

**Grade X Lesson 7**  
**Glimpses of India - I. A Baker from Goa**

**Main Points of the Story**

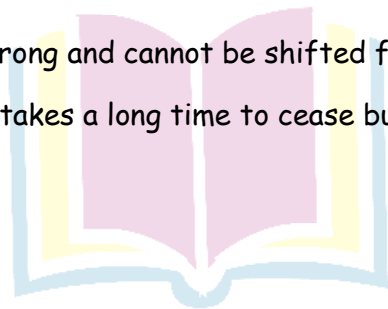
- ❖ Elders often think fondly of good Portuguese days and their famous loaves of bread.
- ❖ The age-old furnaces still bake those breads.
- ❖ The thud and jingle of the baker's bamboo announcing his arrival can still be heard in some places.
- ❖ Even today, these bakers are known as **Pader** in Goa.
- ❖ The children ran to meet and greet him.
- ❖ They longed for bread-bangles and sweet bread of special make.
- ❖ Marriage gifts were meaningless without the sweet bread known as the 'bol'.
- ❖ The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the occasion of her daughter's engagement.
- ❖ Cakes and 'bolinhas' are a must for Christmas and other festivals.
- ❖ The presence of the baker's furnace in the village is absolutely essential.
- ❖ The bakers in old days used to wear a dress known as the **kabai**.
- ❖ Baking was quite a profitable profession in the old days.
- ❖ The baker and his family always looked happy and prosperous.

**I. Extract Based Questions**

I. Read the following extract and answer the questions / complete the sentences that follow:

"Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters might have vanished but, the makers are still there. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The fire in these furnaces has not yet been extinguished. The thud and jingle of traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival in the morning, can still be heard in some places.

1. The narrator says that the furnaces were 'time- tested' because:
- a. they had been thoroughly tested each time, before being used.
  - b. they had proved the test of time and were working well.
  - c. they had been tested by modern day experts.
  - d. they had the power to withstand inexperienced usage.
2. 'Those eaters might have vanished but the makers are still there'. Pick the option that expresses the tone of the narrator.
- |               |              |                 |             |
|---------------|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| (1) Elated    | (2) Morose   | (3) Nostalgic   | (4) Hopeful |
| (5) Sarcastic | (6) Critical | (7) Celebratory |             |
- a. (1) and (7)      b. (2) and (6)      c. (3) and (4)      d. (4) and (5)
3. Pick the idiom that brings out the same meaning of 'reminiscing' as used in the passage.
- a. Train of thought.
  - b. Commit something to memory.
  - c. A trip down memory lane.
  - d. Jog somebody's memory.
4. Why do you think the baker came in with 'a thud and a jingle'?
- a. He wanted to make everyone alert and active with his presence.
  - b. He wanted to wake up everyone from their slumber and ask them to visit the bakery.
  - c. He was used to make a loud noise as most people responded to just that.
  - d. He wanted to make people aware that he had come around to sell his goodies
5. The 'fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished' implies that:
- a. The furnaces are still being used to bake the loaves of bread.
  - b. The fire is in the process of being reviewed as a replaceable method for heating furnaces.
  - c. The furnaces are very strong and cannot be shifted for use in other areas.
  - d. The fire in the furnaces takes a long time to cease burning, once lighted.



Next Generation School

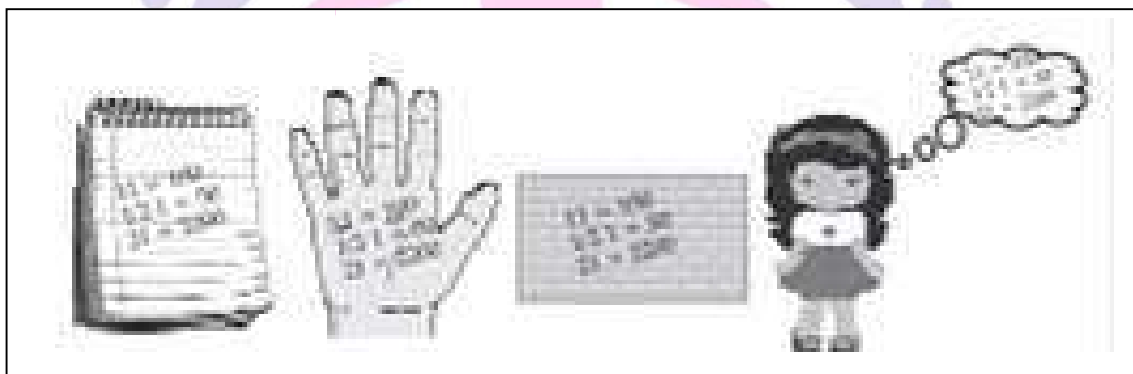
## II. Extract Based Questions

I. Read the following extract and answer the questions/ complete the sentences that follow:

The baker or bread-seller of those days had a peculiar dress known as the kabai. It was a single piece long frock reaching down to the knees. In trousers which were shorter than full length ones and longer than half pants. Even today, anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that he is dressed like a pader!

1. The baker or bread-seller of those days had a peculiar dress known as the kabai. It was a single piece long frock reaching down to the knees. In our childhood, we saw bakers wearing shirt and trousers which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants. Even today, anyone who wears a half pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that he is dressed like a pader.

1. Choose the answer that lists the correct option about the recording of the baker's monthly accounts.



a. Option (1)

b. Option (2)

c. Option (3)

d. Option (4)

2. When the writer says, 'Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days', he means that:

a. baking isn't as popular in Goa currently.

b. bakers have chosen to adopt other professions.

c. baking, as a job, isn't as gainful as it used to be.

d. bakers' goods were of a better quality in earlier times.

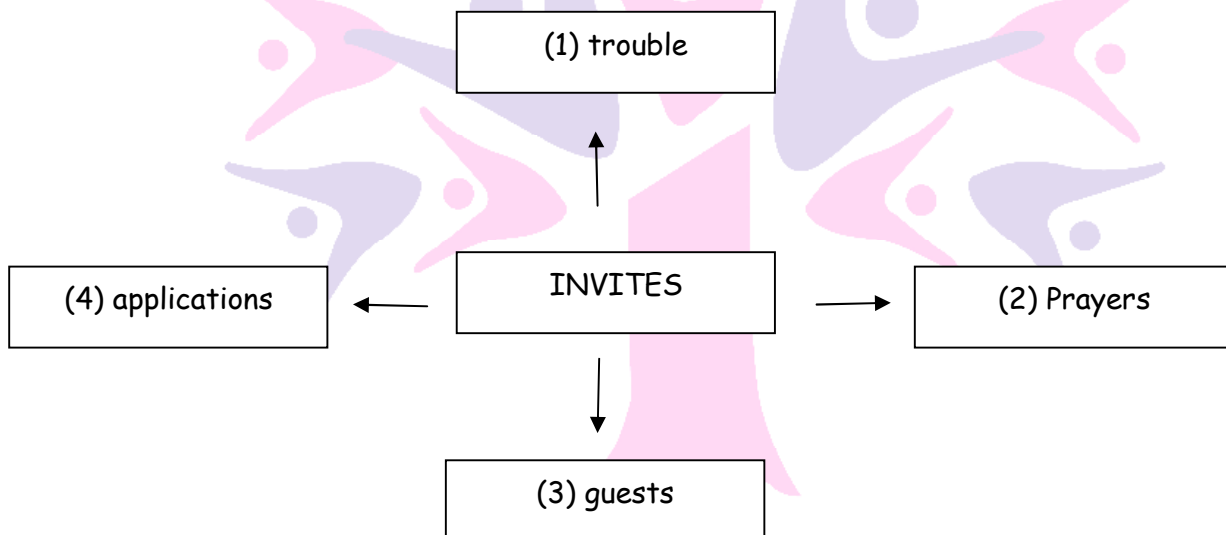
3. The statement that is TRUE about payment collection, according to the passage is:

- a. The baker received payment on a daily basis.
- b. The baker was paid for his services at the end of the month.
- c. The baker insisted that customers pay before the month-end.
- d. The baker chose to receive payment any day of the month.

4. The kabai was a 'peculiar' outfit as it was:

- a. a tight - fitting apparel.
- b. too colourful.
- c. made of unsuitable materials.
- d. a dress-like attire.

5. The extract uses the phrase, 'invites (the) comments'. Which of the following expressions is INCORRECT with respect to the word 'invites'?



- a. Option (1)
- b. Option (2)
- c. Option (3)
- d. Option (4)

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### III. Extract Based Questions

**III. Read the following extract and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: (5×1=5)**

The baker usually collected his bills at the end of the month. Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil. Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. He, his family and his servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this. Even today, any person with a jackfruit like physical appearance is easily compared to a baker.

**1. Where did the baker record his accounts?**

- a. In a diary
- b. On a computer
- c. On the wall in pencil
- d. In his memory

**2. Why did the baker and his family never starve?**

- a. They have enough to eat.
- b. They were very rich.
- c. They had servants.
- d. Baking was a profitable business.

**3. A baker in Goa can be identified \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- a. with his attire
- b. with a jack fruit like physical appearance
- c. with this plump physique.
- d. Both b. and c.

**4. The records were maintained \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- a. daily
- b. weekly
- c. fortnightly
- d. monthly

**5. Which word in the extract is a synonym of 'rich'?**

- a. Wealthy
- b. Testimony
- c. Profitable
- d. Prosperous

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### Very Short Answer Type Questions

**1. How did the baker become synonymous with celebrations and occasions in Goa?**

The village baker was very important for festive occasions. Marriage gifts were meaningless without the sweet bread known as 'bol'. Sandwiches, cakes and bolinhas were a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. These were made with the bread.

**2. Inspired by the diversity in the chapter, 'Glimpses of India', you wrote an article for your school magazine on the topic, 'Diversity-the Uniqueness of India'. Write a paragraph, sharing two key opinions from the article.**

Diversity makes India unique. India is a unique country in every possible way and is colourful too. Festivals and dressing are two of them. Every culture, religion and custom has its own unique colour, which shows the diversity in one. In India, different people have different culture, speak different languages, have different customs, castes, history, religions, which make India unique.

**3. How is bread an important part of life in Goa?**

Bread is an important part of the Goa's life because it is needed for all sorts of functions whether they are birthdays, marriages or festivals like Christmas. These occasions are incomplete without a special preparation which is made from bread for each event.

**4. What do you learn about the financial condition of the bakers of Goa?**

The Bakers of Goa led a prosperous life. Baking was a profitable profession. They never starved. His family and servants always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to this.

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## Short Answer Type Questions

### 1. What do the elders reminisce about and why?

The elders reminisce nostalgically about the good old Portuguese days and the Portuguese loaves of bread. The loaves of bread were an integral part of Goan's life. Marriages were meaningless without sweet breads. The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on her daughter's engagement. Christmas and other festivals must have cakes and bolinhas. They still remember the jingling thud of the baker in the morning.

### 2. How can you say that the makers of the famous Goan loaves are still there?

Many of those eaters of loaves might have died but their makers still exist. The mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves are still there in Goa. The fire in the furnaces has not yet been extinguished and the thud and jingle of the baker's and bamboo can still be heard in the morning in some places. These bakers are known as paders, exist in Goa even today. The family profession is still carried on.

### 3. How did the baker make his musical entry on the scene in the morning?

The baker made his musical entry in the morning. The jingling thud of his bamboo woke up the people in the morning. He used to come at least twice a day. The children ran to meet and greet him. For children, it was not just for the love of the loaf but for the love of the jingling music.

### 4. Why was the baker, the friend, companion and guide of the children?

For children, the very sight of the baker was quite exciting. He was their friend companion and guide. The jingling thus of his bamboo put them in rapture. They ran to meet and greet him. It was not so much for the love of the loaf. What they longed for were the bread-bangles. Sometimes they liked the sweet bread of special make.

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**5. What importance did the baker's furnace have in the village in Goa?**

The leaves of bread had become an important and integral part of the lives of the people in Goa. Marriages were meaningless without the sweet bread or the bol. No party or feast was possible without bread. The lady of the house would prepare sandwiches on the engagement ceremony of her daughter. Cakes and sweet breads were a must for Christmas and other festivals. The presence of the baker's furnace was absolutely essential in the village.

**6. Describe the changes in the dress of the baker or the pader with the passage of the time.**

In good old days during the Portuguese rule, the baker or bread seller had a peculiar dress. It was known as 'kabai'. It was a single piece long frock reaching down to the knees/ These days a pader wears a shirt and trousers which are shorter than full lengths ones and longer than half pants.

**7. What was the attitude of the baker towards.**

- i. the day of the house                      ii. The children                      iii. The maid servant?
- i. First of all, the baker would greet the lady of the house with "Good morning" and then places his basket on vertical bamboo before her.
- ii. He would push aside the children with a mild rebuke.
- iii. The loaves were delivered to the maid-servant.

**8. How did the children behave when they were pushed aside with a mild rebuke by the pader?**

The baker would push aside the children with a mild rebuke. But the kids would not give up. They would climb a bench or the parapet and peep into other basket. They longed for the bread-bangles. Actually the jingling thud of the baker or the pader fascinated them.

**9. Why would the children didn't even care to brush their teeth or wash their mouths properly?**

The jingling thud of the pader and his musical entry in the morning would wake up the children from their sleep. They would run to greet and meet him. They didn't even care to

brush their teeth or wash their mouths. The tiger never brushed their teeth. There was no need of doing any such thing. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely after all.

**10. When did the baker collect his bills and how did he record his monthly accounts?**

The pader usually collected his bills from his customers at the ends of the month. He didn't have a notebook to record his monthly accounts. Monthly accounts used to be recorded on some wall in pencil.

**11. How would you prove that baking was a profitable profession in the old days in Goa?**

Baking was quite a profitable profession in the old days in Goa?

Baking was quite a profitable profession in Goa in the old days. The baker and his family never starved. Even his servants could meet both the ends easily. He and his family always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony of their happiness and prosperity.

**Long Answer Type Questions**

**1. What do our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about in Goa? He did the old profession of making the famous loaves of bread end with the Portuguese?**

Our elders in Goa are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about the good Old Portuguese days. They are often heard saying nostalgically about their famous loaves of bread. Many eaters of loaves might have vanished but the makers are still alive, the profession of baking loaves of bread has not died with ending of the Portuguese rule. Goa still has the mixers the moulders and the bakers of those unique loaves of bread. Even today one can hear the thud and jungle of the traditional baker's bamboo in the morning. Marriages feasts, Christmas and other festivals are meaningless without the sweet bread known as the bol. The baker's presence in even Goa village is absolutely essential. Baking was indeed a profitable profession in good old days. However, the tradition hasn't died completely yet.

**2. Describe the author's experience during his childhood in Goa? Why was the baker or the pader the guide of children in Goa?**

The author remembers fondly his childhood days in Goa. He recalls how the baker used to be friend companion and guide of the children. The thud and jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo woke them from their sleep. It heralded the arrival of the baker or the pader in the morning. He used to come at least twice a day. Once he used to set out in the morning on his selling round. Then he returned after emptying his huge basket. The children ran to meet and greet him. It was not for the love of the loaf. They longed for the bread-bangles. Sometimes it was sweet bread of special make. The children specially linked the musical entry on the scene with the 'jhang, jhang' sound of his specially made bamboo staff. He would greet the lady of the house with good morning but put the children with a mild rebuke. The children would not give up. They would climb a bench and peep into the basket. The author still recalls the fragrance of those loaves. The children would become crazy at the sight of the pader. They would forget even to brush their teeth.

**3. Baking was a profitable profession in the old days in Goa. Prove it by giving examples from the text.**

Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days in Goa. The people of Goa were used to the refreshing fragrance of the loaves of bread. On all occasions and ceremonies, they needed them. Marriage gifts were meaningless without the sweet bread or the bol. No party was complete if bread was not served in it. The lady of the house must prepare sandwiches on the engagement ceremony of her daughter. Christmas and other festivals must have bolinhas during their celebrations. The presence of the baker's furnace was absolutely necessary in every Goan village. The baker usually collect his bills at the end of the month. The baker and his family never starved. They always looked happy and prosperous. Their plump physique was an open testimony to their happiness and prosperity.

**4. Give a pen-portrait of the baker or the pader highlighting the changes that came in his fortune and dress with the passage of the time.**

The baker or the pader used to be an essential part of the 'Goans' life. The baker or bread seller had a peculiar dress during the Portuguese days. It was known as the kabai. It was a

single piece long frock reaching down the the knees. With the passage of time he started wearing a shirt and trousers which were just longer than the short pants. The baker and his family always looked happy and prosperous in the good old days. Their plumpy physique was an open testimony of their happiness and prosperity. However as the time changed the bakers continued their profession but with their reduced fortune and importance. The thud and jingle of the traditional bamboo of the baker is still heard in the streets of Goa even now sweet breads or the bols are still the part of feasts, marriages and Christmas in Goa. However the old charm and craze have become rather dim in recent days.

**1. The narrator shares, "Baking was indeed a profitable profession in the old days."**

**(a) What do you feel has changed now? Why?**

**(b) State any one way, you feel, the paders can regain their lost glory.**

**(a)** The baker or the pader used to be an essential part of the Goans' life. With the passage of time, the bakers continued their profession but with their reduced fortune and importance. The profession of baking loaves of bread has not died with the end of the Portuguese rule. Goa still has the mixer, the moulders and the baker of those loaves of bread. The furnaces still bake those unique loaves. Marriages, feasts, Christmas and other festivals are still meaningless without the sweet bread called 'bol'. However, the tradition hasn't died completely yet.

**(b)** The paders can regain their lost glory by consistent hard work. They need to be as traditional as they were earlier. As the family tradition is still carried on even today by the new generation of bakers. Soon, they will regain their lost glory.

**2. In the chapter, 'A Baker from Goa' the narrator talks about his childhood in Goa and his fond memories. Compare the childhood of Nelson Mandela with that of the narrator.**

Both the narrator and Nelson Mandela have pleasant memories of their childhood. In his family, Mandela was the first one to gain a formal education. The concept of freedom was limited only to run in the field, swim in the local stream and ride on the slow moving bulls. He says that his was a 'transitory freedom' which he enjoyed the most. On the contrary, during the narrator's childhood in Goa, the baker used to be his friend, companion and guide. He used to come at least twice a day. The author and his friends used to climb a bench or the perpet and peep into the basket somehow. The author can still recall the typical fragrance of the loaves. Then he and his friends didn't even care to brush their teeth.

Thus, the narrator had carefree and enjoyable childhood which was full of childish activities whereas Nelson Mandela's childhood was actually his training to become a good leader.

**3. Why were the children fascinated by the baker? How did they show their eagerness to see him?**

The baker was a very respected person in the Goan society because he would guide the children about good behaviour (when he mildly rebuked them for peeping into his basket and giving respect to the elders). He was very informal with the children. The children of Goa considered the baker as a friend and companion. He was not simply a vendor. The children ran to meet him not because of their love for the loaf, which was bought by the servant of the house. They actually longed for the bread bangles. The noise from his bamboo stick would wake the children up and they showed their eagerness to meet him by running out to greet him.

### TEST YOUR SKILLS

#### Short Answer Type Questions

1. What do the elders fondly remember in Goa?
2. Why did children run to meet and greet the baker or the pader in Goa?
3. What arguments did the children give for not brushing their teeth in the morning?
4. Describe how the famous loaves of bread were a part of all marriages, festivals and ceremonies in Goa.
5. How was baking a profitable profession in the old days?
6. What open testimony did the plump physique and a jackfruit-like appearance give to the bakers of the old days?

#### Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe the role of the baker or the pader in the old days in Goa.
2. Prove by giving examples from the text the presence of the baker's furnace was absolutely essential in every village of Goa in the old days. Why was it so?
3. Why did the children run to meet and greet the baker or bread seller? Describe their behaviour when the baker used to push them aside with a mild rebuke.

**Grade X Lesson 7**  
**Glimpses of India - II. Coorg**

**Main Points of the Story**

- ❖ Coorg is situated between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore.
- ❖ It is called the land of rolling hills.
- ❖ It is inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful woman and wild creatures.
- ❖ It is the smallest district of Karnataka.
- ❖ Coorg is the home of evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantations.
- ❖ September to March is the most pleasant season for the tourists.
- ❖ During this period, weather is perfect and the air breathes of coffee.
- ❖ The people of Coorg are fiercely independent people.
- ❖ They are possibly of Greek or Arabic origin.
- ❖ It is said that a part of Alexander's army settled there and married amongst the locals.
- ❖ Their long black coat with an embroidered waist-belt Kuppia resembles the kuffia worn by the Arabs.
- ❖ Coorgi homes are known for their hospitality.
- ❖ The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army.
- ❖ The river, Kaveri, obtains its water from the hills and forests of Coorg.
- ❖ High energy adventures with river rafting, canoeing, rock climbing and mountain biking are quite popular in Coorg.
- ❖ Birds, bees butterflies, Malabar squirrels and langurs find shelter in the rainforests of Coorg.
- ❖ The top of the Brahmagiri hills gives you a panoramic view of the misty valley of Coorg.
- ❖ India's largest Tibetan settlement at Bylakuppe is famous for its Buddhist monks and temple.

## I. Extract Based Questions

II. Read the following extract and answer the questions/complete the sentences that follow: (5×1=5)

Coorg or Kodagu, the smallest district of Karnataka, is home to evergreen rainforests, spices and coffee plantations. Evergreen rainforests cover thirty percent of this district. During the monsoons, it pours enough to keep many visitors away. The season of joy commences from September and continues till March. The weather is perfect, with some showers thrown in for good measure. The air breathes of invigorating coffee. Coffee estates and colonial bungalows stand tucked under tree canopies in prime corners.

1. Coorg is a district in \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Kerala
  - b. Karnataka
  - b. Andhra Pradesh
  - d. Tamil Nadu
2. Which word in the extract means 'begins'?
  - a. Commences
  - b. Tucked
  - b. Measure
  - d. Canopies
3. Which is the best season in Coorg?
  - a. January to March
  - b. September to March
  - b. April to September
  - d. November to January
4. Coorg is famous for \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. coffee
  - b. cotton
  - b. tea
  - d. rubber
5. How much of Coorg is covered with rainforest?
  - a. Thirty percent
  - b. Fifty percent
  - b. Forty percent
  - d. Seventy percent

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## II. Extract Based Questions

**II. Read the following extract and answer the questions/ complete the sentences that follow:**

**5x1=5**

Coorgi homes have a tradition of hospitality and they are more than willing to recount numerous tales of valor related to their sons and fathers. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army and the first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. Even now, Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

1. What kind of stories are the Coorg people always ready to tell?
  - a. Tales of valour of their forefather.
  - b. Tales of bravery and courage of their sons.
  - c. Tales of their own bravery.
  - d. Both a. and b. correct.
2. Who was the first chief of the Indian Army?
  - a. A corgi
  - b. General Cariappa
  - c. Kodavus
  - d. Both a. and b. are correct.
3. What is the special favour granted to the kodavus even now?
  - a. They can carry firearms with licence.
  - b. They can carry firearms without licence.
  - c. They can travel around the nation without licence.
  - d. None of the above is correct.
4. What is the tradition of coorgi homes?
  - a. hospitality
  - b. bravery
  - c. valour
  - d. courage
5. Which word in the passage means the same as 'friendliness'?
  - a. Tradition
  - b. Valour
  - c. Hospitality
  - d. Regiment

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  - d. courage
- 5. Which word in the passage means the same as 'friendliness'?**
  - a. Tradition
  - b. Valour
  - c. Hospitality
  - d. Regiment

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. Why does the author in 'Coorg' say that the visitors' search for the heart and soul of India would be found in Coorg

Coorgis are famous for hospitality, valor which is the heart and soul of India. Apart from it, Coorg is a beautiful region of rolling hills and lush green rainforests. It is also famous for coffee and spices.

2. Do adventure sports like river rafting and rock climbing require a person to possess just physical strength? Why/Why not?

Apart from physical strength, a person does require many other skills. The person must be zealous, confident courageous and flexible. He should have excellent public speaking skills. He should not only have a good memory but also good destination knowledge

3. Coorgis belong to a valorous and hospitable race. Comment on this statement with reference to the text.

Coorgis are a proud race of martial men and beautiful women. They are very hospitable and entertain their guests by relating stories of bravery of their sons and fathers. Coorgis soldiers are brave. Coorgis are the only people who are permitted to carry firearms without a license.

4. The culture, lifestyle and traditions of a place are influenced by the people who lived or settled there at some point of time. Cultural assimilation adds flavour to the existing structure of a society. Summarise your opinion on the given idea.

The brave and independent people of Coorg are of Greek or Arabic descent. According to a story, a part of Alexander's army did not return and was settled here. They married among the locals. This culture assimilation can be seen in the martial tradition, marriage and religious customs.

**5. Why is Coorg called the land of rolling hills?**

Coorg is called the land of rolling hills because the city is situated on the gentle sloping hills. The entire area is covered with these hills. Brahmagiri hills have a panoramic view.

**6. The people of Coorg have a tradition of courage and bravery. How has it been recognised in modern India? OR**

**How is the Coorgi tradition of courage and bravery recognised in modern India?**

'The season of joy that commences from September and continues till March is the best to visit Coorg as some showers make the weather perfect and the air becomes fragrant with the aroma of coffee'.

**Short Answer Type Questions**

**1. Describe the geographical location of Coorg.**

Coorg or Kadagu, is the smallest district in Karnataka. It has been Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore. This piece of heaven may also be called the land of rolling hills. It is the home of evergreen rainforests, species and coffee plantations. During the monsoons, Coorg has a lot of rains.

**2. Describe the people and culture of Coorg.**

Coorg is inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful women and wild creatures. Coorgi homes have a tradition of hospitality. There are many tales of valour related to the people of Coorg. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated in the Indian Army. General Cariappa the first Chief of the Indian Army, was a Coorgi. Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

**3. Describe the climate birds and animals of Coorg.**

During the monsoons, Coorg has a lot of rains. It pours enough to keep many tourists away. The best tourist season starts from September and continues till March. The very air of

Coorg smells of Coffee. Kingfishers, squirrels langurs, wild elephants, bees and butterflies abound in the rainforests of Coorg.

**4. Describe the possible descent of the people of Coorg.**

The people of Coorg, their rituals and traditions are quite different from the Hindu mainstream. According to one story, a part of the Alexander's army travelling the coast, settled here as their return became impractical. So they are believed to be of Greek origin. The Coorgi dress a long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt resembles the Kuffia worn by the Arabs. So, some think that they are of Arabic origin.

**5. How has the tradition of courage and bravery been recognised in modern India. Give examples from the text.**

The people of Coorg are known for being fiercely independent, brave and courageous. There are numerous tales of valour connected with the people of Coorg. The Coorg Regiment is one of the most decorated regiments in the Indian Army. The first Chief of the Indian Army, General Cariappa, was a Coorgi. The Coorgis are the only people in India who are permitted to carry firearms without a licence.

**6. Describe the origin of Kaveri and the area around it.**

The river, Kaveri originates from the hills and forests of Coorg, Mahaseer a large freshwater fish abound in these waters. Kingfishers dive for their catch. The squirrels and langurs drop half-eaten fruit for the mischief of enjoying the splash and ripples in the clear water. A walk across the bridge leads to the sixty- four acre island of Nisargadhana.

**7. How do the most laidback individuals become to the life of high energy adventures in Coorg?**

Coorg offers many outdoor high-energy adventures. Even the most laidback individuals become converts to the life of high-energy adventures. They enjoy river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking. Numerous walking trails in Coorg are a favourite with trekkers.

**8. Where and how can we have a panoramic view of the misty landscape of Coorg from?**

The tourists are advised not to miss a climb to the Brahmagiri hills. The climb to the Brahmagiri hills gives you a panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg. Then you can walk across the rope bridge. It will lead you to the sixty-four acre island of Nisargadhama.

**9. Describe the largest Buddhist settlement in Coorg.**

Below the rolling hills lie the largest Tibetan settlement in India in Coorg. The Buddhist temple at Bylakuppe is famous for its grandeur and beauty. The monks in their red, ochre and yellow robes represent the heart and soul of India, right here in Coorg.

**Long Answer Type Questions**

**1. Describe the physical and geographical features of Coorg.**

Coorg is a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the Kingdom of God. This is a land of rolling hills inhabited by proud race of martial men, beautiful women, coffee and wild elephants. Coorg or Kodagu and wild elephant, Coorg or Kodagu, is the smallest district of Karnataka. It is home to evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantation. This beautiful region of rolling hills, rainforests and mist lies between Mysore and the coastal town of Mangalore. Rainforests dominate the physical feature of Coorg. They cover more than thirty per cent of this district. It rains heavily during the monsoons. The most ideal season for the tourists starts from September and ends in March. The river Kaveri obtains its water from the hills and rainforests of Coorg. The region abounds in wild elephants and langurs besides a lot of birds, bees and butterflies. The Brahmagiri hills provide a panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg. The sixty-four acre island of Nisargadhama is a little paradise for the tourists.

**2. What are popular theories regarding the descent of the people of Coorg?**

The Coorgi people are distinct people. Their religious practices, marriages and traditions are distinct from the Hindu traditions are distinct from the Hindu mainstream. There are two

theories regarding the descent of the Coorgi people. It is believed that perhaps they are of Greek or Arabic descent. According to one theory a part of Alexander's army moved south along the coast. Their return became impractical. These people settled down there. They married amongst the locals. Another theory gives their descent to the Arabs. The theory of Arab origin draws support from their dress which resembles the traditional Arabic dress. Their long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt worn by the Kodavus, known as Kuppia, resembles the kuffia worn by the Arabs and the Kurds.

### **3. Describe the rainforests, the river Kaveri and coffee plantations in Coorg.**

Coorg is a land of rolling hills and rainforests. The rainforests dominate the landscape of Coorg. They cover over thirty percent of Coorg. The rainforests have a lot rains during the monsoons. The ideal tourists' season starts from September and ends in March, The hills and rainforests are the source of the river Kaveri. Mahaseer, a large freshwater fish, abound in Kaveri waters. The forests of Coorg have a rich flora and fauna. Birds, bees butterflies, Malabar squirrels langurs and wild elephants find their shelter in the rainforests of Coorg. The very air of Coorg smells of fresh coffee. Coffee estates and colonial building are scattered all around amid the rolling hills.

### **4. Why does the author call Coorg a 'piece of heaven' that must have drifted from the kingdom of God?**

Coorg is among the most beautiful regions of India. The author rightly calls it 'a piece of heaven' that must have drifted from the kingdom of God. This land of rolling hills is also the home of beautiful rain forests. The rainforests cover more than thirty percent of Coorg. The evergreen rain forests have a rich flora and fauna. The very air of coorg breathes of fresh coffee. The beautiful sprawling coffee estates are dotted with colonial bungalows. The river Kaveri obtains its water from the hills and rainforests of Coorg. Kingfishers dive for Mahaseer, a large freshwater fish in these waters. Squirrels and langurs drop partially eaten fruit into the clear water. Elephants enjoy being bathed and scrubbed in the Kaveri by their mahouts. The climb to the Brahmagiri hills gives you a panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg. The sixty-four acre island of Nisargadhama is a little paradise for tourises. So are the

temples and Buddhist monks wearing red, ochre and yellow robes. All of them represent the heart and soul of India.

**5. Describe what you know about the descent of the people of Coorg?**

The people of Coorg are possibly of Greek or Arabic descent. As one story goes a part of Alexander's army moved south along the coast and settled here when return became impractical. These people married among the locals. Their culture is evident in the martial traditions, marriage and religious rites. They are different from those of the Hindu mainstream. The theory of Arab origin draws support from the long, black coat with an embroidered waist-belt worn by the Kodavus known as Kuppia. This is like the Kuffia worn by the Arabs and Kurds.

**6. Pen down a brief travelogue\* entry, narrating any personal impression/s about a visit to Coorg. Include your reflections about the differences between the place where you live and the place you've visited.**

A travelogue is a person's account of a journey to another country or place. It can either be a written report with many factual details or a narrative story about personal impressions and experiences.) You may begin like this... As I stepped into the land of evergreen forest, I was blown away by the pristine beauty and .....(continue)

As I stepped into the land of evergreen forest, I was blown away by the pristine beauty and lush green flora of the rain forests of Coorg. This place is really a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of God. This land of rolling hills is inhabited by a proud race of martial men, beautiful women, coffee and wild elephants. The rain forests cover more than thirty percent of this district. Often it rains heavily. September is the most ideal time to enjoy the natural beauty of this place. The river Kaveri proves to be the cherry on the cake. It obtains its water from the hills and rainforests of Coorg. The region abounds in langurs, bees, butterflies and a lot of birds. The Brahmagiri hills provide a panoramic view of the entire misty landscape of Coorg. Moreover, the sixty-four acre island of Nisargadhama is a little paradise for the tourists.

### 7. What do the people of Coorg teach us?

Coorg people are famous for their hospitality, love, respect and fellow feeling which is the need of the present hour. The adventurous sports like river-rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing and mountain biking are great motivators. The Coorg Regiment is famous for receiving maximum number of awards for its bravery. The first Chief of Indian Army, General Cariappa was a Coorgi. The Coorgis are more than willing to recount numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. Even now, Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a license.

### 8. 'Coorg' seems to share a lot of historical perspectives. Do you think knowledge of such historical facts is important for us?

In the lesson 'Coorg', the author tells us that the Coorgi people are descendants of either the Greeks or the Arabs. He says that they could have Greek origin because there was a legend that a part of Alexander's army had moved to south and settled here. According to another legend, they had Arab origin because of the dresses they wore. The author also tells us that the first General of the Indian Army, General Cariappa was a Coorgi.

It is important for us to know about the deep rooted cultural background of our country and heritage so that we become aware of the fact that our culture has always welcomed people from other cultures and absorbed them into its own. This spreads the message of being tolerant which is very important in today's world when the world is torn with war because of these ethnic reasons.



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## TEST YOUR SKILLS

### Short Answer Type Questions

1. Give the geographical location of Coorg.
2. Why is Coorg called 'a piece of heaven that must have drifted from the kingdom of God'?
3. Describe the weather of Coorg and its best tourist season.
4. Why are the people of Coorg thought to have descended from the Greeks?
5. What is the theory of their Arab origin?
6. Give examples to show the traditional valour and courage of the people of Coorg.
7. Describe the animal wealth of Coorg.
8. What are high-energy adventures available in Coorg?
9. Why are the Brahmagiri hills and the island of Nisargadhama famous in Coorg?

### Long Answer Type Questions

1. Give the geographical description of Coorg highlighting its flora and fauna.
2. Give two theories that describe the possible descent of the people of Coorg.
3. Which is the best season for tourists in Coorg and why? What things and places are worth visiting in Coorg?



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## Grade X Lesson 7

### Glimpses of India - III. Tea from Assam

#### Main Points of the Story

- ❖ Tea is really a very popular beverage in India.
- ❖ You can hear vendor shouting "chain-garam-garam chain" at every railway station.
- ❖ More than eighty crores of cups of tea are drunk everyday throughout the world.
- ❖ It was green, green everywhere and Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before.
- ❖ The landscape changed and tea bushes took the place of green paddy fields.
- ❖ A sea of tea-bushes stretched as far as the eyes could go.
- ❖ Assam has the largest concentration of plantations in the world.
- ❖ No one really knows who discovered tea.
- ❖ One Chinese legend says that a few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the boiling water.
- ❖ The leaves gave it a delicious flavour. They were tea leaves.
- ❖ Words like 'Chai' and 'Chini' are from Chinese language.
- ❖ According to an Indian legend, an ancient Buddhist ascetic cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditation.
- ❖ Ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids.
- ❖ Rajvir saw acre upon acre of tea bushes and nearly all of them were neatly pruned to the same height.
- ❖ Groups of tea-pluckers with bamboo baskets on their backs were plucking newly sprouted leaves.
- ❖ A tractor was pulling a trailer-load of leaves.
- ❖ Rajvir asked Pranjol's father if it was the second-flush or sprouting period.
- ❖ The sprouting periods lasts from May to July and this period yields the best tea.

## I. Extract Based Questions

**I. Read the following extract and answer the questions/ complete the sentences that follow: (5×1=5)**

"Tell me another!" scoffed Pranjol.

"We have an Indian legend too. Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep." "Tea was first drunk in China," Rajvir added, "as far back as 2700 B.C.! In fact, words such as tea, chai and chini are from the Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was drunk more as medicine than as beverage."

**1. The main idea of this extract is:**

- a. Tea as a popular beverage in Europe and how it spread.
- b. Origin of tea in India and why it became popular in Europe.
- c. Importance of India in popularising tea and influencing Europe.
- d. Indian legend on tea and how it travelled from China to Europe.

**2. Why do you think Pranjol 'scoffed'?**

- a. He was upset with the legend Rajvir shared.
- b. He was mocking Rajvir for his lack of knowledge.
- c. He was amused and tickled at what Rajvir shared.
- d. He was impressed with what Rajvir had shared.

**3. Pick the option that includes the tea label information that corresponds to the given sentence. "The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep."**

(1) Its calming effects may be attributed to an antioxidant called apigenin, which is found in abundance in chamomile tea. Apigenin binds to specific receptors in your brain that may decrease anxiety and initiate sleep.

(2) It increases levels of a neurotransmitter called gamma-aminobutyric acid (GABA) and improves overall sleep quality by shortening the time it takes to fall asleep and decreasing night-time awakenings.

(3) It interferes with REM sleep, has some unwanted side effects, keeps sleep away and allows the possibility of inducing hours of sleeplessness and increased night-time awakenings.

(4) It alleviates anxious thoughts and soothes the spirit before bedtime. It improves energy levels and helps banish stress and results in a better night's sleep, naturally.

- a. Option 1                      b. Option 2                      c. Option 3                      d. Option 4

4. Based on the inference from the extract, which of these is NOT TRUE about tea drinking in the sixteenth century Europe? Dr. Smith is a doctor of sixteenth century Europe.

- a. Dr. Smith encouraged drinking of green tea whenever available, to reduce chances of tooth loss.
- b. Dr. Smith prescribed regular tea drinking to all his patients with a weak heart.
- c. Dr. Smith always served tea as refreshment when he had guests, as they all enjoyed this beverage.
- d. Dr. Smith usually recommended black tea to reduce inflammation in the body.

5. Based on this extract, how do you think Rajvir felt while narrating?

- a. (i) excited                      (ii) agitated
- b. (i) hysterical                      (ii) nervous
- c. (i) nervous                      (ii) agitated
- d. (i) enthusiastic                      (ii) passionate

## II. Extract Based Questions

II. Read the following extract and answer the questions/ complete the sentences that follow: (5×1=5)

"We have an Indian legend too. Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditations. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The

leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep. "Tea was first drunk in China," Rajvir added, "as far back as 2700 B.C.! In fact words such as tea, 'chai' and 'chini' are from Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the sixteenth century and was drunk more as medicine than as beverage." The train clattered into Mariani junction. The boys collected their luggage and pushed their way to the crowded.

1. Bodhidharma was a \_\_\_\_\_ ascetic.  
a. **Buddhist**      b. Jain      c. Chinese      d. none of these
2. What did he cut to prevent feeling sleepy?  
a. Hair      b. **Eyelids**      c. Ear      d. Limbs
3. Where was tea first drunk?  
a. Russia      b. Europe      c. **China**      d. Japan
4. Which word in the extract means 'a drink'?  
a. Clattered      b. Junction      c. Legend      d. **Beverage**
5. When did tea come to Europe?  
a. Seventeenth century      b. **Sixteenth century**  
c. Fifth century      d. Eighteenth century

### III. Extract Based Questions

III. Read the following extract and answer the questions/ complete the sentences that follow: (5×1=5)

'Chai garam .. garam chai' a vendor called out in a high pitched voice. He came up to their window and asked, 'Chai, sa'ab?' 'Give us two cups,' Pranjol said. They sipped the steaming hot liquid. Almost everyone in their compartment was drinking too. Do you know that over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day all over the world?' Rajvir said 'When!' exclaimed Pranjol. "Tea really is very popular. The train pulled out of the station. Pranjol buried his nose in his detective book again.

1. Who was speaking in a high pitched voice?  
a. Rajvir      b. **Tea vendor**      c. Pranjol      d. Mr. Barua
2. Who ordered two cups of tea?

- a. Mr. Barua                      b. Rajvir                      c. Stranger                      d. Pranjol

3. Which of the statements given below is NOT TRUE about the two friends - Rajvir and Pranjol?

- a. Pranjol was a youngster from Assam.  
b. **Rajvir did not like reading detective stories**  
c. Rajvir was going to Assam for the first time.  
d. Pranjol was not interested in the greenery outside.

4. The author has used a colloquial word in the given extract. Which of the following is it?

- a. high-pitched                      b. steaming                      c. **when**                      d. compartment

5. Choose the word that correctly states the meaning of 'drank slowly'

- a. Pitched                      b. **sipped**                      c. steaming                      d. compartment

### Very Short Answer Type Questions

1. What excited Rajvir? Why did Pranjol not share his excitement?

The sight of the vast sea of lush green tea bushes coupled with tall sturdy trees excited Rajvir. Pranjol did not share Rajvir's excitement as he had been born and brought up on a tea plantation.

2. What legends are associated with the origin of tea?

a. There was one Chinese emperor who always boiled water before drinking it. One day a few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water which gave it a delicious flavour. It is said that they were tree leaves.

b. Bohhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditation. Ten plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk vanished sleep.

**3. Why did Rajvir feel that the view outside the window was magnificent?**

Rajvir had never seen such beautiful greenery in his life. He was fascinated to see the tea gardens and the wooded hills so he called it a magnificent view. The tea pluckers looked like dolls to him.

**4. Why does Rajvir call the workers doll-like figures?**

The tea pluckers were the local women. They had covered themselves with clothes from top to bottom. They looked like moving dolls. Rajvir called them doll-like figures. They really looked very pretty.

**5. Why was Pranjol not excited on seeing the tea garden?**

Pranjol was born and brought up in Assam. He had been watching the tea gardens since his childhood. There was nothing new for him. So he was not excited on seeing the tea gardens.

**6. What is the Chinese legend about the discovery of tea?**

According to the Chinese legend, a Chinese emperor discovered tea accidentally. He used to boil water before drinking it. One day a few leaves of some twigs burning under the pot fell into the water giving it a delicious flavour. It is said that they were tea leaves.

**7. What is the Indian legend about the discovery of tea?**

According to Indian legend, Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he felt very sleepy during meditation. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put into hot water and drunk vanished sleep.

**8. How are tea pluckers different from other farmers or labourers on the farms?**

The tea pluckers were different from other workers on the farm. They had bamboo baskets on their back. They were wearing plastic clothes. They looked like moving dolls.

### 9. Which tea is considered the best tea? Why?

The tea prepared from the second flush on sprouting period which begins in the month of May and lasts till the end of July is considered the best tea. It is the best one because it is prepared from the new leaves.

#### Short Answer Type Questions

1. Pranjol buried his head in his detective book while Rajvir was eager to look at the beautiful scenery during the train journey. Why was there a difference in their attitude?

Pranjol belonged to Assam. He was use to the scenic beauty of Assam since his childhood where as Rajvir was amazed to see huge fields full of green plantations. He was enjoying such natural beauty for the first time as he lived in Delhi.

2. Which language are the words 'Chai' and 'Chini' derived from? When did tea come to Europe?

The words tea, chai and chini were derived from Chinese language. Tea came to Europe in the sixteenth century and was drunk more as a medicine than as a beverage.

- 3 Why did Mr. Barua feel surprised?

Mr. Barua was surprised that Rajvir knew so much about tea plantations, despite the fact that it was his first visit to Assam. He appreciated the fact that Rajvir had collected a considerable amount of information before coming.

4. Rajvir did his study before his visit to the tea plantation. Is it good to do one's research before the start of a new venture or does it takes away from the thrill of discovery? Elucidate your stance.

Indeed, Rajvir possessed qualities like time management positivity and humility. His

research before the start to Assam helped him to explore more about the place. Knowing about the destination and being familiar with the real place is of utmost importance. Rajvir also surprised Pranjol's father with his in-depth knowledge of the subject.

**5. What legends are associated with the origin of tea?**

Chinese legend is that once a few leaves of the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water and gave a delicious flavour. It is said that they were tea leaves. According to the Indian legend, Bodhidharma cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy during meditation. Ten tea plants which grew out of the eyelids, when boiled in water and drunk banished his sleep.

**6. How has tea become a popular beverage?**

Tea is decidedly a very popular beverage in the world. More than eighty crore cups of tea are drunk everyday throughout the world. At every platform in India you can hear vendors crying "Chai - garam". The people can't resist buying the steaming hot cups of tea.

**7. Why was Rajvir so much excited?**

Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before. He was looking at the beautiful scenery. The soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eyes could see. The orderly rows of bushes were pruned to the same height. Rajvir was really excited to see the magnificent view.

**8. Why didn't Pranjol share Rajvir's excitement?**

Pranjol had been born and brought up on a tea plantation. He was familiar with tea gardens. On the other hand, Rajvir had never visited any tea plantation ever before. A sea of bushes stretching as far as the eyes could see fascinated him. The magnificent view, orderly rows of tea bushes really excited him. But Pranjol was used to such sights.

**9. Describe the Chinese legend regarding the discovery of tea leaves.**

There is a Chinese legend regarding the discovery of tea leaves. One Chinese emperor always boiled water before drinking it. One day a few leaves of the burning twigs under the pot fell into the water. The result was wonderful. The water gave a delicious flavour. Those leaves that gave a delicious flavour. Those leaves that gave a delicious flavour were tea leaves.

**10. What is the Indian legend regarding the discovery of tea .**

We have an Indian legend regarding the discovery of tea. Boddhidharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he fell sleepy during meditations. It is said that ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of those plants, when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep.

**11. Where and when did the drinking of tea start and how did it come to Europe?**

The drinking of tea first started in China. Tea was drunk in China as far as 2700 B.C. Words like tea, 'chai' and 'chini' are from Chinese. Tea came to Europe only in the 16 century. In Europe tea was drunk as medicine than as beverage in the early period.

**12. What did Rajvir see in the Dhekiabari tea estate managed by Pranjol's father?**

The tea estate at Dhekiabari was managed by Pranjol's father. Rajvir saw acre upon acre of tea bushes on both sides of the gravel road. They were all pruned to the same height. Groups of tea-pluckers, wearing plastic aprons were plucking the newly sprouted leaves. It was the second sprouting period.

**13. Where were Rajvir and Pranjol going and why?**

Rajvir and Pranjol were two youngsters. Actually, they were classmates at school in Delhi. Pranjols father is the manager of a tea garden in Upper Assam, Pranjol was born and brought up on the tea estate. He invited Rajvir to visit his home and the Dhekiabari Tea Estate during the summer vacation.

**14. Why did Pranjol's father say in surprise that Rajvir had done his homework before coming there?**

A tractor was pulling a trailer load of tea leaves at the Dhekiabari Tea Estate. Rajvir asked Pranjol's father if that was the second flush or sprouting period. Rajvir told that the second sprouting period lasts from May to July and yields the best tea. Such detailed information about tea leaves surprised Pranjol's father. He told Rajvir that he seemed to have done his homework before coming there.

### 15. How and where are tea leaves collected in Assam?

Assam has the largest number of tea estates in India. Acre upon acre of tea bushes are stretching as far as the eyes can go. All the bushes are pruned to the same height. Groups of tea pluckers carry bamboo basket on their back to collect tea -leaves. They wear plastic aprons. They pluck the newly- sprouted tea leaves from the bushes. Then the leaves are dried and processed in factories.

#### Long Answer Type Questions

1. Pranjol and Rajvir discuss their next vacation destination. They shortlist Coorg and Goa. Rajvir is keen on Coorg and tries to convince Pranjol. Develop a conversation between the two, based on your understanding of *Glimpses of India*. You may begin like this:

**Rajvir** : Hey Pranjol ! I think we should be visiting Coorg. It is a beautiful place with coffee.

**Pranjol** : We visited a tea plantation last year, in Assam, I want to...

**Rajvir** : There is a lot more to do in Coorg than smelling the coffee! The place has rainforests, so the mega fauna will be worth watching. Not just this, Coorg provides opportunities to indulge in adventure sports like river rafting, rappelling, mountain biking, to name a few.

**Pranjol** : That sounds interesting, but I would prefer some serene moments too, away from this post pandemic hustle-bustle.

**Rajvir** : Oh! The answer is Coorg again!

**Pranjol** : Oh, come on! You can't be a serious

**Rajvir** : Believe me, I am. Coorg is the place. It has beautiful natural walking trails and the Brahmagiri hills offer a panoramic view. I read that the place has the largest Tibetan settlement, so the environment will reflect peace and spirituality, I 'm sure.

• The dialogues should be based on understanding of the chapter. There should be arguments from Pranjol showing he requires more to get convinced. Rajvir, being an explorer must be able to give an interesting account about Coorg to convince Pranjol. The persuasive element using examples from text descriptions need to be showcased.

**Apart from the above the following could be added:**

- Coorg is culturally rich, the people there are brave and their hospitality is great.
- Some people in Coorg are the only ones allowed to keep firearms without license. It will be fun meeting such brave hearts.
- Rainforests can be visited for flora and fauna.
- There flows the river Kaveri and sitting by the river could be peaceful.

**2. What did Rajvir see during his train journey? Why was he more excited than his friend Pranjol?**

Rajvir, a classmate of Pranjol, is visiting Dhekiabari Tea Estate in Assam, for the first time. Actually, he is enjoying the train journey to Assam with his friend Pranjol whose father manages Dhekiabari Tea Estate. The beautiful scenery fascinates Rajvir. It is green, green everywhere. He sees so much greenery for the first time in his life. Now the landscape changes. The paddy fields give way to tea bushes. A sea of tea bushes are stretching as far as eyes can go. The orderly rows of bushes are pruned to the same height. Groups of tea pluckers are carrying bamboo baskets on their backs. They are plucking the newly sprouted leaves. The magnificent view fascinates Rajvir. However, Pranjol is not so much excited. These views are not new to him. He was born and brought up on a tea plantation.

**3. What are different legends related to tea leaves?**

Tea was first drunk in China as far back as 2700 B.C. In fact, words like 'Chai' and 'Chini' came from Chinese. According to one Chinese legend, there was a Chinese emperor. He always boiled water before drinking it. One day some leaves from the twigs burning under the pot fell into the boiling water. The leaves gave a delicious flavour. It is said that they were tea leaves. We have an Indian legend too about the discovery of tea leaves. Bodhidharma was an ancient Buddhist ascetic. It is said that ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep. In Europe tea came as late as the Sixteenth century. It was drunk more as medicine than as beverage.

**4. It seems that Rajvir had done a lot of homework regarding tea and its history. Do you support Pranjol's father's statement that he gave about Rajvir's knowledge in this regard?**

It is true that Rajvir had never visited a tea estate ever before in his life. His visit to Dhekiabari Tea Estate was the invitation of his classmate. Pranjol whose father managed the estate. But Rajvir seemed to have done a lot of home work and reading about tea and tea plantations before coming to Assam. He told Pranjol that tea is one of the most popular beverages in the world. More than eighty crore of cups of tea is one of the most popular beverages in the world. More than eighty crore of cups of tea are drunk and everyday throughout the world. When he saw an ugly building with smoke billowing out of its tall buildings, he at once cried "Hey, a tea garden!". Actually, he had been reading about tea as much as he could. He narrated different legends regarding the discovery of tea leaves. It was Rajvir who narrated the legends describing how tea leaves were discovered in India and China. Rajvir impressed and surprised Pranjol's father about his deep knowledge of tea-leaves. When he saw a tractor pulling a trailer load of tea leaves he recognised that it was the second-flush or sprouting period. He also knew that it continues from May to July and yields the best tea.

**5. "You seem to have done your homework before coming." Answer the given question in the light of this statement. Rajvir seemed to have a lot of information about tea. What all did he tell? What character trait of his is revealed? Is it essential for children?**

Rajvir had been invited to spend his vacations with his classmate Pranjol whose father was the manager of a tea estate in Assam. He was quite excited about the trip and had gathered considerable amount of relevant information i.e., where tea originated and how it became such a popular beverage. He informed that about 80 crore cups of tea are consumed daily and that the name 'tea' itself has been originated from Chinese language. He narrated two popular legends about the origin of tea.

Rajvir exhibits an important value trait, that is the pre-requisite to gain knowledge-curiosity and eagerness to know. Moreover, he is not a passive learner but is proactive in collecting prior information to any real experience. He likes to do his homework thoroughly before going to a place. This is something very appreciable and children should develop this habit of finding out about the place they are going to visit. These are extremely desirable traits for all learners.

#### **6. What information did Rajvir share with Pranjol and his father?**

Rajvir had a lot of information about tea. He told Pranjol that though there are many legends about it, no one actually knows about the origin of it.

One Chinese legend says that it was accidentally discovered by a Chinese Emperor. Another legend, who is Indian, says that it was discovered by Bodhidharma. The legend says that he cut off his eyelids as he felt himself sleepy during meditation and tea plants grew out of them to banish sleep when they were drunk. He also knew that tea was first drunk in China in 2700 B.C. and it reached Europe in the sixteenth century as a medicine. He also informed Pranjol that the words 'tea', 'chai' and 'chini' are Chinese. He even had knowledge about the sprouting season on the second-flush which is the best in the world.

#### **7. What scenery did Rajvir notice while sitting in the train and in the tea estate?**

Rajvir could see green and magnificent view while sitting in the train. He could also see densely wooded hills accompanied by a sea of tea bushes. He could also view doll like figures with bamboo baskets moving everywhere. He even saw an ugly building with tall chimneys, billowing out smoke from a distance. When they entered Dhekiabari tea estate, Rajvir saw, on both the sides of the gravel road, acres upon acres of tea bushes, all neatly pruned to the same height. Group of tea-pluckers were plucking the newly sprouted leaves.

#### **8. What details do you gather about tea from the lesson, 'Tea from Assam'?**

Tea was first drunk in China. It dates back as far as 2700 BC. In the 16th century, tea came to Europe and was drunk as medicine. There are unlimited tea plantations in Assam. Tea is very popular in the entire world, over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world. The yielding period of tea is from May to July. There were many legends about it. One Chinese legend says that it was accidentally discovered by a Chinese emperor, while boiling water. Tea leaves fell in the teapot and water tasted better. Another legend is of Indian Buddhist ascetic, who cut off his eyelids because he felt sleepy while meditating. Ten tea plants grew out of eyelids. These leaves banished sleep.

## TEST YOUR SKILLS

### Short Answer Type Questions

1. Where were Rajvir and Pranjol going and why?
2. What magnificent scenes did Rajvir see during the train journey?
3. How has tea become one of the most popular beverages in the world?
4. When did tea come to Europe and how was it used?
5. Describe what Rajvir saw at Dhekiabari Tea Estate.
6. Describe tea-bushes and how they are plucked.
7. Why was Pranjol's father impressed with Rajvir's knowledge about tea?

### Long Answer Type Questions

1. Describe Rajvir's journey to Dhekiabari Tea Estate in Assam and his experience there.
2. Narrate the various legends connected with the discovery of tea-leaves. When was tea introduced in Europe?
3. How did Rajvir's in-depth studies regarding tea help him during his visit to Dhekiabari Tea Estate? Why was Pranjol's father surprised at Rajvir's knowledge regarding tea?



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