

LESSON No. 20



WATER FLOW



You must have seen paddyfields in a countryside. Do you know that cultivation of paddy requires a large amount of water ? So farmers have to supply adequate water to the fields where paddy is grown. Supplying water to the fields where crops are grown is known as **irrigation**.

Pay a visit to a paddyfield and find out —

* From where do farmers get water to grow paddies ?

After the paddy is harvested, farmers grow crops like pulses, maize, tobacco, etc. Do you think that these crops need a large amount of water as paddies do ?

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SOURCES OF IRRIGATION

Canals, wells, tubewells and tanks are the important sources of irrigation. You have seen that water is stored in an artificial lake by constructing a dam across a river. Water from the lake is diverted to the fields through small channels called **canals**. Sometimes river water is also diverted to the fields through these canals. You will find this type of irrigation in most of the paddyfields in the Imphal valley. Canal irrigation is very useful in the drier parts of Punjab and Rajasthan.



In well irrigation, water is drawn from the well with the help of some device or pumping sets. Moreover, deep bores are dug into the earth with drilling machines. Water is lifted up from these boreholes by sinking tubes. Such very deep wells are called **tubewells**. Wells and tubewells are widespread in the plains of northern India.

In south India where the surface is uneven, rainwater gets collected in natural hollows. Tanks are constructed at these places for storing this water. The water from the tank is used for irrigation in dry seasons.

Can you tell the type of irrigation used mainly in the Imphal valley ? Have you seen water flowing upwards ? Where — at home or somewhere else ? Let us see the different ways in which water is being lifted.

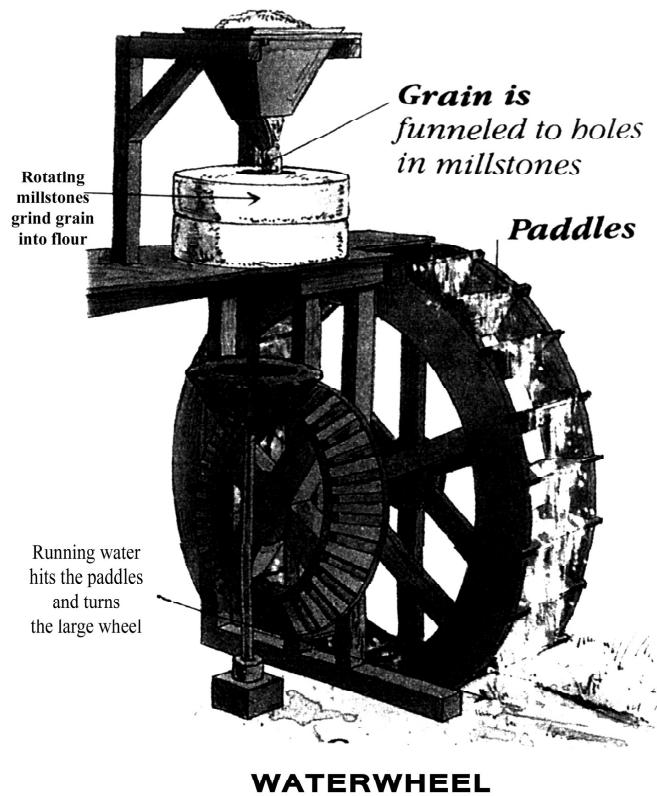
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If you get water in your house by any of these ways put a tick (✓) on that. If not, draw a picture in the space below of the way in which you get water.

Teacher's Note : *Discuss the unequal distribution of water with children. It is important to know how people get water from different sources and the problems they face.*

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Look at this picture. It is a waterwheel — a machine that uses the power of water. Its large wheel turns as the flow of water hits the paddles. See how flowing water is used to grind grain.

Do it yourself

- * Pay a visit to a paddyfield and ask the farmer about the quantities of water for different crops.
- * Draw a picture of the waterwheel.
- * Write the uses of the waterwheel in your notebook.