

Chapter 1.3: Autobiography of a Great Indian Bustard

EXERCISE [PAGES 8 - 9]

Exercise | Q 1 | Page 8

Read the passage aloud.

SOLUTION

Students can do it on your own.

Exercise | Q 2 | Page 8

You are going to meet a Great Indian Bustard very soon. Prepare at least 10 questions to interview him.

SOLUTION

1. Hello there! Congratulations for getting the status of the State Bird of Rajasthan. How do you feel about it?
2. How did you feel when you did not become the National Bird of India?
3. Many humans do not know about you. Why do you think this is so?
4. How do you protect yourself from hunters ?
5. How do you think humans can help you to identify and avoid electric power-lines?
6. Is your home being threatened in the name of 'progress'?
7. How will the environment be harmed if you become extinct?
8. Do you feel safe in the sanctuaries?
9. Who else, besides Dr. Salim Ali, is your friend?
10. What else can be done by humans to help you?

Exercise | Q 3 | Page 8

Play the roles of an interviewer and a Great Indian Bustard and present the interview in the classroom.

SOLUTION

Students can do it on your own.

Exercise | Q 4 | Page 8

Write a letter to your friend about the Great Indian Bustard. You may use the following points :

- Why we need to protect the bird.
- What you plan to do to help the bird.

SOLUTION

303, Harsha Heights.
Narayan Dabholkar Road,
Mumbai - 400 026.
15th September 2017

Dear Neena,

Hi there! How are you? How are your academic activities and social work?

Neena, you are an environmentalist, and I remembered you when I was reading about the Great Indian Bustard. It is indeed shameful that this bird is soon going to become extinct. and we, the city dwellers, are not doing much about it. Every animal and bird is a part of the food chain, and the loss of even one species can cause untold damage to the environment. We have to protect the GIB from hunters and from any type of development which harms it.

On my part, I would like to prepare posters, poems and drawings and put them up in schools and other places so that people are aware of the threat. I would like to organize and participate in elocution competitions on the subject. I would also like to go to sanctuaries to see the GIB for myself and try to help the authorities there in whatever way I can. I have made my parents too aware of what is happening, and they are also ready to help out. Please let me know if I can join any association or NGO that works in this field. Hope to hear from you soon. Bye.

Your loving friend,
XYZ

Exercise | Q 5 | Page 8

Form pairs and decide whether the following statements are those of a Great Indian Bustard or not.

Statements	Great Indian Bustard	Some Other Bird
(a) I am the heaviest flying bird in India.		
(b) I am known as Maldhok or Hoom in Marathi.		
(c) I live in mountainous regions.		
(d) I don't like grasshoppers or beetles.		
(e) We don't believe in building nests.		
(f) Our chick stays with the mother for a period of nearly one year.		
(g) I am the State bird of Maharashtra.		
(h) We have been pushed away from more than 90 percent of our home regions.		

SOLUTION

Statements	Great Indian Bustard	Some Other Bird
(a) I am the heaviest flying bird in India.	✓	
(b) I am known as Maldhok or Hoom in Marathi.	✓	
(c) I live in mountainous regions.		✓
(d) I don't like grasshoppers or beetles.		✓
(e) We don't believe in building nests.	✓	
(f) Our chick stays with the mother for a period of nearly one year.	✓	
(g) I am the State bird of Maharashtra.		✓
(h) We have been pushed away from more than 90 percent of our home regions.	✓	

Exercise | Q 6 | Page 9

With the help of the internet and other sources, obtain more information about the critically endangered birds and animals in India. Find the names of their sanctuaries.

SOLUTION

Some critically endangered birds and animals in India: 'CR' or critically endangered birds or animals are those that are likely to become extinct in the wild. We may never see them again.

- Forest Owlet
- Indian Vulture
- Siberian Crane
- Deolali Minnow (fish)
- Asiatic Cheetah
- Himalayan Wolf
- Amboli Toad

Exercise | Q 7 | Page 9

Prepare a poster on the need for the conservation of the Great Indian Bustard.

SOLUTION

Students do it on your own.

Exercise | Q 8 | Page 9

Write a short autobiography of any bird or animal of your choice.

SOLUTION

I am a Tiger

I am a tiger. I was born in the Sundarbans eight years ago. I had one brother and one sister. My parents, especially my mother, looked after me very well. She told me that I had to be very careful for there were human beings called 'hunters' who would try to capture or kill me. I could not imagine why anyone would want to kill me, for I have not harmed anyone.

I was very careful after that. I stayed with my mother for some time; then I wandered off on my own. One day, I saw a goat near a tree. I was very hungry and forgot all the advice that my mother had given me. I ran towards the goat. but suddenly I felt something pull my leg. I fell into a pit - a trap. I believe it is called. I was pulled out after some time, and taken to a circus.

Fortunately, my master at the circus was a kind man and treated me well. All I had to do was go into the ring and do some tricks in front of people. Then I would get lots to eat and plenty of time to sleep.

This went on for a few years. Then I began to grow old, and the owner of the circus told my master to get rid of me. My master had tears in his eyes, but I knew he was helpless. He took me to a forest and let me free. I am still living in this forest. There is enough to eat, but I do not have any friends. I am getting weak and old, and wonder what will happen when I can no longer hunt. Well, I will worry about that when the time comes. Till then, let me enjoy this wonderful meal!

Exercise | Q 9 | Page 9

Make a list of the channels available on your TV under the following categories: News, entertainment, sports, movies, music, etc. Which are the channels on which you can watch programs on animals, wildlife, conservation of the environment, etc.?

SOLUTION

DD National, National Geographic, Discovery, and Animal Planet.

Exercise | Q 10 | Page 9

Ask your parents to show you TV programs on animals, wildlife and conservation on channels like the following:

SOLUTION

DD National, National Geographic, Discovery, and Animal Planet.

Exercise | Q 11 | Page 9

You have won a prize to visit a wildlife sanctuary or National Park in Africa or Australia. Choose a location, read about it. Imagine that you are visiting it and write a letter to your friend about it.

SOLUTION

Do it your self.

Exercise | Q 12 | Page 9

Language Study: Identify the following from the list given in the box below: 4 nouns, 4 verbs, 4 adjectives, 4 adverbs, 4 pronouns.

bird, wonderful, friends, gather, humans, we, I, healthy, grasslands, help, directly, protect, arrive, together, away, happy, slowly, afraid, you, us.

SOLUTION

Nouns	verbs	Adjectives	Adverbs	Pronouns
humans	protect	happy	directly	we
egg	arrive	afraid	together	you
chick	kill	good	away	us
letters	need	special	slowly	I