

Chapter – 3

Glimpses Of The Past

Comprehension Check

Q1. Look at picture 1 and recall the opening lines of the original song in Hindi. Who is the singer? Who else do you see in this picture?

Answer. The original song is "Ae mere watan ke logon...." The singer is Lata Mangeshkar. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Bahadur Shah Zafar, Rani Laxmi Bai, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bhagat Singh, Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi are also seen in the picture.

Q2. In picture 2 what do you understand by the Company's "superior weapons"?

Answer. Technologically, the East India Company was far superior to the Indian princes, who were constantly at war with each other. The Englishmen had access to better quality weapons. This prompted the Indian princes to seek their help in their fights. These internal rivalries helped the East India Company subdue the Indian princes one by one, and finally gain control over the whole of India.

Q3. Who is an artisan? Why do you think the artisans suffered?(picture 3)

Answer. An artisan is a skilled manual worker who crafts items that may be functional or strictly decorative. The artisans suffered because the British were extracting very high taxes from them, which ruined them economically. Moreover, machine manufactured goods imported from Britain were sold extensively, which ruined the business of the artisans' hand made goods.

Q4. Which picture, according to you, reveals the first sparks of the fire of revolt?

Answer. Picture 7 'The Sparks' reveals the first sparks of the fire of revolt.

Working With Text

Q1. Do you think the Indian princes were short-sighted in their approach to the events of 1757?

Answer. Yes, the Indian princes were short-sighted in their approach. They fought against each other with the help of the British. Thus the British became the virtual rulers.

Q2. How did the East India Company subdue the Indian princes?

Answer. The Indian princes were constantly at war with each other. They called the

English merchants to help them in their fights. The people had no peace due to such constant fights. The rivalries helped the East India Company subdue the Indian princes one by one.

Q3. Quote the words used by Ram Mohan Roy to say that every religion teaches the same principles.

Answer. According to Ram Mohan Roy, "Cows are of different colours, but the colour of their milk is the same. Different teachers have different opinions, but the essence of every religion is the same."

Q4. In what ways did the British officers exploit Indians?

Answer. To earn quick profits, the British imposed heavy taxes, thereby forcing the Indian farmers to abandon their fields. They decided to do away with import duty for goods manufactured in England. This crippled the Indian industries. In 1818, they passed Regulation III. Under it, an Indian could be jailed without trial in a court. All the time British officers in India drew big salaries and also made fortunes in private business. By 1829, Britain was exporting British goods worth seven crore rupees to India. The British prospered on the Company's loot, while the Indian industries began to die.

Q5. Name these people.

(i) The ruler who fought pitched battles against the British and died fighting.

(ii) The person who wanted to reform the society.

(iii) The person who recommended the introduction of English education in India.

(iv) Two popular leaders who led the revolt (Choices may vary.)

Answer. (i) Kunwar Singh (ii) Ram Mohan Roy (iii) Macaulay (iv) Maulvi Ahmedulla of Faizabad and Peshwa Nana Saheb

Q6. Mention the following.

(i) Two examples of social practices prevailing then.

(ii) Two oppressive policies of the British.

(iii) Two ways in which common people suffered.

(iv) Four reasons for the discontent that led to the 1857 War of Independence.

Answer. (i) Untouchability and child marriage

(ii) The British decided to do away with import duty on goods manufactured in England. This severely affected Indian industries. In 1818, they passed Regulation III. Under it, an Indian could be jailed without trial in a court.

(iii) They lost their old jobs and lands. They were being converted by the British.

(iv) Discontent was brewing amongst the Indians. They felt that their kings who were supposed to be their protectors were mere puppets in the hands of the British. They lost their old jobs and lands. Taxes continued to ruin the peasants.

There was discontent in the East India Company's army too. The white soldier got huge pay, mansions to live in and servants, while the Indian soldiers got a pittance and slow promotions. Few Englishmen had cared to understand Indian customs or the people's mind. The religious sentiments of both Hindus and Muslims were also hurt. The grease on the bullets they had to bite was made from the fat of cows and pigs.

Working With Language

Q1. Change the following sentences into indirect speech. (i) First man: We must educate our brothers. Second man: And try to improve their material conditions. Third man: For that we must convey our grievances to the British Parliament. The first man said that

___ The second man added that

_ The third man suggested that

(ii) First soldier: The white soldier gets huge pay, mansions and servants. Second soldier: We get a pittance and slow promotions. Third soldier: Who are the British to abolish our customs? The first soldier said that

The second soldier remarked that

_____ The third soldier asked

Answer. (i) The first man said that they must educate their brothers. The second man added that they must try to improve their material conditions. The third man suggested that they must convey their grievances to the British Parliament.

(ii) The first soldier said that the white soldier got huge pay, mansions and servants. The second soldier remarked that they got a pittance and slow promotions. The third soldier asked who the British were to abolish their customs.

Speaking And Writing

Q1. Play act the role of farmers who have grievances against the policies of the government. Rewrite their 'speech bubbles' in dialogue form first.

Answer. Speech bubbles

First farmer : "The English are taking all my crops."

Second farmer : "Even after taking all my crops they say I have arrears to pay. They threaten to send me to jail."

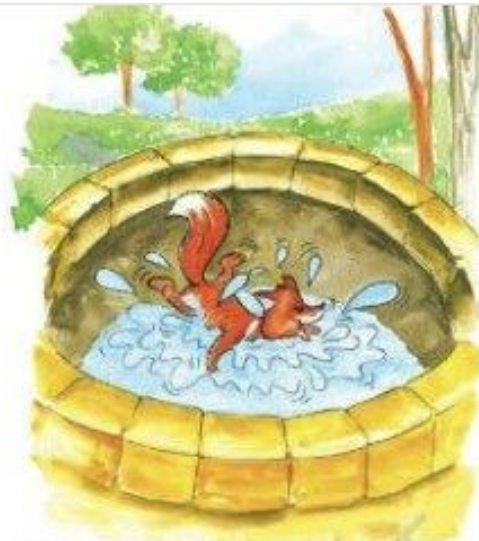
First farmer : "Our cotton crop was sold at high price. Now the English force us to give it cheap to them."

Second farmer : "Then the famines have broken our backs."

First farmer : "Yes, there are no signs of rain this year too."

Second farmer : "We grow food but we are dying of hunger."

Q2. Look at the pictures.



Fox accidentally falls into a well

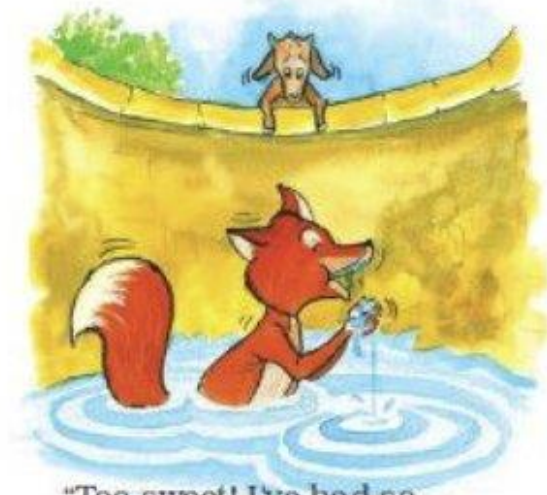


"How do I get out of here?"

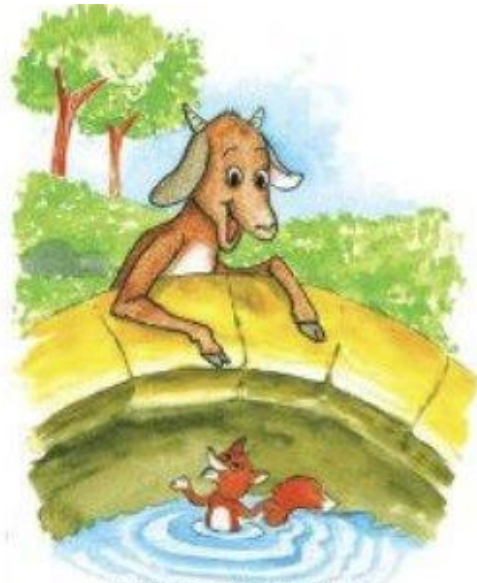


"Hello! Is this water sweet?"

(i) Ask one another questions about the pictures. Where is the fox?



"Too sweet! I've had so much. I might faint."



"Let me taste it."



"Thanks for the help.
Come out when you can."



"My mother used to say:
Be careful how you take the
advice of people you don't know."

How did it happen? What is the fox thinking? Who is the visitor? What does she want to know? What is the fox's reply? What happens next? Where is the goat? Where is the fox now? What is the goat thinking? (ii) Write the story in your own words. Give it a title. _____

Answer. (i) The fox is in the well. She fell into the well by accident. The fox thinks how to get out of there. The visitor is a goat. She wants to know whether the water is sweet. The fox replies that the water is very sweet and she had a lot of it. The goat wanted to taste the water. The goat is dragged into the water by the fox. The fox comes out of the well. The goat is thinking of her mother's advice not to trust any stranger.

(ii) Once a fox fell into a well accidentally. She thought how to get out of the well. A goat arrived there by chance. She looked into the well. She asked the fox if the water was sweet. The cunning fox played a trick. She told a lie that the water was very, very sweet, and she had had enough of it. The foolish goat also wanted to taste the water. The fox invited her into the well. The goat reached there soon. Now the fox rode on the goat's back and climbed out of the well. Then she thanked the goat for help. The goat was reminded of her mother's words that she must never go by the advice of a stranger.

Q3. Read the following news item Based on this news item, write a paragraph on what you think about this new method of teaching history.

Answer. History is a very typical subject. Students always avoid to read it. The new method of teaching through group discussion, debate and dramatization will create new interest in the subject. The visual representation may be a fun making for them. Hence, it appears to be a positive approach to spread the knowledge of history.

Q4. Find the chapters in your history book that correspond to the episodes and events described in this comic. Note how the information contained in a few

chapters of history has been condensed to a few pages with the help of pictures and 'speech bubbles'.

Answer. Attempt yourself

Q5. Once the Sun and the Wind began to quarrel, each one saying that he was stronger than the other. At last they decided to test each other's strength. A man with a cloak around his shoulders was passing by. The Wind boasted, "Using my strength I can make that man take off the cloak." The Sun agreed. The Wind blew hard. The man felt so cold that he clasped his cloak around his body as tightly as possible. Now it was the turn of the Sun which shone very hot indeed. The man felt so hot that he at once removed the cloak from his body. Seeing the man taking off the cloak, the Wind conceded defeat.

Answer. Attempt yourself

Working With Poem

Q1. Read the first stanza and think.

(i) Is Macavity a cat really?

(ii) If not, who can Macavity be?

Answer. (i) No, Macavity is not a cat really.

(ii) Macavity is just a fictional character created by the poet whose actions resemble those of a crook's.

Q2. Complete the following sentences.

(i) A master criminal is one who _____

(ii) The Scotland Yard is baffled because _____

(iii) _____ because Macavity moves much faster than them.

Answer. (i) A master criminal is one who can defy the law and is able to escape from the clutch of police.

(ii) The Scotland Yard is baffled because whenever they reach the scene of crime, they cannot find Macavity.

(iii) Nobody can catch Macavity at the scene of crime because Macavity moves much faster than them.

Q3. "A cat, I am sure, could walk on a cloud without coming through".(Jules Verne)Which law is Macavity breaking in the light of the comment above?

Answer. In the light of the above comment, Macavity is breaking the law of gravity.

Q4. Read stanza 3, and then, describe Macavity in two or three sentences of your own.

Answer. Macavity is a ginger cat who is very tall and thin with sunken eyes and brow deeply lined with thought. While its head is highly domed, its coat is dusty and whiskers are uncombed. It sways its head from side-to-side and it is always wide awake even when one thinks that it is half-asleep.

Q5. Say 'False' or 'True' for each of the following statements.

(i) Macavity is not an ordinary cat.

(ii) Macavity cannot do what a fakir can easily do.

(iii) Macavity has supernatural powers.

(iv) Macavity is well-dressed, smart and bright.

(v) Macavity is a spy, a trickster and a criminal, all rolled in one.

Answer. (i) True Macavity's power of levitation would make a fakir stare in disbelief.

(ii) False

(iii) True

(iv) False Macavity is not well-dressed as its coat is dusty out of neglect. Its eyes are sunken, and not bright.

(v) True

Q6. Having read the poem, try to guess whether the poet is fond of cats. If so, why does he call Macavity a fiend and monster?

Answer. Yes, it seems like the poet is fond of cats. He calls Macavity a 'fiend' and a monster' because he might have wanted to portray an evil side. He might have used a cat in order to create a negative character who is a criminal and escapes easily from police. The quick movements of a cat and its mysterious eyes might have influenced him to create this evil character in the form of a cat.

Q7. Has the poet used exaggeration for special effect? Find a few examples of it and read those lines aloud.

Answer. Yes, the poet has used exaggerations such as the cat's defiance of gravity and it being called a 'monster of depravity and a 'fiend' in order to enhance the mystery surrounding the cat. Since the cat is shown to be super-fast as nobody from the

Scotland Yard to the flying squad can catch it on the scene of crime, these exaggerations have been used by Eliot to lay stress on this monstrous as well as surprising and mysterious nature of Macavity.

Examples: (i) 'He's the bafflement of Scotland Yard, the Flying Squad despair' . (ii) 'He breaks the law of gravity. (iii) 'His powers of levitation would make a fakir stare.' (iv) 'He's a fiend in feline shape, a monster of depravity.'