

## LESSON No . 12



### PROTECTED TREES

We see many trees around us. These trees are needed to be protected. They are the dominant plants in the forest. They are very useful to us. They give back a lot of oxygen to the air. They release water into the air through the leaves which form rain clouds. We get timber, rubber, wood pulp and cotton from valuable trees. So, trees should be protected.



Some people set up plantation sites of ~~rubber~~ <sup>sandlewood</sup>, coconut, eucalyptus, betel nut, etc. The plantations of such trees are mainly for commercial purposes. In such plantation sites, trees are well looked after by the caretaker. If a tree is cut, another one is planted in its place. In some states of India, people have orchards and produce nutritional fruits like apple, litchi etc. Marketing of fruits is done far and wide. People earn good income. In big cities, the municipal corporations set up zones of trees called **green belts**. No one cut the trees from these belts.

The Government has now set up many National Parks and Wild Life Sanctuaries in order to protect the forest areas and wild life. Cutting of trees and hunting of animals are not allowed in these sites. We have heard about Keibul Lamjao National Park and Siroy Park of Manipur.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CLASS- V

Kajiranga National Park in Assam is also known for its animals like Hippos, Rhinoceros and Elephants.



*Sangai at Keibul Lamjao National Park of Manipur*

### Sacred Groves



*Sacred groves*

Sacred Groves are the traditional conservation sites specially dedicated to the local deities. All the vegetations are preserved in such locations. This tradition is seen almost in all the parts of India. Particularly in Manipur one can observe many locations such as site of **Umang Lai**. Some other states also have richest groves like that in the hills of Meghalaya, Kerala, Maharastra and Bihar.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CLASS- V

India has a long tradition of conservation of forest resources. The original flora of a locality are preserved without any outside disturbance. Nobody is permitted to cut any plant, kill animals or do any harm to these areas. People strictly followed the traditional norms. Such practices helped in biodiversity conservation. In spite of large scale deforestation in the country, still the sacred groves remain unharmed. Everybody should encourage any type of natural conservation practice to save the forest and its vegetation.

### CHIPKO MOVEMENT

Chipko is a movement raised by local Bishnoi woman against the felling of Khejri trees in Rajasthan about 300 years ago. That time the king had sent his people to cut trees for wood. The wood was needed for building the king's palace. Local women led by Amrita Devi clung to the trees to prevent the felling of the trees. Many people including Amrita and her daughters died to save the trees. Later on, the king realized his mistake. The story has been remembered and was revived in the 1970s when severe tree felling for timber in the Himalayas shocked the local women. It led to a people's movement to prevent deforestation by timber contractors.

People have made long padyatras across the Himalayas. The movement has been highly successful and supported by empowering local women's group. That movement could convey a message to the world that forests should be protected to make peaceful human survival. To conserve soil and to maintain natural water cycle, forest should be made flourish with trees. All of us should agree that forests should be protected. We should celebrate special programmes to encourage and give awareness about the need to protect the trees.

The United Nation (UN) organizes "World Environment Day" on the 5<sup>th</sup> June every year. The Van Mahotsav is celebrated all over India in the monsoon months of July and August.

We should make poster campaign with slogan "Save Trees" and "Go Green" to protect the trees.

## ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES CLASS- V

### Think and write

- \* I am a Bishnoi woman. I sacrifice my life to save the tree. What is my name ? \_\_\_\_\_
- \* I grew in a village in Rajasthan. The king's man came to cut me to extract timber. Can you identify me ?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \* Name any two National Parks of Manipur.  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \* Which trees are planted for commercial purposes?  
\_\_\_\_\_
- \* Name one movement which was primarily begun and supported by local woman. Give the name of one woman who sacrificed her life to save the tree.  
\_\_\_\_\_

### ACTIVITY

1. *Suppose that the World Environment Day is going to celebrate in your school. What are the activities you and your friends can do on that day?*