

7



FORESTS - TRIBES



Every forest is a beautiful place on this earth. It is the habitat for different animals and plants. To know more about forests, let us talk to the people of the forests.

7.1. Observe the picture and say



Women performing the
'Dhinsa Dance'

- Who are there in the picture? What are they doing?
- Where do they reside?
- How is their dressing? Name their dance form?
- What is their lifestyle?
- Differentiate between them and us. Do you know about them?

7.2. Life style of the tribes

How beautiful the photo is! The girl standing at the left corner is none other than me. That photo was taken last month when I went to 'Araku' village near Visakhapatnam to participate in the state level science fair. The women dancing in the photo are the tribals residing at Araku. Their dance is called "Dhinsa". It is the special dance of Araku tribes.

Think and say

- ◆ Who are the tribal people? Where do they reside?
- ◆ What are the different types of tribes in your region?
- ◆ Do you know their dance forms? Name them.
- ◆ Name the dances you perform in your region.

On that day Cultural programmes were arranged in the evening. The tribal people gave their traditional dance performance wearing their traditional costumes. Everyone enjoyed it. As I was tired due to a long journey I retired early and went to my room for rest. Two more girls, 'Barjutayi' from Adilabad and 'Chomcharu' from Mahaboobnagar shared the room with me. During the introduction, I felt that their names were a little weird. I shared my feelings with them. Then Barjutayi told me that she came from Adilabad and belongs to a tribe called 'Gond' She also said that not only their names but also their habits, clothing, customs, language and other life styles were different from the other people. I was surprised to know all this. So, I asked her for more information.



Barjutayi said that the Gonds are the tribals who live in the hilly region. They construct small huts and live deep in groups in the forests. They construct walls with stones and cover the surfaces with smooth mud.

They place bamboo sticks and forest grass on the roof. Though it is a hut, still separate rooms are provided for cooking, puja and for the ladies.

The women draw and paint beautiful pictures on the walls and the floor with the colours prepared from different plants.

They decorate the puja room with special interest. They consider their house as most sacred. Hence, they consider entering the house with footwear is regarded as a sin. They serve the guests fruits and tobacco cigars and thus show their hospitality.

The Gonds collect the fruits, honey, tamarind etc; from the forest and live on them. Some Gonds are engaged in agriculture. After the harvest they celebrate a special festival and offer their first crop to their village deity 'AKIPEN' and only then use it.



Pictures on the walls of Gonds houses



Gondu Men & Women

Group work

- ◆ Write the differences you have observed in the decor of Gond's house and your house.
- ◆ Say and write the similarities and differences between the hospitality offered by Gonds and your family.

Think and say

- ◆ Do you have the custom of offering grains to the gods or to the fields in your region?

7.3. The Nagoba fair

"Oh! I remember one thing" said, Chomcharu. She said that she had heard about the Nagoba fair, which is celebrated in a grand way by the Gond's.

"Yes", replied Barjutayi, a Nagoba fair is very a important fair of the Gondus. Nagoba temple is located at Kesapur village of Indravelli Mandal in Adilabad district. Five days fair is held every year and Gonds from other states also participate in this.



Nagoba God

The important aspect of this fair is the Gond's traditional dance. Gonds decorated with peacock feathers perform the special dance called Gussadi. A large number of people other than Gonds come to watch the dance.



I was excited to know about these amazing things and thought as if I enter in to a new world. Would the life style of all the people living in forests be the same?



Think and say

- ◆ Why people attend fairs? How they enjoy?
- ◆ Write the precautions that should be taken while visiting fairs.

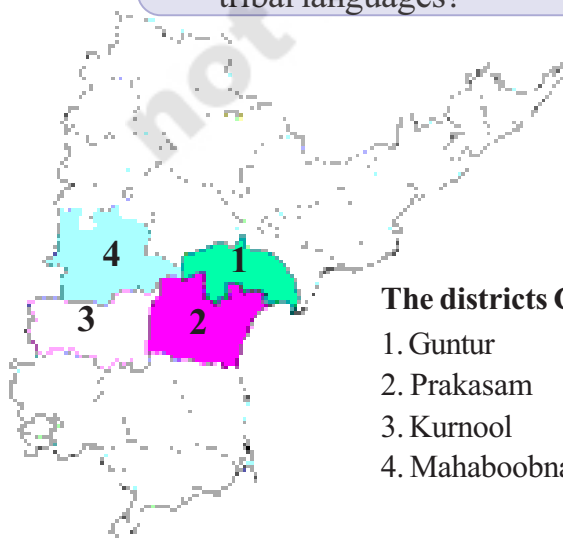
7.4. Life style of Chenchus

I enquired chemchoru, whether they have the same customs as of Gonds. She said "no, our traditions, customs clothing and language are different".



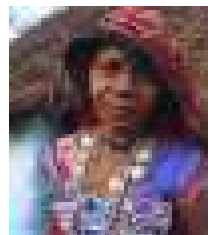
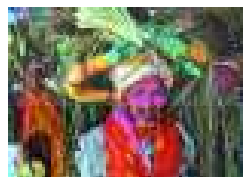
We belong to the tribe called "Chenchu". The Chenchu people live in Nallamala forests of our state. Mainly, we are to be found in the districts of Mahaboobnagar, Kurnool, Guntur and Prakasham. They speak Chenchu which is similar to Telugu.

- Mention some of the languages you know. Which of them are tribal languages?



The districts Chenchus live in:

1. Guntur
2. Prakasham
3. Kurnool
4. Mahaboobnagar



Chenchu's food is quite different from our food. She gave a lot of additional, interesting, information. They depend mainly on forest for their food. That is why they worship the forest as 'Adavi Thalli'. They collect different fruits like pomegranate, mango, roe apple (Neredu) etc., different roots and Tamarind from forests and eat them as food. Chenchus are experts in collecting honey. Parents and elders hunt the forest pigs, deers etc., with the help of small arrows and knives and share the meat with all. But, they never hunt small animals like rabbits and sparrows.

The food items collected from forests is sold at the weekly fair and the required grains like Jowar etc., are purchased. Some people, especially the pregnant women eat tamarind along with the ash of the tamarind seed as food. It is their belief that this gives more strength. Chenchus are not interested in money, savings and other things. They depend on the forest every day for their life.

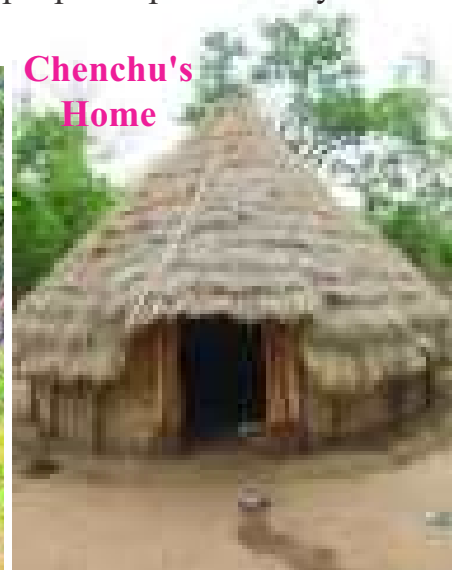
Think and say

- ◆ How do you appreciate chenchus life style?
- ◆ Ask your elders and know about the custom of worshipping trees in your area. Also know the importance of the trees and make a note in your book.

Chenchus and their relatives live together at a place by constructing huts. These are called 'Pentas' like sunni penta. Some pentas together are known as villages. Each village will have a head. He is called the 'Head man'. (pedda Manishi). He looks after the village and see that all follow the customs and traditions. All the people respect and follow the directions given by the head man. All programmes of the village are conducted under the guidance of the pedda manishi. The main daities are god 'Lingaiah' and the goddess 'Chenchu'. They perform pujas in the month of Magha and Children, elders and all the people participate actively in these pujas.



Chenchu Village



Chenchu's Home

7.5. Bonda tribes - life style

During my conversation with the girls, I said that most of the tribes belonging to Gonds and Chenchus live in forests. The old man who was sitting a little distance away from us heard our conversation and said that not only these people, but also many different tribes live in Araku area, among them the main tribe is 'Bonds', a tribe which lives away from the outside world and are quite unaware of money.

Barjutayi and Chomcharu also were also surprised along with me. People living without money and knowledge about the outside world? We three asked in chorus to tell more about them.

Bonds tribals live in the dense forests and hills of Aruku valley in Odissa. They are also known as Bondo and Poroju. The language spoken by them is also unique. It is called 'Remo'.

They don't like to mingle with the people from town & plain area. That is why, they rarely come out of the forest.



Do you know?

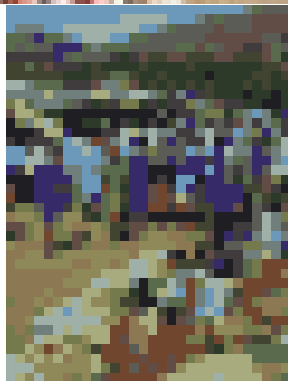
In our country the population of Bonda tribe is only 12,000.

Think and say

- ◆ What would be the reasons for Bonda tribes not coming to the outer world?



Bonda Fair



They attend the weekly fair 'Hatha' more.

They do not allow new comers to enter their villages. They depend on hunting for their food. They collect the forest products and also do Jhumming type of agriculture. Only men go for hunting and women participate in agriculture. They select some place in the forest, cut the trees and clear the land to make it convenient for cultivation. After growing two or three crops there, they leave it and go for another land. This type of agriculture is called 'Jhumming'.



Bonda Women

The grand father continued telling other interesting things.

The Bonda tribals attend the weekly fair and exchange the forest produces collected by them to others and take the required materials from them in exchange. This system is called 'BINIMAY PRODHA' or Barter System.

Their way of dressing is also unique. They cover their bodies with a cloth made up of Jute.

Bonda women have great skills in making this cloth. First they soak the jute plants in the water of streams and lakes nearby for 2 to 3 days. Then they weed out thread from them and dry them for three days under the sun. They collect different colours from the forest and mix these with the thread and make the clothes on loom. (Maggamu). They stich tiny and beautiful mirrors to these clothes.

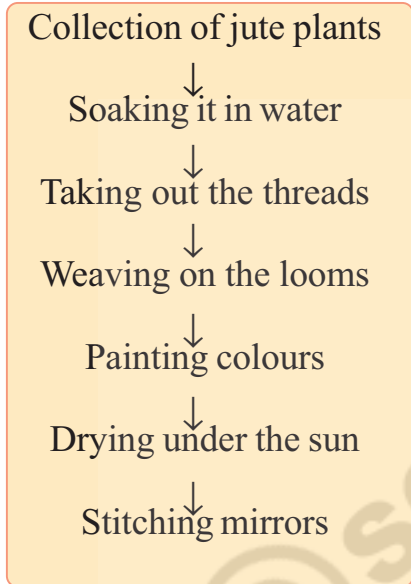
Group work



- ◆ You have seen the picture of Boda women. Write about their dress you have observed.
- ◆ What differences have you noticed in the dress and ornaments of women at your place and the Bonda Women?

I still had not come out of my astonishment. It was difficult to believe that there are still people living away from the outside world who do not use money to lead their lives!, that too in 21st century.

As it had become dark we all retired to our rooms. I prepared a flow chart on how the Bonda's made their clothes. It is given below.



Do you know?

People exchanged the goods to satisfy their needs in the past. Ex: Giving 1kg. of tamarind in exchange for 3 kgs. of rice.

Did you observe the proceedings of a fair when you visited? Write the differences between Bonda's fair and your fair.

Think and say

- ◆ Why did it surprise the girl? Think...

7.6. Depletion of forests

Forests are useful to us in many ways. Many plants, animals and tribals depend on them. Forests are the natural habitats for thousands of plant and animal species. Trees in the forests release, 'Oxygen'. Forests improve rainfall.

Earlier the whole world was full of green plants. Forests are depleting (decreasing) day by day due to the cutting of trees for use in villages, towns, bridges, industries, roads, railways, fire wood, furniture and for many other needs of the mankind.

The Bio-diversity is being destroyed due to the indiscriminate destruction of forests for our needs. Pollution is increasing. Due to global warming, the rains have reduced resulting in the occurrence of droughts. Thus, there is a growing threat to the earth and it may become a desert.

Do your know?

Paper is made from trees of bamboo, Eukalyptus, Subabul etc., To meet our needs thousands of trees are cut every day. Saving paper is nothing but, protecting trees. So, write on both the sides of the paper. Sell unwanted books and news papers. Also, use pencils till its end.

Group Work



- ◆ Have you seen the forest - share with your friends.
- ◆ You know about the uses of forests. What would happen if forests are not there?
- ◆ Does your district have a forest? Where?
- ◆ Which districts of our state have forests? Identify in A.P. map.
- ◆ What should be done to protect the forests from depleting?
- ◆ Which different tribes are there in the forests of your district?

There are forests in the districts of Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Vijayanagaram, Srikakulam, Kurnool, Prasasam and Mahaboonagar. Earlier the forests were dense and wide but now, their area is decreasing. Different types of tribes live in the forests of our State. The tribes Gonds, Kolami, Pradhan and Thoti live in Adilabad. The tribes Savara, Konda, Adivasi, Oriya, Kuvi, Gadaba are living in the forests of Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram and Visakhapatnam. The tribals belonging to koya live in Khammam, West and East Godavari districts. Konda Redlu and Koya live in Khammam district. The Banjara tribe live in Warangal and in other districts. Many changes have occurred in the life styles of the tribals when compared to the past.

Tribal people are developing due to education. As the tribal villages are in dense forests the transport facilities have not yet fully developed. When compared to people of other regions the tribal people are still quite backward.

Think and say

- ◆ What difficulties are faced by the tribals due to the lack of transport facilities?
- ◆ What measures should be taken to develop the tribal people?
- ◆ How are others benefitting from the tribal people?

Do you know?

The forests occupy 6,92,027 sq.kms (21.5%) of land area in our country, Madhya Pradesh occupies first place in terms of forests with 77,000 sq.kms. Our State has 46,389 sq.kms. (16.89%) of forests. Khammam district occupies first place with 43.23% forest area.

Do you know?

Carbon-dioxide levels have increased in the atmosphere due to the destruction of trees. Due to this, the earth gets heated. This is called 'Global Warming'. This results in less rain fall.



Children planting trees near the village on the occasion of 'Vana Mahotsav'

What should we do to conserve the forests.

Look at the picture. Tell what the children are doing?

Why are the children planting the saplings?

We all of us should plant trees at least one per head. We should plant them in the available free space and protect them. For every tree that you cut plant another two.

Kyewords

Forests

Tribal people

Life style

Tradition

Science exhibition

Decoration of the house

Village God

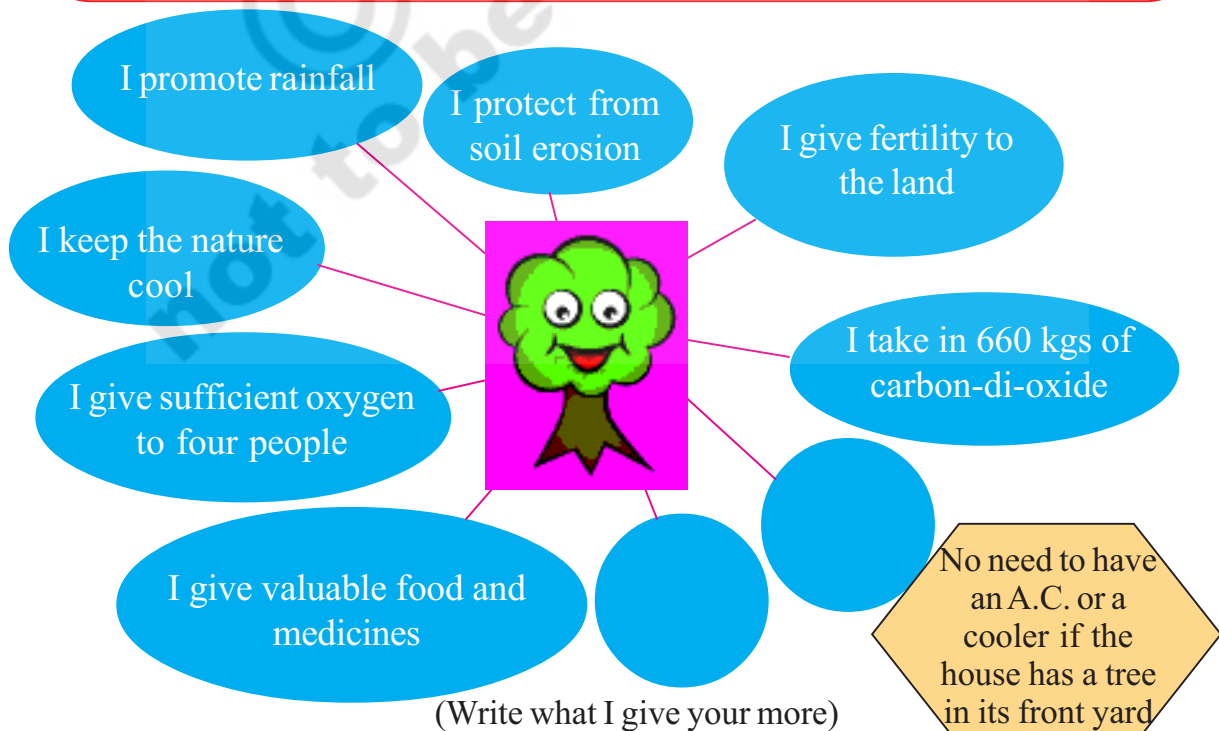
Fair

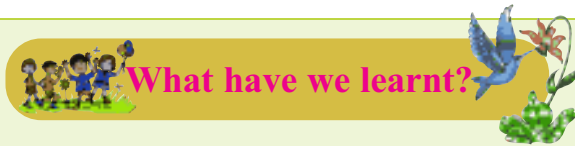
People other than tribes

Jhumming

Forest Products

Forest Conservation





1. Conceptual understanding

- a) Tribal people live mostly in the forests. Why?
- b) Tribal people mostly use the natural products. Why?
- c) We should protect the forests. How and why?
- d) Write the differences between the food taken by the Chenchus and you.
- e) Write a note on importance of fairs.
- f) Name some of the products which we get from the forests.
- g) Differentiate between our agriculture and Jhumming. (Podu agriculture)
- h) Forests have more animals. Why?
- i) Is Bio-diversity more in forests or in agricultural fields? Why?

2. Questioning and hypothesis

- a) We need money to buy things. How can we sell and buy things without using money? Guess and write.
- b) Grandfather living in a tribal area visited Pramod's residence. To know more about the people of that area, what questions do you ask Pramod's grandfather?

3. Experiments - field observations

- a) Tribal people make colours with the leaves and seeds available in their surroundings. You also prepare and write down the colours you made with leaves, flowers and seeds available in your area.
- b) Tribals make their houses look beautiful with mud and rangoli. What do you use at your home? What materials do you use for rangoli? Observe and write.
- c) You have seen the pictures drawn on the walls of the Gonds houses. Do the houses in your village also have similar pictures? observe, write and draw the pictures and rangoli in your village.

4. Information skills, projects

- ◆ Count the No. of trees in your village / ward and different types of plants & trees. Prepare a table & compare with village particulars as how many trees used.

(Take the help of your teacher in preparing the required table.)

5. Communication through mapping skills, drawing pictures and making models

- Draw the map of Andhra Pradesh and mark the forests and the districts where tribal people live, on this map.
- You have seen the pictures of the tribal people in the lesson. They prepare different decorative items with poosalu (plastic pearls) and wear them. Can you make a beautiful garland with the available poosalu and threads?

6. Appreciation, values and creating awareness towards bio-diversity

- Write about your feelings when you observe different scenes of the forests / nature.
- Tribal people protect their surroundings with more care. How do you appreciate their life style?
- Chenchus worship the forest as their mother. What do you understand from this statement? Write down.
- Forests are the habitats of different animals and plants. We are destroying their habitate. How animals might feel on this?
- Which aspects of the tribal people's life you like?

Can I do this?

- I can describe the life style of tribal people. Yes / No
- I can question to know about the life style of the tribal people. Yes / No
- I can recognize the Bio-diversity of forests. Yes / No
- I can collect the particulars of different forest products and tabulate them. Yes / No
- I can point out the forests areas where tribal people live in on the maps of Andhra Pradesh Yes / No

