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A Trip to Andaman



Look at the picture and answer the following questions:



1. What do you see in the picture?
2. Have you ever been to a beach? If yes, which beach did you go to?
3. What do you guess this lesson is going to talk about?

Oral Discourse: Description - Describe the tourist place that you have visited.

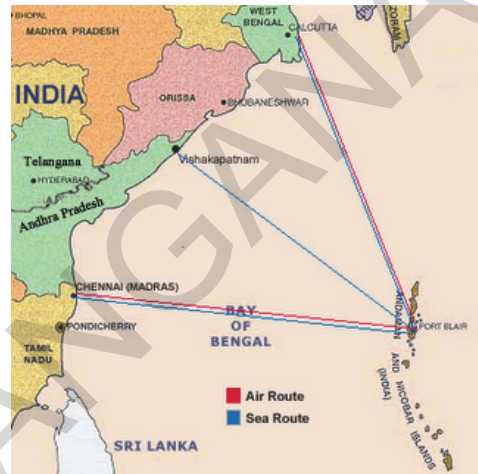


A. Reading

We had been longing to make a trip to Andaman; and Dad made it possible for us during the last summer holidays. Soon after the examinations, Mom made preparations for the trip. On the 25th of April, we took the Pinakini Express from Vijayawada and reached Chennai Central by 1 p.m. After lunch, we hired a taxi for the port.



Sea route from Chennai to Port Blair



In the evening, we boarded a ship for Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The ship looked much bigger than our school building. It had four storeys. It set out after sounding a loud horn. People who had come to see off their friends and relatives cheered them up by waving their hands. My sister Amala and I too waved our hands while Mom and Dad smiled at us.

Tall buildings, cell towers and factory chimneys began to vanish gradually. After a while, the twinkling lights of Chennai bade us farewell. Soon everything around us began to look dark and calm but inside the ship it was all bright and beautiful. When we closed the windows and doors of our cabin, we did not feel the movement of the ship.

On the second day, we came to know that we were in the middle of the sea. The weather was pleasant on the sea. The day was sunny and the sea was reflecting the clouds like a flat mirror. We saw Dolphins swimming along the ship. They sprang and dived again and again. It was quite amusing.

I was curious to know what other people were doing on the ship. So I went around. I saw some watching films and some others eating and drinking in the restaurants. A few were buying things in the fancy stores. I was surprised to see some in a saloon getting their hair cut.

The medical staff was busy treating the patients suffering mostly from sea-sickness. The sanitary workers were on their job of keeping the cabins, corridors and toilets neat and clean. The crew of the ship was very friendly and courteous. They gladly answered all my queries about the ship.

It was the third day. Early in the morning, Mom woke us up to show us the magnificent spectacle of the dawn at the sea. After two days, we reached Port Blair.

“Dad, do you have any idea about these islands and the people who live there?” I asked.

Dad said, “I know a little. There are about six hundred islands. They are located between India’s coast and Myanmar. Only 37 of them are inhabited. They have plant, animal and marine life in abundance.”



We learnt that the inhabitants of the islands were the aboriginal tribes. Some of them lived far away from the civilized society. Despite this, the islands today look like a miniature India. We saw people of different languages, cultures, and faiths living together happily.

We visited a famous national monument, the Cellular Jail. We learnt that the Cellular Jail was built by the British. It was no longer a jail. It had been converted into a big hospital.

Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park

After a while, we reached an exciting place, the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park. The park was spread over a wide area of 15 islands. Open creeks running through the park area were a special attraction. We watched coral reefs, fishes of different colours and sea turtles through glass-bottomed boats. For some time, we felt ourselves as a part of them. Amala and I cheered the fish and turtles.



We travelled by a ferry from Port Blair to a place called Havelock island. The ferries carry people, vehicles and goods. We enjoyed *panipuri*, *samosas* and *gharam chai* during the ferry journey.



Havelock Island

A majestic lighthouse greeted us on our arrival at the Havelock Island. We felt as if the sandy beaches and greenish-blue sea were warmly welcoming us.



Some foreign tourists on the beaches were basking in the sun and enjoying themselves. We saw tourists enjoying swimming in the sea, and riding on elephants. Silky sands, foaming tides and cool breeze of the sea attracted us very much. We took lots of pictures of the beautiful scenery.

Scuba diving

We visited the beach called Elephant beach. To our amazement, we saw some swimmers diving into the sea from the motor boats. They were dressed in a different way. They put masks on their faces and carried air cylinders on their backs.



I asked Dad “Why are the swimmers diving into the sea?”

Dad replied, “They want to watch the coral reefs and beautiful coloured fishes and sea turtles. They stay for a long time beneath the sea and swim along with them. It is called scuba diving.” The scuba diving filled my heart with a spirit of adventure. I wished I could do it.

Elephant ride on the beach

Lastly, we visited Radhanagar beach. It was a beautiful place with white sand and thick green forests along the coastline. We saw a man riding an elephant. He offered rides on payment. My sister Amala and I enjoyed a jolly ride on the elephant. We tasted delicious Tandoori fish and other seafoods on the islands. My mouth still waters when I remember those moments. I cherish the memory of the great fun we had. I’ll never forget my trip to Andaman.



Glossary

longing (n):	strong feeling or desire
vanish (v):	disappear
treating (v):	curing an illness or injury
inhabited (v):	lived
aboriginal (adj):	original people belonging to a place

- creek (n): a narrow area of water where the sea flows into the land
- coral reefs (n): a hard substance that is red, pink or white in colour and that forms on the bottom of the sea
- ferry (n): a boat or a ship that carries people, goods, vehicles across a river

How well did I read?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I enjoyed reading the passage.	
I got the idea of the passage on my own.	
I got the idea with the help of my friends in the group.	
The teacher helped me to understand the passage.	
I used the glossary given at the end of the passage.	

I. Answer the following questions:

- Based on your reading of the passage, list out the tourist attractions of Andaman Island. Which one of them has fascinated you the most? Why?
- Would you like to go to Andaman during holidays? Give reasons for your answer.
- Which means of transport is, in your opinion, more enjoyable for visiting a place like Andaman? Give reasons for your answer.
- The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been called a miniature India. Do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your answer.
- What does ‘I’ refer to in the passage?
- The writer saw many interesting things on the ship. But which one surprised him the most? Why?
- How did the tourists enjoy on the beach?
- Who guided the family on the Islands?
- Why do you think the Scuba divers need air cylinders?
- Have you ever visited any tourist place? Share your experience.

II. Tick the correct answer.

- How did the author feel, when the windows and doors of their cabin were closed.
 - The author felt the ship sinking. ()
 - The author felt uncomfortable. ()
 - The author did not feel the movement of the ship. ()
 - The author felt the fast movement of the ship. ()



2. The most favourable time to visit Andaman is the.....
- A) winter. ()
- B) spring. ()
- C) summer. ()
- D) monsoon. ()
3. Why did the family go to Andaman?
- A) to learn about the aborigines. ()
- B) to watch how foreigners enjoy themselves. ()
- C) to explore a tourist spot. ()
- D) to view only the sea beaches. ()

Vocabulary

- I. Find the antonyms of the following words from the text and write them in your notebooks. Also, write one sentence each for the word and its antonym.**

impossible	suddenly	ugly	bright	tasteless
dim	above	hostile	cloudy	notorious

- II. Read the following sentences and notice how the word 'wave' has been used differently:**

1. My sister Amala and I too waved our hands while Mom and Dad smiled at us.
2. Silky sands, foaming waves and cool breeze of the sea attracted us very much.

In sentence 1 'wave' is used as a verb in the past tense and in sentence 2, it is used as a noun in its plural form. As a verb, it means 'to move hand or arm from side to side' and as a noun, it refers to 'raised lines of water that move across the surface of a sea and an ocean.'

Fill in the blanks with appropriate forms of the words given in the brackets. They can be used both as nouns and verbs.

1. The volleyball team of our school _____ four matches. The fourth day's _____ was excellent. (play)
2. Latha _____ a lot of problems. I am sorry to see tears on her lovely _____. (face)
3. My grand-daughter said, "Grandpa, you look very sweet when I see a ___ on your face." On hearing this Grandpa _____ at once. (smile)
4. Suresh _____ that he would pass the examination. But his.... disappeared when he saw the question paper. (hope)



5. When I answered a question correctly, the English teacher _____ me on my back and said, "Well done, Smarty." Her _____ made me feel very happy and proud. (pat)

III. Read the following sentences from the passage.

1. The ship set out after sounding a loud horn.
2. People who came to see off their friends and relatives cheered them up by waving their hands.

The sets of words underlined are 'phrasal verbs'.

Pick out from a dictionary more phrasal verbs beginning with the word 'set', find out their meanings, and use them in sentences of your own.

Grammar

I. Simple Past Tense

Read the following lines taken from the lesson:

Soon after the examinations were over, Mom made preparations for the trip. On the 25th of April, we took the Pinakini Express from Vijayawada and reached Chennai at 1 p.m.

The underlined words are verbs in the simple past tense and refer to actions that took place in the past. The Simple Past Tense is used here to talk of completed actions in the past.

Given below is the action plan prepared by the Headmaster of Zilla Parishad High School, Quthbullapur for a tour to Nagarjuna Sagar Project. They finished the tour on 15th October. Describe the tour in the past tense by making appropriate changes in the verbs given in the action plan.

6.00 a.m.	board the bus at the school
8.30 a.m.	stop at Chintapalli
12.00 noon	reach the spot
1.00 p.m.	take lunch
1.30 to 3.30 p.m.	visit the Nagarjuna Sagar project
3.30 to 4.30 p.m.	visit the museum
4.40 p.m.	visit Ettipothala falls
5.00 p.m.	board the bus
8.30 p.m.	take supper at Chintapalli
10.30 p.m.	reach the school



You can start like this:

On 15th October, the students of ZPH school, Quthbullapur started their tour to Nagarjuna Sagar Project. They boarded the bus at the school at 6.00 a.m. . .

II. Past Continuous Tense

Read the following lines taken from the lesson:

Some foreign tourists on the beaches were basking in the sun and enjoying themselves. *The underlined verbs 'were basking' and '(were) enjoying' are in the Past Continuous Tense. The Past Continuous Tense is used to talk about or describe an action which someone was doing or an event which was happening at a particular time in the past.*

I. Fill in the blanks with appropriate forms of the verbs given in the brackets.

1. They _____ with each other when the police _____. (fight, arrive)
2. When Rajesh _____, he _____ down and _____ his leg. (run, fall, injure)
3. While he _____ it _____ to rain. (play, begin)
4. The children _____ a film when the lights _____ off. (watch, go off)
5. My mother was _____ when the guests _____. (still cook, arrive)
6. The teacher _____ when the principal _____ the room. (teach, enter)
7. Father was _____ the T.V. when the telephone bell _____. (watch, ring)
8. We _____ ready for our journey when the power _____ off. (get, go)

Work in pairs:

II. Narrate what your family members were doing yesterday when you reached home after school.

Writing

I. Arrange the following sentences in proper sequence using appropriate connectors and replacing 'we' with 'they'. You can add some more information you may have liked in the passage.

1. We visited a beach called Elephant beach.
2. We reached Port Blair.
3. We travelled by a ferry from Port Blair to a place called Havelock island.
4. In the evening we boarded a ship for Port Blair.

5. We visited Radhanagar beach.
6. After a while, we reached an exciting place, the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park.
7. We had been longing to make a trip to Andaman.
8. We visited a famous national monument, the Cellular Jail.

II. Describing a place

You have read about a famous tourist place, Andaman. After reading the description don't you feel that you have actually visited the place? This is because the author has given a vivid picture of the place through the description of the place and the activities. When you want to describe a place you need to find answers for the following questions:

1. Where is the place located? What is it famous for?
2. How can one reach there? How is the weather during the time of the visit? What is the best time to visit? What things are to be carried? What sort of accommodation is available?
3. What places and things can be seen on the way to the place?
4. What are the major tourist attractions?

One of your friends wishes to visit the place you have visited recently. Write a letter to your friend describing the details mentioned above to help him make his/her trip successful.

How well did I write?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I was able to write a description.	
The sentences I used were properly connected.	
I was able to express my ideas in apt words.	
The ideas were arranged in proper sequence.	
I used proper punctuation marks.	

How well did I edit my work?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I deleted the excess words.	
I corrected the wrong forms of words.	
I corrected the punctuation errors.	
I added new words wherever necessary.	
I corrected the misspelt words.	



Study Skills

This table shows the climate of Port Blair.

Climate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature high (°C)	27	28	29	30	29	28	27	27	27	28	28	27
Temperature low (°C)	23	23	24	26	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	25
Precipitation(mm) (Rain, snow, etc. that falls)	46	27	29	69	360	501	424	425	463	301	235	155

Write briefly in your own words the best and the most uncomfortable time to visit Port Blair. Give reasons.

Listening and Speaking

I. Your teacher will read the story 'Gulliver in Lilliput'. Listen carefully and answer the following questions:

1. Why did Gulliver go to Lilliput?
2. Why did the little people shoot arrows at Gulliver?
3. What do you think is the size of the Lilliputian's house?
4. How many Lilliputians can you carry in your bag?
5. Would you like to live among such strange people?
6. Pigmies are also very small people. Find out who is smaller?
A Pygmy or a Lilliputian?
7. Why did the king like Gulliver?

II. Oral Activity

Work in pairs. Ask and answer the following questions:

1. If you were the king, how would you use Gulliver?
2. If you lived in Lilliput, what problems would you face?
3. In stories, we often come across very small people like elves and dwarfs.
How are they different from Lilliputians?

II. Here is a list of places of South India Tourism. Tell your group about the city you would like to visit and why. What is special about the city? What should visitors do there?

Tirupati

Araku Valley

Amaravathi

Hyderabad

Nagarjuna Sagar

Warangal

Kerala

Kanyakumari

B. Reading (Poem)

My Trip to the Moon

I was sitting alone in my house,
Studying the structure of a mouse,
My exams were going on,
And science I hadn't done.
Suddenly the lights went out,
Then I heard a loud burst,
Someone was there, outside,
I went out to look, full of fright.
I saw a huge rocket,
And an astronaut in white,
He invited me on a flight to the moon,
We reached there by afternoon.
We jumped around
As we couldn't walk on the ground.
It was a lot of fun,
I reached home before the setting sun.
My science test went very well,
But no one knows the secret,
Which even now inside me dwells.

– Akriti Goel

