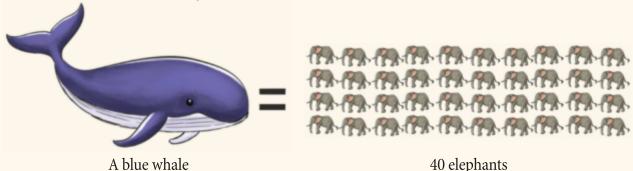
# Shangmiyang, the Tangkhul Giant



## Warm up

Read the infographic given below on the giant whale and solve the question.

Blue whale: the world's largest animal



An average Asian elephant weighs 4000 kgs. Estimate the weight of the blue whale from this.

# Let's read a story about another giant, Shangmiyang.

Every night after dinner, Atiya and her family gathered to share stories. These could be made-up ones or ones they already knew. It was always an exciting time for the family!

However, today everything was running late. There was a power cut in their apartment, bringing everything to a standstill. Atiya could not do her homework, Uncle Korou could not watch the news and Grandmother Athoibi could not heat up the dinner she had prepared.

Suddenly, Atiya had a bright idea. She went to her grandmother who was lighting a candle in the living room.

What was the bright idea that Atiya had?

"Grandma, let us start the storytelling now. It is your turn today. And since the power has gone out, we could gather here and have a candlelight storytelling session!" Atiya whispered excitedly.

Grandmother Athoibi immediately agreed. She loved telling stories too. She said, "Today, I will tell you a special story from my hometown. Whenever there was a storm and the lights went out, we would sit with a candle and my grandmother would tell me this story."

Uncle Korou, who had just entered the room complaining of mosquitoes on the balcony, also joined in. "Oh, I know which story it is – the story of Shangmiyang, the Tangkhul Giant. It's a tale that I have heard many times in my childhood."

They all sat down together. With the dim light of the candle on their faces, Grandmother Athoibi began her tale.

"Shangmiyang was a gentle giant," said Grandma Athoibi. "He lived in the green Tangkhul hills where the pink, bell-shaped Shiroi Lily grows."

Why did Grandmother Athoibi choose to tell the tale of Shangmiyang?

"Shangmiyang was really, really huge," continued Uncle Korou. "His hands were as large as tall, rugged mountains. And his face was as wide as the open blue sky."

Atiya was now completely captivated. She had never heard a story like this. Her eyes grew wide!

Her grandmother laughed. "His eyes sparkled like the dazzling yellow sun and his breath was as furious as the gale. It is difficult to describe him. He was as enormous as all the mountains put together!"

"And," added Uncle Korou, "He needed not one fish, but a hundred for a meal!"



dim: not bright rugged: not level or smooth and having rocks rather than plants or trees captivated: very interested or fascinated by something sparkled: shone brightly with small flashes of light dazzling: so bright that you cannot see for a short time furious: angry gale: an extremely strong wind



Grandmother Athoibi continued, "When he slept, his head rested on the Shiroi Peak, while his feet reached Thoubal in the valley far, far away. His left hand could easily touch the river Chindwin in Myanmar while his right hand played with the waters of the river Brahmaputra far away on the other side."

"How enormous he must have been!" thought Atiya.

#### Grandma Athoibi went on:

"Once upon a time, a group of potters were travelling from village to village. They were tired, for they had trudged countless valleys and mountains. As night fell, they lost their way and found themselves near Shangmiyang.

"They did not know the gentle giant was sleeping nearby, for they only saw shadows all around. They climbed hill after hill, seeking a way.

"At last, they crossed a strip of moist, pink land to reach the last hill. At the top, they found two huge, dark caves.

What was the moist, pink land?

"Ah-ha! they sighed with relief, happy to find shelter for the night.

"They clambered past a narrow ravine filled with small prickly trees and entered into one of the two huge mountain caves."

"They did not know they were inside Shangmiyang's nostril!" Uncle Korou quietly told Atiya. She giggled.

Grandma Athoibi giggled too. Then her voice grew serious once again.

"They cleared a small place inside the nostril by cutting down some of the hairs that grew there.

"What huge trees! called one of the potters.

"What wild trees! said another.

"And then, with great difficulty, with the paddle and stone they used to make their pots, the potters shaped the trees into large tree logs for firewood.

"Soon they started a fire. They were about to cook rice when ...

"The fire irritated the giant Shangmiyang and he went .... AAACCCCHHHHHHOOOOO!!

"The giant's sneeze was so powerful that it blew the potters to the other end of the Chindwin, far, far beyond the Tangkhul land.

"That's why you find so many Tangkhul potters all over the place today," finished Grandmother Athoibi. "From one end of the world to the other."

"And Shangmiyang?" asked Atiya.

"Well, he went back to sleep, dreaming about the Shiroi Fairy who was looking for her lost lily!"

"Will you tell me that story too?" asked Atiya.

"Let us keep that for after dinner, my dear," Grandmother Athoibi laughed.

Adapted from a Naga folktale

# Make connections

# Map the story

Answer the following questions based on the story.

- 1. The narrator is the one who tells the story. Sometimes, the author uses a character in the story as the narrator. Who narrates most of this story?
  - a. Shangmiyang
  - b. Uncle Korou
  - c. Grandmother Athoibi

#### In this section, we will:

- remember details about the story.
- learn how to analyse the structure of the story.
   (C-2.1, 2.2)

- 2. An illustration is a picture that helps us understand a story better. Look at the illustrations in the story again and think if they helped you understand the story better. Think of one more illustration that you could add to the story and draw it. In a sentence or two, explain why you chose the idea.
- 3. Myths are stories that explain how or why certain things happened in the world. This story is a myth because it tells us
  - a. how the Shiroi lily came to the mountains.
  - b. why Shangmiyang's story was popular.
  - c. why there are Tangkhul potters found all over the world.



Answer the following questions with reference to context.

1. Atiya was now completely captivated. She had never heard a story like this. Her eyes grew wide!

#### RECALL

a. What was Atiya 'completely captivated' by?

#### **INFER**

b. From the phrase 'eyes grew wide', what emotion do you think Atiya was feeling?

#### **ANALYSE**

- c. What kind of stories do you think Atiya had heard before?
- d. In what way do you think this one was different?
- 2. "They clambered past a narrow ravine filled with small prickly trees and entered into one of the huge mountain caves."

#### **RECALL**

a. What were the huge mountain caves that the potters entered?

#### **INFER**

b. What could be the narrow ravine that the potters crossed to enter the huge mountain caves?

#### **ANALYSE**

c. Discuss what could be amusing or funny about the potter's actions.

# Read, reflect and write

- 1. Why do you think Grandmother Athoibi calls Shangmiyang's story 'special'?
- 2. List five comparisons the author uses to describe the giant Shangmiyang.

# Integrate

The story names the mountains and rivers of Manipur. On a sheet of paper, list and illustrate the mountains/hills, forests and water bodies around the area where you live. Discuss: How are they important to the area? What can you do to conserve and protect them?

# Word wall



#### In this section, we will:

- identify antonyms of words from the story.
- unscramble names of landforms and waterbodies. (C-4.1, 4.2)

# Antonyms

Find words in the story that are opposite in meaning (antonyms) to the words given in the box.

bright cruel smooth dry weak

#### Unscramble the words

Grandmother Athoibi uses mountains and rivers to describe the gentle giant's size. Unscramble the words to get names of other landforms and waterbodies.

NDOP ANDSLI ELKA MEARST CHBAE LOVNOCA

# Grammar time Definite article: the



#### In this section, we will:

 learn to identify and use the definite article 'the'. (C-3.4),

Read these sentences.

- Atiya's grandmother told her a story.
- Atiya loved the story about Shangmiyang.
- Atiya narrated a story to her friends.
- Atiya's friends liked the story she narrated.

The words highlighted in the sentences given above are articles.

A story refers to any story.

The story refers to a specific or definite story – the one about Shangmiyang and the one Atiya narrated to her friends.

# ANCHOR Chart

# **ARTICLES**

Articles are words that go before nouns.

# **Definite articles**

refer to a specific person, place or thing.



the sun
The is used before both singular or plural nouns.

# **Indefinite articles**

do not refer to a specific person, place or thing.



a clock
A goes before singular nouns that start with a consonant sound.



an umbrella
An goes before singular
nouns that start with a
vowel sound.

## Fill in the blanks with a, an or the in the short story given below.

There was once flock of birds peacefully pecking at seeds under tree.
old hunter came along and threw a heavy net over them.
He said, 'Aha! Now I have my dinner!'
All at once birds began to flap their wings. Up, up they rose into air, taking
net with them. They came down on apple tree nearby, and as
net got caught in tree's branches, birds flew out from under it, to freedom.
hunter looked on in wonder, scratched his head and muttered, 'As long as those birds
work together with one another like that, I'll never be able to capture them! Each one of those
birds is so weak, yet together they can lift net.'

# Geographical uses of the

Read these sentences.

- Shangmiyang's body was as large as the Tangkhul hills.
- While Shangmiyang slept, his head rested on the Shiroi Peak.
- Shangmiyang's left hand could easily touch the river Chindwin in Myanmar.

We use the before the names of certain geographical features such as the names of rivers and mountain ranges.

Read the chart given below to learn more about the geographical uses of the.

# **GEOGRAPHICAL USES OF THE**

ANCHOR CHART

We use the before the names of:



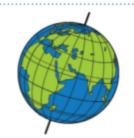
**Deserts:** the Sahara, the Gobi



Oceans and seas: the Atlantic Ocean, the Arabian Sea



**Rivers and canals: the** Nile, the Suez Canal



Points on the globe: the Equator, the North Pole



Mountain ranges: the Alps, the Urals; but <u>not</u> before the names of mountains: Mt Everest, Mt Kilimanjaro



Groups of islands:

the Andaman
Islands, the West
Indies; but not
before names of
islands: Greenland



Groups of lakes:

the Great Lakes; but not before names of lakes: Lake Superior, Chilika Lake

We do not use the before:



Names of continents: Asia, Africa, Australia



Names of countries: India, Nepal, Bhutan. But we do say: the Netherlands, the USA and the UK



Names of cities, towns or states: Mumbai, Madwa, Mizoram



Names of streets: Park Lane, Oxford Street

We usually pronounce the with a short sound like 'thuh'. But when the comes before a *vowel* sound, we pronounce it as a long 'thee'.

Practise saying: the antelope, the earth, the umbrella, the onion, the inkpad.

How would you say: the unicorn?

## Put a tick against the sentences in which the use of articles is correct.

- 1. Hillary and Tenzing climbed the Mt Everest.
- 2. Kanchenjunga is a mountain in the Himalayas.
- 3. The Asia is the largest continent.
- 4. There are very few trees in the Sahara Desert.
- 5. The Nile is the longest river in the world.

# 0000

#### In this section, we will:

learn how to use commas. (C-3.4)

# Punctuation

#### Comma

We use commas to separate words or word groups in a series (three or more things).

Read these sentences.

- Atiya lived with her grandmother, her mother, her father and her uncle.
- Grandmother Athoibi knew many stories of giants, fairies, animals and birds.

The use of commas in these sentences avoids confusion when we read and helps us pause at the right moments and places while reading long sentences.

We also use commas before or surrounding the name or title of a person directly addressed.

- You, Shangmiyang, are a gentle and kind giant.
- Grandmother, will you tell us a story?
- Look where you step, potter.

#### Punctuate the sentences below with commas.

- 1. Assam Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh are known for their green hills and valleys.
- 2. Meghalaya has beautiful waterfalls caves clean villages and many bridges.
- 3. Assam is famous for its tea gardens the Brahmaputra river and the Majuli island.
- 4. I plan to learn about Manipur Nagaland Tripura and Mizoram next.
- 5. Mr Nienu can you teach us more about the northeastern states in Social Studies class?

# Write well

# Narrative writing

Given below is the summary of a myth. Write it out as a story in your notebook adding lots of interesting details.

**For example:** Long, long ago, sea water was sweet, not salty. One day a poor fisherman was fishing close to the shore. Suddenly, he saw a woman with an interesting object!

#### Give the story a title and add an illustration or two.

Long ago, sea water was not salty – a woman gave a magic grindstone to a fisherman – it started and stopped with two different commands – neighbour saw only how to start it – stole it – sailed away – ship cook needed salt – neighbour commanded it to start giving salt – could not stop it – too much salt – ship began to sink – sailors threw it overboard – it still grinds salt at the bottom of the sea.

#### Did you know?

A myth is a type of *folktale*. *Folktales* are stories that are passed down from one generation to another. Atiya heard the story from her grandmother who heard it from her grandmother. So the story of Shangmiyang is a folktale.

# GOOD WRITERS ADD DETAILS

A checklist of details to include:

- ✓ colours, size and shapes
- ✓ tastes and smells
- ✓ what something is made of, how it feels through touch
- ✓ sound words
- ✓ answers to the questions: Who? What? Why? Where? When?
- ✓ something special or interesting

# Listen and speak well



#### In this section, we will:

- listen to some clues and solve a riddle.
- describe flowers to each other. (C-1.1, 2.1)

1. The five little monsters are waiting for the school bus. Listen to the clues and circle the monster which got on the bus last.



2. In groups of three, take turns to describe these flowers to one another. As one person describes the flower, the other two must guess which picture it is. Do not mention the names of the flowers in the description.

