

CHAPTER-4

The Story of Amrita

7MARKS

1. Shanti's grandfather told her that when he was a small child, he saw more birds like sparrows and *mynah* than he sees today. Can you make two guesses why their numbers have become less?

Answer:

The reasons could be hunting and cutting down of trees, which have reduced the number of these birds.

2. The *Khejadi* tree was the most common tree that grew in Amrita's village. Which kind of trees can you see a lot of in your area? Name two such trees.

Find out more about these trees from your elders.

Answer:

I observe a lot of teak and mango trees in my area.

Teak – The tree of teak is very big. It provides people with shade and fresh air. Teak wood is expensive. The teak tree does not give fruit. Its wood is used for manufacturing furniture.

Mango – Mango tree is an evergreen tree, but usually, during the dry winters, i.e., mid of October or November, their leaves fall, and the new ones come during the spring season. Their fruits – mangoes – will be available from May to September. Mango fruit is very tasty, and the branches are used as firewood.

5MARKS

Amrita's Friends

1. Is there a place near your house, school or along the roadside where trees have been planted?

Answer:

Yes, there is a park near my house where trees have been planted.

2. Why were they planted there?

Answer:

They are planted there to provide shade and fruits and purify the air in the surroundings.

3. Have you seen anyone taking care of the trees? Who does this?

Answer:

Yes, I have seen some people taking care of the trees. They are called gardeners, and there are four of them working in that park.

4. Have you seen fruits on any of the trees? Who eats these fruits?

Answer:

Yes, I have seen mango and guava on the trees. People who take care of the park eat those, and also some birds eat these fruits.

5. Lalita feels that grass and small plants growing near her school wall have not been planted by anyone. Do you know of any place where grass, small plants or trees are growing on their own without being planted by anyone?

Answer:

Yes, on empty plots, fields and along the roadsides, grass, small plants and trees are growing on their own without being planted by anyone.

6. Why do you feel they are growing on their own?

Answer:

As no one planted them, they grow on their own.

5MARKS

Trees in Danger

1. Do you remember what the elders of this village used to say?

Answer:

Yes, I remember. The elder of the village used to say, “Agar perh hain to hum hain.” This means that plants and animals can survive without humans, but it’s impossible for humans to survive without them.

**2. Do you think we could survive if there were no trees and no animals?
Discuss this in your class.**

Answer:

No, it’s not possible for humans to live without trees and animals, as they provide oxygen for breathing and food to eat

Fill in the blanks

Write about any one tree.?_____

Mango tree

1. Does the tree flower?_____

Answer:

Yes, the mango tree is a flowering plant.

2. Do the flowers remain on the tree throughout the year?_____

Answer:

No, the flowers do not remain on the tree throughout the year.

3. In which month do their leaves fall?_____

Answer:

During the dry winters, i.e., mid of October or November.

4. Do fruits grow on the tree?_____

Answer:

Yes, fruits do grow on a mango tree.

5. In which months do they grow?_____

Answer:

The fruits of mango trees are grown from May to September.

6. Have you eaten these fruits?_____

Answer:

Yes, I have eaten mangoes.

Discuss

1. Why do people hunt?

Answer:

People hunt down animals for their skin, bones, and meat and also for leisure.

2. There are rules against the hunting of some animals. People can be punished for hunting. Why do you think there is this punishment?

Answer:

Punishment is made so that people will not do hunting and animals will be saved.

Talk to grandparents and find out –

3. Which birds did they see around them when they were of your age?

Answer:

Parrot, eagle, sparrow, crow, vulture, cuckoo, etc.

4. Have the number of some of these birds become less?

Answer:

Yes, the number of sparrows, eagles and vultures has become less.

5. Are there some birds or animals which they cannot see anymore?

Answer: Yes, Great Indian Bustard and the cheetah cannot be seen anymore.