

CHAPTER – 2

THE TSUNAMI

❖ Comprehension check pg.- 27

Question 1:

Ignesious lost his wife, two children, his father-in-law, and his brother-in-law in the tsunami.

Answer:

TRUE.

Because Ignesious's wife was taken away by the monstrous waves of the sea as was his two children along with his father-in-law and brother-in-law. He could not find them ever again.

Question 2:

Sanjeev made it to safety after the tsunami.

Answer:

FALSE.

Sanjeev initially helped his wife and their child to a safe place. Afterwards, when he tried to help the wife of his colleague, both of them were engulfed by the waves.

Question 3:

Meghna was saved by a relief helicopter.

Answer:

FALSE

Meghna saw several relief helicopters but because of the great distance between them, the people in the helicopter were unable to see her afloat. Later on, she was hauled to the shore by another surge of water.

Question 4:

Almas's father realized that a tsunami was going to hit the island.

Answer:

TRUE

It is apparent from the lesson that Almas's family lived near the sea and her father had some knowledge about the ways of the sea; so when he saw the water retreat suddenly, he realized that a tsunami was about to hit the island.

Question 5:

Her mother and aunts were washed away with the tree that they were holding on to.

Answer:

TRUE

Almas's mother and aunts grasped the leaves of a coconut tree to save themselves from being overwhelmed by the tsunami

waves. But the tree gave way to the thrust of the waves and her mother and aunts were washed away with the tree that they were holding on to.

❖ Comprehension check pg.- 28

Question 1:

Why did Tilly's family come to Thailand?

Answer:

Tilly's family came to Thailand because it was a part of their plan to celebrate Christmas. They lived in South-East of England and were vacationing in Thailand on that cursed December day.

Question 2:

What were the warning signs that both Tilly and her mother saw?

Answer:

Normally a sea constantly follows the ebb and flow routine but on that day Tilly and her mother saw that the sea was continuously surging forward, which in itself is highly unusual. They also saw that the extreme escalation of water was drowning the beach by every second.

Question 3:

Do you think Tilly's mother was alarmed by them?

Answer:

Yes, such an odd thing as sudden excessive swelling of the sea alarmed Tilly's mother Penny Smith but more than that she was bewildered as to what it was. She had absolutely no idea whatsoever, of what was happening, what to do or of the imminent danger of all the people present there.

Question 4:

Where had Tilly seen the sea behaving in the same strange fashion?

Answer:

The young Ms. Smith was a ten-year-old schoolgirl. Before she came on vacation, in one of her geography classes she was taught about the tsunamis. It was in the same class, she remembered, she had seen a video of the tsunami where the sea was behaving in the same strange fashion.

Question 5:

Where did the Smith family and the others on the beach go to escape from the tsunami?

Answer:

The geography lessons of Tilly tipped the Smith family off about the looming danger. Her mother, seeing her daughter going berserk and talking about earthquakes under the sea, took it seriously. As a result, the Smith family and a few other families on the beach went to the swimming pool at the hotel initially. After a while, when the waves hit, the families ran for their lives and ended up on the third floor of the hotel to escape from the tsunami.

Question 6:

How do you think her geography teacher felt when he heard about what Tilly had done in Phuket?

Answer:

Tilly had used what she had learnt in class to save many lives in Phuket. The teacher felt satisfied and pleased and was very proud of her.

❖ Comprehension check pg.- 30

Question 1:

In the Tsunami 150,000 people died. How many animals died?

Answer:

Very few animals were reported dead in the Tsunami as they left the seashore prior to the tsunami owing to some sort of warning they got.

Question 2:

How many people and animals died in Yala National Park?

Answer:

As many as sixty people and only two water buffaloes died in Yala National Park.

Question 3:

What do people say about the elephant in Yala National Park?

Answer:

People at Patanangala beach inside the Yala National Park say that three elephants ran away from the beach.

Question 4:

What did the dogs in Galle do?

Answer:

Two dogs that lived near the sea in Galle with their owner, refused to go for their daily run on the beach that particular day despite loving the outing dearly.

❖ Working with the text

Question 1:

When he felt the earthquake, do you think Ignacious immediately worried about a Tsunami? Give reasons for your answer. Which sentence in the text tells you that the Ignacious

family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after the tsunami struck?

Answer:

Ignesious's first reaction was to put the television set down so that it does not break by falling because of the earthquake. So, no, his first thought was not trained towards Tsunami but he was thinking about an earthquake. If he thought about Tsunami, then he would have tried to run his family to the safety of a high and stable place. Neither would he put his television set down on the ground as that would cause it to drown, first thing during the Tsunami.

The line, "In the chaos and confusion, two of his children caught hold of the hands of their mother's father and mother's brother, and rushed in the opposite direction." tells me that the Ignesious family did not have any time to discuss and plan their course of action after the tsunami struck. For the phrase, "chaos and confusion" clearly shows the family was not prepared.

Question 2:

Which words in the list below describe Sanjeev, in your opinion?

cheerful, ambitious, brash, brave, careless, heroic, selfless, heartless, humorous
--

In the list brave, heroic and selfless are the words that describe Sanjeev in my opinion.

Use words from the list to complete the three sentences below.

- (i) I don't know if Sanjeev was cheerful, humorous..... orambitious..... .
- (ii) I think that he was very brave, ...heroic..... andselfless..... .
- (iii) Sanjeev was not heartless, ...careless.... or ...brash.....

Answer:

Sanjeev saved himself and his family from the tsunami. But after that, knowing that he might not be able to save himself a second time, he could not turn down the plea for help from the wife of his co-worker. So, in my opinion, he was brave, heroic and selfless.

- (i) I don't know if Sanjeev was cheerful, **humorous or ambitious**.
- (ii) I think that he was very brave, **heroic, and selfless**.
- (iii) Sanjeev was not heartless, **careless, or brash**.

Question 3:

How are Meghna and Almas's stories similar?

Answer:

Both of these girls had a similar fate of losing their whole family and being washed away by the wave. Both of them clung to a piece of wood or a tree branch to stay afloat. Finally, both the girls survived the wrath of the tsunami.

Question 4:

What are the different ways in which Tilly's parents could have reacted to her behaviour? What would you have done if you were in their place?

Answer:

Tilly's parents showed great faith in their daughter in a time of danger and emergency. They could have, like many other parents, ask her to shut up and follow orders from the elders of the family as they know best.

If I were in their place, I would have done the same. Because, if my daughter so seriously says something, that must be true, since she would want the family safe.

Question 5:

If Tilly's award was to be shared, who do you think she should share it with-her parents or her geography teacher?

Answer:

Tilly's geography teacher must get some accolades for showing the class the video. But it is her parents who showed the faith in their daughter in the face of challenge and that saved the life of the whole family and some other families as well. So, I think she should share it with her parents.

Question 6:

What are the two different ideas about why so few animals were killed in the tsunami? Which idea do you find more believable?

Answer:

Frequently people believe that animals have a sixth sense that helps them detect any upcoming danger. On the other hand, some experts believe that animals have a brilliant sense of hearing. and that way warns them and helps them stay safe.

I find the experts' idea more believable since it is scientifically proven the fact.

❖ Working with Language

Question 1:

Go through Part-I carefully, and make a list of as many words as you can find that indicate movement of different kinds. (There is one word that occurs repeatedly – count how many times!) Put them into three categories.

Fast movement	Slow movement	Neither slow nor fast
Rushed out	Walking on the seashore in a daze	Floating
Rushed in	The sea rising	Climbed
Swept away	Stopped	Recede
Jumped into	Walking	Tremors
Rushing back		Came with him
Rush them to a safer place		
Run		
Washed away		

The term “swept away” is used four times. The lesson talks about Tsunami and since it is nothing but a humongous wave that is created mostly because of an earthquake, or at times by volcanoes or landslides. Such huge waves are naturally very destructive and sweep away everything with less strong base that stands in its way. This is why the particular phrase “swept away” is used so many times in the lesson.

Can you explain why there are many words in one column and not in the others?

Answer:

There are the most number of words in the fast movement column because this is a lesson about the tsunami. When a tsunami hits, the first instinct of people is to run to their safety. That is why there are many words in one column and not in the others.

Question 2:

Fill in the blanks in the sentences below (the verbs given in brackets will give you a clue).

(i) The earth trembled, but not many people felt the _____
(tremble)

(ii) When the zoo was flooded, there was lot of _____ and many animals escaped

Into the countryside. (confuse)

(iii) We heard with _____ That the lion had been recaptured.
(relieve)

(iv) The zookeeper was stuck in a tree and his _____ was filmed by the TV crew. (rescue)

(v) There was much _____ In the village when the snake charmer came visiting. (excite)

Answer:

(i) The earth trembled, but not many people felt the **tremor** (tremble)

(ii) When the zoo was flooded, there was lot of **confused** and many animals escaped

Into the countryside. (confuse)

(iii) We heard with **relief** That the lion had been recaptured. (relieve)

(iv) The zookeeper was stuck in a tree and his **rescuing** was filmed by the TV crew. (rescue)

(v) There was much **excitement** in the village when the snake charmer came visiting. (excite)

Question 3:

Study the sentences in the columns A and B.

A	B
Meghna was swept away.	The waves swept Meghna away.
Almas's grandfather was hit on the head	Something hit Almas's grandfather on the head.
Sixty visitors were washed away.	The waves washed away the sixty visitors.
No animal carcasses were found.	People did not find any animal carcasses.

Compare the sentences in A to the ones in B. Who is the 'doer' of the action in every case? Is the 'doer' mentioned in A, or in B?

Notice the verbs in A: 'was swept away', 'was hit', 'were washed away', 'were found'. They are in the passive form. The sentences are in the Passive Voice.

In these sentences, the focus is not on the person who does the action. In B the 'doer' of the action is named. The verbs are in the active form. The sentences are in the Active Voice.

Say whether the following sentences are in the Active or the Passive voice. Write A

or P after each sentence as shown in the first sentence.

- (i) Someone stole my bicycle.
- (ii) The tyres were deflated by the traffic police.
- (iii) I found it last night in a ditch near my house.
- (iv) It had been thrown there.
- (v) My father gave it to the mechanic.
- (vi) The mechanic repaired it for me.

Answer:

- (i) Someone stole my bicycle. A

Explanation: The 'doer' of the action is named.

- (ii) The tyres were deflated by the traffic police. P

Explanation: The focus is not on the person who does the action and the verb is in passive form.

(iii) I found it last night in a ditch near my house. A

Explanation: The ‘doer’ of the action is named.

(iv) It had been thrown there. P

Explanation: The focus is not on the person who does the action and the verb is in passive form.

(v) My father gave it to the mechanic. A

Explanation: The ‘doer’ of the action is named.

(vi) The mechanic repaired it for me. A

Explanation: The ‘doer’ of the action is named.

❖ Speaking and Writing

Question 1:

Suppose you are one of the volunteers who went to the Andaman and The Nicobar Islands for relief work after the tsunami. You work in the relief camps, distributing food, water, and medicine among the victims. You listen to the various stories of bravery of ordinary people even as they fight against odds to bring about some semblance of normalcy in their lives. You admire their grit and determination. Write a diary entry.

Answer:

28th December, 2004

Today I was to go to the southwest part of the town, one of the worst-hit areas. As fixed earlier, I and three other volunteers were picked up by the rescue party van at six a.m. in the morning. A clean one-hour journey and another hour of walk brought us to the horrible sight of death, despair and the hope called life. Every place where a hut stood earlier, were some muddy aftereffect, the stench of rotten bodies pervaded the whole place, and amidst all this, a sudden meowing had our attention. Soon we realized, it was coming from behind a huge tree. I asked the others to wait and worked my way to the back of the tree only to see a baby, alive and kicking, on a piece of clothing, nearly damp. Spellbound, I could only gesture the others to follow and they were equally dumbstruck. We could not imagine how a baby could survive a tsunami when its mother emerged and said she gave birth to her baby daughter on 26th December night, on that very tree. The mother was nearly unable to move since she had eaten nearly nothing for over two days and was feeding the baby who was equally weak. We all thanked God and started on with our duties. The mother later told us, she named her baby “Tsunami”.

Question 2:

The story shows how a little girl saved the lives of many tourists when a tsunami struck the beach, thanks to the geography lesson that she had learnt at school. She remembered the visuals of a tsunami and warned her parents.

Do you remember any incident when something that you learned in the Did classroom help you in some way outside the

classroom?

Write our experiences in a paragraph of about 90-100 words or narrate it to the a whole class like an anecdote.

Answer:

For Self-attempt.

I learned in my biology class that if a person faints, there are a few steps that should be taken immediately by people who are near him or her. That includes things like loosening any tight garments they are wearing, splashing water on their faces etc. A few days ago, when I was travelling to a relative's place, an old man in the bus suddenly fainted. The man sitting next to the old man helped him lie down and I took out my water bottle to splash some cool water on his face. I also noticed that he was wearing loose cotton clothes that did not need any further loosening. After a minute or two, the man regained his senses and I was happy to apply something that I learnt in the classroom to help the old man.

❖ Geography Lesson - Working with the poem

Question 1:

Find three or four phrases in stanzas one and two which are likely to occur in a geography lesson.

Answer:

The three of four phrases in stanzas one and two which are likely to occur in a geography lesson are:

- (i) six inches to the mile
- (ii) on ground
- (iii) ten thousand feet
- (iv) rivers ran
- (v) valleys
- (vi) were populated; land and water

Question 2:

Seen from the window of an Aeroplane, the city appears

- (i) as haphazard as on ground.
- (ii) as neat as a map.
- (iii) as developed as necessary.

Mark the right answer.

Answer:

Option (ii)

Explanation:

The clear planning of the cities, their locations besides rivers mostly, all were visible from the heights of an Aeroplane. That is why the city appears developed as necessary.

Question 3:

Which of the following statements are examples of “the logic of geography”?

- (i) There are cities where there are rivers.
- (ii) Cities appear as they are not from six miles above the ground.
- (iii) It is easy to understand why valleys are populated.
- (iv) It is difficult to understand why humans hate and kill one another.
- (v) The earth is round, and it has more sea than land.

Answer:

Rivers are a source of water and water is necessary for life. From ancient times, humans have been living along the banks of rivers for that reason and many more like the land being fertile etc. So, it fits the logic of geography, that the cities are located near rivers.

Question 4:

Mention two things that are

- (i) clear from the height.
- (ii) not clear from the height

Answer:

- (i) When the aeroplane was six miles from the ground, it was clearly visible that the earth was round. Also, because of the

general blue hue and view of sea, it was evident that the earth had more sea than land.

(ii) The boundaries that divides places geographically, e.g. walls after cities, borders of countries were not visible from that height and the poet wondered why people fight over such petty matters.