







6.3 Birds Need Our Support



Introduction

This is an interesting lesson discussing the environment conservation activities taking place in and around Pune city. However the information given in the lesson can be generalized and the same problems can be noticed at different places in Maharashtra. This lesson presents the current situation in the city of Pune where deforestation, air and water pollution is threatening the bird species resulting into the rapid reduction in their number. This lesson also makes us aware of our duty towards protection of environment and the possible efforts to be made to improve the situation.



Concept web

**Causes of
Bird
Extinction**
(नामशेष)

- **Pollution**
- **Population**
- **Deforestation**
- **Road widening**
- **Increase in residential complexes**
- **Corruption**

**Birds Need our
Support**

**Probable
(संभाव्य)
Solutions
to stop Bird
Extinction**

- **Developing environmental awareness**
- **Financial and technical support from the government**
- **Creation of right environment**
- **Decrease in the pollution**
- **Tree plantation and protection**
- **No change in the reservation of gardens, water bodies and parks**
- **Implementation of eco system management**

• **Birds Need Our Support**

What was the motive behind writing the book ‘ Birds of Pune’?

Environment conservation activities that were taken up voluntarily during our time are not seen anymore. Although some groups arrange nature trails, they are all commercial in nature. So, I wrote the book to generate interest about bird watching and nature among youngsters. It’s heartening to see that places like Pashan, Kavadi and Dhayari are attracting nature lovers. Moreover, the Pune Municipal Corporation has started cleaning up these areas, thus making them better habitats for birds.

What is the current scenario of bird life in the city?

More than 175 species of birds can be seen in and around the city. Painted stork and black ibis are considered nearly threatened bird species as per international standards. But these birds can still be seen near Pune. However, their number is reducing rapidly. Birds like lesser flamingos have vanished, while species like jungle crow and black-winged stilt are seen everywhere. These birds indicate the high level of pollution in the city.

The disappearing of hills and forests, air and water pollution are the major factors for this. The situation will worsen in the near future. The rapid increase in the population will lead to further encroachment on bird habitats. Big trees,

which are nesting areas for larger birds, are being cut to widen roads and build residential complexes. By law, it is compulsory for builders to replant trees if they have had to cut trees for building purposes. However, the builder lobby is least bothered about tree plantation and they are even excused after they grease palms.

What can be done to change this situation?

It is high time we ensure that the right environment is created for the protection of birds. Birds are trying to adjust to their surroundings and all they need is a little support from us. Article 51 A of the Indian Constitution stipulates that it is the duty of every citizen to protect the environment. However, we care only about our rights and conveniently forget our duties.

Do you think this could happen?

Of course. Pune is the ideal city to implement environment programmes. However, concerted efforts are required from all of us. NGOs and citizens must come forward and ask the government for financial and technical support. The reservation for gardens, water bodies and parks should not be changed at any cost. Moreover, ecosystem management should be implemented effectively. Tree plantation should be done in patches and preference must be given to local species like babul, peepal and so on. Protect the hills, clean the water bodies and minimize air pollution. We will definitely be able to bring about a positive change if we do all of this.

- Prabhakar Kukdolkar

Let's Practice

a Project to Save Birds

Launching a Project to Save Birds

Imagine that your class has decided to help birds and animals. The birds and animals in your area are decreasing day by day. Make a list of activities that you would like to do to save birds and animals.

Some points are given here.

- Keeping water outside the house for birds and animals.
- Planting more and more trees to provide shelter to birds and animals.
- Requesting others not to pollute rivers and ponds.

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Answer Key

- Requesting others not to burn anything to avoid air pollution.
- Requesting others to avoid use of loud speakers to avoid sound pollution.
- Do not harm them.
- No kite flying.
- Avoid polluting the water.
- Giving food and grains to birds and animals.
- Keeping animals as pets.

An Interview

Preparing for the Interview:

- In the previous lesson you have already learned about an interview. Now here we will revise it and then do some exercise.
- An **interview** is a conversation between two or more persons where questions are asked by the interviewer to get facts or information from the interviewee. Interviews are mainly conducted by journalists, researchers and employers.



Preparing the questions for an interview

- There should be proper link between the questions.
- Questions should be short , simple and provocative.
- Avoid repetition of questions.
- General questions should be asked in the beginning.
- Questions related to future plans, challenges should be asked in the end.
- Use all 'Wh' words to frame the questions.

Your class is planning to conduct some activities to help birds and animals during summer season. Prepare questions for an interview of an environmentalist to gain more information about possible activities which can be conducted. Use the given clues.

- Names of those birds or animals that need our help.
- The reasons behind the problems faced by the animals and birds.
- Activities to be conducted to help them.
- The eating habits of birds and animals.
- Food to be provided to them.
- Timing of giving them food and water.
- Taking care of injured birds and animals.
- Precautions to be taken while treating injured birds.

Answer Key

- Which birds or animals need our help?
- What are the reasons behind the problems faced by the animals and birds?
- What activities can be conducted to help them?
- What are the eating habits of birds and animals?
- What food should be provided to them?
- When should we give them food and water?
- Where should we take them if they are injured?
- What precautions should be taken while treating injured birds?

Present Continuous Tense

Present Continuous Tense

- Present continuous tense is used to indicate the action which is in progress at the time of speaking.



A girl is dancing.

The structure of a sentence in present continuous tense is

Subject + helping verb (am/is/are) + (Main verb + ing) + object

Mala + is + writing + a letter.

Read the given sentences and use correct form of verb to make it Present Continuous Tense

1. Students _____ an essay. (write)
2. Mother _____ the clothes. (wash)
3. My brother _____ with red ball. (Play)
4. My father _____ in the garden. (work)
5. I _____ television. (watch)

Answer Key

1. Students **are writing** an essay.
2. Mother **is washing** the clothes.
3. My brother **is playing** with red ball.
4. My father **is working** in the garden.
5. I **am watching** television.

Prefix

Prefix

When some alphabets are added at the beginning of a word they change that word into another meaningful word. Such group of letters added at the beginning of a word are called **prefix**.

e.g. Biography-----**Auto**biography

Use of some prefixes like un, dis change the meaning of the word. It is completely opposite.

happy -- **Un**happy

able---- **un**able

connect----**dis**connect

comfort ---- **dis**comfort

Read the given sentences carefully and write the words given in the bracket using appropriate prefixes.

1. I was _____ when I got less marks. (happy)
2. Children _____ to drink milk. (like)
3. Teacher was _____ to see the performance of his students in the exam. (appointed)
4. Parents are always requested by the teachers not to _____ the children. (courage)
5. The smell of diesel is _____ for many people. (pleasant)

Answer Key

1. I was unhappy when I got less marks.
2. Children dislike to drink milk.
3. Teacher was disappointed to see the performance of his students in the exam.
4. Parents are always requested by the teachers not to discourage the children.
5. The smell of diesel is unpleasant for many people.

Reference Link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHrRxQVUFN4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DUiZwAVFZZ4>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4DTawDmrMxU>