

SOCIAL STUDIES

Class VI

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Published by Government of Andhra Pradesh, Hyderabad.

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I

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New Edition
First Published 2012

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This Book has been printed on 80 G.S.M. S.S. Map litho
Title Page 200 G.S.M. White Art Card

Free Distribution by Government of Andhra Pradesh

Printed in India
at the Andhra Pradesh Govt. Text Book Press,
Mint Compound, Hyderabad,
Andhra Pradesh.

II

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III

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Letter to students

"As my mother lies down too tired to move after a full day of work in the fields and at home, I sit beside her and wonder, why is life so difficult for women? If I set out of my home I find so many different people – people who speak such different languages and follow such different customs, I wonder who they are and why there are such different kinds of people.

I read newspapers and find out that so many of our farmers who grow our food with such effort are distressed out of desperation. I wonder, what has made them so desperate and feel so hopeless. As I walk in the streets of a town I see such large and beautiful buildings and roads and temples, mosques and churches. I wonder who built them and at what cost. I also see slums in which thousands live in conditions most unfortunate and I wonder, why don't they have a good place to live in cities with such beautiful buildings?

My elders too discuss some of these problems and talk of voting and electing the right people to rule and I wonder who rules us and how do they rule us? My grandparents tell me tales of olden days when there were kings and queens and of times when gods and saints walked among us people. I wonder if such things were really possible?

I have so many questions that I often wonder if anyone has answers to them at all. Perhaps no one person knows all the answers and perhaps no one may know the answers to some of the questions. Perhaps I need to find out myself. How can I find out? Who will help me?"

Dear Friends,

The questions that are arising in your minds are some of the most important questions which everyone needs to find some answers. They are not at all easy to answer for most of them do not have any one definite answer. In fact many questions will be answered differently by different people. So perhaps you too will have your own answer after you have studied the problem carefully. Social Sciences try to understand the society we live in – by asking questions and working out methods for answering them. It also seeks to help us to understand why different people answer the questions differently- for example if you ask anyone, why are there very few girls in colleges compared to schools, you will get different answers from different kinds of people. If you ask why are the slums not cleaned as well as the colonies, you will again get very different answers. Why do people answer these questions differently? Social Sciences try to understand this problem too.

Social Sciences do not merely compile different answers to a problem. They try to bring a rigorous method to study them. They try to understand the problem by seeing how it developed – and how and why it has changed; they try to see if it is similar all over the earth or it changes in different parts of the world; and they try to understand the different points of view about it. Have there been fewer girls in colleges in the past? Is it that all over the world there are fewer girls in colleges? Why? What prevents girls from attending colleges? What do parents who don't send their daughters say? What do parents who send their daughters say? What do the girls say? What do the teachers say? Social Scientists put together all these before answering the main question. But no Social Scientist can give you the final or definite answer and it is you who have to decide which answer you find more convincing and useful for you to act.

Editors

IV

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About this book

This book is a part of your Social Science Curriculum or a part of various things you would be doing to study the society around you. However, remember that it is only one small part of that curriculum. The Social Science Curriculum requires you to analyse and share in the class room what you know. It requires you above all to ask questions – think why things are the way they are. It also requires you and your friends to go out of the class room to the market, to the Panchayat or municipality office, to the village fields, to temples and mosques and museums and find out various things. You will have to meet and discuss with a number of people, farmers, shopkeepers, officials, priests, and so on.

This book will introduce you to a range of problems and enable you to study them and arrive at your own understanding of them. So, the most important thing about this book is that it does not have answers. In fact this book is not really complete. It can only be completed when you and your friends and teachers bring their own questions and experiences and discuss everything threadbare in the class. You may disagree with many things in this book - do not be afraid to say so - only give your reasons. Your friends may disagree with you, but try to understand why they have a different view. Finally arrive at your own answers. You may not even be sure of your answer - you may want to find out more before you make up your mind. In that case list your questions carefully and request your friends, teachers or elders to help you to find out.

This book will help you to study different aspects of our social life - about diversity of land and people, about how people get their livelihoods, how people provide for their common needs and manage them, how all people in our society are not equal and how people try to bring about equality, how people worship different gods in different ways, and finally how they communicate with each other and build a culture which is shared by them.

To understand some of these matters you may have to study about the earth - the hills, plains and rivers and seas; to understand others you may have to know what happened hundreds or even thousands of years ago; but most of all you may have to go out and talk to different kinds of people around you.

As you study this book in the class room, you will come across many questions - do stop and try to answer those questions or do the activity suggested before you proceed ahead. It is not so important to finish the lesson fast as it is to discuss the questions and do the activities.

Many lessons will suggest projects which may take a few days to do. These projects will enable you to develop skills of social science enquiry and analysis and presentation - these are more important than remembering what is written in the lessons.

Please remember that you don't have to memorise what is given in the lesson, but think about them and form your own opinion about them.

Smt. B. Seshu Kumari
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OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM

- Rabindranath Tagore

Jana gana mana adhinayaka Jaya he
Bharatha bhagya-vidhata
Punjab Sindhu Gujaratha Maratha
Dravida Utkala Banga.
Vindhya Himachala Jamuna Ganga
Uchchala Jaladhi taranga,
Tava shubha name jage
Tava shubha asisha mage
Gahe tava jaya gatha
Jana gana mangala-dayaka jaya he,
Bharatha bhagya -vidhata,
Jaya he, jaha he, jaya he,
Jaya jaya jaya jaya he

PLEDGE

"India is my country; all Indians are my brothers and sisters.
I love my country, and I am proud of its rich and varied heritage.

I shall always strive to be worthy of it.

I shall give my parents, teachers and all elders respect,
and treat everyone with courtesy. I shall be kind to animals.

To my country and my people, I pledge my devotion.

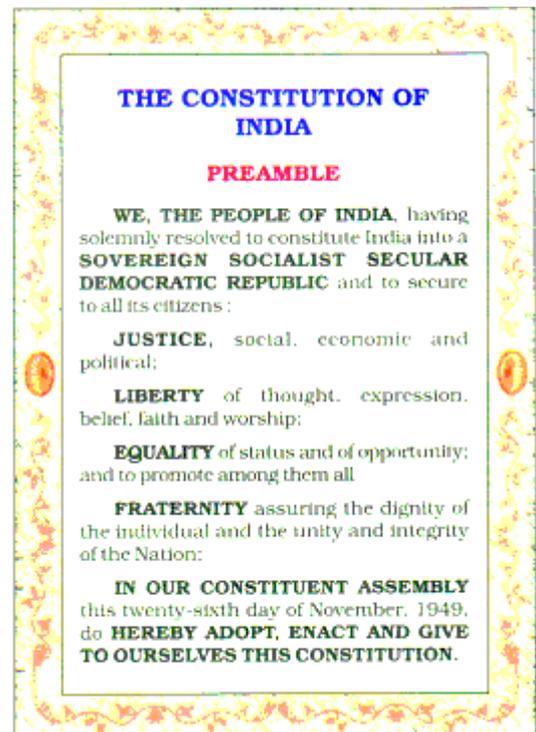
In their well-being and prosperity alone lies my happiness."

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The first page of the Constitution that clearly states that all Indians are entitled to equality of status and opportunity.

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Reading and Making Maps

Maps tell us several things about different places: where they are; whether they are on the sea or on a mountain or in a desert; how hot or cold or rainy they are; what kind of trees and plants grow; what kind of people live - the language they speak, the work they do, their buildings, etc. You can know many details about a place from maps. Of course not everything is shown on one map - you may have to consult different maps (physical maps, administrative maps, historical maps, etc.) to get all the information. Shall we learn how to make and read a map?

District Map (political)

You may have seen several maps in your classroom such as the map of India and map of Andhra Pradesh etc... Today, we will study the map of our own district.

- Bring two or three copies of the map of your district to the class.
- Locate your village/town, the nearby villages and towns, rivers, streams, water bodies, etc.
- Look for information such as roads, railway station, etc.
- Can you work out the distances between different places shown on the map?

A Game

Form two groups, one team of students should select a place on the map.

Write it down on a piece of paper secretly, give this paper to the teacher. Second team can ask questions about the place. Now first team can answer

these questions only as yes or no. eg:

Team two can ask questions like, Is this place in kurnool district? Is this place by the sea coast? Is this name of a district head quarter?

When the team finally finds out the place, reverse the roles and play again.

The team which finds out the name of the place with the minimum number of questions will be the winner.

Way to Mallika's house- Sketch Map

Laila and Mallika met each other at Red Cross service activity in Srikakulam. There they became close friends. Mallika lives in Venkatapuram village while Laila lives in Adilabad. Laila planned to visit Mallika's house in the coming holidays. She wrote a letter asking Mallika how to reach her house from the Bus stand. Mallika was happy about her friend's proposed visit. She sent the details of location of her house with a sketch map.