all. But, we never hunt small animals and birds like rabbits and sparrows.

The food items collected from forests are sold at the weekly fair and the required grains like jowar, ragi etc., are purchased. They prepare Sankati with jowar, ragi and eat them. Some people, especially the pregnant women eat tamarind along with the ash of the tamarind seed as food. It is their belief that this gives more strength. Chenchus are not interested in money, savings and other things. They depend on the forest every day for their life.

Think and say

- ♦ What are the reasons for Chenchu's different food habits?
- ♦ Ask your elders to know more about the custom of worshipping trees in your area. Also know about the importance of the trees and make a note in your book.

Chenchus and their relatives live together at a place by constructing huts. These are called 'Pentas'. Some pentas together are known as villages. Each village has a head. He is called the 'Head man'. (Pedda Manishi). He looks after the village and ensures that all follow the customs and traditions. All the people respect and follow the directions given by the head man. All programmes of the village are conducted under the guidance of the pedda manishi. The main deities are lord 'Lingaiah' and Goddess 'Chenchu Lakshmi'. They perform pujas in the month of Magha and children, elders and all the people participate actively in these pujas.



A Chenchu Village

A Chenchu Home



7.5. Life Style of the Bond Tribe

During my conversation with the girls, I said that most of the tribes belonging to Gonds and Chenchus live in forests. An old man who was sitting a little distance from us heard our conversation and said that not only these, but many other tribes also live in the Araku area, the main tribe among them is 'Bonda', a tribe which lives unconnected with the outer world and quite unaware of money.

We were all surprised to hear that people living without any connections and knowledge about the outside world? Three of us asked the old man in chorus to tell us more about the Bondas.

Bonda tribals live in the dense forests and hills of the Aruku valley in Vishakapatnam. They also live in the dense forest of Malkangiri in Odissa. They are also known as Bondo and Poroju. The language spoken by them is also unique. It is called 'Remo' in Odissa.

They don't like to mingle with the people of towns. That is why, they rarely come out of the forest.



Bonda girl

Do you know?

In our country the population of Bonda tribe is only 12,000.

Think and say

- ♦ What could be the reasons for the Bonda tribals not willing to come out into the outer world?



Bonda Fair



They attend the weekly fair 'Hatha.

They do not allow new comers to enter their villages. If any body enters, they try to kill them with poisonous arrows. They depend on hunting for their food. They collect the forest products and also do Jhum type of agriculture. Only men go for hunting and women participate in agriculture. They select some place in the forest, cut the trees and clear the land to make it convenient for cultivation. After growing two or three crops there, they leave it and go for another land. This type of agriculture is called 'Jhum Farming'.



Bonda Women

"Children, I will tell you another interesting thing about these people." Listen.

The Bonda women attend the weekly fair and exchange the forest products collected by them with others and take the required materials from them in exchange. This system is called 'BINIMAY PRODHA' or Barter System.

Their way of dressing is also unique. They cover their bodies with a cloth made from jute.

Bonda women have great skills in making this cloth. First they soak the jute plants in the water of streams and lakes nearby for 2 to 3 days. Then they weed out thread from them and dry them for three days under the sun. They collect different colours from the forest and mix these with the thread and make the clothes on a handloom. (Maggamu). They stitch tiny and beautiful mirrors on these clothes.

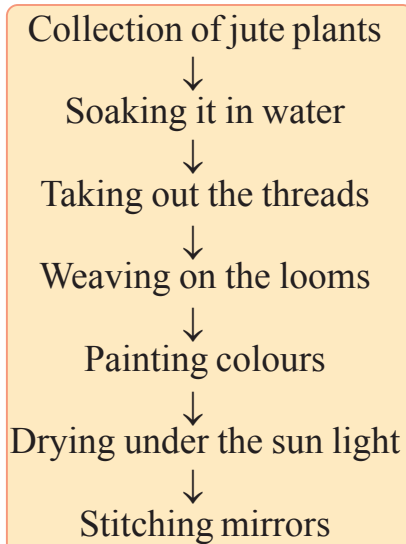
Group work



- ◆ You have seen the picture of Bonda women. Write about their dressing.
- ◆ What differences have you noticed in their clothings and ornaments of women at your place and the Bonda Women?

I still had not come out of my astonishment. It was difficult for me to believe that there are still people living away from the outer world who do not use money to lead their lives, even in the 21st century.

As it had become dark we all retired to our rooms. I prepared a flow chart on how the Bonda's made their clothes. It is given below.



Do you know?

People exchanged the goods to satisfy their needs in the past.
Ex: Giving 1kg. of tamarind in exchange for 3 kgs. of rice.

Did you observe the happenings in the fair that you visited? Write the differences between Bonda's fair and the fair you visited.

Think and say

- ♦ Why did it surprise the girl? Think...

7.6. Depletion of forests

Forests are useful to us in many ways. Many plants, animals and tribals depend on them. Forests are the natural habitats for thousands of plant and animal species. Trees in the forests release, 'Oxygen'. Forests improve rainfall.

Earlier the whole world was full of green plants. Forests are depleting (decreasing) day by day due to the cutting down of trees for use in villages, towns, dams, industries, roads, railways, fire wood, furniture and for many other needs of mankind.

Bio-diversity is being destroyed due to the indiscriminate destruction of forests for our needs. Pollution is increasing. Due to global warming, the rains have reduced resulting in droughts. Soil erosion has increased. Thus, there is a growing threat to the land and it may soon become a desert.

Do you know?

Paper is made from bamboo, Eucalyptus, Subabul etc. To meet our needs thousands of trees are cut every day. Saving paper is nothing but, protecting trees. So, write on both the sides of the paper. Sell unwanted books and news papers for recycling. Also use pencils till its end.

Group Work



- ◆ You know about the uses of forests. What would happen if there were no forests?
- ◆ Does your district have a forest? Where is it ?
- ◆ Which districts of our state have forests?
- ◆ What should be done to protect the forests from depleting?
- ◆ What are the different tribes in the forests of your district?

There are forests in the districts of Adilabad, Nirmal, Komram Bheem, Manchiryal, Peddapally, Jayashankar, Mahabubabad, Bhadradri and Nagar Kurnool of Telangana. Earlier the forests were dense and wide, but now their area is decreasing. Different types of tribes live in the forests of our State. The tribes Gonds, Kolami, Pradhan and Thoti live in Adilabad, Nirmal, Komram Bheem and Manchiryal districts. The Koya tribals and Konda Redlu live in Bhadradri district of Telangana. The Banjara tribe live in Mahabubabad and in other districts. Many changes have occurred in the life styles of the tribals when compared to the past.

Think and say

- ◆ What are the difficulties faced by the tribals due to lack of transport facilities?
- ◆ What measures should be taken to help the tribals?
- ◆ How are others benefitted by the tribals?

Do you know?

The forests occupy 6,92,027 sq.kms (21.5%) of land area in our country. Madhya Pradesh occupies first place in terms of forests with 77,000 sq.kms. In our State, forests occupy 46,389 sq.kms (16.89%) of total land. In Telangana, Jayashankar district occupies first place under the forest area.

Do you know?

Carbon-dioxide levels have increased in the atmosphere due to the destruction of trees. Due to this, the earth gets heated. This is called 'Global Warming'. This results in less rain fall.

Tribals are progressively developing with education. The tribal villages are in dense forests and transport facilities have not yet fully developed. When compared to people of other regions the tribals have yet to develop.



Children planting trees near the village on the occasion of 'Vana Mahotsav'

What should we do to conserve the forests? Think.

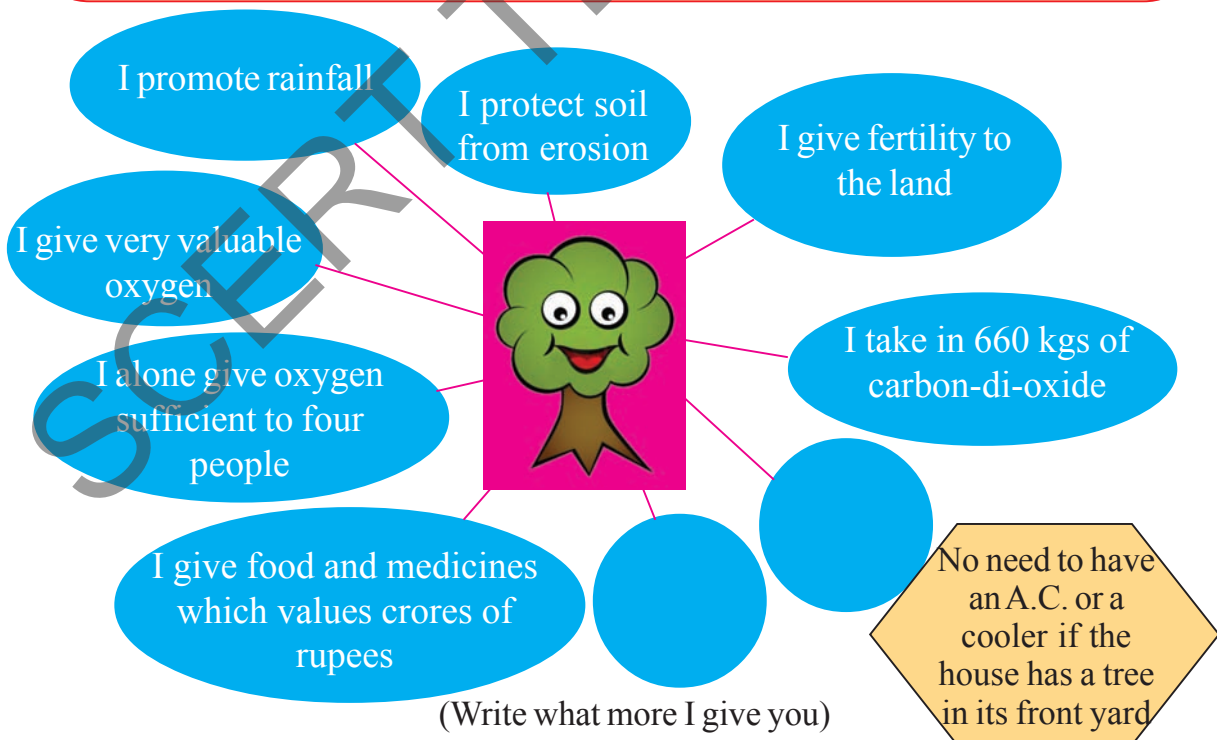
Look at the picture. Tell what the children are doing?

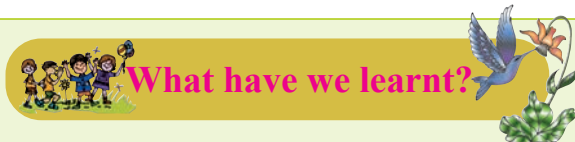
Why are the children planting the saplings?

We all should plant trees. We should plant them in the available space and protect them. For every tree that you cut, plant another two.

Key words

forests	science exhibition	people other than tribes
tribals	decoration of the house	jhum farming
life style	village god	forest products
cultural programmes	fair	forest conservation





1. Conceptual Understanding

- Tribals mostly live in the forests. Why?
- Tribals mostly use natural products. Why?
- We should protect the forests. How and why?
- Write the differences between the food taken by the Chenchus and you.
- Write your opinion on fairs.
- Name some of the products that we get from the forests.
- Differentiate between our agriculture and Jhumming. (Jhum farming)
- Forests have more animals. Why?
- Is bio-diversity more in forests or in agricultural fields? Why?

2. Questioning and Hypothesis

- We need money to buy things. How can we sell and buy things without using money? Guess and write.
- Grandfather living in a tribal area visited Pramod's residence. To know more about the people of that area, what questions would you ask Pramod's grandfather?

3. Experiments - Field Observations

- Tribals make colours with the leaves and seeds available in their surroundings. You also prepare and write down the colours you made from leaves, flowers and seeds available in your area.
- Tribals make their houses look beautiful with mud and rangoli. What do you use at your home? What materials do you use for rangoli? Observe and write.
- You have seen the pictures drawn on the walls of the Gond's houses. Do the houses in your village/city also have similar pictures? Observe, write and draw the pictures and rangoli.

4. Information Skills, Projects

- ♦ Form into groups of four each. Select any five houses in your village. List the forest products used in these houses.
(Take the help of your teacher in preparing the required table.)

5. Communication through Mapping Skills, Drawing Pictures and Making Models

- Draw the map of Telangana and mark the forests and the districts where tribals live.
- You have seen the pictures of the tribals in the lesson. They prepare different decorative items with poosalu (plastic beads) and wear them. Can you make a garland with the available poosalu and threads?

6. Appreciation, Values and creating Awareness towards Bio-diversity

- Write your feelings when you observe different scenes of the forests / nature.
- Tribals protect their surroundings with more care. How do you appreciate their life style?
- Chenchus worship the forest as their mother. What do you understand from this statement? Write down.
- Forests are the habitats of different animals and plants. We are destroying their habitat. What do you think about the animals and plant's life ?
- Which aspects of the tribals life do you like the most?

I can do this

- | | |
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| 1. I can describe the life style of the tribals. | Yes / No |
| 2. I can ask questions to know the life style of the tribals. | Yes / No |
| 3. I can recognize the Bio-diversity in the forests. | Yes / No |
| 4. I can collect the particulars of different forest products and tabulate them. | Yes / No |
| 5. I can point out the forests areas on the map of Telangana and show where the tribals dwell. | Yes / No |

