

CLASS VI
CIVICS Chapter I

INDIA – A DIVERSE COUNTRY

1. Things to answer after reading the context:

- Give a few examples of your neighbourhood which shows diversity.
- What makes India a country of diversity?

INTRODUCTION TO DIVERSITY

What is diversity? In simple words, Diversity means ‘variety’ . Let me explain to you now.

For example, there are 50 students in your class. Are all of you the same? No. You have different faces, different religions, different beliefs, speak different languages, have different habits, etc.

This is what India is. India is a beautiful country with different cultures, religions, rituals, beliefs, etc. This is what makes India so special and interesting.

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DIFFERENCES AND INEQUALITY

Let me tell you a story. A boy named Sameer used to go cycling . Almost everyday, he used to see a boy of his age running after him to sell newspapers . One day, he took a Hindi newspaper from him , the other one seemed confused and asked him again whether he is sure that Sameer wants Hindi. Sameer said yes, and added that Hindi is one of his subjects in School. But, the boy didn’t know what the subject was because he never went to school. Sameer didn’t know how to explain to him. Slowly, they became quite good friends.

Now, think deeply. What differences do you see between them?

- One used to go to school and the other sold newspapers because he did not have enough money to go to school.

You must have seen people who are not able to afford a proper lifestyle . They do not get proper food to eat, educate their children , etc. Here, the difference is different.

INEQUALITY. When people do not get the same kind opportunities as the other person is getting, It is termed as Inequality.

Another example of inequality is the caste system. Before the society was divided into different groups based on the kind of works people used to do. And, they were not allowed to change their profession. Their children had to learn the skill their parents used to do and make it as a profession. They were not allowed to choose a profession according to their wish. This type of situation is termed as inequality.

Things to answer after reading the context:-

- Mention the kinds of inequality/injustice you see around you.
- If you had the chance to change this, what would you do to change the system?

REGIONS BECAME DIVERSE BECAUSE OF THEIR HISTORY

About more than 200 years ago, we had no bus, trains or planes. At that time, people used travel by walking, or on horses, camels, ships , etc.

They used to travel in search of work, or due to war, a place to settle , etc. It used to be a very long journey so whenever they got a place, they used to stay there either for a long time or settled there. As time passed by, people started changing. Their habits changed, the kind of food they used to have changed, languages changed, beliefs changed. Also, religions started to become a mix of their old customs and new customs. And, this gave birth to something new and different.

It also depended upon their geographical area. People living in a mountainous area had different lifestyles as compared to people living near the sea.

Things to answer after reading the context :-

- Do you have any friends coming from a different place ?
How are they different from you?
- What have you learned about their culture ?
- How do you feel celebrating different festivals of India?

LADAKH AND KERALA

Let's read about how different is the life of the different parts of the country, Kerala and Ladakh .

KERALA

- Kerala is a state in the West corner of India. It is surrounded by Hills on one side and Sea on the other side.
- Spices like pepper , Cardamoms ,cloves are grown here.
- Buddhism reached Tibet via Ladakh.

LADAKH

Ladakh is a desert In the mountains of east of Jammu and Kashmir.

Hardly, agriculture is possible here. This place is mostly covered with snow. Kerala practised Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Judaism.

In spite of all the differences, both of them were influenced by The Chinese and Arab traders. The geography of Kerala Allowed cultivation of spices and the location of Ladakh and It's wool attracted the traders to the region.

UNITED WE STAND DIVIDED WE FALL

British ruled India for 200 years. We won the battle only because we were united . Men and women, people from different religions, cultures ,etc all of them came together and fought for the freedom of India. They went to jail together, worked together and did everything they could do to oppose the British. The Jallianwala Bagh massacre was a big shock to the Indians. The British General opened fire on a large group of innocent people. A song was sung in the honour of those innocent people.

In the book , “ The Discovery of India” , Jawaharlal Nehru said, the unity of India was not something that came from the outside culture, Indians had It within themselves.

Things to answer after reading the context:-

- Describe the whole incident of Jallianwala Bagh incident.
- Explain the phrase , “ United we stand , divided we fall” .
- How do you feel when you hear the stories of different freedom fighters?