

Me And My City



“Dear Children,

Many years ago I came to visit Bangalore. It was a quiet, green and clean city, with playgrounds for children to enjoy. Traffic was orderly. Today Bangalore is very busy, a lot of new buildings and a lot of traffic. Many places are not so clean.

Wouldn't it be nice if Bangalore roads were safe and the city clean?

The Government works hard to improve the roads, water supply, sewage, electricity and so on. But this is not enough.

People must feel responsible to drive safely, not to throw garbage on the street, not to waste water and electricity. People need to respect each other, stick to the traffic rules and preserve nature.

The Janaagraha program helps you to understand this better. They make you citizens of the future, who care about the environment. I have seen children presenting their projects about environmental problems and solutions sponsored by

Janaagraha; I was very impressed. That's why I believe in this program. I am sure that the book will be useful to you.

Discover, enjoy and make a difference! ”

Alexius Collette, CEO
Philips Innovation Campus

"We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today. The future belongs to our children. We should take the responsibility through collective action to motivate these little people thereby giving them an opportunity to realize their full potential and their importance in society.

Velankani is proud to be associated with the Bala Janaagraha programme. This is a peoples' movement for Bangalore's children. This partnership with effective child development initiatives is key to the sustainable change that the Bala

Janaagraha movement is trying to make possible. We are happy to have lent our skills to put together this commendable effort. The power of this movement, its passion and conviction is sure to steer our children into being proud and responsible citizens. We are confident that Bala Janaagraha will make a difference to the outlook and beliefs of children in Bangalore."

Kiron Shah, CEO
Velankani Information Systems

“At Ernst & Young we believe in reaching out to the communities we live and work in. The Bala Janaagraha program is an excellent platform for us to truly make a difference as it provides us an opportunity to contribute to the society and make a difference in every way we can. ”

Giridhar GV, COO
Ernst & Young GSS

“The best way to shape the world of tomorrow is to shape the children of today. Bala Janaagraha is a wonderful step in that direction. It is a pleasure for me, my family and Dell India R&D to support Bala Janaagraha".

Vivek Mansingh, Country Manager
Dell India R&D

Foreword

Dear Bala Janaagrahis,

You must have often heard people say that you are the bright and shining future of the country. That's a great thought - but what about the present? Does this mean that there is no role for you in the present as a citizen of India? Only when you are all grown-up can you take active part in your community and your city? Certainly not! You can be an active citizen today. First arm yourself with information about what is happening in your school, your neighbourhood, and your city. This could be the number of your ward, or the name of your corporator, or the route the garbage truck follows or so many other things which you will pick up as you go through the Bala Janaagraha programme. Go ahead and use this knowledge in whichever area interests you. Be it to start a waste segregation unit in your school, or to study the implications of a new bus stop outside your colony, or a survey of the water supply quality in your neighbourhood, or the use of solar energy at traffic lights, or the cost of rain water harvesting – there are many, many ways in which you can participate right now!

This is what this book is about. It is a guide to your city, your neighbourhood, your government. It will take you forward in your quest to become an active citizen. Each chapter in this book will give you essential information which you can use to make your neighbourhoods come alive for you. This is just the start in your journey towards active citizenship and I am sure that it is going to be a fantastic one for you! This 'Me and My City' is the second version of the book which was originally published in 2004. We used the first version for seven years – everyone loved it! But with changing times, we decided to go contemporary with it! And hence, Me and My City – Version 2, was born. This book gives you current information, more activities and has more interaction! It also introduces the Citizenship Quotient – where you can see how good a citizen you are or can be. You can make your quotient go sky high by participating and by involving your family and friends in various activities in the neighbourhood. Imagine what a wonderful neighbourhood it would be to live in!

Remember, you have many, many freedoms and privileges. This in turn means that you have duties and responsibilities which you must be aware of and fulfil. But it's not a serious business – so let's enjoy being proud and active citizens in our community, our nation and the world...

Bala Janaagraha Coordinator
25th April, 2011

Acknowledgements

The genesis of this book lies in the previous version of Me and My City, developed by Sunita Nadhamuni and Rama Errabelli. Thanks to their clarity of thought and vision, our path was made easier as we put together Version 2 of the book.

This book would not have been possible without the invaluable help from the following people who supported with its development:

1. Sarmistha Pattanayak who helped with content and story ideas. She truly bought the child's perspective into everything in this book.
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 3. Usha Srinivasan for being at every meeting and contributing with valuable ideas.
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This would never have been possible without Ramesh and Swati Ramanathan, founders of Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy, for their encouragement and their ideas throughout this journey. We also owe a big shout-out to all the employees of Janaagraha for supporting us in this venture. Our gratitude goes to Justice Leila Seth for her simplified version of the Indian Preamble. Through this, children will get a greater understanding to the document which defines our democracy. We would like to acknowledge Dell Youth Connect for sponsorship of Me and My City – they have generously supported us over the past many years.

Last and never the least, a big thank you to our Partner schools for believing in the Bala Janaagraha program and being with us on this incredible journey of Active Citizenship.

Bandana & Sanjana

Introduction

How many of us have lived in the city all our lives? Write down three words which characterise your city for you here:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

The city is all this and more! It's about people who make their lives in the city; it's about relationships; the friendships we build over many years; it's about our neighbourhoods, where we live, study and have fun. It's a wonderful place to live in!

But it also has its share of problems. Think about your city – what are the main problems you can think of?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

How can we solve these problems?

The first thing we require, before we tackle any issue, is Information. Then we will know exactly what is going on with the issue, where the problem is and what is needed to solve it.

The second thing we need is the will to do something. Once we know what we need to do, we have to go out there and do it! If each one of us does something about an issue in our homes, schools and neighbourhoods think about the effect it will have on that issue in our cities, countries and ultimately the world. Finally, take a moment to reflect on the issue you attempted to solve. Do you think you made a change in the area you chose? Why or why not? Write down your thoughts and think about what you could have done differently. Keep going at it despite the challenges. We, the people of this country, need you! This, the Me and My City book, will help you out in your quest to become active and engaged citizens right from today. While you go through the book, keep an eye out for the fun activities you can do: both in the book as well as in your neighbourhoods. This will guide you how to gather information and data, understand it, identify problem areas and discover solutions. Most importantly, it will help you as you work with others and come up with effective and long-lasting solutions.

As you go through the activities at the end of each chapter, you can see your citizenship quotient rising. Go ahead; make a difference to yourself and a difference to your neighbourhood.

Sanjana Janardhanan
Bala Janaagraha Curriculum Associate

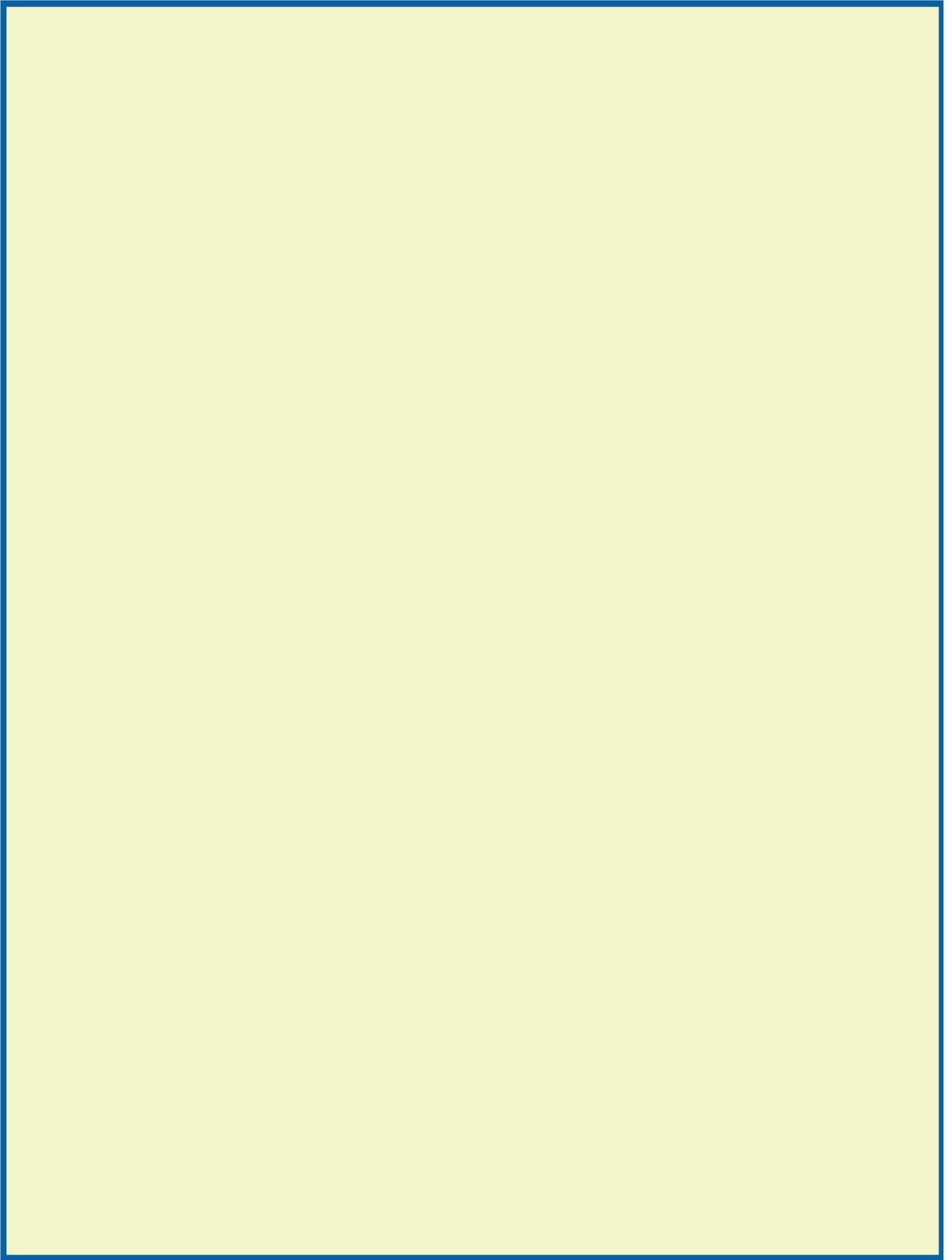
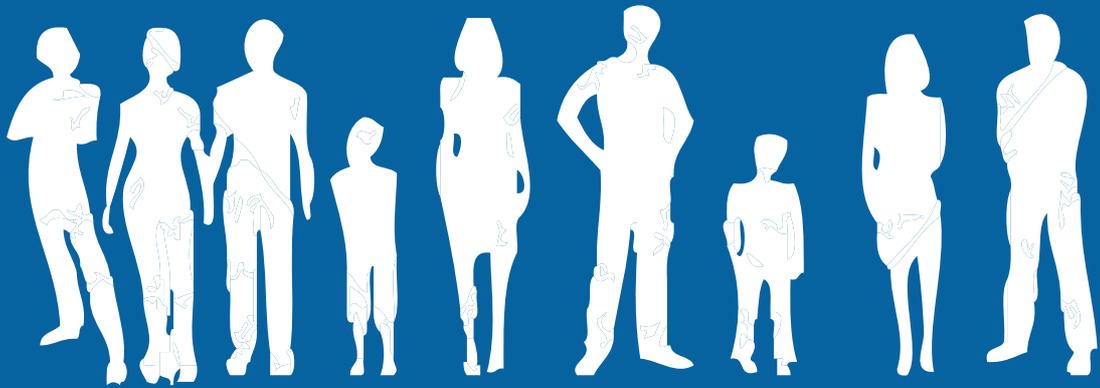


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CHAPTER - 1

Citizenship

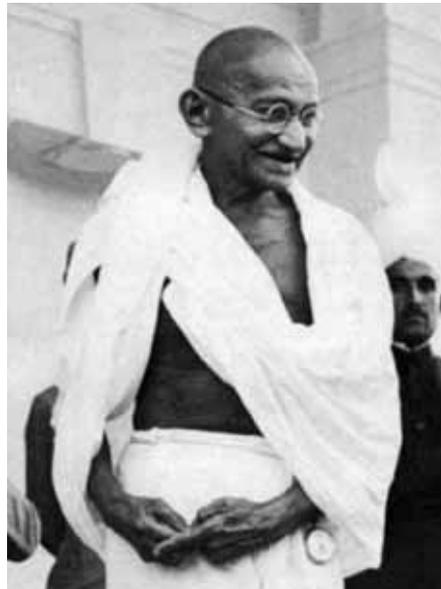




~ 1857 ~
First war of Indian Independence
*Rani Laxmibai of Jhansi fought for
her kingdom and her life*



~ 1900 ~
Lokamanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak
*"Swaraj is my birth right and
I will have it"*



~ 1947 ~
Gandhi and other freedom fighters win
independence for our country.
"Be the change you want to see"

~ 2011 ~
You?
Active Citizen of the year!

When it began

The year is 1947. India has just been liberated from foreign rule and the whole country is rejoicing! After two hundred years we finally have the chance to decide for ourselves how we ought to live.

DO YOU RECOGNIZE THIS HISTORIC EVENT?



This was the moment when our first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru delivered his famous 'Tryst with Destiny' speech, where he announced the dawn of Indian independence.

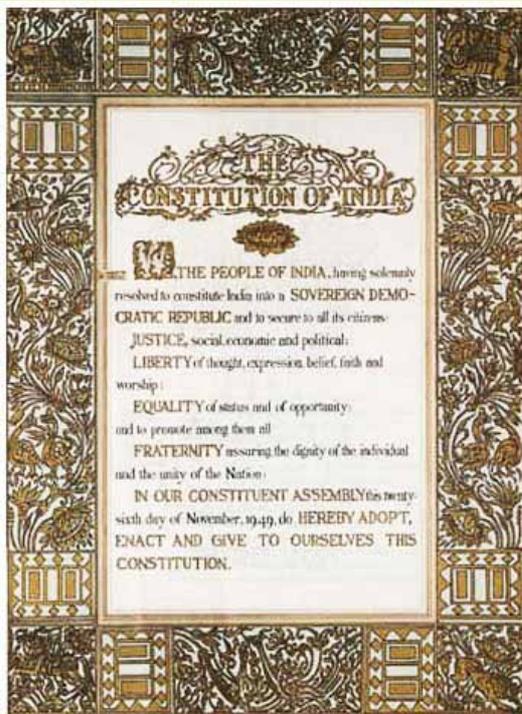
Find out who in your family could have been a part of this moment. What was he/she doing at this exact moment?

The Indian Constitution

BUT THE WORK HAS JUST BEGUN.

The leaders of our country have to now decide the rules and laws by which our country will be governed. They get together to create a document.

This is what they developed as the most important document of our country – the Constitution. It starts with the preamble, which contains the guiding principles of our democracy.



WE, THE CHILDREN OF INDIA, having taken a firm decision to make India an **INDEPENDENT DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY** that will provide a **BETTER LIFE** for all Indians; that will not make any religion more important than any other, and will **RESPECT ALL RELIGIONS and BELIEFS**; and will make sure that all of us: are treated **FAIRLY AND HONESTLY** are **FREE** to think and to act, and to practice a religion or belief of our choice; are **EQUAL** and are given the same chances to make our lives better; and will encourage among us **LOVE** and **RESPECT** for each other, so that we stand united and care for our country; **NOW GIVE TO OURSELVES THIS CONSTITUTION**

Here is the children's version of the preamble given by Justice Leila Seth. Makes the preamble much simpler, doesn't it?

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA decided that we would set forth the rules by which we would govern the country and so gave ourselves the constitution. The constitution embodies the spirit of India. It contains the ideas, rules, promises and duties which all the people of the country agree to follow. It is an 'active' document – we can add and remove parts of the constitution.

This is called an amendment to the constitution.

DID YOU KNOW ?

The Indian Constitution is the longest written constitution in the whole world. It contains 395 articles in 22 parts, 12 schedules and 94 amendments. It was adopted on the 26th January, 1950. We celebrate this day every year as

The constitution was made by us, for us and consisted of people who represented us! This is the key idea of democracy.

Democracy

WHAT DOES DEMOCRACY REALLY MEAN?

Democracy means the rule of the people. Each person above the age of 18 can vote to participate in the governance of the country. The issue or person for whom most people vote - wins. In a democracy, there is no single ruler who proposes all the laws. All of us who live in the country can have a say in the law-making process. However, we are one billion of us – if each of us proposed a law, there would probably be chaos! To make it easier we have a system of electing people who will make sure that our opinion counts when decisions are made. They ensure that laws are fair to all the people in the country.

Our elected representatives meet periodically to make laws. This meeting happens in the _____ in New Delhi.

Today, we have many issues in our country like corruption, poverty and access to education for everyone. We can take care of these issues by effectively implementing democracy through the following:

- Make an informed choice when we vote. We should choose the 'right' candidate to represent our needs.
- Ensure that all minority interests are represented.
- Monitor that election campaigns are not wasteful or unnecessarily expensive.
- Refuse to give bribes to officials.

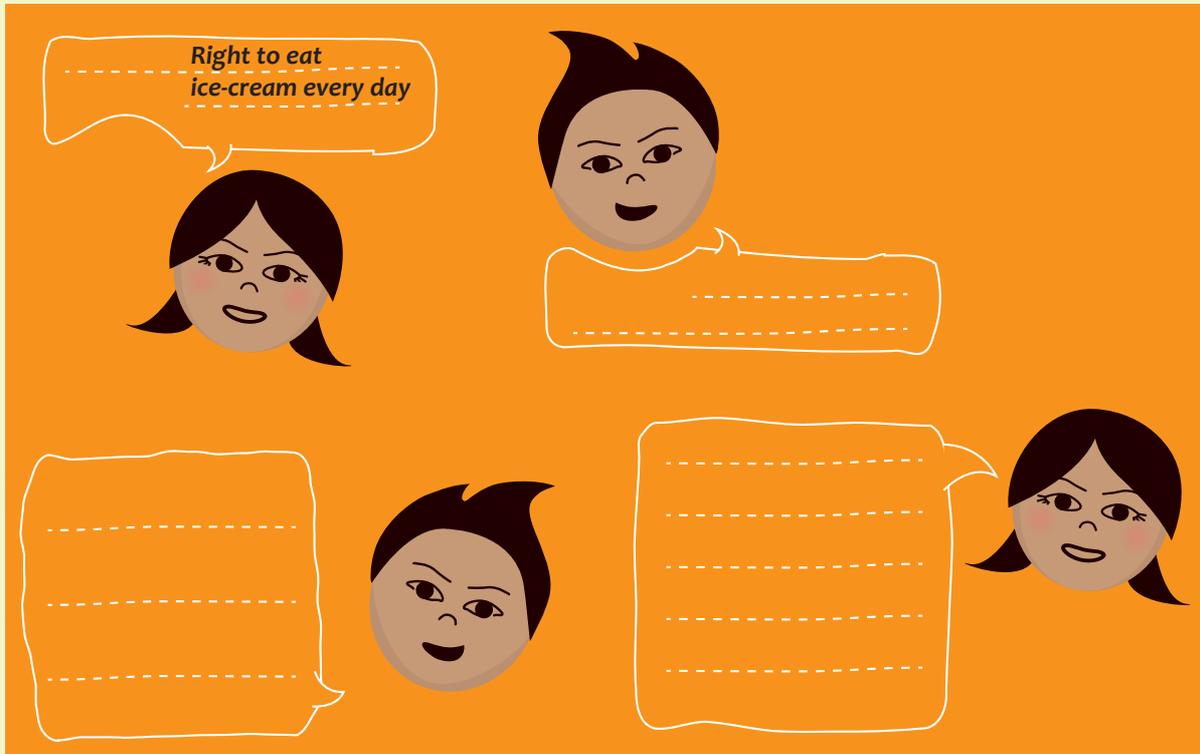
Citizenship

Citizenship means belonging to a country. This makes you and me citizens of India. As citizens we have certain rights and benefits.

At the same time we have certain responsibilities towards our country which we must fulfill.

Our citizenship rights are promised to us by our Constitution. So if we are denied these rights, we can seek justice from the relevant courts.

Imagine that the Constitution is getting changed – you have the opportunity to include the rights that you want in it! What would you choose?



Our constitution guarantees us our basic rights. We have these rights irrespective of our religion, our caste or our gender.

1. We all have the right to be treated equally. This means that no one shall discriminate against us on any grounds. That means, it doesn't matter who our parents are, where we live or which god we worship. All of us are equal in the eyes of the law. Thus we have the right to _____.

2. We are free people. This means that we are free to express our opinions, form associations and assemble peacefully to protest. We can travel across the country with no restrictions and are free to take up any job that we like. We cannot be put in jail without being given a reason. Thus we have the right to _____.

3. We are protected from abuse and mistreatment. This means that there is no slavery in the country. Children below fourteen should not be allowed to work. Thus we have the right against _____.

EXPLOITATION

It refers to the act of using something or someone in an unjust or cruel manner for the benefit of some. Can you think of some ways in which people have been exploited in our society?

4. We are allowed to worship and pray to any God without interference from any one. Thus we have the right to _____.
5. We all have the right to protect our culture and run educational institutions which can preserve the same. Thus we have _____ and _____ rights.
6. What happens when somebody denies us our fundamental rights? To ensure that they are not violated, we are given the right to approach the Supreme Court and ask for justice to make sure they are protected. Thus we have the right to _____.



Imagine you are in the following situations. Can you identify where a right is being exercised and where it is being denied?

1. Our Bengali association holds a grand function during Durga Pooja with Bengali food, music and dance.
2. There are many children under the age of ten who are working in the factory outside town.
3. Both our Vice-President and Prime Minister come from minority communities.
4. We can hold a protest rally to complain against a high ranking official or politician.
5. A severe storm damages homes and businesses in our area. While we get compensation, some of the poor, illiterate people do not get the compensation they deserve.

FUNDAMENTAL DUTIES

Every day we see something or someone attempting to take our rights away. As citizens of the country, we have the responsibility to protect our rights. We are never too young or too old to speak up if we see or experience something wrong. This is our responsibility. Our responsibilities are also specified in our constitution as the fundamental duties.



What fundamental responsibility or the lack of it is shown in the following?

1. A group of people in the community defended their neighbours who belonged to a different religion when some local thugs attacked them unfairly.
2. A group of school children vandalized the toilets in the public park near my house.
3. The people of Mudhumalai campaigned to make its forest a plastic-free zone. They put signs every where and asked the shops to stop giving out plastic bags.
4. While the national anthem was being sung, people continued sitting and talking with each other.
5. The president of the country visited your school and encouraged you to work hard and realize your dreams.

Being an Active Citizen

When you reach eighteen years of age, something very important is given to you by the government. It is the right to vote. You are then able to decide who will represent you in governing the country.

What do you do if you see or experience rights being denied? As a citizen, it is your responsibility to protect these rights. You can do this by exercising your vote. By casting your vote, you make a statement of what you expect from your representative in the government. This is one of our most important democratic rights and as a citizen we have the responsibility to protect and exercise it.

Do you now see the power in you? Do you think voting is a right or a duty?

Voting is the power of democracy and citizenship! If all of us observe what is happening around us, and decide to bring about a change, think how different our cities would be!

What do you think some of our duties should be?

1. The duty to follow traffic rules.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

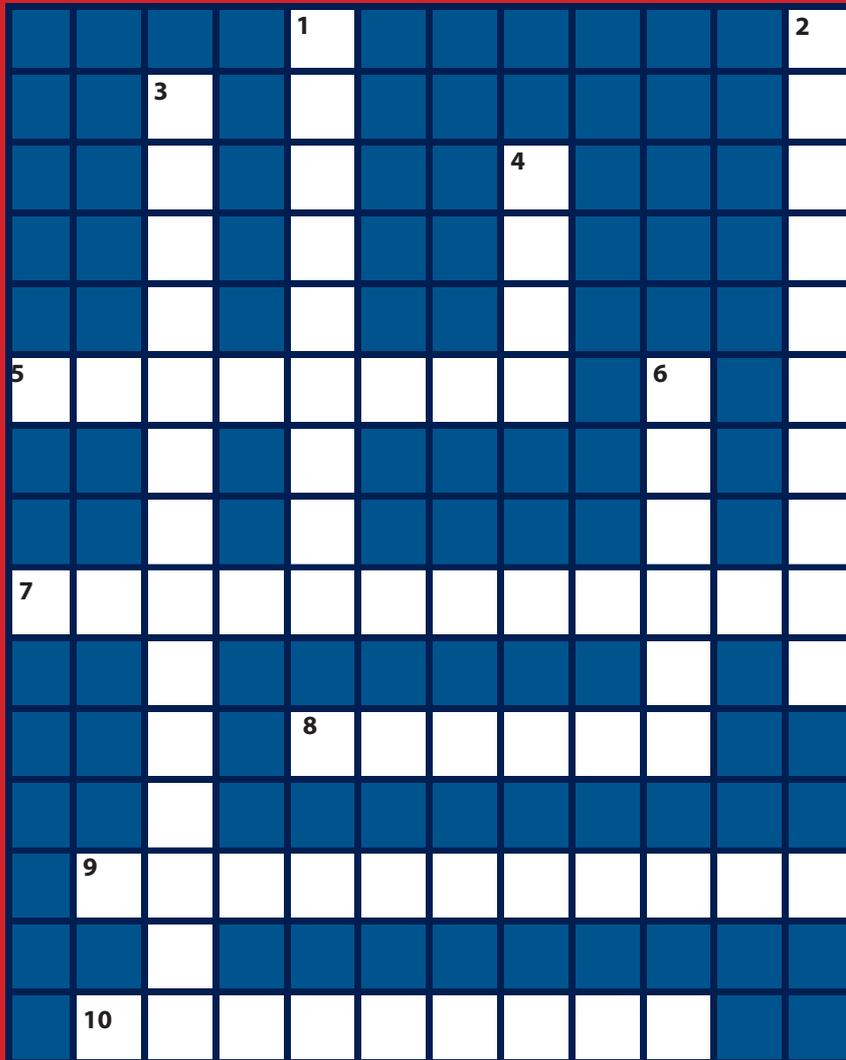
Along with the fundamental rights, the fundamental duties are embedded in the constitution. They are:

- (a) Respect the National Flag, Anthem and the constitution;
- (b) Promote the ideals of our independence movement;
- (c) Support and defend the unity and sovereignty of India;
- (d) Promote the feeling of oneness among each other;
- (e) Preserve our heritage, our monuments, our culture;
- (f) Protect our environment;
- (g) Develop the spirit of inquiry and respect for life;
- (h) Safeguard public property and to condemn violence;
- (i) Strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity to develop India to its highest potential.

**GO BACK TO YOUR
LIST OF DUTIES:**

**WERE THERE ANY
WHICH FALL INTO
THE ABOVE LIST?**

REVIEW



Across

- 5 An introduction which contains the values our country stands by
- 7 The book of rules by which our government functions
- 8 That which we are entitled to
- 9 The feeling of belonging to a country
- 10 By, of and for the people

Down

- 1 A change to the laws/rules
- 2 Where our law makers gather every year to make decisions
- 3 The person we choose to be our voice in the government

Discover

Rights in your community

Look around your home and neighbourhood (may be restricted to two or three streets around your home) - major public buildings (e.g., parks, post office, city hall, schools, places of worship), public services (e.g., hospitals, fire department, police station) and any other places that are important to the community (e.g., grocery stores, cemetery, cinemas, petrol pumps).

In the first column in the table below, list all the important buildings and services which you see. Now write down (in the second column) the rights you associate with the places you have written down. One example has been given:

Sl no.	Spaces in the Neighbourhood	Right	Is the service easily accessible for you?	
			Yes	No
1	School			
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Which right do you access regularly and is regularly getting denied to you?

Compare your responses with that of a classmate who lives in a different neighbourhood.

TAKE THE
CITIZENSHIP

CHALLENGE

Have you finished the activity? Every activity you completed gives you certain points. Find out how you did:

1. For every space that you found, did you associate a particular right to it? Did you see if this was accessible to you? Then give yourself one point.
2. The maximum you can score in this activity is 10 points.
3. Write down your score here: _____
4. Now go to the end of the book - and shade an equal number of squares on the Citizenship board.

You're one step closer to your goal of being an active citizen!

Me and My City

1. I live in the city of _____ in the state of _____.

2. My city was built by _____ in the year _____. It used to be ruled by the _____ . Historically, it is significant because _____

3. Geographically, it originally spread from _____ to _____ .
Some of its historical landmarks are: _____

Some of its new landmarks are: _____

4. My city is important because: _____

5. The population of my city according to the most recent Census is: _____

6. The area of my city according to the most recent Corporation limits is: _____

CHAPTER - 2

Government



CHALLENGE

Look around your school, neighbourhood or city. Can you identify five issues which you feel might be a problem?

1. The playground in my neighbourhood is used as a garbage dump.
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

From this list, choose the problem which bothers you the most.



You are given one week to address the issue. Would you be able to solve the problem on your own? Who do you think can help you with this?

Write your answer here: _____

Can you imagine how difficult it would be if each one of us tried to individually solve all the problems in the country? This is why we Indians decided to form a body called the Government. This is a group of people who work together to solve our problems for us. Just like all organizations have rules according to which they function, our Government too follows a set of rules. Do you know where they are written down?

Write down your answer here: _____.

What if you were to write a letter to the Prime Minister in New Delhi, asking him/her to help you solve the issue you chose?

The Prime Minister lives and works in Delhi. S/he will mostly be concerned with information on national issues. Does your issue fall within the Prime Minister's area of responsibilities? How will you know?

For a moment, close your eyes and imagine the length and breadth of India. Can you see it stretching from Jammu and Kashmir in the north to Kerala in the south? From Gujarat in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east? That is a huge area to administer. To make this easier, India has a number of states. Each state has a number of districts. In the districts people live in cities or villages. At each such level, we have a functioning unit of government.

All the duties of the government are divided up among these three levels. This is what we call a Federal government. Depending on your issue you will approach the relevant level of government:

The government for the whole country is called the Union government. The constitution gives it the power to make laws on matters of national importance. You will approach them if you have problems related to defense, foreign affairs, highways and railroads.



UNION GOVERNMENT

The government for the whole country is called the Union government. The constitution gives it the power to make laws on matters of national importance. You will approach them if you have problems related to defense, foreign affairs,

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The government for our city or village is called the Local government. All issues at the city and village level are addressed by the local government.

STATE GOVERNMENT

The government for individual states is called the State government. They can make laws on local law enforcement, land and agriculture. In some cases, such as issues of labour welfare, social security and price controls, the Union and State governments work together.

The three levels of a federal government are closely linked to each other – and we elect our representatives for each of them.

The head of the **central government** is our

The head of the **state government** is our

The head of the **local government** is our

ACTION # 1

Your class thinks your issue is the most important one! Your class teacher suggests that the class select a committee to plan the strategy to solve the issue.



Should your teacher choose the members of the committee or would you like to elect them? Why or why not?

In our country, we choose our representatives so that they can take decisions on our behalf. This process is called Elections. This is the most important event in our country to ensure democracy.

The process of choosing our representatives is as follows:

1. Candidate gets a ticket from his/her party
2. Candidate submits nomination papers and places deposit
3. Election officer scrutinizes the papers to verify that they are in order - if not candidate is disqualified
4. Candidates begin canvassing. Election propaganda stops 36 hours before polling
5. Election commission (EC) compiles voter lists
6. EC sends voter lists to officers of election booths
7. Voting takes place
8. Votes are counted in the presence of representatives of candidates
9. Results are declared

Once they are elected, our representatives take up issues which affect us and work together in solving them.

ACTION # 2

Now look back at your list at the beginning of this chapter. Was it a national, state or local issue? If you did write to the Prime Minister, would s/he be able to solve it?



To get any issue solved quickly and effectively, you should approach the right level of government. Do you now know why?

Local Government

Our **local government** is responsible for all issues at the neighbourhood and city level. Since local governments are based in our own cities, they can understand and look into our problems promptly and effectively.

Our local government is very important because it takes care of our everyday life. Let's look at how this is done – it is characterized by the 3Fs.

The 3Fs? What's that!

It's very simple. It stands for Functionaries, Funds and Functions.

Let's try to replace these words with some that we use every day.

Functionaries – People in our local government

Funds – Money to fulfill its function

Functions – Responsibilities as per the constitution.

Functionaries – the people in our local government

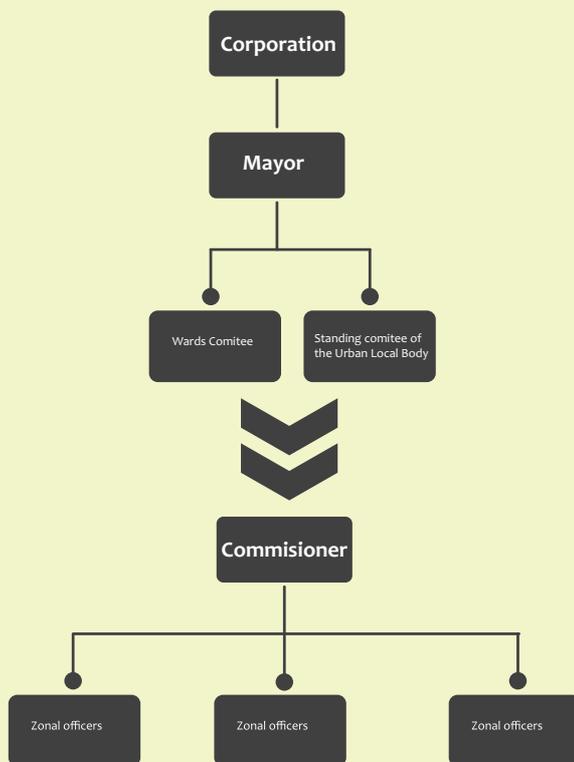
Let's start with the people - the functionaries - who form our local government. The Local government has two sets of people. The first set is those who have been elected by us, the citizens. The second comprises of those who get chosen through competitive tests like Municipal Services, State Civil Services and Union Civil Services.

- The elected representatives form the political arm of the local government. This arm is generally called the Municipal Corporation. It is headed by the Mayor.

The corporation is responsible for making the budget for the year; determining what taxes we pay and approving the work going on in our city.

- The executives form the administrative arm of the local government. They are responsible for services across our city like the maintenance of roads and drains, managing solid waste and infrastructure. It is headed by the Commissioner.

POLITICAL



EXECUTIVE

The Municipal Corporation has a defined area which it administers. This area is usually further divided into smaller units called Wards. Each ward is headed by the Corporator, who is elected by the people, for a term of 5 years.

My ward number is: _____

The name of my Corporator is: _____

Standing Committee: Besides the wards, powers are also given to several committees across wards to work on specific areas like taxation, finance, public health, town planning, public works, accounts, appeals, horticulture, education and social justice.

The city is divided into several zones. Each zone will comprise of several wards. Zonal Officers report to the commissioner. They are in charge of infrastructure and service delivery in their zones.

Funds – the money to fulfill its function

The functionaries have to make sure that they have the money to fulfill their responsibilities. They obtain the funds from the people through Property tax. They can also apply to the Central and State government for loans and grants.

BUDGET

How do you and your family decide to spend money every month?

Generally, your parents will see how much money is coming in to the family. Then they will look at what they need to spend on. They will set aside the money for this. They will also keep aside some money for unexpected expenses. The rest may be kept in the bank account, where it is saved for future use or for emergencies.

This kind of plan, for how we spend our money, is called a budget.

Like a family budget, every organization also has a budget. This is very important because it helps the organisation to plan how to spend its money. It ensures that there is enough money for all the necessary expenses and there is no unnecessary spending.

In the same way the Local Government has a budget. The elected representatives decide where the funds are going to be spent – whether on roads, buildings, electricity supply etc. The budget plan and its execution will affect the way services are provided to us in our city.

ACTION # 3

For the next week, you are in charge of your family budget! Look at the following worksheet. The possible sources for income are listed on one side and the possible needs on the other. Allocate funds for different activities based on the information given. Remember, you might not have enough money for all the things – choose the ones which are more important first before putting aside money for the others. You have the option of including two other areas of expenditure not mentioned in the worksheet.

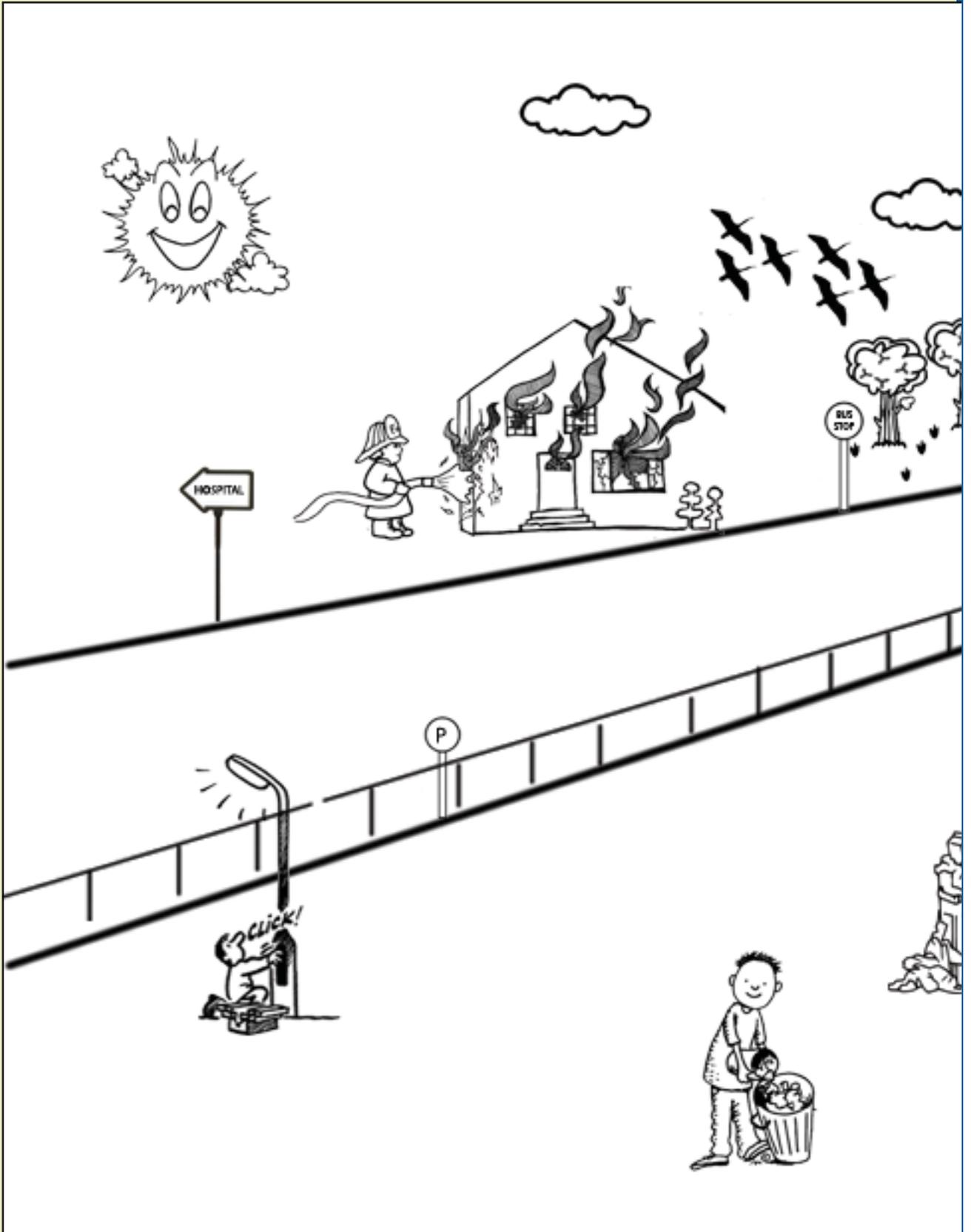
Keep in mind that the amount you spend should not become more than your income!

Income (in Rs)		Expenditure (in Rs)	
Father's Income	20,000	Food	
Mother's Income	20,000	School fees	
Grandmother's pension	8000	Installments (house)	
Room rent	8000	Utility bills	
Gift from relative	5000	Grandmothers medicines	
		Savings	
		Buying a cricket bat	
		Buying crackers for Diwali	
		Clothes for the festival	
		Grandmother's travel expense	
Total income	61000		

Functions – what the Local Government does

How does the Local Government decide to use its funds? This is guided by the Constitution.

In 1992, the constitution was amended (73rd and 74th Amendment) to make the local government stronger. According to the 12th Schedule in the amendment, there are certain functions that the Local Government now has the power to perform.





This is what the local government in your city is supposed to do for you:

- 1) **Services:** They are supposed to provide services to you and all the others who live with you in your local area. They supply water to your house, make sure you are healthy and manage your waste. In case there is a fire, they send firemen to put it out and protect you. They provide you with streetlights for the dark, parking lots and bus stops. They also provide you your parks and gardens and playgrounds. Finally they make sure that the roads in your city are well kept and maintained and build more roads and bridges when necessary.
- 2) **Social Justice and Environment:** The care for the people and the environment in the local area: They make sure your city is well planned, while they keep in mind the interests of the weaker sections of society. They make sure your slums are improved while working to reduce poverty.
- 3) **Urban Planning:** The plan for the future of your city. They make sure your city is planned according to the needs of the future. They regulate the land use and construction of buildings.

Identify at least ten services or functions that the local government provides to you.

Sl no.	Services / Functions
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Till 1992, many of these functions were being taken care of by the State government. With the amendment, these functions were supposed to be transferred to the Local government. This was done so that all the services which are required at the level of our city would be taken care of by one body that is the Municipal Corporation.

However in many states, the transfer of powers to the local government is yet to happen. In these states, some of the functions are being delivered by parastatals.

PARASTATALS

Parastatals are State government owned agencies and organizations which provide us some basic services like water and electricity which are supposed to be the responsibility of the Local Government. These organizations report directly to the State government.

Why is this a problem?

ACTION # 4

The road outside your home had been newly laid a week ago.

First the telecommunications department dug it up to lay down their lines. After finishing the work, they left the sides of the road in a bad condition. This was followed by the electricity department's work. They re-dug the road as some electric lines needed repair. When they left, the pavements were totally ruined!

You meet one of the workers one evening. "Why can't you repair the pavements once your work is done?" you ask. "Well," he replies, "Next week some other agency will want to do work and we will have to re-dig the road. It's easier to leave it open all the time!"



What if all the agencies communicated with each other? How will the efficiency of these agencies improve?

In our cities, we come across many such issues as organizations don't work together. If all the parastatals were to become a part of the local government, it may become easier for agencies to communicate with each other and work together efficiently.

Being an Active Citizen

“Traffic in the city is getting worse!” thought Rahul as he cycled to school. “The signal just turned red but most of the vehicles didn’t stop. They’ve gone and blocked other vehicles trying to enter the junction. Look at that cyclist - he just went the wrong way on that one-way street. What a traffic jam! I’m going to get late for school again...”

Does this sound familiar to you?

Very often we find that the Local government provides inefficient services. But does the Local Government function in isolation? No, it works through the cooperation of the citizens. So if we, as citizens, don’t follow the rules then the services provided to us also suffer. Think about what Rahul saw – if the motorists had followed the rules, the traffic situation wouldn’t have been so bad and he would have reached school on time.

Rules and procedures are made for us by the local government. As citizens of a democracy, we should have a say in the making of these rules. This is possible through the forum of an Area Sabha.

Area Sabhas

The Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission, 2005, proposes a platform called the Area Sabha. An Area Sabha is a collection of the voters registered at a particular polling booth. A local polling booth – this is the place where people come to cast their vote during national and state elections. You need to be a registered voter before you can cast your vote. There are a number of polling booths in each ward – therefore there will be multiple Area Sabhas in a ward.

Members of an Area Sabha elect an Area Sabha representative to the ward committee. The ward committee is made up of all the Area Sabha representatives in the ward along with several nominated members.

The chairperson of the Ward committee is the Municipal Corporator and will therefore represent the ward at the Municipal Corporation.

How can you become a part of decision making at your ward level? If you have an issue, you need to attend your Area Sabha meeting and raise your concerns. If required, your representative will take it forward to the ward committee. In this way your local issues get addressed locally, and democracy becomes a part of your life. Remember, you need to be eighteen years before you can be a registered voter.

Me and My City

Union Government:

1. The President of my country is _____. S/he works at _____.
2. The Prime Minister of my country is _____. S/he works at _____.
3. The Vice President of my country is _____. S/he works at _____.

State Government:

4. The Governor of my state is _____. S/he works at _____.
 5. The Chief Minister of my state is _____. S/he works at _____.
 6. The Deputy- Chief Minister of my state is _____. S/he works at _____.
-

Local Government and my City:

1. The local government of my city is called _____.
2. There are _____ departments in my local government. The following are some of the services delivered by the local government in my city:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
3. The Mayor of my city is _____.
4. My city has _____ wards.
5. There are _____ ward committees and _____ standing committees in my city.
6. The Commissioner of my local government is _____.
7. My local government allocates a major part of its budget to _____.
8. The quasi-governmental agencies in my city are:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
9. The Area Sabha law was passed in my city in the year _____. Its current status is _____.

REVIEW

Sl no.	Spaces in the Neighbourhood	Union	State	Local
1	Installation of traffic lights at an intersection			
2	Paving a street in one part of the city			
3	One state requesting another for a resource such as water or electricity			
4	Permission to build an extension to your house			
5	Fixing street lights in a village			
6	Widening the Kolkata- Chennai national highway			
7	Registering the birth of a baby			
8	Working out the details for the export of rice between India and America			
9	Deciding the development plan for a slum in the city			
10	Ensuring that all public buildings are accessible to differently-abled people.			

Discover

Write down the names and draw the Election symbols of two local and three national parties in the space given below. Find out a candidate from each party (preferably from your neighbourhood). Write his/her name in the space given.

Sl no.	Party	Symbol	Candidate

Interview the Corporator:

Write down your ward number and the address of your local ward office here:

Who is your Corporator? When were the last Corporation elections held?

Now make an appointment with your corporator – two or more of you from the same area can go together to meet him or her. Here are some questions you can ask:

1. What are your plans to make our ward better?
2. What are some of the initiatives that you have implemented already?
3. Whom can we approach if we have a problem in the ward?
4. What is your message to all the children who live in this ward?



Have you finished the activity? Every activity you completed gives you certain points. Find out how you did:

1. For finding out your ward number and the address of your ward office, you get 2 points.
2. For finding out your Corporator's name and when the last election was held, you get 1 point.
3. For interviewing your corporator, you get 7 points.
4. The maximum you can score in this activity is 10 points.
5. Write down your score here: _____
6. Now go to the end of the book - and shade an equal number of squares on the Citizenship board.

CHAPTER - 3

Urban



Planning

Madhuri discusses her idea of an amazing city...

My ideal city will have houses for everyone. It will have **offices and factories close to home** so that we don't spend too much time travelling. There will be many **cinema halls** where we can watch our favourite films and restaurants where we can eat tasty food. We will have **playgrounds** where we can play basketball, cricket or any other game - where we can spend time with friends and have fun!

My city will be clean and everyone will get **water and electricity** all day. Everyone in my neighbourhood and school will help in keeping our streets clean and safe. We will have lots of trees as well, to keep our city shady and cool.

We will be able to get to school easily and on time because my city will have an **efficient transport system**. **The people in my city will follow traffic rules so we won't have traffic jams.**

We will live in a democratic society, and all of us will be **good citizens**. We will make sure that our government keeps all our interests in mind – whether we are the chaiwallah on the street or a software engineer working in a big, glass building.

And finally, **my ideal city would look wonderful**. It will have new, modern buildings which will reflect my city's growth. It would also have old buildings, which have been restored, to reflect our heritage. My city will be developed in a way which will not destroy our environment.

My city would be the best city - **if I am allowed to have a say in what is happening in it!**

**Do you have an ideal city in mind?
Does it match Madhuri's idea of a great city?**



Write five services which you think are essential for an ideal city. Then reflect on their current status in your city.

List of services required to live comfortably	Present Status in my city
Housing 	

Plan an ideal city

Think about all the buildings in our city – the apartments, the houses, the ultra-modern office buildings. With an **increase in population** (and you know that every day so many new people come into our cities!) there will always be a need to have more houses, more apartments and more workplaces. **But is that all we need?** We need to think about where our parks will be. And the capacity of our roads for all the cars that so many people will drive. **Will we just cut down all our trees and remove all our gardens to make space for more and more people?**

These are the questions that city planners will need to ask and answer while deciding how our city should be. **City planners** help us build great cities. They make sure that our city is planned in a **‘smart’** way, so that all of us have space to live, work and have fun; there are enough roads to handle new traffic; and people are able to move easily from one place to another in the city.

Planners think ahead. They shape a community’s growth. They help the community grow stronger today, ten years from now and many years into the future.

HOW DO PLANNERS WORK? THEY ARE GUIDED BY CERTAIN TOOLS:

- 1) Land Use: This decides how land is to be used, choosing from residential, commercial, civic and recreational purposes.
- 2) Zoning: This is used to decide the density of a particular area, the height of its buildings and the building footprints (the area it occupies).
- 3) Connectivity: This decides how our city will be connected to other cities – through rail, air or road.
- 4) Transportation: This will help us decide how we travel from area to area within the city – by metro-rail, bus, car or bicycle.

Sustainable Planning

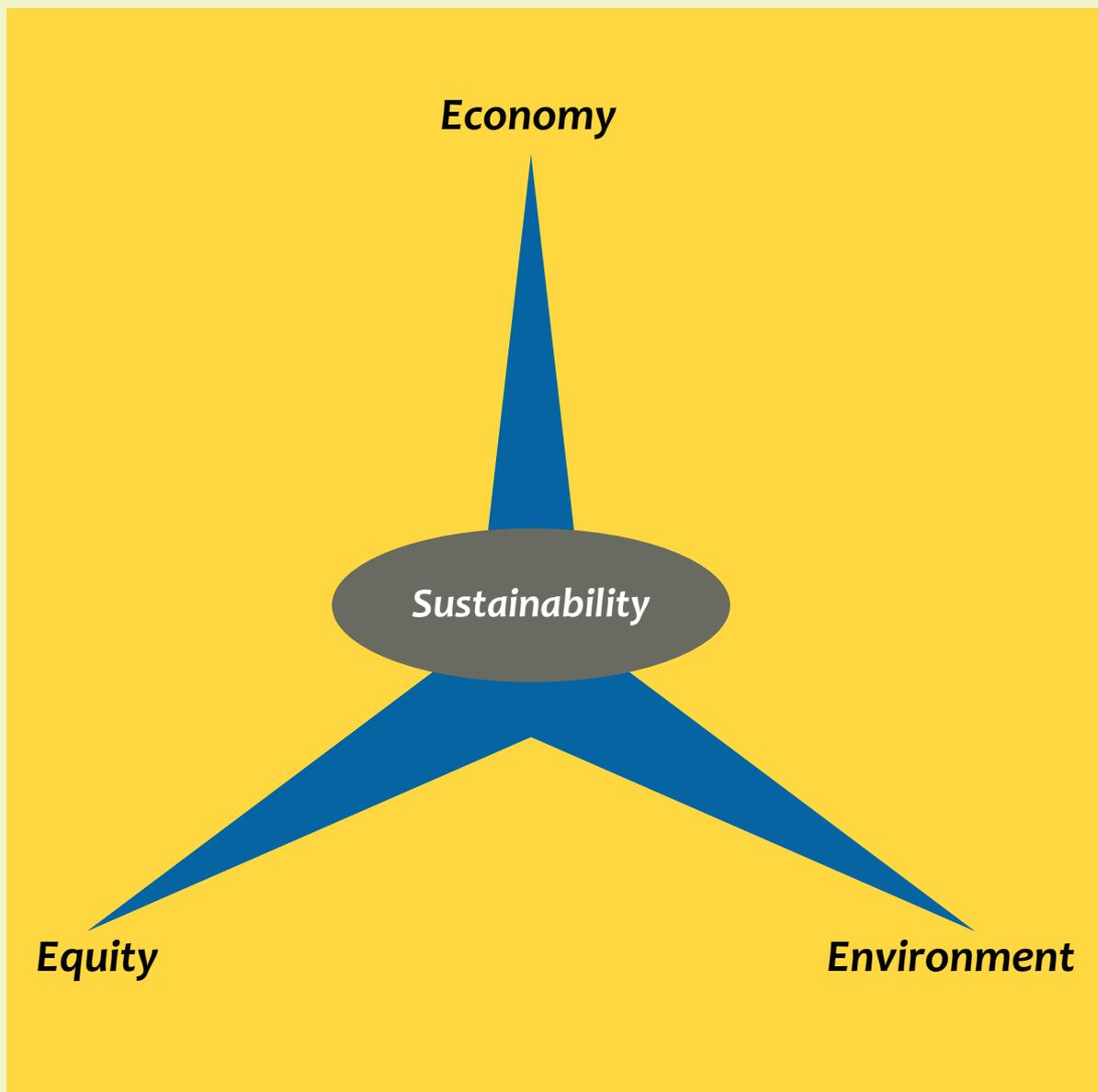
Today when we think about planning our cities, the first thing we should look at is the city’s ‘sustainability.’

What does that mean? When we talk about sustainable cities, we basically mean that our cities should meet the needs of those who live in it today, without compromising on the ability of the future citizens to satisfy their needs.

How can we plan for sustainability?

Sustainability involves looking at a variety of factors. These factors all come under the following three categories:

1. **Economy** - This refers to how we earn and use money. A strong and healthy economy is one which will have enough opportunities for everyone to earn.
2. **Equity** - Equity is related to the concept of equality, with a focus on access. This means that our city should be 'fair' to everyone who lives in it.
3. **Environment** - Our urban environments are among the most polluted in the country. The waste we produce, the vehicles we use and our big, glass buildings all contribute to global warming and the degradation of the city's natural resources.



Planners can tackle these issues by keeping in mind the following themes:

1. Housing and Land – Planners make sure that there are enough houses for people from all income groups. They also look at making land affordable for everyone.
2. Economy and livelihood – The city provides us the space to work and earn money in different ways. Planners look at what the people in the city do best, see ways in which this can be enhanced, provide space for new opportunities to develop while seeing how to better the city to attract people from all over the world to it.
3. Transport and Connectivity – Planners also look at how people commute in the city. They plan the transport system so that there is improved access to jobs and facilities. This involves improving the public transport system, providing lanes for cyclists and footpaths for pedestrians. They ensure that we are easily connected to important places in the city - reducing our dependence on non-renewable and polluting fuels.
4. Physical Infrastructure: This looks at the provision of services such as power and electricity, water supply, sewerage and sewage treatment, provision of storm water drains and solid waste management. City planners take all these services into consideration, keeping in mind all sections of society.
5. Social Infrastructure: City planners also make sure that all people in the city have access to social services like healthcare, education, employment, banks and safety. These services should be available to us, irrespective of caste, creed and religion.
6. Environment and Heritage: City planners also keep in mind the improvement of the urban environment. They look at reducing the use of non-renewable energy, preserve and create open spaces and parks, conserve and renew natural resources and reduce pollution of air, water and soil. They protect fertile land from urban development and encourage the use of green technology in our infrastructure.

Who are our planners?

Our city is planned by the Planning Authority. They mainly look at three things:

- 1) Creating a Comprehensive Development Plan for the city. Remember what we learnt earlier: city planners don't just look at the city today. This is the plan that they create for the city's development over the next decade.
- 2) The plan will look at defining and monitoring land use and zoning within the city.
- 3) The plan will make sure that everyone, irrespective of their social status, will have access to housing and infrastructure.

Besides the authorities, there are some other very important people who have a say in how our cities are planned. Do you know who they are?

Building a child-friendly city

What is a child-friendly city? It is a city where children feel safe and are not harassed. It is a city where we can move around freely, have space to play and explore and grow into active citizens and good human beings.



You have been invited to be part of the Planning Authority as the representative for all the children in your city. Now is your chance to include the needs of children in the planning process. Discuss this with your friends in class. Note down the main things which you as a group want to present to the Development Authority in order to make your city child-friendly.

- 1) There is a variety of places for young people, including places where we can meet friends, talk and play.
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

THINK!

Does my city allow spaces for the following?

1. Senior Citizens
2. Differently-abled folks
3. People of lower-income groups
4. Homeless people and beggars
5. Women
6. Minorities
7. Migrants

Me and My City

1. _____ is the Urban Planning Authority in my city.
2. The plan for my city was last created in the year _____. It will apply till the year _____.
3. My city is a sustainable city because _____

4. The _____ authority takes care of Housing in my city
5. The _____ board takes care of employment and livelihood and other social services in my city
6. The _____ looks after transport and connectivity in my city.
7. The following agencies take care of basic services in my city:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
8. The _____ takes care of historical buildings and my city's heritage.
9. The _____ is responsible for the protection of my city's environment.
10. My city is child friendly because _____

REVIEW

Imagine that you are in charge of planning a new city. You need to make sure that your practices are sustainable. Here is a quick guide.

Match the more sustainable practice with its less sustainable counterpart.

More Sustainable	Less Sustainable
Compact forms of residential development	Our homes, jobs and shopping are separated from each other and far away
Our homes, jobs and shopping areas are close to each other	Low-density, spread out residential development
We get jobs because we are educated and have useful skills	We get energy through thermal and nuclear energy
We move around our city using public transport, bicycles and walking	We get jobs because there are factories and industries in our cities which always need people
We get energy through wind and solar energy	We move around our city only in our private vehicles
We use natural means to treat our sewage fully before we release it back to the lakes, rivers and seas	We release our sewage into our water bodies without treating it.
We have natural open space and protect our wetlands, woodlands, stream valleys, habitat, etc.; We use manure, compost, integrated pest management.	We use landfills and incinerators to dispose our waste material
We follow the 3 Rs - we have reduced our waste, while recovering, reusing and recycling our	We have destroyed our natural landscape – instead we have manicured parkland with exotic species; heavy use of chemical fertilizers, herbicides, pesticides

Discover

Know your Neighbourhood

How much do you know about your city?

Just like all of us have stories to tell, our city also has a story it is dying to tell us. Why don't you have a look around and see if you can spot something which makes your city unique? You never know, you might discover something fascinating!

Each item on this list asks you to do or find out something about your neighbourhood or your city. You can do this in different ways. You can walk around, take interviews or collect pictures (you can take photographs or make your own drawings).

Be as creative as you want. Remember, this list is just a starting point. You might come across many other things in this journey.

1. A map of your city. Mark your neighbourhood on it.
2. Leaves from 10 different trees found in your city. Press and label the leaves.
3. A drawing of something wonderful that you have eaten in your neighbourhood.
4. An interview with someone who has just moved in. Find out what they like best and least about your city.
5. Photograph of a well-known personality who was born in your city.
6. Something unusual/interesting that your city is known for.
7. Something which depicts the most interesting place/area in your city.
8. Pictures of four buildings, each built in a different decade.
9. Something from a tourist attraction in your city.
10. A ticket or poster for an event at the sports stadium in your city.

TAKE THE
CITIZENSHIP

**CHA
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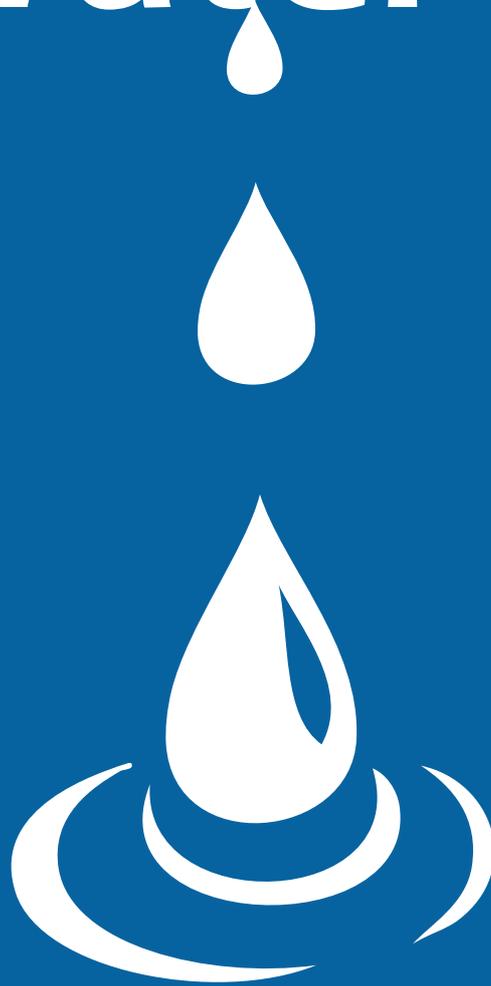
Have you finished the activity? Every activity you completed gives you certain points. Find out how you did:

1. For every item that you found give yourself one point.
2. The maximum you can score in this activity is 10 points.
3. Write down your score here: _____
4. Now go to the end of the book - and shade an equal number of squares on the Citizenship board.

You're one step closer to your goal of being an active citizen!

CHAPTER - 4

Water



Neha loved the monsoons! She loved the smell of fresh earth, the way the rains washed the city clean and made everything look new. She loved the way the big thunder clouds rolled into the sky and the way the rain fell down in sheets. **So much water everywhere! It was wonderful how every time it rained, new water came down on the earth,** she thought.

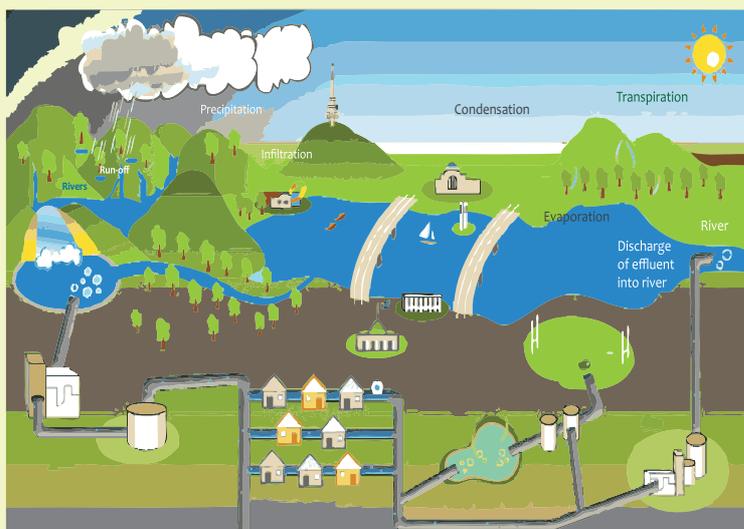
Write down three things that you would love to do on a rainy day:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

THINK 

Do you think that every time it rains, it brings 'new' water down to the earth? Let's find out.

The Water Cycle:



Let's start with a small activity. Pick up your water bottle and place it in front of you. Peep inside – think about what colour the water is, what it tastes like and where you got it from. Can you guess how old it is?

The water in your bottle could have fallen to the earth as rain just last week. Or it could have been purified from a lake in your city. It could have come from the nearby reservoir. However, the water itself has been around for much longer.

What does that mean?

The earth only has a limited amount of water – it is this water which keeps going round and round and round and...

Let's go back to our rain example. Neha thinks that the rain which comes down every monsoon is 'new' rain. But we just read that the water that we drink has been a part of the earth for much longer. This is possible because of something called 'The Water Cycle.'

You've probably studied about the Water Cycle in your geography class. Since we live in the city, our water becomes part of the urban water cycle. Through this cycle, we can learn about the journey of a single drop of water – from when it is collected for use in an urban area to when it is returned to the source.

The Urban water cycle has three parts:

WATER SOURCES

Water sources to a city are varied – some cities have natural or manmade lakes, wells to tap ground water and rivers which run nearby or through the cities. This water is then collected and transported to the city where it is purified so that it is healthy for drinking.

This water is then supplied to the residents and the industries through pipes and bore-wells by our local water authorities.

WATER USAGE

The water supplied to us by our local water authorities is used in a variety of ways in our city.

We use water for various purposes in our homes. We also use water for industrial and other non-domestic purposes.



Find out how many litres of water is consumed by citizens living in your city. Notice how much water is consumed for the following purposes and how much wasted:

In 2005, there were heavy rains in Mumbai which resulted in severe flooding. Thousands of people were stranded or forced to walk long distances to get home. These floods are an extreme example of what happens when we don't take care of our urban water cycle. Rain water is not allowed to seep down into the ground water table, thereby causing floods in the city. Other reasons why there might be unnatural flooding in a city are over-concretisation of the city, silt in the drains and encroachment into natural water bodies.

To prevent such uncontrolled flooding, our city authorities have tried out a number of methods through which we can make sure the rain water re-enters our water bodies. One commonly used method is that of storm water drains. These are dug through out the city to collect rain water and allow it to flow into the lakes and ponds of the city. This is clean water which can be used for a variety of purposes. Besides this, there are a number of other methods which are used to control flooding in the city. Some of them are: planting trees to improve water retention and constructing bunds to store the excess water

	Water usage	Consumption (%)
1.	Domestic	
2.	Non-Domestic	
3.	Public Taps	
4.	Other	
5.	Unaccounted Water	

SEWAGE TREATMENT

Used water is also called waste water. It includes substances like human waste, food scraps, oils, soaps and chemicals. This water is collected and treated to purify it, before it is released back into our natural water bodies - hence completing our water cycle.

Why should we treat our waste water before releasing it into water bodies?

- 1) The water ecosystem is a vibrant one where a brilliant variety of fish, plants and animals live and thrive. When we empty our waste water into the clean water of their homes (lakes, rivers, ponds), we are effectively killing them off.
- 2) If sewage is not collected properly but let out into storm water drains or into the open, our water sources get polluted.
- 3) Sewage should be properly treated before release into the water sources. This prevents water from carrying diseases.

Treated waste water is chlorinated and used for industrial purposes and non-drinking water. If it is treated properly and completely, it can be released back into our natural water bodies.

Water in our world – A Case Study

We already discussed how the earth has a limited amount of water. This means that water is a non-renewable resource – we can't keep getting more of it! Just like all our other non-renewable resources, we have to take special care that we don't waste it!

Being an Active Citizen

Near their school was a building that had a huge overhead tank. Though it could hold a lot of water, a lot was wasted because of overflowing. Students of Chettinad Vidya Mandir, Tamil Nadu, saw this every day and were dismayed to see so much wastage of water.

They gathered all the science and logic they had acquired in their young years and designed an automated system that would switch off the water pump motor to stop the flow of water into the tank as soon as it was full!

They bought some pipes, wires, a ball and a two-way switch and got to work. They made a small ball-float that rises with the water level. When the water reaches the maximum height the ball hits a two way switch to switch off the water pump. The students also installed another outlet pipe that would take the excess water into the society garden.

A small budget of Rs. 700 and five full days of hard work is what took these young students to put an end to massive water wastage. They also got all the leaking taps of the society repaired. The society residents are very happy with what the students have achieved and are now working to implement the same mechanism in another overhead tank of a nearby building.

Well done Chettinad Vidya Mandir!

Rain Water Harvesting – a way to conserve water

In 2001, the city of Chennai faced a terrible water shortage despite a good monsoon. Soon after, a law was passed by the government which made it compulsory for all buildings in the city to have rainwater harvesting units. Today the city is a rain water friendly city. This has helped in replenishing the ground water table as well as improving its quality. Moreover, the dependence on the municipal water agency has come down.

So what is Rain Water Harvesting and how does it help conserve water?

The main source of all fresh water is rain. When it rains, a small fraction seeps through the ground and becomes a part of the ground water table. Most of the rain however, runs off the surface and becomes a part of the ocean (where it becomes saline and unusable!). Here is where the concept of Rain Water Harvesting can prove useful. The surface water can be directed into a storage tank underground instead of flowing into the ocean. Rain water can be harvested on the rooftop as well. The harvested water can be used in homes. The more people in the community do this, the more effective will be the results.

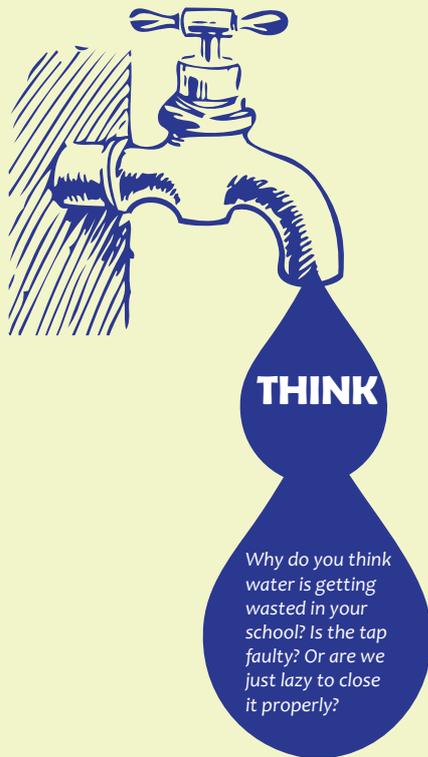


DO YOU KNOW HOW MUCH WATER GETS WASTED JUST FROM A LEAKING TAP?

DO THIS ACTIVITY TO FIND OUT!

Every Drop Counts

- Find a water tap in your school.
- Place a bucket/container under the tap and adjust the tap so that water drips - drop by drop.
- Borrow a stop watch from your science lab. One of you will become the time keeper.
- Another one of you will hold a measuring cylinder under the dripping tap.
- The timekeeper will start the stopwatch and measure time till the end of one minute. At this point, remove the cylinder from under the tap.
- See how much water you have collected in your measuring cylinder. This is the amount of water which gets wasted by a leaky tap in just one minute.
- Write the amount in millilitres here: _____
- Can you calculate how much water is wasted in
 - o One hour: _____ (volume of water collected in 1 min (ml) x 60 mins)
 - o One day: _____ (volume of water collected in 1 min (ml) x 60 mins x 24 hours)
 - o One month: _____ (volume of water collected in 1 min (ml) x 60 mins x 24 hours x 30 days)



WATER CONFLICTS

The third world war, many people believe, will be fought over water.

Across the world, there have been a number of conflicts related to water and water availability. The demand for water, especially drinking water, is a lot more than the amount actually available. In fact, the number of people who do not have access to clean and drinking water is increasing every day! Besides this, water is also used for cooking and cleaning, sanitation and for various commercial purposes. This means different groups of people use water in different ways – the potential for a conflict is therefore quite big!

In our country alone, there have been scores of disputes between governments and communities about the ownership of water.

The Cauvery Water Dispute

The sharing of waters of the river Cauvery has become a serious conflict between the States of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. The main point of disagreement is the amount of water allocated to each state.

SARDAR SAROVAR DAM PROJECT

There are more than 3,000 dams in the Narmada River Valley. Government officials say these dams and an extensive irrigation system will bring electricity and water to areas of the country suffering from drought. But other voices challenge this - most notably the Narmada Bachao Andolan (NBA). Arguing that the government exaggerates the benefits and underestimates the costs, this nonviolent people's movement, since the mid-1980s, has focused attention on the human suffering and environmental damage that comes with 'big dams'.

DID YOU KNOW?

THERE IS NO MORE FRESH WATER ON EARTH THAN THERE WAS 2000 YEARS AGO. NEARLY HALF A BILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD, ESPECIALLY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA, FACE WATER SHORTAGES. WATER EXPERTS ESTIMATE THAT BY 2025, THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE FACING WATER SHORTAGES WILL INCREASE FIVE TIMES – TO 2.8 BILLION PEOPLE.



**WHAT ARE THE PROS AND
CONS OF BUILDING A DAM?
WHAT IS YOUR VERDICT –
DO WE NEED MORE DAMS?**

Me and My City

1. Which natural sources of water does your city get its water from? Find out and write them down here:

- _____
- _____
- _____

2. _____ is the government body responsible for the supply of water to my city. It supplies _____ MLD (million litres per day) to my city.

3. _____ is the government body which is responsible for the treatment of sewage in my city.

4. The sewage treatment plants in my city are at:

- _____
- _____
- _____

5. Is Rain Water Harvesting mandatory in my city?

REVIEW

Water Cycle: Sources, Supply, Usage and Disposal of Water

Water Conflicts

Conservation of Water – Rain Water Harvesting

Match the following by drawing a line connecting the concepts on the right with their counterparts in the left.

<i>Cauvery Water Dispute</i>	<i>Sardar Sarovar Dam</i>
<i>Conservation of water</i>	<i>Waste Water</i>
<i>Storm Water drains</i>	<i>Karnataka and Tamil Nadu</i>
<i>Narmada River Valley</i>	<i>Sources, Usage and Treatment</i>
<i>Sewage Treatment</i>	<i>Rain Water</i>
<i>The Water Cycle</i>	<i>Rain Water Harvesting</i>

Discover

We can contribute to saving water in some very easy ways. If we make this a habit, we can save several litres of water every day! Think of how much water we will then be saving in a week/month or year!

Activities	How much water is consumed	How can you conserve it	How much did you save?
Shower (5 minutes)	Regular showerhead – 135 litres	Bucket bath – 20 litres	
Toilet flushing	Conventional toilet – 12 litres per flush	Ultra low flush toilet- 7 litres	
Brushing teeth	Tap running – 45 litres	Using a mug – 2 litres	
Shaving	Tap running – 90 litres	With a mug – 3 litres	
Washing hands	Tap running – 9 litres	Soap and rinse with a mug – 2 litres	
Dishwashing	Tap running – 130 litres	Wash and rinse in sink – 22 litres	
Clothes washing	Full cycle, tap water level – 180 litres	Bucket wash – 60 litres	

Record your weekly consumption of water in the table given below

Activities	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Shower (5 minutes)							
Toilet flushing							
Brushing teeth							
Shaving							
Washing hands							
Dishwashing							
Clothes washing							
Total							

Using this table:

1. At the end of the week, calculate your average consumption per day: _____
2. Colour the squares where you think you could have conserved water. How many litres can you save every week? _____

**TAKE THE
CITIZENSHIP**

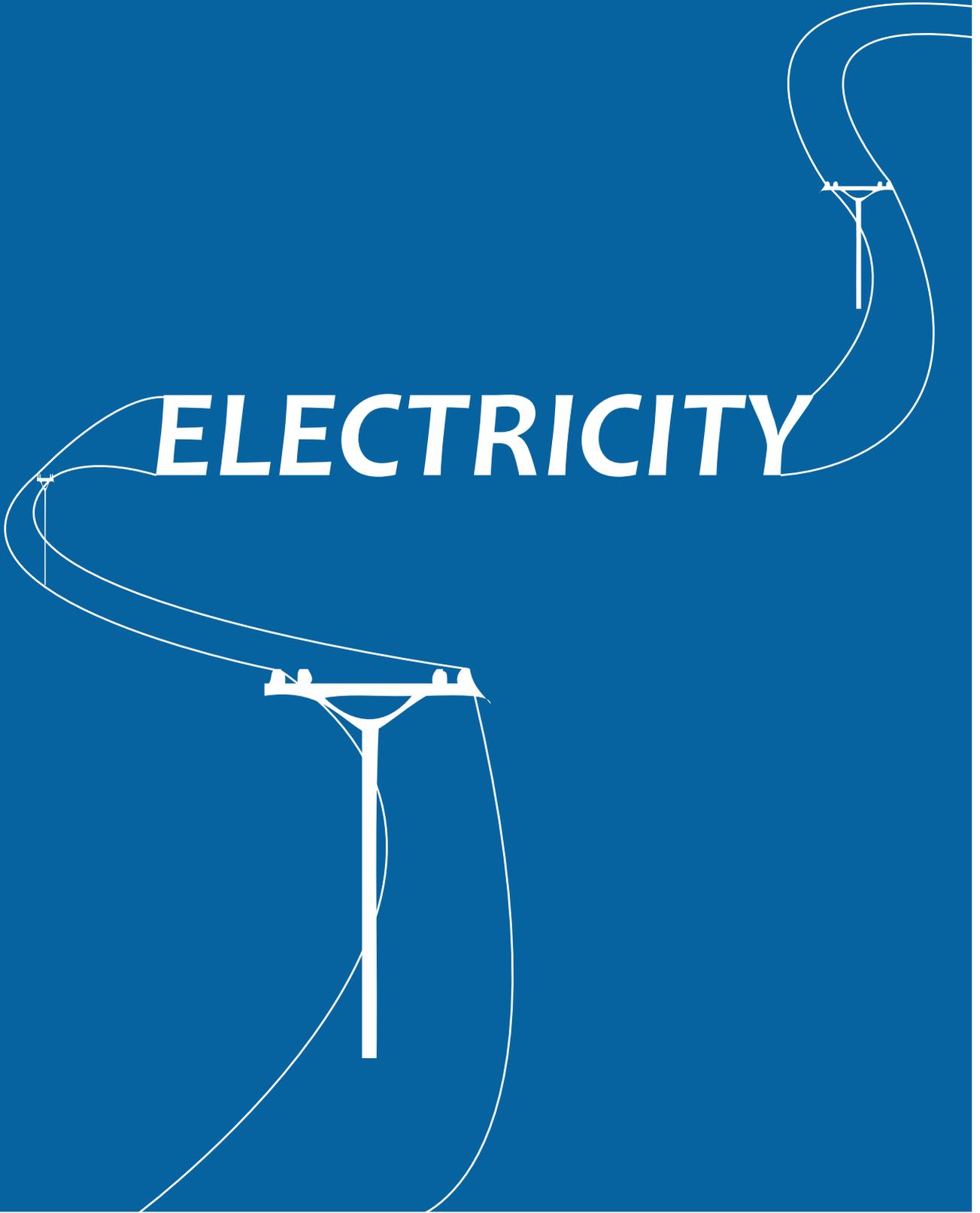
**CHA
LLE
NGE**

Have you finished the activity? Every activity you completed gives you certain points. Find out how you did:

- For discovering how much water you can save daily, give yourself 1 point.
- For each day you record your water consumption, give yourself 2 points.
- The maximum you can score in this activity is 15 points.
- Write down your score here: _____
- Now go to the end of the book - and shade an equal number of squares on the Citizenship board.

CHAPTER - 5

ELECTRICITY



The night before the exam

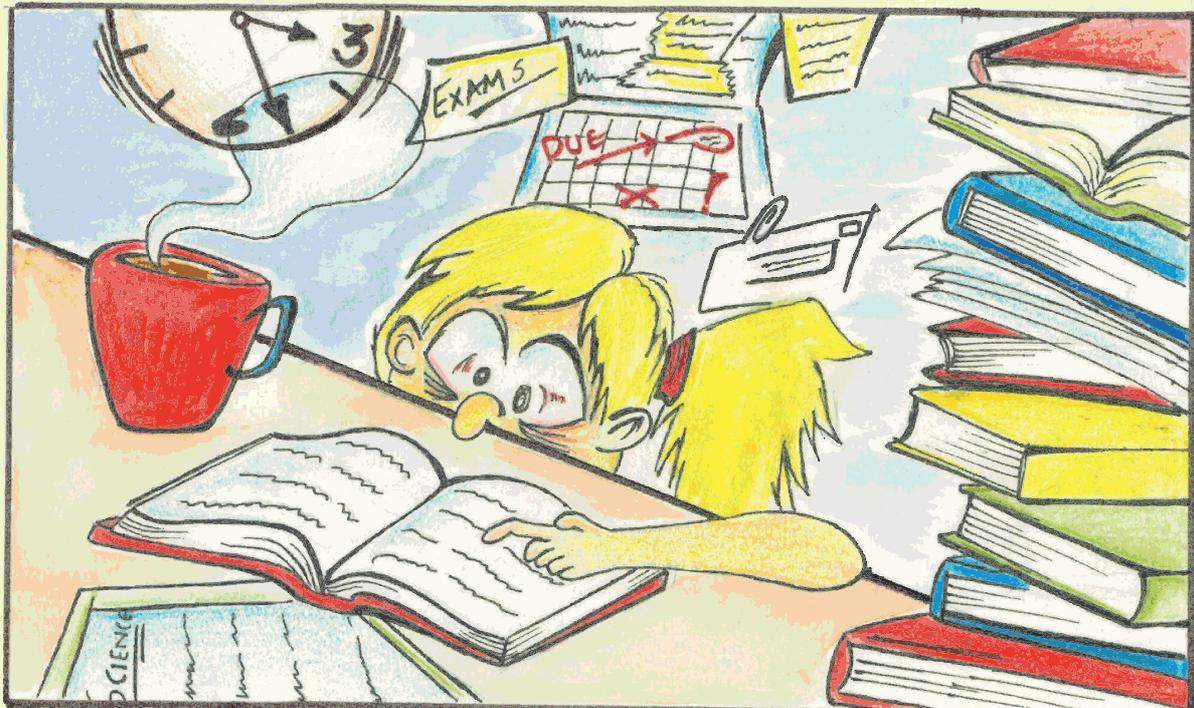
It's a hot summer night and Rashmi is hard at work studying for her final exam. "I can't wait for this to get over!" she thinks to herself as she works out a complicated algebra problem.

She's on her last chapter when suddenly there's a loud noise and the lights go off. "Oh no!" she thinks. "Power cut!" This always happened in the summer! "How annoying - now how am I going to study?"

An hour later and the power still hasn't come back. Rashmi goes to the balcony to get some fresh air. To her surprise, she sees that there is a light in the opposite house.

"They must be using an emergency light! Or have a generator of their own!"

Why can't we use an emergency light all the time? Rashmi wonders. Or a generator which runs 24 hours! Why must we always depend on the city's electricity supply?



Rashmi goes back inside to continue studying by candle light. She had just started when she heard another loud noise. Yay! The power had come back!

Immediately, her father switched on the television. Her mother went into the kitchen and opened the fridge. Rashmi increased the speed of the ceiling fan in her room and turned on a few more lights. She then went to the kitchen to get a bottle of cold water where she found the fridge door open. Her father had moved to the other room – but she could still hear the sound of the TV.

We waste so much electricity at home, thinks Rashmi. Could that be why we have power cuts?

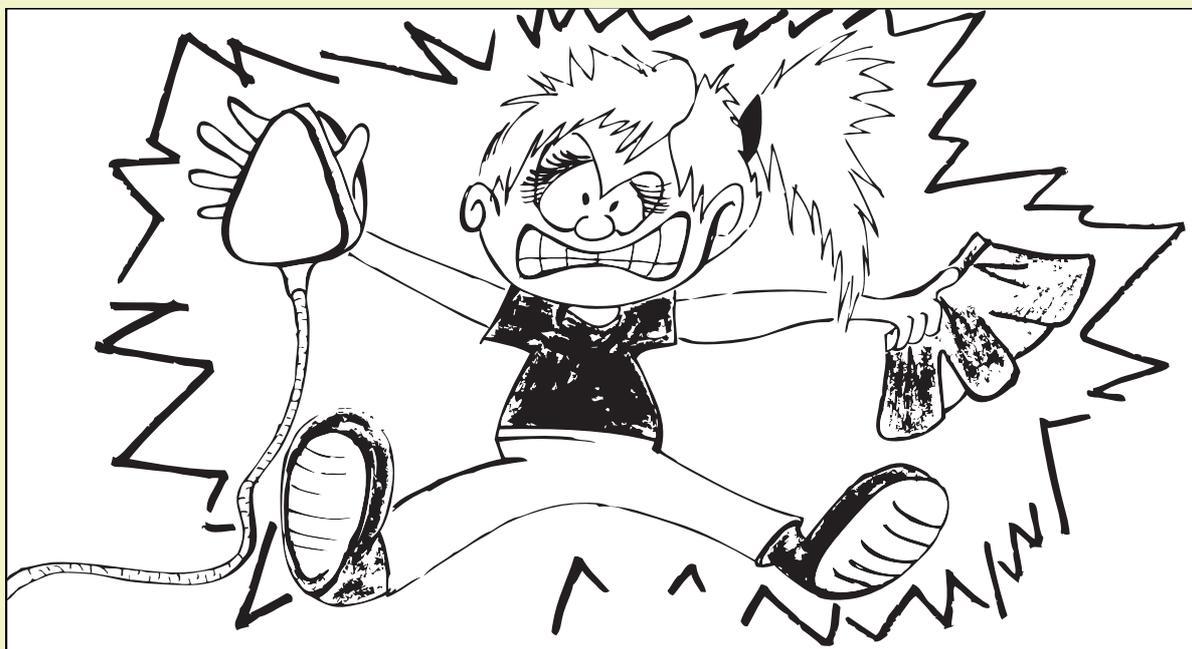
Early next morning

Rashmi is running late! “Oh no!” she cries. “I forgot to iron my uniform!”

She quickly pulls out her skirt from the clothes basket and plugs in the iron. As she’s ironing, she feels a sudden, unpleasant tingling sensation.

“Ouch!” she cries out. Her mother comes running and notices that the cord is frayed and the wire is exposed.

“You suffered an electric shock, Rashmi.” her mother says. “This iron is unsafe. We need to replace it.”



At School

Rashmi was complaining bitterly to Madhuri.

“That power cut! I had to stay up late to finish my revision!”

Madhuri agreed. “This has been happening way too often these days. I read somewhere that we should switch over to alternate sources of energy. They are renewable and better for our environment”

“Does that mean we won’t have any power cuts?” asks Rashmi.

“Uhhh” says Madhuri, “I have no idea!”

Can you help Rashmi and Madhuri with all their questions?

DO & DISCUSS

All of us in our cities face power cuts quite regularly. Can you remember the last time you had a power cut in your home or school?

1. Have you noticed that we have power cuts more often in some months than in others? Which months are these? _____

2. Why do you think we have power cuts in these months?

3. Can you store electricity to use it when there is a shortage? _____

4. We can use devices like emergency lights and generators during power cuts. Can these devices go on forever? _____

5. Can we use these devices instead of our regular electricity supply? Why?

Every day we use a variety of electrical appliances which consume electricity. Some of them are mentioned in this case study.

1. Make a list of five devices which consume electricity in your home/class room.

2. Rashmi's family uses a lot of electricity – even when they don't need it. What do you think they are doing wrong?

3. Do you think it is necessary to save electricity? Why?

4. Think of ways in which you can save electricity easily in your home?

Rashmi suffered an electric shock because she touched an exposed electric wire. Has this ever happened to you or someone you know?

1. Do you know why we suffer from electric shocks?

2. Do you know of any safety tips on how to remain safe with electrical devices? Share them with your friends

a. Don't touch electrical devices with wet hands.

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

e. _____

Rashmi and Madhuri seem to be confused about renewable sources of energy. Can you help them?

1. What do we mean by a '**renewable source of energy**'?

2. Write down some renewable sources of energy:

a. Solar Energy

b. _____

c. _____

d. _____

3. If all of us use renewable sources of energy, do you think our problem of power cuts will be solved?

How?

Electricity

Can you imagine a day in your life without electricity?

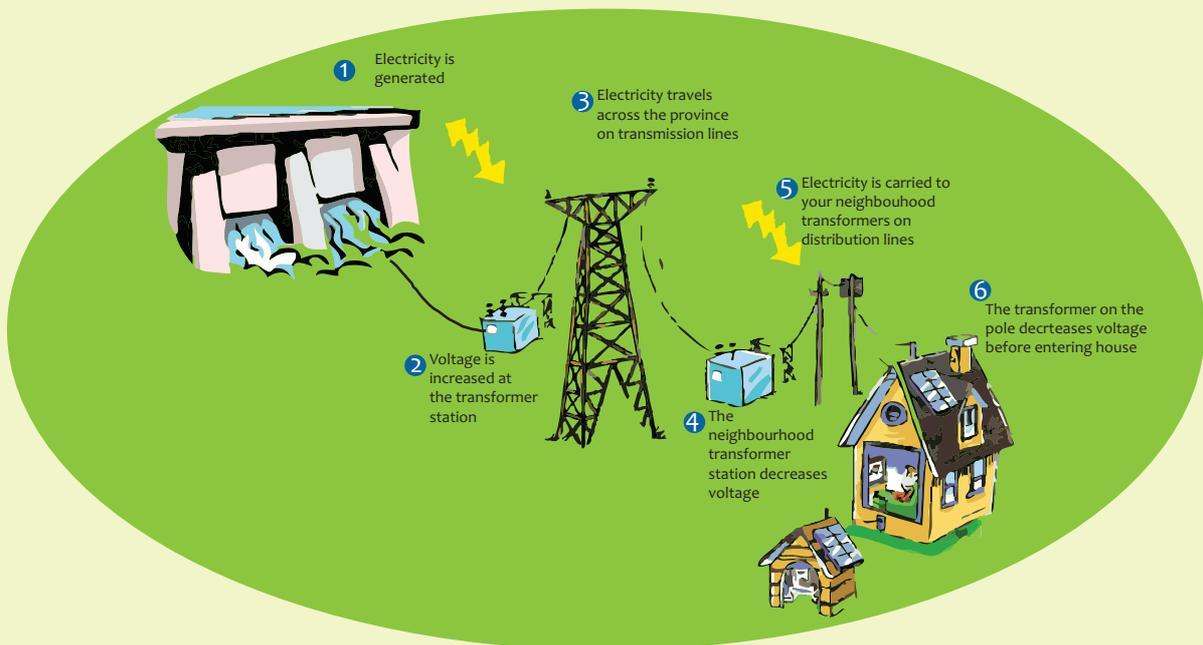
You won't be able to watch television. Your mother would find it difficult to work in the office. The streets won't be lit after dark!

What other cases can you think of?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Most of us who live in the city can't imagine a life without electricity. This is because the city works very hard to make sure that we get electricity in our homes daily.

This is how electricity reaches our homes:



If this happens every day, why do we still have power cuts?

Imagine a power plant that generates electricity using water from the dam. What will happen when the river runs dry and the dam is empty? The generator will not function and electricity will not be generated. If the electricity generated is not enough for the needs of everyone in our city, we will have power cuts.



Electricity, unlike water or fuel, cannot be stored. Once it is generated it has to be used or it just fizzles out!

Alternate Sources of Energy

They are energy fuelled in ways that do not use up natural resources or harm the environment. Given below are some examples of alternative sources of energy. Identify advantages and disadvantages for each.

Solar energy: Energy from the sun is harnessed and used to provide electricity to our homes. We can use individual solar panels for appliances such as solar lamps, geysers and cookers.

Advantage: _____

Disadvantage: _____

Wind Energy: If you live in a windy place, you can also use wind to generate electricity. Blowing wind is used to turn the generator that makes electricity.

Advantage: _____

Disadvantage: _____

Biomass: Most waste material which is decomposable like dead trees, plant parts and vegetation can be reused as fuel. This is taken to a special biomass power plant where it is used as fuel to run the generators.

Advantage: _____

Disadvantage: _____

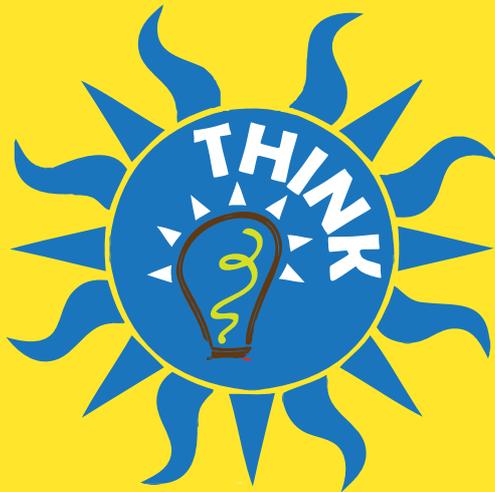
**DID YOU
kNoW ?**

DECOMPOSED MANURE FROM COWS AND CHICKENS **PRODUCES METHANE**. IN SOME FARMS, THIS IS USED TO PROVIDE THE ENERGY TO RUN THE WHOLE FARM! IN INDIA, **THIS IS CALLED GOBAR GAS**.

Geo-thermal energy: This refers to the heat which is generated by the earth. Hot water or steam from below the ground can be used to generate electricity in a geothermal power plant.

Advantage: _____

Disadvantage: _____



**WHAT IF WE REPLACE OUR
CONVENTIONAL SOURCES OF
ENERGY WITH THESE ONES?
DO YOU THINK OUR POWER CUTS
WOULD REDUCE?**

Consumption

Most of our city's electricity supply comes from non-renewable sources of energy. We all agree that this is not sustainable for our city as we have limited resources. In the meantime we should be able to reduce our usage as much as we can – in this way; we can save money and be ecologically friendly as well!

Tips on conservation:

1. Use the optimum (most favorable) setting for your refrigerator instead of always keeping it on the coldest mode.

**DID YOU
KNOW**



**MOST REFRIGERATORS
USE UP MORE THAN
20% OF OUR HOUSEHOLD
ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION.**

2. Many washing machines allow you to change the temperature of the water. Set your washing machine so that it washes with cold or warm water. Avoid using the hot water setting. This can save you a lot of electricity.
3. Use the optimum setting for the geyser's thermostat. Make sure that it is switched off when you don't need to use it. Or replace it with a solar geyser!
4. Select the most energy-efficient models when you replace your old appliances. Many appliances come with a 'green' symbol these days – showing that they are carbon efficient.
5. Use energy-efficient compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). They last longer because of which they save you money! Plus, their light is as bright and attractive as the normal halogen lights.
6. Plant shade trees and paint your house a light color if you live in a warm climate or a dark color if you live in a cold climate. This reduces atmospheric temperature and will help you conserve on electricity.
7. Even easier – turn off the lights when they are not being used!
8. Use a ceiling fan instead of air conditioning!
9. Make sure all appliances at home – refrigerators, microwave ovens, televisions etc – are closed or shut down when they are not in use.

SHOCKED?

Be safe!

Electricity is the reason why most things in our homes work! But have you ever touched a switch and suffered an electric shock? While the milder shocks may not hurt you – electricity can be very dangerous. It is always better to remain safety-conscious when dealing with electric appliances and plugs.

Follow these tips to avoid Electric Shocks!

- Stay away from fallen power lines. Tell an adult if you see a fallen line.
- Never use a hairdryer or play an electrical radio or television near a bathtub or sink.
- Before you climb a tree, look up. If a power line is nearby or touching the tree, stay away from it.
- Never touch anything that runs on electricity when your hands are wet.
- Fly kites and model airplanes in a wide open field or park—never near overhead electrical wires.
- Never climb utility poles or electrical towers.
- Stay away from substations and transformers.
- Don't pull on electric cords to unplug appliances.
- Don't put your fingers in a light bulb or plug socket.
- Disconnect appliances before cleaning them.
- Don't use an appliance if the cord is frayed.

Me and My City

1. _____ is the agency responsible for the generation of electricity in my state.
2. My state has _____ dams, _____ power stations.
3. Apart from hydel and thermal, my state generates energy through _____, _____, and _____ alternative sources.
4. _____ is the agency responsible for the transmission of electricity in my state.
5. _____ is the agency responsible for the distribution of electricity in my state.
6. The following schemes by the Government of India/ My State attempt to reduce the problem of electricity in the country:

Discover

Ask your parents to give you the electricity bills for the last three months and note down the following information from the bill:

Sr No	Month of bill	Units consumed	Cost
1			
2			
3			

Talk to your family and write down five specific steps which you and your family will do to reduce electricity consumption in your home.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

TAKE THE
CITIZENSHIP

CHALLENGE

Have you finished the activity? Every activity you completed gives you certain points. Find out how you did:

- For each month you recorded your electricity consumption, give yourself 2 points.
- For discussing it with your family and writing down five things you will do to reduce electricity, give yourself 4 points.
- The maximum you can score in this activity is 10 points.
- Write down your score here: _____
- Now go to the end of the book - and shade an equal number of squares on the Citizenship board.

REVIEW

Z	N	E	X	Y	D	H	U	H	A	C	X	R	I	L	C	J	S
K	X	W	S	F	O	N	X	R	L	P	T	L	Y	W	O	M	G
B	Z	L	W	Y	I	O	S	E	T	X	C	M	G	C	N	Z	E
S	L	Q	U	X	Z	I	Y	M	E	H	P	Q	D	Y	S	P	O
G	Z	H	S	Q	G	T	B	B	R	X	C	F	A	K	E	P	T
U	Y	E	J	P	U	U	B	G	N	D	E	S	V	S	R	C	H
K	A	T	W	G	V	B	V	E	A	N	M	H	F	T	V	M	E
K	Y	Z	S	X	D	I	A	N	T	I	K	V	E	R	A	U	R
T	C	R	J	K	Z	R	E	E	I	W	A	A	H	A	T	G	M
C	R	A	W	F	V	T	J	R	V	S	T	Z	P	N	I	V	A
Q	B	L	U	S	K	S	L	A	E	E	B	J	F	S	O	J	L
P	L	O	D	K	J	I	E	T	S	R	H	B	A	M	N	N	M
F	D	S	X	C	I	D	S	I	O	Q	H	I	Q	I	D	Y	S
S	A	F	E	T	Y	G	H	O	U	F	F	O	O	S	C	C	U
V	P	V	H	B	E	W	B	N	R	S	D	M	I	S	C	B	M
L	M	A	I	H	K	N	V	U	C	L	A	A	V	I	A	G	C
V	O	U	N	U	N	D	I	T	E	I	N	S	R	O	C	Z	P
W	Q	H	U	Z	F	G	W	I	S	W	F	S	K	N	B	U	R

1. The process by which electricity is created
2. The process by which electricity is sent from the power plant to the city
3. The process by which electricity is sent to each house in the city
4. Electricity from the sun
5. Electricity through wind mills
6. Energy through the decomposition of organic matter
7. Energy from the earth
8. Renewable sources of energy
9. The process by which we can save electricity
10. We follow these precautions to avoid electric shock!

CHAPTER - 6

Health



A TYPICAL DAY IN RAHUL'S LIFE



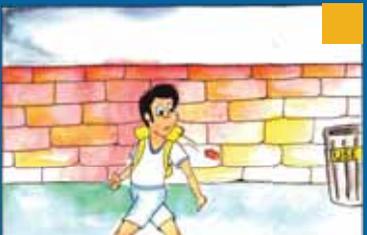
Rahul's late - He rushes to school but he doesn't skip his bath!



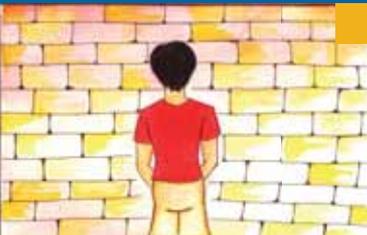
But he forgets to brush his teeth



He has a cold - when he coughs or sneezes he covers his mouth



On the way, he buys chewing gum which he later spits out on the street



He relieves himself conveniently against a wall instead of using a public toilet



He washes his hands after he uses the toilet and before he eats.



He avoids eating food from the roadside, because it is often left uncovered



He gets a chocolate for his friend's birthday - he throws the wrapper into the dustbin



His room is a mess - uneaten food and clothes everywhere.



He empties the garbage bin on the road outside his house.

Where do you think Rahul's going wrong? Tick or cross the each box. Grade him on the health and hygiene meter. Give him one point for everything you think he does right and minus one point for everything where he goes wrong. Draw his position on the meter given below:

Unhygienic

Hygienic

'HYGIENE' This refers to the habits that we follow to live a healthy and life. Personal hygiene refers to grooming and directly helps us in the prevention of disease

Health

It is important to remain clean and tidy in order to be healthy and fit.

Good health doesn't mean just the absence of disease or illness - it includes complete physical, mental and social well-being.

Identify some factors which you think can contribute to good health:

a) Eating healthy food.

b) _____

c) _____

d) _____

e) _____

The government also takes care of us and our health by making sure that there are adequate health care centres in each neighbourhood.

INVESTIGATE!

Find out where your nearest health care centre is? _____

Immunization

The best way to protect ourselves from certain infectious diseases is to get vaccinated against them. Our country has one of the largest immunization programs in the world through which thousands of children get vaccinated against diseases at a very young age. Under the immunization program, vaccines are used to protect children and pregnant mothers against these diseases:

- Tuberculosis
- Diphtheria
- Pertussis
- Polio
- Measles
- Tetanus
- Hepatitis B

Which diseases have YOU been vaccinated against? Check with your parents.

1. When is your next immunization due? _____

2. Against which disease? _____

DID YOU KNOW



600 million people, more than half the country's population, lack access to toilets. Moreover, our public toilets are in a terrible shape. Statistics tell us that on an average, a single toilet is shared by 81 people. You can now understand why people use the roads and streets as toilets! Do you know that every day, 1000 children in India die because of diarrhea, caused by the lack of adequate sanitation facilities in the country (UNICEF)?

Sanitation is the hygienic way by which we can maintain our environments. We should not come in contact with hazardous wastes which have been disposed in our city.

Can you think of some waste which can cause illness and disease if we come in contact with them?

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

One of the reasons why many of us suffer from health problems is because of the inappropriate disposal of garbage.



In the city we have thousands of families living, working and playing. And of course – producing tonnes and tonnes of garbage. Let's do this small exercise to understand what this means for us:

1. One family of two adults and two children produces, on an average, 5 kgs of garbage per day.
2. Calculate how much they would produce in a week: _____
3. If there are 50 houses in your street, calculate the amount of garbage produced by your street in a week _____
4. In your neighbourhood there are 70 such streets. Calculate the amount of garbage produced by your neighbourhood in a week. _____
5. In your city there are 250 such neighbourhoods. Calculate the amount of garbage produced by your city in a week. _____
6. If one tonne = 1000 kgs, divide your figure by 1000 to get the number tonnes of garbage being produced in your city. _____

If all this garbage was collected in one place, can you imagine the size of the garbage heap?

Draw .

What is garbage?

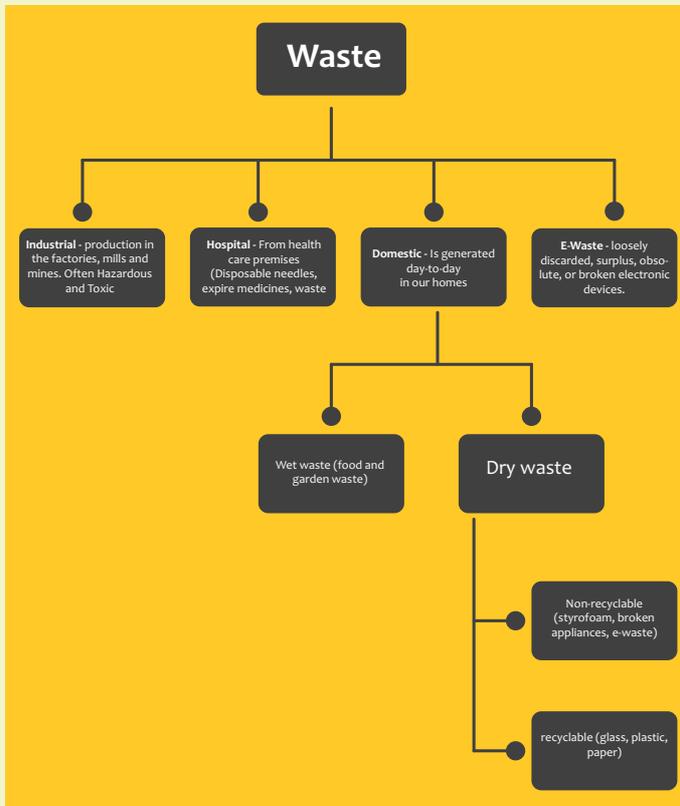
Can you think of three things which become waste in each of these cases?

1. Lunch time in school: chips packet, orange peel, ice cream stick/cup
2. At the end of annual day at school: _____
3. Grocery shopping during the weekend: _____
4. At the movie theater: _____



Now compare your list with your classmate sitting next to you. Are there any similarities or differences in the lists? Is there anything on your friend's list which can be reused instead of being thrown?

All of us produce waste in almost every activity that we do – whether in our own homes, in our schools, on the streets, in the hospital or in factories. There are many kinds of waste which depends on where it is produced.



Are there any other types of waste that you can think of? Write it down here:

When we discuss waste, we generally see it as consisting of two kinds: wet and dry waste. All the things coming from your kitchen and your garden become a part of wet waste. Wet waste does not mean liquid waste; it refers to everything which is biodegradable. This means that given some time, these items will decompose and go back to become a part of the Earth.

The other kind of waste is dry waste.

This refers to items which are not biodegradable. There are two types here as well. Some kinds of dry waste like paper, glass and plastic bottles can be recycled and then re-used. The other kinds of dry waste like styrofoam objects, broken appliances and other multi-material items are non-recyclable.

What do we do with things once they become waste?

Remember in the comic strip before, Rahul threw his chocolate wrapper into the dustbin. Do you know what happens to the wrapper after that?

Your garbage starts out in your dustbin but travels a long way from there. It is first collected by a garbage collector. S/he then puts the waste collected from the neighbourhood into the garbage truck. The garbage trucks take it to the recycling unit, compost plant or the landfill.

This process is called **solid waste management**.

Solid Waste Management can be defined as the collection, segregation, storage, transportation, processing and disposal of solid waste or garbage

1. Segregation is the process of separating dry waste from wet waste. This is important because when they are mixed together, the wet waste spoils the dry waste and it becomes difficult to retrieve for recycling. Remember, segregation should be done at home before the garbage collector comes by for collection.
2. Segregated waste is sent to different places for disposal and treatment. Wet waste, which can be composted, is sent to the composting plant. The compost made here is sold as fertilizer for crops. Paper and plastic waste, which can be recycled, is sent to the recycling plant where new products are made. Lastly, the waste which cannot be composted or recycled is sent to the landfill.
3. Composting involves the decomposition of organic materials in a scientific way to make it quick and effective. We use the word 'decomposition' when talking about the decay or disintegration of material over time. If the material is organic, like banana peels or leaves, it happens very quickly. With man-made materials it might take as long as a million years! Through the process of composting, we will get an earthy, soil-like material which has a lot of plant nutrient and acts like a powerful fertilizer. It is the most eco-friendly way to treat our organic waste material. However, it does need to be done properly. It requires close attention otherwise it will become a breeding ground for bacteria, attract flies and might smell really, really bad!

Do you know how long it takes for certain materials to decompose? See if you can match the answers to the materials.

The glass soft-drink bottle you drank from at the movie hall	1 million years
Plastic juice bottle from which you took to your school picnic	450 years
Disposable diapers which your aunt used for your baby cousin	450 years
Soft drink can which your elder brother took to the gym.	80-200 years
Styrofoam/Thermocol cups which you used for water at your birthday party	50 years
The tin can of rasagullas which your mother bought for Diwali.	50 years
Your black leather school shoes which you wear every day.	50 years
Your grandmother's nylon saree.	30 - 40 years.
Plastic shopping bag that you carry with you for grocery shopping.	10 - 20 years
Apple core from your breakfast.	2 months
The newspaper which your family reads daily.	6 weeks.
Orange or banana peel which you ate after lunch.	2 - 5 weeks
Paper napkin which you used during the restaurant meal.	2 - 4 weeks

Does this make you wonder how much stuff has been created which is today lying around as waste. Write down three specific things which you will do to help reduce the generation of waste.

1. I will use cloth napkins instead of paper ones from now onwards.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

The process of solid waste management therefore has the following steps:

1. Segregation at individual homes into wet and dry waste.
2. Daily Pickup from homes by government staff
3. Collection from neighbourhood and transfer to garbage truck
4. Transportation in trucks from different parts of the city.
5. Disposal and Processing: Lorries go to Compost centres and dumpsites.

So what?

Imagine this: Your parents decide that from today onwards you are in charge of cleaning the house. You agree to do so.



What if you do not throw away the garbage collected? In one week, will the garbage fill one whole room? At the end of the month, will your whole house be full of garbage?

And that's just in your home. If every family produces that much garbage, you can imagine how much waste gets generated in your whole city! This waste is being taken truck load by truck load to the landfill. Over time, these landfills will overflow and we will need to find new spaces for our waste.

Another major danger is unsecured landfills. Here, toxic fluid from waste slowly seeps through the ground into the water table, thereby infecting it.

When our garbage is not collected from the streets or from our houses; when it is not stored properly; when it is not disposed of correctly; it becomes a breeding ground for diseases and germs. It is for this reason that it is so important that we manage our garbage properly at every stage of the solid waste management process.

Soil Pollution:

Do you know what soil pollution is? See if you can name some of the common soil pollutants:

A major pollutant of soil is Solid Waste. This includes garbage and discarded solids from commercial, industrial and agricultural operations. Hazardous solid waste such as oils, metals in batteries and heavy metals contaminate drinking water and cause a host of diseases such as cancer and kidney damage. To prevent our soil from getting polluted we can start with regulating our landfills.

Being an Active Citizen: (As active citizens, we can take responsibility for the proper management of garbage at every stage.)

Stage	What can be done	Activities	I do this
Waste Production	Reduce	Rent or borrow an item (Eg: DVDs/books/any other) instead of buying it.	
		Repair items (Eg. your cycle) instead of buying new ones.	
		Use pencils or re-useable pens instead of disposable pens	
	I also...		
	Reuse	Carry along your own bag when you go shopping.	
		Use cloth napkins instead of paper ones.	
		Reuse the gift wrapping paper when you get a present	
	I also...		
	Recycle	Hand over your old newspapers and magazines to the paper collector. You might even earn some money for this!	
		Donate rather than throwing out items that you don't need but can be used again.	
		Make sure your recyclable waste goes to the recycling unit – hand over segregated waste to your garbage collector.	
	I also...		
Waste collection	Segregate	Keep separate dustbins for wet and dry waste.	
	Daily pick-up	Make sure that you don't miss your garbage collector when s/he comes by to collect your waste.	
		If you miss the pick-up, avoid emptying your garbage on the road side.	
Waste disposal	Composting	Compost your wet-waste instead of throwing it away with your garbage.	

Me and My City

1. The _____ department is responsible for Public Health in my city.
2. Some of the popular national health programs are:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
 - e. _____
3. The following are the provisions for public toilets in my country/ state/city:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
4. _____ is the department responsible for Solid Waste Management in my city.
5. Garbage collectors in my city are also known as _____
6. There are _____ recycling centres in my city. They are located at _____
7. There are _____ landfills in my city. They are located at _____
8. There are _____ composting plants in my city. They are located at _____
9. My city has laid down the following regulations for the use of plastic bags.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____

REVIEW

Circle or cross the odd ones out:

1. Orange peel, disposable diapers, vegetable peel, garden waste
2. Syringes, old medicines, medicine bottles, construction debris
3. Computer mouse, newspaper, keyboard, DVDs.
4. CD ROMs, old magazines, notepaper, paper bags
5. Toxic Waste, chemical Waste, tetra packs, industrial solid waste.

DISCOVER

Learn more about your garbage! Do the Solid Waste Management Survey for seven days.

First write down the following details:

Describe your garbage bin (Is it cylindrical, rectangular, or simply a plastic bag?) _____

If it is a container, how big is it? (You can use a ruler or measuring tape to get the length, breadth and height) _____

Where do you keep the garbage container in your house? _____

Go look inside it! Don't worry – it's just your garbage!

Now fill in the following details. Do this for a week to understand what's going on with your garbage!

GARBAGE IN MY HOME

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<i>Weight of garbage (use a spring balance or weighing scale)</i>							
<i>Is there anything in your garbage which you can re-use instead of throwing it away?</i>							
<i>Is there anything in your garbage which you can compost instead of throwing it away?</i>							
<i>What can be recycled instead of being discarded in your garbage today?</i>							
<i>Is there any paper in it which you could have kept aside for the paper collector?</i>							

Now that you have looked at your garbage for a week, do you think it's possible to reduce, re-use and recycle the waste produced? Write down three actions you and your family can take to do this.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

TAKE THE
CITIZENSHIP

**CHA
LLE
NGE**

Have you finished the activity? Every activity you completed gives you certain points. Find out how you did:

1. For answering the questions on garbage, give yourself 1 point.
2. For each day you record your garbage details, give yourself 2 points.
3. The maximum you can score in this activity is 15 points.
4. Write down your score here: _____
5. Now go to the end of the book - and shade an equal number of squares on the Citizen ship board.

You're one step closer to your goal of being an active citizen!

CHAPTER - 7

Social



Justice

Let us start with something you might have seen or heard in the past:



What do you think the scales shown in the picture represent? Why?

Do you know of any other common ways by which the same concept is represented? Where have you seen this?

What does justice mean?

Justice means to be fair and honest. In the preamble to the constitution, our leaders resolved that all the citizens of India have the right to justice:

- **social:** all our citizens must be treated the same
- **political:** all of us can freely vote or stand for elections.
- **economic:** all of us have an equal chance to earn our living.

Let us explore different ways by which we get or are denied justice.

The Slums



Dharavi, in Mumbai, is sometimes called Asia's biggest slum. Thousands of poor immigrants crowded into Mumbai during the past century. In order to find place to live, they built thousands of two- and three-storey "hutments" constructed of concrete, tin and even cardboard. The tiny rooms - often as small as 100 sq. ft. (9 sq. m) - house more than a dozen people from two or three families. Hundreds of people share common toilets and water supplies - the narrow walkways run with human waste.

At the same time, people in Dharavi produce items worth millions of dollars in exports. They have also created a strong community life, building bonds in spite of the harshness of their everyday existence.

Identify the fundamental right which is being denied to these people:

Think of the services which you have in your neighbourhoods. Are these available for people who live in slums?

Sl no.	In your neighbourhood	At the slum
1	Toilets at home	Community toilets
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		

“DISCUSS”

1. Why do people in the slums have less access to services than us?
2. Why do you think slums exist in our city?
3. Why would people live in slums?

INVESTIGATE!

What is your government doing about slums in your city? See if you can find out whether there are any particular schemes, laws or rules related to the upgradation of slums.

The Exploited



Look at the following picture – what is the first thing you observe about it?

“I want to study properly but the financial condition of my family does not allow me to. I have no other option but to work,” said Is-tiyak (name changed), a 13-year-old boy working for a hotel. “The mental condition of my father is not sound, hence he is jobless,” he revealed. For the record, he is a student of Class V at a local school in Ashapur but cannot attend classes. He is the youngest among two brothers and five sisters.

He gets Rs 200 a day for working in the catering sector during the marriage season. “I spend half the money on my study and remaining amount goes to the family.”

Identify the fundamental right which is being denied to these children:



What tasks do your parents ask you to do?

What do you receive for the work you do?

Do any of you have a regular job – like your parents?

How old do you think one should be before they have to earn a living?

CHILD LABOUR

Child labor, as defined by International Labour Organization (ILO) is work done by children under the age of 12; work by children under the age of 15 that prevents school attendance; and work by children under the age of 18 that is hazardous to their physical or mental health. Child labor is an economic activity or work that interferes with the completion of a child's education or that is harmful to children in any way.

LOOK AROUND YOU

Have you noticed anyone who fits the above definition?

1. The boy who sells balloons at the traffic crossing.

2. _____

3. _____

INVESTIGATE!

Write a diary entry as though you were a child labourer.

Date: _____

Place: _____

My name is _____.

I am _____ years old.

I work in a _____.

My family consists of _____

I think my work is _____

I dream of _____

The differently-abled

Arvind is 11-years-old. He developed polio when he was a small child and the disease has left him disabled since then. His arms are wrapped almost completely behind his back and his legs are permanently in a sitting position. Arvind's left foot is the only part he can move. He uses this foot with great skill, and does all his writing and drawing with it. His aim is to become an illustrator. Every day, with a pencil between his toes, Arvind is creating new characters and simple stories. But it has not been easy for his parents to get him admitted in a school.



1) Have you met someone who has some kind of disability?

2) Why do you think Arvind’s parents found it difficult to get him admitted to school? Can you think of some of the problems he would face if he was admitted to your school?

- a. Climbing stairs
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____
- e. _____

3) Do you know of any place which has made it easy for the differently-abled to move around and learn?

4) What provisions have they made? Can you suggest other things they can do to?

- a. Ramp at the entrance
- b. _____
- c. _____
- d. _____

5) Can you think of some disabilities which have affected people around us? Think of one way by which you can help a person in these situations.

Sl no.	Type of Disability	What can i do to help
1	Visual impairment	Read out a story to them
2		
3		
4		

INVESTIGATE!

Have you seen this sign anywhere? What does it mean?



Find out some of the already existing schemes which help to make things easier for the differently-abled.

The School



A view of a school

In my seventh standard I was taught in a school with a thousand other young children like me. We had only two classrooms, and one blackboard which was rolled from one room to another. In my classroom we had children from three standards studying together – 5th, 6th and 7th. 150 of us would try to squeeze ourselves onto benches meant for 30 children. Another problem we faced was the lack of toilets. There was only one toilet for all of us. The school area would smell really, really bad. On top of

that we didn't have enough school books for everybody – this made it difficult to understand what the teacher was saying. Our teacher had a hard time managing all of us and we were frequently punished. There were many days when he didn't show up at all and we were left with nobody to teach us.

Soon, my friends started to drop out from school and so did I.

Identify the fundamental right which is being denied to this child:

Tick the services which are available in this school. Are they available for you in your school?

Characteristic	School	In your school
Drinking water		
Chairs and Tables		
Toilets		
Separate classrooms		
Playground and fields		
Blackboard		
Computer Lab		

Now imagine that you are asked by the Department of Education to come up with a plan of intervention in the school we just discussed. Take just one issue that is presented to you in the account above and write down the steps you would take to help improve the situation. You can refer to some of the points given at the end of this chapter:

1. First we will _____
2. Then we will _____
3. We will make sure that _____
4. We will do this by _____
5. Then we will _____
6. Thus we will _____


THINK
 &
“DISCUSS”

Rahul asks:

Why do we have to wear a school uniform every day? I would much rather wear whatever I feel like!

Almost all children in India who go to school have to wear a uniform. Do you have any idea why that is so?

INVESTIGATE!

In 2010, the Government of India recognized the Right to Education. This ensures free and universal access to all children in India. Your task is to investigate and understand this right. What is the government promising all the children in the country? How will this help?



Now that you have explored your issue, would you like to think of an action plan? This plan would help you make a difference in the issue of your choice. To get you started, here are some ideas:

Do you feel like there has been injustice in this issue? What can you do to help people out? Here are some of the things you can do:

- 1. Start an awareness group: get together with other people who believe strongly on the issue. Share news and events with each other. Start doing things together.*
- 2. Carry out an awareness campaign: Write a short play; a song; or do an assembly in your school about the issue of your choice. Help others see the problems which exist in society today.*
- 3. Take out a road show: make posters, do performances to raise awareness for your cause.*
- 4. Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper pointing out the problems you have witnessed.*
- 5. Get your school involved. Ask other interested students to join you and your awareness group. Try to get someone working in the issue to come and speak about it to your peers.*
- 6. Fund Raise: Have a food stall or make craft items and sell them – in your school, apartment complex or neighbourhood. Use the money collected to help spread awareness or donate it to an organization working on the issue you believe strongly in.*
- 7. Volunteer: Find organizations which work on the issue. Find out if they take volunteers – volunteering is one of the most rewarding ways by which you can make a real difference in people's lives. You can visit a senior citizens home and give up an hour of your week to spend time with the inmates or play games with children who go to special schools.*

Being an Active Citizen

OPERATION BLACKBOARD

These students wanted to make a long lasting impact on a large number of people. So they chose Education. After visiting some underprivileged schools they decided to do something about the broken and tattered black boards at a local Government School for Girls.

To replace 6 broken black boards the mason gave them an estimate of Rs. 8000. The students just had a week's time to raise the funds and after going through various ideas like junk sale, fun fair, approaching sponsors etc., they decided upon organizing a four day long T-20 cricket tournament.

In just two days they convinced students from neighbouring schools, their friends to join in and formed 6 teams! With the participating fee collected they also managed to arrange for medals & trophies, banners, refreshments etc. The morning the match started, rain came along too. For four days these students fought like warriors scooping out bucketfuls of water from the pitch, mopping it up with gunny bags, putting sand on the pitch...

After the four-day trial the students emerged triumphant with funds of **Rs. 10,000** and got all the black boards replaced at the government school!

The core team says, *"As privileged children, the least we can do to our lesser privileged brethren is to make learning easier for them... and any investment in education impacts generations to come."*

Me and My City

My country/state/city has the following schemes regarding

Characteristic	Scheme 1	Scheme 2	Scheme 3
Upgradation of Slums			
Child Labour			
Disability			
Right to Education			

REVIEW

ACIOLS - all our citizens must be treated the same

ICNCEOOM - all of us have an equal chance to earn our living.

ACLILIOTP - all of us can freely vote or stand for elections.

EISNASRF – Being honest and impartial

ESCIUTJ – The head of the Supreme Court in the country is the Chief _____.

MLRBPAEE – The idea of justice is embedded in this.

DHLCI OAULRB – the right against exploitation helps us prevent this.

AIIDTLYSIB – our buildings should be made accessible for people with _____

ADCNETUOI – we go to school every day for this

MLSUS - in the city many poor people have to live here.

TAKE THE
CITIZENSHIP

**CHA
LLE
NGE**

Have you finished the activity? Every activity you completed gives you certain points. Find out how you did:

1. For planning an intervention and implementing it, give yourself 5 points.
2. The maximum you can score in this activity is 20 points. That means while you can do as many interventions as you like, you will be scored for maximum 4.
3. Write down your score here: _____
4. Now go to the end of the book - and shade an equal number of squares on the Citizen ship board.

You're one step closer to your goal of being an active citizen!

CHAPTER - 8



Fire

A fire at a school in Kolkata had children and parents frightened out of their wits early yesterday. Around 11.55am, a blaze broke out in the second-floor computer lab. Four fire tenders took around 45 minutes to fight the fire that was probably sparked by a malfunctioning air-conditioner. The lab with 27 computers was gutted but no injuries were reported. The three faculty members present in the lab at the time of the blaze managed to escape unhurt.

Senior officials of the fire department found the school "severely lacking in" fire-fighting preparedness, starting with the mandatory no-objection certificate. "Barring a few fire extinguishers, the school has nothing to combat any type of fire. We have told the headmaster to bring the school under the purview of the fire department and also given a few recommendations," said a fire department officer. The recommendations include:

1. Ensuring two entries and exits for class-rooms
2. Installing an auto-flooding system in computer labs.
3. Putting up powder-based fire extinguishers
4. Building a reservoir
5. Training of staff in evacuation
6. Installing fire sensors and alarms.

Read the account of a fire at a school in Kolkata. The fire department discovered that the school was very vulnerable to a fire attack. Carefully look at their recommendations.

LOOK AROUND YOU

Identify all the things which might put you at risk of fire.



HERE ARE SOME TIPS TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE SAFE FROM FIRE

1. Never put anything over a lamp, Eg - clothes, blanket etc....
2. Don't touch radiators and heaters. Ask an adult to turn it on and off for you.
3. Don't stand too close to the cooking stove – electric or gas.
4. Don't cook alone. If you do want to experiment, make sure an adult is nearby.
5. If you're cooking on the stove, make sure the handles of the vessels are turned inwards. They should never hang over the edge where you can bump into them and knock them off.
6. Be careful when you use matches, lighters or candles.

Work with your parents and teachers to create an escape plan in case of an emergency. Do this for the rooms in your house and your classroom. Identify at least two exits for each room. So, if one way is blocked by fire, you can use the other to get out. Make sure you create an escape plan every time you move to a new class room or a new home so you aren't taken by surprise!

Do pick a safe and easy-to-remember fire assembly point outside your home or school. You should meet your family/friends here once you escape - in case of fire.

What can you do in case of fire?

Despite being careful, what should you do when there is a fire in your home or school? Get out fast...

Remember don't worry about gathering up your belongings; your life is much more important.

Before opening any door in a fire, feel the bottom of the door, *is it hot?* A hot door may mean there is a fire on the other side. Try to get out another way.

When there is a fire, there is also smoke! Smoke is as dangerous as the flames so make sure to avoid it. Since smoke rises during fire, *you should take care to stay close to the floor.* Bend down and walk or crawl as the safest air to breathe will be near the floor.

Once you're outside, *don't get lost!* Head to the fire assembly point that you have previously decided with your family and friends.

Call for fire services as soon as you can. Remember the number – it is **102**.



TAKE AN ESCAPE PLAN FOR YOUR CLASSROOM

Draw a floor plan of your classroom in this blank space above. Make sure to mark all the doors and windows in this plan. Draw the seating arrangements of all your classmates. Then, mark your place. Now draw the path you will take if there is an emergency! Make sure you have at least two pathways so that you have an alternate route in case the other is blocked (Try to keep the window as a last resort!). Discuss the exit plan with your classmates and teacher. Keep in mind that you might not be the only one attempting to escape.

Which row of students will exit first?

What should you do to avoid a stampede?

Should you be concerned about your belongings?

See if you can get the school plan. Discuss an escape plan for your school. Remember, there may be hundreds of your classmates are running away along with you.

Why don't you also create an escape plan for your home? Discuss this with your parents.

POLICE

What happens to us when we break the law?

As citizens who live in a democracy, we have given our government the duty to make laws for us. The government does this with the belief that we, as citizens, will follow these laws. In order to ensure that we all follow the law, the government created a special branch – **The Police**. They are the face of the justice system in the country.

The police investigate crimes and offences but it does not have the power to punish the offenders. It can, however, take custody of suspects while the punishment is being decided by the Courts. Whenever we have a problem related to the law, we should first approach the Police.



**WRITE DOWN THE FIRST
THREE WORDS THAT YOU
THINK OF WHEN YOU HEAR
THE WORD:**

POLICE

Remember, the police are here to help us out when we need them. If we've been robbed or threatened, need our passport verified or want to ensure VIP security, we need to approach the police. The police look after:

1. Maintenance of Law and Order
2. Prevention and Detection of Crime
3. Traffic Management
4. VIP security
5. Counter terrorism
6. Border policing and immigration
7. Disaster Management

Think of *three* different situations where you or your family might have needed or may need the help of the city police.

1. Some one picked my pocket when I was on the bus to school.

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____



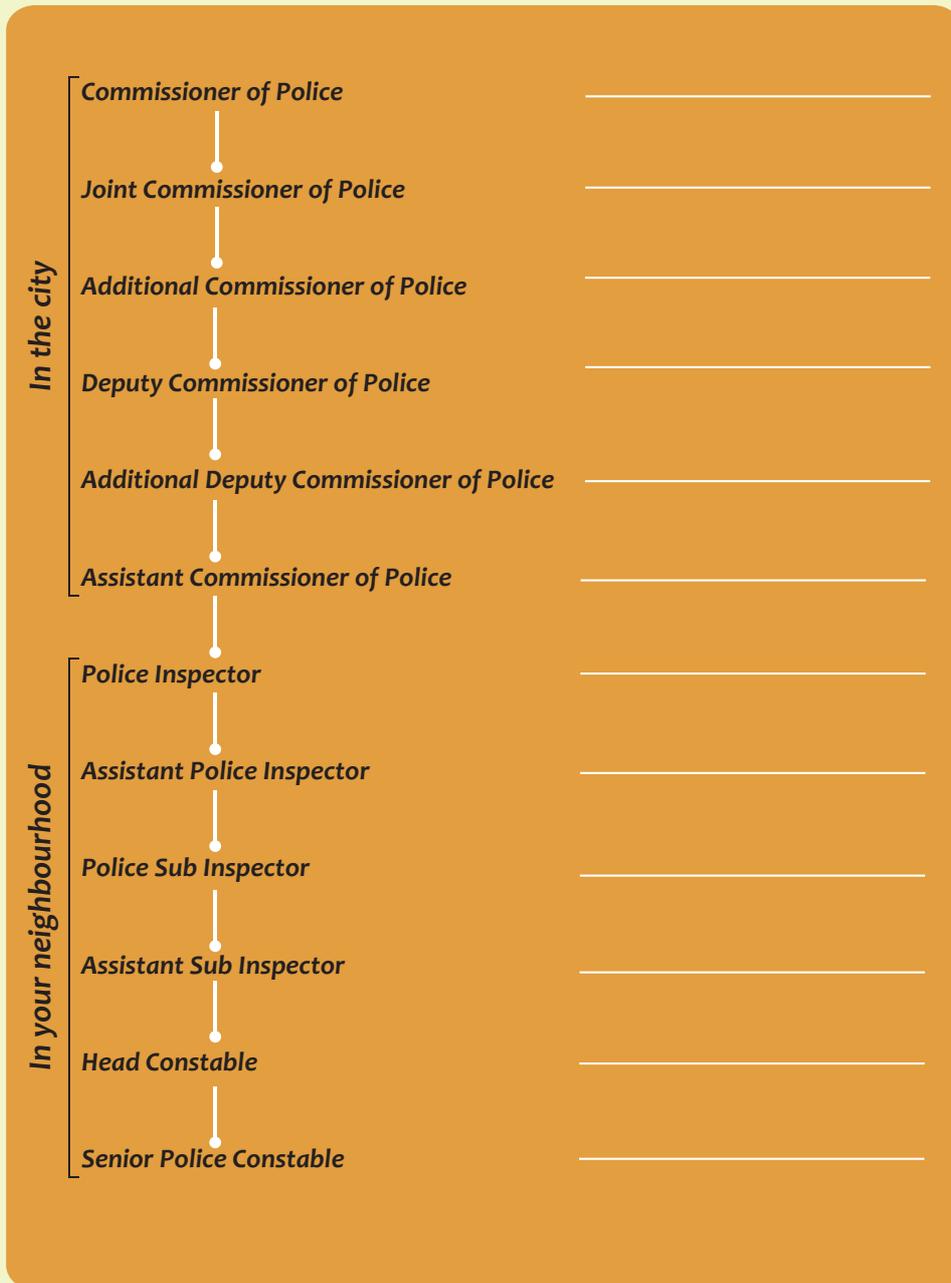
There are many women police in the country, but the most famous of them is **Kiran Bedi**. Apart from the good work she did as a police officer, she is known for her work in Tihar jail, Delhi. She looked after the welfare of the prisoners and started various rehabilitation programs for them.

**CAN YOU FIND
OUT THREE SUCH
PROGRAMS THAT
SHE STARTED
FOR THE
PRISONERS?**

Our City Police

Take a look at the chart given below – this shows the police hierarchy in our city:

Find out the names of the main police officers in your city. It would be great if you visit your local police station and meet the constables and inspectors who work there. Fill in their names in the boxes – next to their designations.



Let's look at what you would do if someone actually picked your pocket:

The first thing you or your parents should do in case of a crime is to file an FIR. The FIR is the **First Information Report**. It is called this because this is the first information you are giving to the police for this crime. The procedure for doing this is very simple – first go to the police station closest to which the crime was committed. Remember, the police will file complaints only if it falls within their area! You can pre-write the FIR and hand it over to the Police or give them an oral report.

How can we reach the police for help?

In case of emergencies, we can reach the police control room by dialing **100** or **103**. Someone will always answer these numbers. Remember, this phone call will automatically disconnect in 3 minutes. We should give our phone numbers and the important information about the emergency as quickly as we can.

The Traffic Police

Where do you see the traffic police?

The traffic police do the very important job of managing and regulating traffic in the city. They ensure that the roads are safe and the traffic moves smoothly from one area to the other. They also take care of parking violations, towing vehicles parked in 'No Parking' zones and issuing fines if necessary.



DOD
&
DISCUSS

Look at the chart in the following page. For each problem on the left hand side, identify the causes of traffic on the right hand side. Draw a line to connect them.

Remember: A problem may have more than one cause.

PROBLEMS

- Vehicular Pollution
- Delays, slow-moving traffic and traffic jams
- Frequent accidents involving pedestrians
- Road rage and fights between drivers
- Vehicles get dented and break down frequently
- Chaos of traffic intersections
- Loud honking leading to noise pollution
- Vehicles unable to move when they get the green signal
- Roads get water logged after heavy rains
- Ambulances or emergency vehicles are blocked or delayed

CAUSES

- Stray animals on streets
- Pedestrians jaywalk in the midst of traffic
- Construction work (roads, flyovers, drains)
- Reckless driving and lack of civic sense
- Inadequate parking facility; vehicles are parked illegally and block traffic
- Traffic flow stopped for visiting VIPs or functions
- Intersections not designed well – no traffic signal
- Vehicles in poor condition: not maintained and inspected regularly
- Increased number of vehicles on the road
- Quality of road work is very poor; Large pot-holes on roads.



STAYING SAFE

It's easy to stay safe in the city by keeping a few things in mind. look at the list along side. do all the activities look safe? circle the ones which you should not do:

1. *Get to know the surroundings around your school and home.*
2. *Talk to strangers.*
3. *Accept any presents including eatables from a stranger.*
4. *Accompany a stranger, however serious the issue may be.*
5. *Go alone somewhere, especially at night.*
6. *Remember the name, address, and telephone number of your parents, close friends and relatives.*
7. *Wear costly jewellery.*
8. *Keep your parents informed about anything suspicious, even though you have been asked to keep it a secret.*
9. *Learn simple ways of self defense.*
10. *Keep a look out for strange persons.*
11. *When somebody knocks on the door, check before opening*
12. *Use the police help lines listed in an emergency.*

Me and My City

1. _____ is the department in charge of fire services in my city.
2. There are _____ fire stations in my city.
3. The following are some of the fire safety regulations which buildings are supposed to implement in my city.
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
4. The Director General of fire services is _____.
5. The police commissioner of my city is _____.
6. There are _____ police stations in my city.
7. The traffic police commissioner of my city is _____.

REVIEW

102, 100, escape, evacuation, extinguish, crime, VIP security, traffic, law and order, FIR, Commissioner, Director General

Look at the above words. Put them under the correct category below:

1. Police: _____

2. Fire: _____

Discover

Interview a police man:

We often see the traffic police but how many of us have seen or spoken to the police persons in khakhi? Let's visit a police station to understand how the police function.

First, find out which **police zone** your home falls in: _____

Then find out your **nearest police station**. Make sure that your home comes under its jurisdiction.

Write down its address here:



Here are some questions you can ask the police man/woman:

1. Why did you decide to become part of the police?
2. What exam or training did you take to join the police force?
3. How do you help protect us citizens?
4. How can I help you in doing your job?
5. What can I do if I want to report a crime?
6. What message do you have for all the children in the city?

Write down his or her responses here:

Citizen Challenge

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100

Did you take the Citizenship Challenge? How did you do?

Go back to the eight topics that we have discovered together in this book. At the end of each chapter, you would have seen the Discover Activity. This activity will help you discover your neighbourhoods and cities, understand their secrets and teach you more about how we can make them better.

Each activity is self-scored. This means, you have to do them and score yourself! We have given you a guide on how to score yourself at the end of each activity – but if you think you deserve more then go ahead and give yourself a couple of points more! We believe that each one of us can complete these activities easily, and doing them teaches us how to be better citizens.

The total points that you can earn (according to our guide) is 100. So discover your scores, and mark them in the boxes above (like shown). As you mark yourself, you can see how you are progressing towards becoming the City Champ!

So best of luck – I know I can't wait to get started! Shall we see who reaches the finish line fastest?

Total = 100

0-30: A good start in your journey towards active citizenship. You are a City-Voyager!

31-50: You have started knowing your city – and are becoming a good friend of your neighbourhood. You are a City-Ally!

50-70: You have started taking good care of your city. You are a City Guardian

70-80: You are becoming an expert on your city. You are a City-Whiz

80-90: Your awareness of the city makes you a City Star!

90-100: Your citizenship quotient is at the top of the chart! You are a City Champ!

My score is: _____

I am a _____

Bala Janaagrahis – Past and Present!

How long has Bala Janaagraha been running in your school? Find out from your teacher:

Now find out one person from your senior batch who has gone through the Bala Janaagraha program before you.

Here are some questions you can ask them to find out about their journey towards active citizenship:

1. What is your name? When did you take part in the Bala Janaagraha program?

2. Which did you enjoy most in the Bala Janaagraha sessions?

3. What topic did you choose for the project? How big was your team?

4. What did you do in your project? Who did you meet? What were your findings?

5. Are you continuing with your project in any way now? What are your plans?

6. Would you like to help me out with the current Bala Janaagraha project?

7. Has being a Bala Janaagrahi impacted your life in any way?

It would be great if you involve a Bala Janaagraha alumnus with your project? Ask them to accompany you while you do your citizenship activities. Discover your neighbourhoods together. Aim for a high score in the citizenship game-board!

Remember, active citizenship doesn't end with the Bala Janaagraha program. Practice whatever you've learnt when you see a problem that needs solving. After you finish the Bala Janaagraha program, do help your junior Bala Janaagrahis. Through this, you can see real change happening in your neighbourhoods.

Me and My City – Contacts

Contact Information for the agencies:

BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board): Cauvery Bhavan, Kempe Gowda Road, Bangalore 560009 Phone: 22945126 / 22945114 (PRO) Web site: <http://www.bwssb.org>

Rain-water harvesting: Regional Director, Central Ground Water Board, R.K.E Trust Building, 31st Cross, 11 Main, 4th Block, Jayanagar, Bangalore -560 011. Email: rdswr@cgwaindia.com

Rainwater Club: www.rainwaterclub.org

BDA (Bangalore Development Authority), T Chowdiah Road, Seshadripuram, Bangalore - 560 020
Phone: 23464064 (PRO)

BMTC (Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation) Central Office, KH Road, Shanthinagar, Bangalore 560 027, Phone: 22952534 Website: www.bmtcinfo.com

BESCOM (Bangalore Electricity Supply Company), KR Circle, Dr Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore 560 001, 22267180 (PRO) Website: www.bescom.org

BBMP (Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike) Commissioner's Office, Narasimharaja Square, Bangalore 560 002, Phone: 22221286 (PRO) Control Room 22221188
Website: www.bmponline.org

BBMP - Health Department, Chief Health Officer (BBMP) N.R Square Bangalore-560 002
Phone: 080-22975567 BBMP Health Help Line: Phone: 2221281; 9845024365
Health control room: Phone: 2100031, 2100032, 2100003, 2100034, 2100004

Bangalore Police, Office of the Commissioner of Police, No.1, Infantry Road Bangalore-560 001
Phone: 22259590 (PRO) Website: bcp.gov.in

KPCL (Karnataka Power Corporation Limited) - <http://www.karnatakapower.com/>

KPTCL (Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited) - <http://www.kptcl.com>

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3. Water:

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- b. Design For Change stories - <http://www.designforchangecontest.com/india/top20.aspx?Country=17>
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4. Electricity:

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Me and My City - Facts and Figures

Citizenship

I live in the city of Bangalore in the state of Karnataka.

Bangalore was built by Kempe Gowda in 1537. It was originally called Benda Kalooru or the 'town of baked beans.'

Later, when it had more people, Kempe Gowda II constructed the first water tanks: Kempapura and Karanjikere and four watching towers which marked the boundary of the then city.

They can still be found at:

1. in LalBagh
2. near Kempambudhi tank
3. near Ulsoor Lake
4. near Mekhri Circle

It then came under a succession of rulers from the Mughals to Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan; the Wodeyars of Mysore and the British who used it as a military base.

In 1902, Bangalore was the first city in the whole of Asia to have electricity supplied by the electricity plant at Shivanasamudra.

Prior to all the developments in the past few decades, Bangalore was a well laid out city with plenty of gardens and parklands. This is what gave it the name: The Garden City of India. Besides this, in the past twenty years, a lot of Information Technology companies have opened offices in the city. Thus the Garden City of India gave way to the Silicon Valley of India.

Government

The President of my country is Smt. Pratibha Patil. She works at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Prime Minister of my country is Sri Manmohan Singh. He works at the Prime Minister's Office in Delhi. The Vice President of my country is Mohammad Ansari. He works at the Parliament House (Chairman of the Rajya Sabha)

The Governor of my state is HR Bharadwaj. He works at the Raj Bhavan. The Chief Minister of my state is B.S. Yeddyurappa. He works at the Chief Minister's Office.

The local government of my city is called the Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike. It has 16 departments.

The following are some of the services delivered by the local government in my city:

- a. Engineering department – Roads, Footpaths, Lights, Garbage

- b. Revenue Department – Collects property taxes thru the Self-Assessment Scheme and fees like advertisement charges, parking fees, trade licenses; issues Khata certificates.
- c. Health Department – with 297 health wards, 23 maternity homes, 6 referral hospitals, 23 dispensaries, 39 health centres.; Public toilets and management of stray animals
- d. Education department: 78 nursery schools, 11 Primary schools, 32 High schools, 11 Junior Colleges, 19000 Students.

The Mayor of my city is Mrs. Sharadhamma Ramanjaneya, a councillor from Shettihalli

My city has 198 wards.

There are 30 ward committees and 12 standing committees in my city.

The Commissioner of my local government is Shri. Siddaiah

My local government allocates a major part of its budget to Roads. . Rs 5215 cr set aside for it, accounting for 62% of the total outlay.

The quasi governmental agencies in my city are:

BDA: Bangalore Development Authority

BMTC: Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation

BWSSB: Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board

BESCOM: Bangalore Electricity Supply Company

Police department comes directly under the State government.

The Area Sabha law was passed in my city on Jan 14, 2011, however it's rules have not been passed.

Urban Planning

Bangalore Development Authority is the Urban Planning Authority in my city. The plan for my city was last created in the year 2005. It will apply till the year 2015. The Karnataka Housing Board takes care of Housing in my city. The Karnataka Labour Welfare Board takes care of employment and livelihood and other social services in my city. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation looks after transport and connectivity in my city.

The following agencies take care of basic services in my city:

- a. BWSSB
- b. BESCOM

The Heritage department of BBMP takes care of historical buildings and my city's heritage. The Environment department of BBMP is responsible for the protection of my city's environment.

Water

1. Which natural sources of water does your city get its water from? Find out and write them down here:

- Cauvery
- Arkavathy
- Thippagondanahalli Reservoir

2. BWSSB is the government body responsible for the supply of water to my city. It supplies 850 MLD (million litres per day) to my city as per 2001.

3. BWSSB is the government body which is responsible for the treatment of sewage in my city.

4. The sewage treatment plants in my city are at:

- Vrishabhavathi valley on Mysore Road
- Koramangala Chellaghatta valley.
- Hebbal STP.
- Yelahanka water treatment plant at yelahanka
- At Madivala
- At Kempambudhi Lake

5. Rain Water Harvesting is mandatory in my city.

Electricity

Information about electricity services in my city.

1. Bangalore was the first city in Asia to get electricity in 1902! The state of Mysore (which is what we were called before we became part of Karnataka) was the first to establish a hydro-electric plant for commercial use!
2. Electricity in our state is generated by the Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL). It has 34 dams & 25 power stations across the State of varying sizes and capacities. While a large part of the electricity generated is through hydro projects, it does include thermal, solar and wind projects.
3. It is transmitted by the Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited (KPTCL).
4. It is distributed in Bangalore by the Bangalore Electricity Supply company (BESCOM). This supplies electricity to three zones: The Bangalore Metropolitan Area Zone, Bangalore Rural Area Zone and the Chitradurga Zone.
5. The Bachat Lamp Yojana is a scheme by the Government of India which attempts to make CFLs cheaper and more accessible to everyone in the country. Its goal is to deliver CFLs at the cost of normal light bulbs.
6. Bangalore has the highest number of rooftop solar heaters being used in the country. This has now become mandatory for all new buildings.

Health

1. The Health department of BBMP is responsible for Public Health in my city.
2. Some of the popular national health programs are:
 - National AIDS Control Programme (AIDS)
 - National Cancer Control Programme (cancer)
 - National Tobacco Control Programme (tobacco control)
 - Pilot Programme on Prevention and Control of Diabetes, CVD and Stroke (diabetes, cardiovascular disease, stroke)
 - Revised National TB Control Programme (tuberculosis)
 - National Leprosy Eradication Programme (leprosy)
 - National Mental Health Programme (mental health)
 - National Programme for Control of Blindness (blindness)
 - National Programme for Prevention and Control of Deafness (deafness)
 - National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme (NVBDCP) (vector-born disease)
 - Universal Immunization Programme

3. According to BBMP records, there are about 77 Nirmala Shauchalayas in Bangalore, of which, 33 are in the East zone, 24 in the West and 20 in the South. These toilets were built using donations from the Infosys Foundation.
4. The engineering department of the BBMP is responsible for Solid Waste Management in my city.
5. Garbage collectors in my city are also known as Pourakarmikas
6. There are around 300 recycling units in my city. The main one is in Jolly Maholla. The others are concentrated around New Timber Market and Nayandahalli.
7. There are 4 landfills in my city. They are located at Mandur, Mavallipura, Doddaballapura and Kumbalgod.
8. There is one major composting plant in my city. It is the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation and is located at Hosapalya in Bangalore
9. My city has laid down the following regulations for the use of plastic bags.
 - a. We cannot use plastic bags less than 40 microns thickness.
 - b. The BBMP will set up waste collection units in all 198 wards
 - c. Burning of plastic in public space will be banned.

Social Justice

Slum improvement and redevelopment schemes by Karnataka Housing Board:

1. SLUM IMPROVEMENT SCHEMES: Under this scheme, providing the basic amenities like Drinking water, Streetlight, community Toilet, Community Bathroom, U.G.D. Storm water Drain. As per Govt. of India guidelines the per capita expenditure of Rs. 800.00 is incurred for development works in selected slums. The released amount of Rs. 80.00 lakhs has been spent for these works.
2. HUDCO ASSISTED HOUSING SCHEME: During 2003-04, Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana housing scheme was sanctioned by Central Govt. to the slum dwellers. HUDCO assisted housing scheme was temporarily discontinued.
3. NATIONAL SLUM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (NSDP) Central Government is allotting the funds to States for welfare of the slum dwellers. During the year 2003-2004 an amount of Rs. 20.61 Crores was released under NSDP to the State Government. Out of this 30% as grant and remaining 70% as loan. The NSDP funds are not released directly to the Board, but the State Government in its annual budget 2003-04 allocated an amount of Rs.29.20 Crores to KSCB. Out of this Rs. 27.58 crores has been released of which Rs. 25.00 crores is towards repayment of HUDCO loan. Nirmala Jyothi Rs 1.60 crores, slum Im

provements Rs. 0.80 crores and Site and Service Rs. 0.18 crores. This amount has been spent by the Board to the said purposes.

4. MEGACITY: Under the Megacity scheme, development of slums is taken up in Bangalore city. The total estimated cost is Rs.4.30 crores, works are taken up in Bangalore city. The total estimated cost is Rs.4.30 crores, works are taken up and completed by March 2004 in 10 declared slums. An amount of Rs.1.06 crores is spent up to March 2004 under this scheme.

NEW SCHEMES IMPLEMENTATION

1. NIRMALA JYOTHI PROGRAMME: The Nirmala Jyothi Programme was sanctioned in Govt. Order No. HD 13 KSCB 2000 Bangalore Dated 15-01-2001. The project cost is Rs.274.00 crores to develop 998 slums in 21 Class - I cities of the state. The State Govt. grant is Rs. 54.00 crores and Rs. 220.00 crores is the Hudco loan. The Programme was launched during August 2002. In the first phase of the programme 260 slums have been taken up to provide the basic amenities like drinking water, roads, drains, streetlights, toilets and UGD. The Works have been completed in 4 cities and the remaining works in 17 cities is expected to be completed by Nov.-Dec. 2004.

In the 2nd Phase of the Nirmala Jyothi programme all preparatory works has been completed to call for tenders to provide basic amenities in 265 slums of 18 Class I cities at an estimated cost of Rs.66.94 Crores. This is a massive slum improvement programme initiated by Govt. of Karnataka to provide basic amenities to the Slum dwellers to keep the slums in hygienic and better living conditions.

2. VALMIKI AMBEDKAR AWAS YOJANA (VAMBAY): This is a centrally sponsored programme wherein housing for Urban poor (for slum families) has been considered as priority sector. This programme was launched in April ' 2002 to provide housing facilities to the slum dwellers. This is off budget borrowing programme and no subsidy / Govt. grants are requested in the budget 2004-05. The central sanction committee of Govt. of India has agreed in principle to sanction 33282 houses to Karnataka of Which 9951 houses have been completed during 2003-04. Totally 17550 houses have been completed under this scheme.

3. NIRMAL BHARATH ABHIYAN YOJANA : Under Valmiki Ambedkar Awas Yojana, central government sanctioned Nirmal Bharath Abhiyan Yojana. In this scheme, community toilets are being provided to the slum dwellers. Totally 279 community toilets at an estimated cost of Rs. 11.16 crores was sanctioned by the Govt. of India. During 2003-04. 243 community toilets are completed.

4. PROVIDING SANITATION AND UGD FACILITY IN THE SLUM AREAS OF BANGALORE CITY: Karnataka Slum Clearance Board has started an ambitious programme of constructing community toilets in the slums of Bangalore City. A project report has been prepared for construction of these community toilets at an estimated cost of Rs. 7.38 Crores. The toilets will be constructed and maintained by the Social Organisation called Sulabha International. The works have commenced and 62 toilet complexes have been completed and are put to use as on 31st March 2004. About 18 complexes are under progress. An amount of Rs.4.44 crores has been spent towards this purpose.

Child labour

1. National Child Labour Project Scheme - The Scheme envisages running of special schools for child labour withdrawn from work. In the special schools, these children are provided formal/non-formal education along with vocational training, a stipend of Rs.100 per month, supplementary nutrition and regular health checkups so as to prepare them to join regular mainstream schools. Under the Scheme, funds are given to the District Collectors for running special schools for child labour. Most of these schools are run by the NGOs in the district. In Bangalore it is run in both Bangalore Urban and Bangalore Rural districts.
2. Grants-in-Aid - Funds under Grants-in-Aid Scheme are sanctioned directly to NGO for elimination of Child Labour in districts not covered by NCLP Scheme. Under the scheme voluntary agencies are given financial assistance by the Ministry of Labour on the recommendation of the State Government to the extent of 75% of the project cost for the rehabilitation of working children. Voluntary organisations have been receiving funds under the scheme since 1979-80. Currently, about 70 voluntary agencies are being assisted.

Disability

Education:

For differently abled children, the Education Department is in the process of setting up a Comprehensive Education Scheme through which a number of schools with special facilities will be built.

The number of Special Schools under the Department of Welfare of Disabled and Senior Citizens in Karnataka is as follows:

1. Govt. 08
2. State Govt. aided 34
3. Central Govt. aided 83

Out of which 18 special schools are providing vocational training facilities. Two teachers training institutions, one for visually handicapped and one for hearing impaired, funded by the Ministry of Social Justice and Environment is run by the department of Disabled Welfare and Senior citizen.

During 2005-06, 35 hearing impaired and 36 visually impaired person were trained

Accessibility:

Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan Scheme, all schools have to be disabled friendly. The education department has provided ramps in 25% of Bangalore's schools

Social Security:

A monthly maintenance allowance of Rs. 400 is given to economically backward persons with disabilities.

Right to Education:

1. Karnataka is yet to notify the Act; therefore it is not in place yet in Bangalore.
2. The Act ensures:
 - a. All children between the ages of 6 and 14 have the right to go to a school in their neighbourhood for free.
 - b. The government should make sure that all children are attending and that there are enough schools for all children.

- c. There should be no discrimination against the weaker sections of society because of which they are prevented from going to school on a regular basis.
- d. The curriculum should be prescribed on time and the books and learning materials delivered early.
- e. There should be enough teachers to take care of all the children in the school.

Safety

1. The department in charge of fire services in my city is the Karnataka State Fire and Emergency Services.
2. There are 20 fire stations in my city.
3. The following are some of the fire safety regulations which buildings are supposed to implement in my city.
 - a. The road in front of a high building should be more than 12 metres wide.
 - b. This road should be hard-surfaced so as to withstand a minimum of 45,000 kgs, which is also the maximum weight of a fire engine.
 - c. The entrance of these buildings needs to be a minimum of six metres wide. Here, the height should be five metres or above.
 - d. A staircase is the only safe means of escape during fire emergencies. All high-rises must have a minimum of two staircases, each at a remote distance from the other. The minimum width of these staircases will be based on the type of the building.
 - e. These staircases should be enclosed, and at least one of them should be on the exterior walls of the building and should open directly to the exterior or interior open space or to an open space of safety.
 - f. For more, see: <http://bangalore.citizenmatters.in/articles/view/1915-fire-safety-norms-high-rise>
4. The Director General of fire services is Dr DV Guruprasad.
5. The police commissioner of my city is Jyotiprakash Mirji.
6. Today, Bangalore City Police consists of 104 Law & Order police stations & 39 Traffic Police Stations, including two all-women police stations.
7. The traffic police commissioner of my city is Praveen Sood.

ME AND MY CITY

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