

Chittorgarh A Glimpse of Glory

- Have you ever seen a fort?
- Do you know Rajasthan is famous for its forts?
- For which forts is Rajasthan famous?

Let's read about a fort which is considered one of the largest forts in India.



Hello! I am Sapna, a student of class V. I live in Kota. Last week I went to Chittorgarh with my parents. We visited the world famous fort of Chittorgarh. It is situated on a high hill. It is considered to be one of the largest forts in India. It was built by the Mauryas during 7th century. It had been the capital of Mewar for more than 800 years.

We took the morning train from Kota railway station. It took about three hours to reach Chittorgarh. After having tea and some snacks at the Chittorgarh station, we took an auto-rickshaw to reach the fort. The road to the fort had many turns. We went through the gates namely the *Padan Pol*, *Bhairon Pol*, *Hanuman Pol*, *Ganesh Pol*, *Jodla Pol*, *Laxman Pol* and the main gate named the *Ram Pol*. We bought tickets to see the museum in the Fateh Prakash Palace. It had a nice collection of old guns, swords and other weapons.

We saw the famous *Vijay Stambh*. It was built by Rana Kumbha after his victory over Mahmud Khilji, the Sultan of Malwa. It has 157 steps to reach the top of this tower. A light and sound show is held in the evening. There is another tower also. It is called *Kirti Stambh*. It is dedicated to Bhagwan Adinath, the first Jain Tirthankar.

We visited the Rana Kumbha Palace. It reminds us of the

popular story of Panna *Dhai*, the maid of young prince Uday Singh. She sacrificed her son Chandan to save the life of the young prince Uday Singh. Meera Bai, the great devotee of Bhagwan Krishna also lived in this palace. It is the same palace where the beautiful queen Padmini committed *Jauhar* along with many other women to save her honour.

There are many temples and water bodies inside the fort. We visited the *Meera Bai Mandir*, the *Kalika Mata Mandir* and *Tulja Bhawani Mandir*. We saw the *Gaumukh* and some other ponds.

Chittorgarh fort is the symbol of bravery and patriotism of the people of Mewar. They fought against the foreign invaders to save our motherland. We are proud of Chittorgarh and the brave warriors of Mewar.

We concluded our trip with dinner at a restaurant near the fort and took the night train to Kota.

Glossary

- situated : in a particular place or position, स्थित
build : make; बनाना
capital : a city that is the centre of government of a country or a state; राजधानी
museum : a building in which objects of historical importance are kept; संग्रहालय

- collection : a group of objects of one type; संग्रह
- weapon : an object such as a knife, gun, bomb, etc. that is used for fighting or attacking somebody; हथियार
- tower : a tall narrow building or part of a building; स्तंभ
- dedicated : devoted to a particular subject, task, or purpose; समर्पित
- sacrificed : gave up something valuable in order to help another person; बलिदान किया
- devotee : a very religious person who belongs to a particular group; भक्त
- honour : respect; सम्मान
- patriotism : love of one's country; देश भक्ति

Activity – I

A. Choose the correct alternative:

1. How many gates are there to reach inside Chittorgarh fort?
 - a. two
 - b. four
 - c. seven
 - d. six()

2. Who built the *Vijay Stambh*?
 - a. Rana Sanga
 - b. Rana Kumbha

c. Padmini

d. Rana Pratap

()

B. Write T for True and F for False statement.

1. Sapna visited Kumbhalgarh fort.
2. *Ganesh Pole* is the main gate to enter Chittorgarh fort.
3. *Kirti Stambh* was built by Rana Kumbha.
4. Meera Bai was a great devotee of Bhagwan Krishna.

C. Answer the following questions.

1. Who built Chittorgarh fort?
2. What did Sapna and her parents see in the museum?
3. Why did Rana Kumbha build the *Vijay Stambh*?
4. How did Panna *Dhai* save the life of the young prince Udai Singh?

Activity II

A. Find one word from the lesson for the group of words given below.

- a. The place where the kings and queens live.
p _ _ a _ _

b. The building where the old things of historical interest are kept.

m _ _ e _ m

c. The son of a king.

p _ _ n _ _

d. Love of one's country.

p _ t r _ o _ _ s _

B. Complete the following sentences using the words given in the box below.

famous capital foreign hired dedicated

1. Ranthambore is a tiger reserve.
2. Laxman a taxi to go to the railway station.
3. Jaipur is the of Rajasthan.
4. Babar was a invader.
5. Eklingji temple is to Bhagwan Shiv.

Activity – III

Read the following sentences taken from the text and pay attention to the sentence pattern.

- There is another tower also.
- There are many temples and water bodies inside the fort.

In the above sentences, the 'subject' does not appear at the beginning. We begin such sentences with 'There is....' / 'There are....' Here are a few more examples.

- There is a banyan tree in the middle of our village.
- There are ten rooms in my school.
- There is a beautiful park in our colony.
- There is no sugar in the container.

Note – If the subject is singular, we use article 'a'/'an' after 'There is'. However, we drop it in the negative sentences as has been done in the last sentence above. In other words, article 'a' is not used before 'no' in such sentences.

Now complete the following sentences.

1. There river near our village.
2. There beautiful flowers in my garden.
3. There fine painting in the museum.
4. There many forts in Rajasthan.
5. There no vehicle on the road.
6. big shop in my village.
7. no one in the room.
8. small box near the door.
9. two banks in our town.
10. no railway station in our village.

Activity – IV

There is a mention of some great personalities in the lesson. Form groups of five students each and talk about them.

Activity – V

Have you heard about the sacrifice made by Panna *Dhai*. Ask your teacher about it and write a paragraph on it.