UNIT 4

ECO TOURISM

Entry Activity

Your teacher will show you a video of various tourist places in Kerala.

Watch the video and identify the places.

List out the features of these places.

Introduce the concept of Eco-tourism

Tourist places

Now, read the article written by Santhosh Yadav.

ECO TOURISM

In this new *millennium, people have become more interested in the unique and precious nature of our planet Earth. Similarly, people are also interested in the development of tourism. With the help of modern transportation facilities and information technology, any part of the world is *accessible for a traveller. In fact, tourism has become the world's largest industry and eco-tourism the fastest growing *segment.

Tourism is already the biggest source of foreign exchange in many countries. Throughout the developing tropics, protected area managers are struggling to preserve natural resources. At the same time, local communities are trying to gain economic growth out of tourism. Eco-tourism offers a solution to this struggle. Eco-tourism suggests linking of local residents in long term *bio-diversity conversion process. It proposes social and economic development for local residents as well as protection of natural resources.

Eco-tourism can be defined as management of tourism and *conservation of nature with the help of local communities. It ensures job, new skills, income and better status for women. UN General Assembly has declared 2002 as the International Year of Eco-tourism (IYE). This declaration offered an opportunity to *review eco-tourism experiences worldwide. The programmes connected with IYE all stressed the need of *availing maximum social and economic benefits from eco-tourism. At the same time, they

1. What are the factors that encourage tourism?

millennium: one thousand years
accessible: reachable
segment: sector
bio-diversity: different types of eco-systems with plants and creatures
conservation: protecting environment
review: evaluate

also suggested ways of avoiding harmful activities towards nature.

As a *concept, eco-tourism has gained popularity recently in India. Indian's have been practising this since *time-immemorial. There are many definitions of eco-tourism offered by different organizations. It can be defined, according to the International Eco-tourism Society as "responsible travel to natural areas that conserve the environment and *sustain the well-being of local people".

The definitions focus on three basic goals of the convention on Biological *Diversity.

1. Conserve biological and cultural diversity by strengthening protected area management systems and increasing the value of sound eco-systems

2. Promote the sustainable use of biodiversity by generating income, jobs and business opportunities in eco-tourism and related business networks.

3. Share the benefits of eco-tourism development with local people and ensure their participation in the planning and management of eco-tourism businesses.

The key elements of eco-tourism are a well preserved eco-system to attract tourists, responsible behavior on the past of the visitors during their visit and participation in all activities, minimum use of *non-renewable resources, active participation of local people as guides, finally enabling the local people to manage tourism activities by themselves.

Eco-tourism is an environment-friendly activity. It aims at promoting environmental values and *ethics and preserving nature in its original form. Thus eco-tourism contributes torwards ecological integrity by protecting wildlife and nature. Participation of local communities is the key element in eco-tourism. This participation will economically benefit them and in the longer run they get a better status and easier life.

2. What are the two factors between which eco-tourism can attempt a balance?

3. What is the importance of eco-tourism?

4. Why does the author say that eco-tourism is a way of life in India since time immemorial?

5. What is the definition of eco-tourism according to the International Eco-tourism society?

6. What are the key elements of eco-tourism?

avail: gain
concept: - idea
time-immemorial: long, long years ago
sustain: maintain
diversity: different forms
ethics: moral rules
integrity: state of being united
non-renewable: that which cannot be used again

About the author

Santhosh Yadav (b. 1967) a mountaineer and sportswoman is the only woman who has successfully climbed Mount Everest twice. She was awarded "Padmashri" for her great achievement. In the essay, Eco-tourism, she gives an insightful analysis of the term that has gathered much currency in the recent times.

I. One word answers

1. Eco-tourism is closely associated with _____.
2. _____ declared the year 2002 as the International Year of Eco-tourism
3. Eco-tourism has been practised in India as a _____.
4. Eco-tourism is an _____ friendly activity.
5. The key elements of eco-tourism are _____.

II. **Given below are some of the ideas connected with eco-tourism. Find out the definitions of each of them.**

a. Balanced eco-system.

b. Deforestation and afforestation

c. Prevention of pollution

d. Local rituals and celebrations

III. Paragraph writing

How to write a paragraph

- The first sentence of the paragraph usually the topic sentence.
- It should contain the idea we discuss in the paragraph.
- If possible, include an opinion on the topic in the first sentence.
- Supporting ideas on the subject should come in the following sentences.
- Provide at least three sentences to support your idea-with facts, reasons, examples, statistics, comparison or an anecdote
- Finally, there should be a concluding sentence
- Final sentence should reassert your opinion, but use different words.
- Linkers such as firstly, secondly etc, can be used to present ideas in a sequence.

IV. Answer in a paragraph

1. Compare and contrast between an eco-tourism site and another tourist destination.

2. Narrate your experience of a journey to a tourist place.

3. Read the travelogue " Beautiful Mandakini" by Ruskin Bond. Can you find any elements of eco-tourism in his writing (Optional)

V. Prepare a Powerpoint presentation

A Powerpoint presentation showing the various eco-tourism sites in Kerala in at least five slides.

VI. Prepare an e-mail of a traveller seeking information about a tourist destination.

ADJECTIVES

Adjectives tell us more about nouns.They usually answer two questions.

- HOW MANY?
- WHAT KIND?

One **sad little** girl was in our class.
How many - One
What kind - sad, little

Let's Practice

Can you find the adjectives and the nouns they describe?

Robert had four books on his shelf.
The word 'four' describes 'books'.

Jasmine looked at the clear ball.
The word 'clear' describes 'ball'.

The colorful butterfly was flying in the garden.
The word 'colourful' describes 'butterfly'.

Susan wore a pink dress!
The word 'pink' describes 'dress'.

Raju saw a funny clown at the circus.
The word 'funny' describes 'clown'.

Now, try to fill in the blanks.

The little baby crawled.

The word _____ describes _____.

Rosy bounces the round basketball.

The word _____ describes _____.

Have you understood that adjectives answer two questions?

HOW MANY?
some few many several lots four

WHAT KIND?
green crunchy smooth new smart beautiful

Think over

What is an adjective?

_____

_____

_____

In what ways does an adjective help a noun?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

PREPOSITIONS

Where is Jimmy, the dog?

Jimmy is _____ the doghouse.

Where is the house?

The house is _____ the hill.

Where is the elephant?

The elephant is _____ the question mark.

Find the prepositions in the following sentences:

1) Do you like to play hide and-seek?
2) My favourite place to hide is under the kitchen table.
3) Rakesh participated in the meet for the first time at Nehru Stadium.
4) Matilda went for the party on a horseback.

Write a sentence to describe where the girls are standing.

The girls are standing _____.

Which of the following words are *NOT* prepositions?

across, which, from, over, what, for, how, between, round, up, whenever, before

Here is a list of commonly used prepositions:

across, after, among, at, before, between, by, during, for, from, in, into, like, near, off, on, out, opposite, over, round, since, through, to, under, until, up, with

Frame 3 sentences on your own using a prepositional phrase in each.

DESCRIBING PEOPLE

Read this description of Mother Teresa. Note the adjectives used:

Mother Teresa is regarded as the greatest social worker in the world. A slight, stooped woman of 62, scarcely more than 150cms tall, with deep set eyes and calm, straight- forward manner, Mother Teresa can break easily into laughter with a visitor. A woman always in white saree who can also be insistent, even sharp in her low, soft voice, if this will benefit the needy. She is loved by the poor and the neglected; revered by the Missionaries of Charity and the Catholic order she founded in 1950 was admired by Hindus, Muslims and Christians alike for a total commitment to the poor that transcends all barriers.

Prepare a description of your favourite actor/sportsperson/leader. Present it in the class. The words in the box may be useful.

good, great, cute, cruel, loving, bold, sharp, soft, strong, effective, tall, short, bald, long, high

DESCRIBING OBJECTS

Description of a Coconut Scraper

Parts: Two parts, wooden seat, an iron rod beaten into a flat "S" shape

Appearance: It looks like an object which has got a head and tongue.

Physical properties: Wooden seat is smooth but the tongue is sharp with pointed edges.

Now, prepare a short description about a coconut scraper.

Use the necessary words from the following list to create a better description of objects.

appearance	shape	use
parts	size	colour
materials	measurement	physical properties

You may begin like this: The coconut scraper has two parts. .....

Describing a Pressure Cooker

Parts: a bowl shaped vessel, a lid and a weight to control steam.

Use: used for cooking food under steam pressure.

Now, prepare a description of a pressure cooker.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Here is a description of an elephant. Complete it suitably.

The elephant is the _____ animal on land. It is also the most _____ animal on the world. A fully-grown elephant may stand 4 mts high and weigh about 6 metric tones.

A male elephant _____ two tusks. Tusks are its upper teeth. A tame elephant uses its tusk to support heavy loads which it carries. Wild elephant _____ its tusks as a weapon to attack. Tusks are ivory, a highly valuable material.

Elephant feeds itself using a trunk. The trunk serves as _____ arm and a hand for picking up objects.

Now, find out the features of the following animals and describe them.

Tiger, Lion

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Topic for other descriptions- a brief case, a telephone, a hammer.

Look at the picture carefully. What all do you see in the picture. List them.

NIGHT OF THE SCORPION

Think of a family crisis. Will all the members of the family face it in the same way? What would be the reactions of your neighbours and other well-wishers?

Now read about the experience of a mother who was stung by a scorpion on a rainy night. As you read the poem watch out for the reactions of the different people who visit her the night she was stung by the scorpion.

Video

NIGHT OF THE SCORPION

I remember the night my mother
was stung by a scorpion. Ten hours
of steady rain had driven him
to crawl beneath a sack of rice.
Parting with his poison - flash
of diabolic tail in the dark room -
he risked the rain again.
The peasants came like swarms of flies
and buzzed the name of God a hundred times
to paralyse the Evil One.
With candles and with lanterns
throwing giant scorpion shadows
on the mud-baked walls
they searched for him: he was not found.
They clicked their tongues.
With every movement that the scorpion made
his poison moved in Mother's blood, they said.
May he sit still, they said.
May the sins of your previous birth
be burned away tonight, they said.

Nissim Ezekiel (1924 -2004), poet, playwright, editor and art critic, is a prominent figure in post-independent India's literary history. He is considered as one of the leading poets in Indian writing in English. He won the Sahitya Akademi Award in 1983 for his collection of poems, Latter-Day Psalms.

1. When did the scorpion sting the mother?

2. Who are referred to as the swarms of flies?

3. Which line tells you that the scorpion went out of the house?

scorpion (n): animal with a long curved poisonous tail
crawl (v): to move on all fours
diabolic (adj): very evil or cruel
peasant (n): farmer
swarms of flies (n): group of flies(collective noun)
buzzed (v): to make a continuous noise like an insect
paralyse (v): to make someone lose the ability to move
evil one (n): one who does an evil. (here) scorpion

May your suffering decrease
the misfortunes of your next birth, they said.
May the sum of all evil
balanced in this unreal world
against the sum of good
become diminished by your pain.
May the poison purify your flesh
of desire, and your spirit of ambition,
they said, and they sat around
on the floor with my mother in the centre,
the peace of understanding on each face.
More candles, more lanterns, more neighbours,
more insects, and the endless rain.
My mother twisted through and through,
groaning on a mat.
My father, sceptic, rationalist,
trying every curse and blessing,
powder, mixture, herb and hybrid.
He even poured a little paraffin
upon the bitten toe and put a match to it.
I watched the flame feeding on my mother.
I watched the holy man perform his rites
to tame the poison with an incantation.
After twenty hours
it lost its sting.
My mother only said
Thank God the scorpion picked on me
and spared my children.

4. Why did the peasants search for the scorpion?

5. Did they find the scorpion?

6. Why did they pray that the scorpion may not move?

7. What were the prayers that they made?

8. What was the mother doing?

9. What did the father do?

10. How long did the mother suffer?

11. What does the mother say at the end?

12. What do the final lines of the poem say about the mother's character?

Diminished (v): reduced
Groan (v): to make a long low sound in pain
Sceptic (n): someone who has doubts about something a truth
rationalist (n): someone who believes in reason
hybrid (n): animal or plant produced from two different types of plants or animals
paraffin (n): a clear oil with a strong smell that is used for fuel
rite (n): religious ceremony
incantation (n): words repeated several times like a mantra
sceptic (n): someone who has doubts about something a truth

Understanding the Poem

I. Choose the correct answer from the options given.

1. The mother was stung by a scorpion on a _____.

   a. sunny day b. rainy day c. rainy night

2. The scorpion crawled under a _____.

   a. sack of rice b. bed c. chair

3. How did the peasants reach the poet's house?

   a. like a scorpion b. like swarms of flies c. one by one

4. Who is described as a 'sceptic' and 'rationalist'?

   a. father b. son c. brother

5. What did the holy man do to tame the poison?

   a. performed his rites b. searched the house for scorpion c. kept quiet and prayed

6. What did the mother do at the end?

   a. cursed everybody b. prayed to God c. thanked God for sparing her children

The events described the poem are given in a jumbled order. Arrange them in the correct order.

- The peasants rushed to the poet's house.
- The father poured paraffin and put a match to the mother's bitten toe.
- It was raining continuously for about ten hours.
- The peasants started searching for the scorpion with candles and lanterns.
- The mother lay groaning on a mat.
- The holy man performed his rites with an incantation.
- The mother said, "Thank God, the scorpion picked on me and spared my children".
- Mother was stung by a scorpion.
- The pain subsided after twenty hours.
- The peasants buzzed the name of God a hundred times to paralyze the Evil One.

Now try to reconstruct the events in the form of a small story. You may add details of your own to make the story more interesting. You can use words like *'in the beginning, then, after that, in a short while, at the end'* etc.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Now read the poem " The Pied Piper of Hamelin" by Robert Browning and try to see if there is a story in it. Visit www.readingware.com to see an abridged version of it.

Here are some events from the poem. Construct a story using these events in a sequencial manner.

- Hamelin town is troubled by rats.
- People fall sick , food is eaten and people are bit by rats.
- The Mayor decides to get rid of the rats at any cost.
- The Committe decides to reward the person who saves town .
- Pied Piper reaches Hamelin .
- Agrees to chase rats away for reward.
- Plays strange music on his pipe.
- Rats follow and jump into river Weser, drown and die.
- Pied Piper demands reward.
- The Committee refuses.
- Piper plays music again.
- This time children follow.
- Children are taken to a hole in a mountain.
- Piper and children disappear.

Appreciating the poem:

Look at this line taken from the poem.

'**The peasants came like swarms of flies'**

What does this line suggest? What are the peasants compared to?

When we compare two sentences using the words 'like' or 'as' it is called a **simile.**

S**imile** is a figure of speech used to compare two things. Here the *peasants* are compared to *swarms (a group) of flies* as they were large in number and they kept on *'buzzing' like flies or bees.*

Other examples:-

*I wandered lonely 'as' a cloud.(William Wordsworth)

*My love is 'like' a red red rose (Robert Burns)

Now try and fill these gaps choosing the correct word from the brackets.

(fox, tortoise, owl, nightingale, peacock, donkey)

as proud as a.....

as foolish as a .....

as intelligent as an .....

as melodious as a .....

as sly as a .....

as slow as a .....

Now, look at these lines from the poem.

..... Ten hours
Of steady rain had driven ***him***
To crawl beneath a sack of rice.
Parting with ***his*** poison – flash
Of diabolic tail in the dark room –
He risked the rain again.

Did you notice that the pronouns '**he'**, **'him'** and **'his'** are used to refer to the scorpion? The scorpion is referred to as a human. Giving human qualities to other things is referred to as **personification.**

Theme of the poem

Usually poems have a theme. Sometimes there may be multiple themes in a poem. Given below are some ideas about the theme of the poem. Tick the themes which you think are relevant to this poem.

Beauty of nature.

The contrast between the attitude of urban and rural people.

The conflict between superstition and reason.

God's role in the lives of human beings.

Love of the mother for her children.

The general tone of the poem is irony. Here is an ironic situation. What is that?

a. The mother's suffering set against the indifferent, superstitious neighbours.

b. Scientific attitude contrasted with inherited tradition.

c. City life in contrast with village life.

d. God's role in the lives of humans.

Word Building

There are certain collective nouns associated with the animal world. The collective noun 'swarms of flies'used in thepoem is an example. Here are a few more examples. Hope you will find it interesting. Read them.

A **pride** of lions.

A **muster** of peacocks.

A **gaggle** of geese.

Try to find out the following.

a ..... of elephants.

a .....of fish.

a .....of sheep.

a.....of oxen .

a.....of wolves.

a.....of monkeys.

Certain sounds are associated with certain animals. For example the word ' buzz ' is associated with the bees. Likewise, match the following sounds with their correct animals.

neigh	lion
roar	elephant
chatter	snake
bleat	horse
hiss	sheep
trumpet	monkey