



II. Coorg

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Thinking about the Text

1. Where is Coorg?

Answer:

Coorg is the smallest district of Karnataka, located midway between Mysore and Mangalore.

2. What is the story about the Kodavu people's descent?

Answer:

It is believed that Kodavu people are of Arabic origin. It is said that some of Alexander's armymen moved to south and settled there. Their costume, martial practices and marriage rituals also point to the fact that they are from Arabic origin.

3. What are some of the things you now know about

(i) the people of Coorg?

(ii) the main crop of Coorg?

(iii) the sports it offers to tourists?

(iv) the animals you are likely to see in Coorg?

(v) its distance from Bangalore, and how to get there?

Answer:

(i) The people of Coorg are fiercely independent. They are of Greek or Arabic descent. They have a tradition of hospitality. They enjoy recounting numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a license. The author has described the people of Coorg as a proud race of martial men and beautiful women.

(ii) Coffee is the main crop of Coorg. The coffee estates stand tucked under tree canopies in prime corners.

(iii) The sports that Coorg offers to tourists are river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing, mountain biking, and trekking.

(iv) The animals that one is likely to see in Coorg are birds, bees, butterflies, macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs, loris, and wild elephants.

(v) The distance between Coorg and Bangalore is around 260 km. There are two routes to Coorg from Bangalore and both are of the same distance. The most frequented route is the one via Mysore. The other route is via Neelamangal, Kunigal, and Chanrayanapatna.

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4. Here are six sentences with some words in italics. Find phrases from the text that have the same meaning. (Look in the paragraphs indicated)

(i) During monsoons it rains so heavily that tourists do not visit Coorg. (para 2)

(ii) Some people say that Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled there. (para 3)

(iii) The Coorg people are always ready to tell stories of their sons' and fathers' valour. (para 4)

- (iv) Even people who normally lead an easy and slow life get smitten by the high-energy adventure sports of Coorg. (para 6)
- (v) The theory of the Arab origin is supported by the long coat with embroidered waist-belt they wear. (para 3)
- (vi) Macaques, Malabar squirrels observe you carefully from the tree canopy. (para 7)

Answer:

- (i) keep many visitors away
- (ii) as one story goes
- (iii) are more than willing to recount
- (iv) the most laidback individuals become converts to
- (v) draws support from
- (vi) keep a watchful eye

Thinking about the Language

1. Here are some nouns from the text.

culture monks surprise experience weather tradition

Work with a partner and discuss which of the nouns can collocate with which of the adjectives given below. The first one has been done for you.

unique terrible unforgettable serious ancient wide sudden

(i) culture : unique culture, ancient culture

(ii) monks: : _____

(iii) surprise: : _____

(iv) experience : _____

(v) weather : _____

(vi) tradition : _____

Answer:

(i) culture : unique culture, ancient culture

(ii) monks: : serious monks

(iii) surprise: : unique surprise, terrible surprise,
unforgettable surprise

(iv) experience : unique experience, terrible experience,
unforgettable experience

(v) weather : terrible weather

(vi) tradition : unique tradition, ancient tradition

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2. Complete the following phrases from the text. For each phrase, can you find at least one other word that would fit into the blank?

- (i) tales of _____
- (ii) coastal _____
- (iii) a piece of _____
- (iv) evergreen _____
- (v) _____ plantations
- (vi) _____ bridge
- (vii) wild _____

You may add your own examples to this list.

Answer:

From the text

- (i) tales of valour
- (ii) coastal town
- (iii) a piece of heaven
- (iv) evergreen rainforests
- (v) coffee plantations
- (vi) rope bridge
- (vii) wild elephants

Other than the text

- (i) tales of morality
- (ii) coastal food
- (iii) a piece of cake
- (iv) evergreen hero
- (v) crop plantations
- (vi) sturdy bridge
- (vii) wild beasts

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