

to **encroach** upon their habitats. When we greedily chop down old forest trees, for example, **bole**-nesting birds become homeless. The Malabar hornbill, one of our most **spectacular** and interesting birds, nests in boles of old, tall trees in evergreen forests. The male hornbill 'locks' his wife and babies in the nest by covering the opening with mud. He leaves a small kitchen - doorway through which he feeds his family with insects, lizards, snakes and other delicious treats.



Iruvaayan

**encroach** - intrude  
**bole** - tree trunk  
**spectacular** - very impressive

This way, the chicks are safe from **predators** but get their daily meals and snacks on time. But old forest trees are becoming rare. The smugglers are cutting them down for their valuable wood, others are clearing forests for the kind of 'development' like widening cities, dangerous highways, plying with faster cars creating more pollution. Thus we destroy not only birds and other wild creatures but also ourselves. By destroying Nature we are destroying ourselves.

What are some of the reasons for cutting down the trees?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**predators**- animals that kill and eat other animals



Aala

We know so much more today about birds, largely because of Dr. Salim Ali Khan and his associates. We know about the behaviour of different species. We know their special calls or the songs. We also know the places where they are likely to be found. For example, the tern, which looks like an origami [Japanese art of folding paper so as to make different forms] project, is a beach and ocean **freak**, and would n't be found in forests.

**freak** - wild enthusiast

The star singer, the *shama*, however, sticks to its thick forest home.



Solai Paadi

Yet,so much is still to be discovered; to increase our knowledge as well as to help conserve certain rare species. Because of the overuse of pesticides, some birds are becoming rare. Can you guess why? The chemicals in the pesticides make the egg shell thinner, which breaks before the chick is ready to hatch. Many countries have **banned** the use of **banned - prohibited** certain pesticides which are dangerous to birds. In India, many birds which were once common in certain areas are disappearing. We need to find out why and do something about it - *urgently*.

If you are interested in birds, you too can help in the very important effort to study and conserve birds. You can do this even if you are a young student-in fact all the better, as you can be more active and travel more miles than the older bird watchers. Unlike many hobbies, this is not an expensive one, and can be done anywhere. You may live near the sea or in the mountains or near a forest or even in the middle of the city. The good news about birds is that they are always around!



If you can get a pair of binoculars, that's great! But a pair of young eyes would **suffice**. Keep a small notebook and pencil or pen to write down every observation **meticulously**, starting with the date, time and location of the birds you see. And, of course, you need a reference book and the best one is 'The Book of Indian Birds'. Make a bird

list every time you go on a bird walk. As you become more and more interested, try and find other bird watchers you can go out with and learn from them. Most Indian cities and even small towns, now have a bird watching club. You can join one and **pursue** your hobby. You will soon be able to identify the **vagaries** of different birds. If you are interested enough, you could well be another Salim Ali. Happy Bird Watching!

- suffice** - be enough
- meticulously** - carefully
- pursue** - follow
- vagaries** - variety in behaviour

Interested to know more about birds? Log on to [www.birding.in](http://www.birding.in)

**LET US REMEMBER :**

1. Why did the government of China decide to kill sparrows?

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2. What happened when they did so?

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3. Why do fishermen get angry with crocodiles?

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4. Why are birds important in the web of life?

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5. How do we know so much about birds today?

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6. How does the Malabar Hornbill feed its young ones?

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7. What does the writer feel it is possible for every young person to do? Write three sentences.

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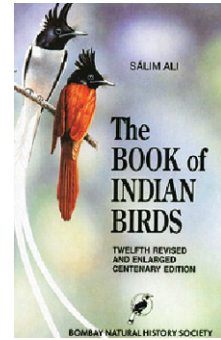
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**LET US UNDERSTAND : [Discuss and share in small groups!]**

1. Why do we need to co-exist with other species on this planet?

2. In what ways have we encroached upon the habitats of birds?

3. Why does the author compare chopping trees to chopping down your own home?

## Have a debate in class room

Is there a problem if a species dies out?

### Do you know?

The Arctic Tern travels twenty to thirty thousand kms. annually!

### LET US WRITE:

What would you do if you become a bird-watcher?

### LET US REVISE:

Choose appropriate antonyms of the words from the list given below and fill in the corresponding boxes with the number.

host  annoyed  excited  prey  triumph

1. pleased    2. bored    3. predator    4. defeat    5. guest

### PROJECT :

The prose passage you have studied in this unit speaks of where some birds live – their habitat and suggests that we can find out more about the birds we observe.

Observe the birds in your neighbourhood and Tabulate species and habitats, following the example given below:

Streams	Forests	Sea	Fields & scrub	mountains
kingfisher	shama	tern	sparrow	eagle

### LET US DO : Semantic Mapping

What are all the words that come to your mind when you think of the word, bird?

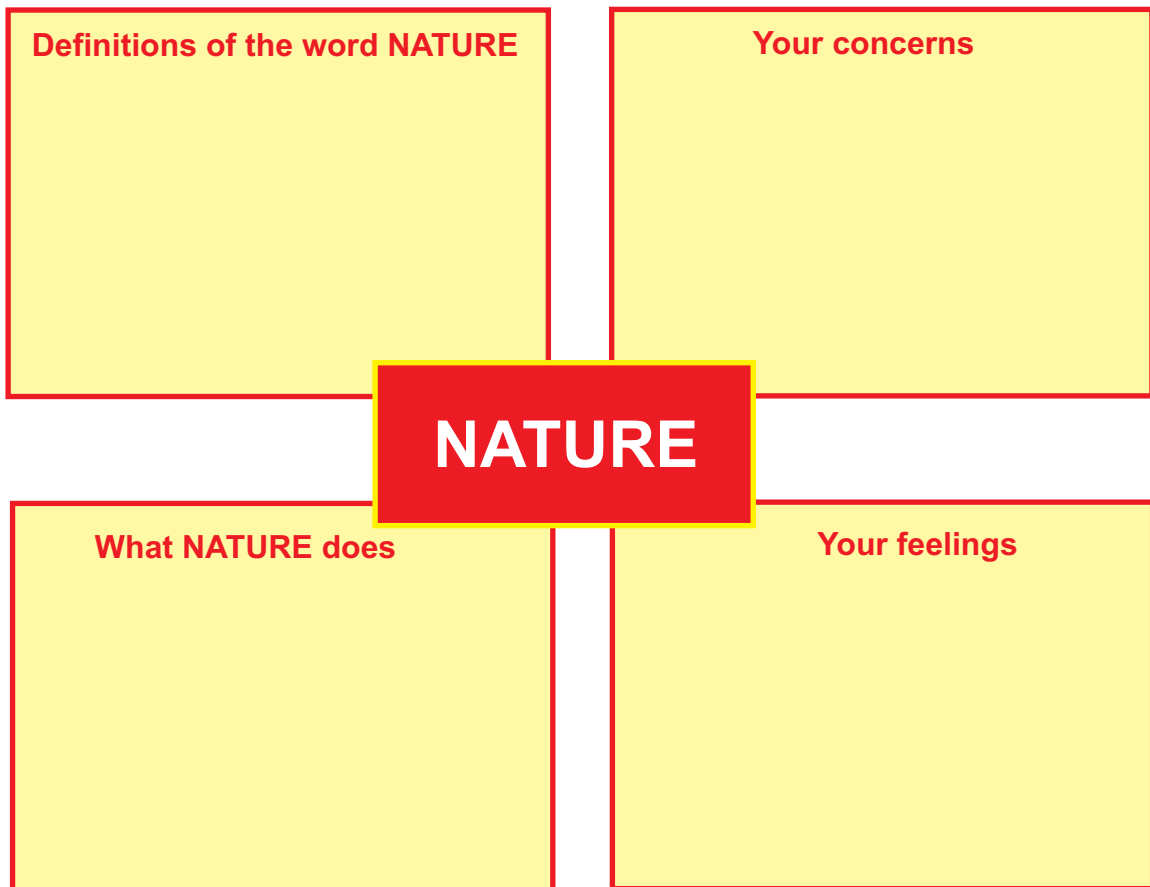
Let's try putting them down like this.



In how many ways can you classify these words? See below!

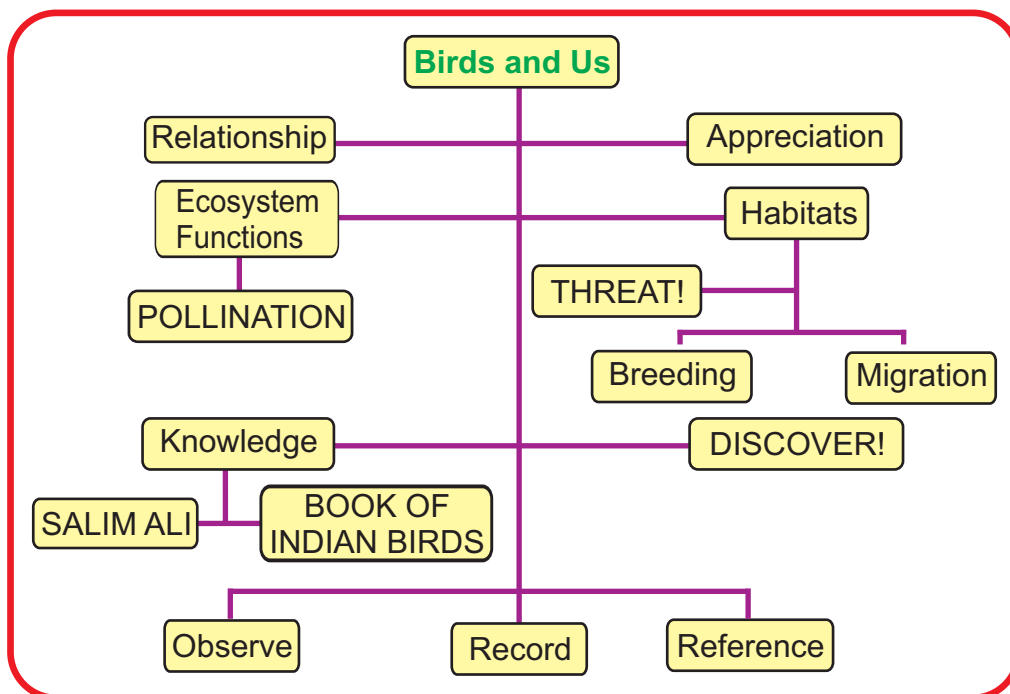
<b>Characteristics</b>	: beak, wings
<b>History</b>	: migration
<b>Status</b>	: threat
<b>Appreciation</b>	: beautiful
<b>Food</b>	: nuts, insects
<b>Species &amp; Groups</b>	: parrot
<b>Impact of man</b>	: deforestation
<b>Conservation</b>	: sanctuary

**TRY THIS :** Do a Semantic Map of the word 'nature'.



ENGLISH

Now, let's do a map summarizing the chapter.



Write a brief summary of the chapter using the map given above:

### Semantic Field:

A set of words related in meaning are said to belong to the same semantic field.

Eg. : cricket (a) fielder (b) bowler (c) stumps

Write four words that belong to the same semantic field for the words given below:

1. space (a)\_\_\_\_\_ (b)\_\_\_\_\_ (c)\_\_\_\_\_ (d)\_\_\_\_\_

2. business (a)\_\_\_\_\_ (b)\_\_\_\_\_ (c)\_\_\_\_\_ (d)\_\_\_\_\_

3. technology (a)\_\_\_\_\_ (b)\_\_\_\_\_ (c)\_\_\_\_\_ (d)\_\_\_\_\_

4. occupation (a)\_\_\_\_\_ (b)\_\_\_\_\_ (c)\_\_\_\_\_ (d)\_\_\_\_\_

5. factory (a)\_\_\_\_\_ (b)\_\_\_\_\_ (c)\_\_\_\_\_ (d)\_\_\_\_\_

### Writing an essay on a given topic:

Essays generally have three parts – introduction, the body (information/ argument/ reflection/narration/ description) and the conclusion.

- (i) Give an interesting introduction. It should state clearly what one is going to write.
- (ii) Organize the matter (main theme) in 2-3 paragraphs in such a way that one paragraph leads smoothly to the next.
- (iii) Give an effective conclusion.

Here is a short essay about **PROJECT TIGER**. Study how it is organized into paragraphs, each conveying a specific issue.

### PROJECT TIGER

#### Introduction of the Essay

The tiger is a magnificent and ferocious animal which inspires fear and awe in us. It is our national symbol. But our forests are devoid of the roar of tigers now. Once there were 40,000 tigers in India. Do you know how many tigers we have in our country now? Why do you think that the number has decreased alarmingly in the past few years?

## Body of the Essay

### Importance:

The tiger is a symbol of wilderness and the well-being of the ecosystem. By conserving and saving tigers, the entire ecosystem is conserved.



### Origin of Project Tiger :

In 1947, there were about 15,000 tigers in India. But due to continuous hunting and various other reasons, the population of Indian tigers came down to just 1827 in 1972. As the Indian tiger was in danger of becoming extinct, in 1973 the Government set up the Project Tiger.

### Sanctuaries & their benefits:

Under this, some of the major national parks including Corbett, Kaziranga, Mudumalai and Bandipur came under the Government's control. A ban on killing tigers was also imposed and whoever violated this was subjected to severe penalties and imprisonment. This saw a dramatic increase in the tiger population which stood at 3,642 in 2002.

## Conclusion of the Essay

Thanks to the Project Tiger, our national animal has been saved from extinction. So let us pledge to support 'Project Tiger'.

### ACTIVITIES :

Now attempt an essay on the following topic using the format that you have just learnt;

### Do you know?

According to the Chinese calendar, the year 2010 is the year of Golden Tiger which is between Feb 14, 2010 and Feb 2, 2011.

### “Conservation of Forests”

### WRITING SKILLS :

You have learnt to write personal / friendly letters in standard VII. Let us learn to write a formal letter here. Formal letters are written for official or commercial purposes. Formal letters must be brief and formal in tone. The different parts of the letter have been labelled for you.

**Study the letter to the Director of Vandalur Zoological Park asking him to take charge of an abandoned tiger cub.**

From  
Ms. Rumana,  
No.6, River View Colony,  
Maramalai Nagar,  
Chennai.

25 February, 2011.

Heading  
(writer's name  
and address)

Date

To  
The Director,  
Vandalur Zoological Park,  
Chennai.

Address of the  
receiver

Dear Sir,

Body or content  
of the letter

Salutation

I live in an area which is near a small forest. A couple of days ago, on my way home from school, I found a tiger cub among the bushes. Though I was scared, I took him home and fed him. I made a small cage with bamboo sticks and have kept him there safely. He is very restless. I think he is missing his mother and his natural home.

I wish you would come and take charge of the tiger cub as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Yours faithfully,  
Rumana

Subscription

Superscription

Address on the Envelope :  
To  
The Director,  
Vandalur Zoological Park,  
Chennai.



**Complete the reply by the Director of Vandalur Zoological Park.**

From

The Director,  
Vandalur Zoological Park,  
Chennai.

28 February, 2011

To

Ms. Rumana,  
No.6, River View Colony,  
Chennai.

Dear Rumana,

We \_\_\_\_\_ your letter. I would like \_\_\_\_\_ for  
your \_\_\_\_\_. It is a good \_\_\_\_\_. Keep it up. We assure you that

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address on the Envelope

To

**TRY THIS :**

Write a letter to the Commissioner of your area complaining about the insanitary conditions there.

**Extension Activities****1. READ AND ENJOY :**

Read this short poem about hunting.

*Hunt for knowledge  
Hunt for adventure  
But hunt not the tiger  
Or any other creature!*

**2. PROJECT:**

**Slogan on saving tigers:**

**Save the tigers  
before they are  
silenced forever.**

Write your own slogans or couplets (two lined poems like Thirukural) on any one of the following topics.

- Save the tigers
- Save the forests
- Global warming

**Eg:**

Don't ask for a carry bag but carry a cloth bag.

## GRAMMAR - LET US LEARN : Direct and Indirect speech

### Direct Speech

Baskar : Hello, Sara, where are you going tomorrow?  
Sara : Hello, Baskar! I am going to meet my grandmother tomorrow.

### Indirect Speech

What did Sara say?

Sara said that she was going to see her grandmother the next day.

We often have to inform a person of what some one has said to another. In order to do this we use,

**Direct (or) Quoted speech** or

**Indirect (or) Reported speech**

### Direct speech / Quoted speech

Saying exactly what someone has said is called Direct Speech. Here what a person says appears within quotation marks (“ ”) and should contain the exact words.

**Eg.** Naveen said, “I am very busy”.

### Indirect speech / Reported speech

When we hear a person speak and convey it to a third person, we use Indirect Speech or Reported Speech.

**Eg.** Naveen said that he was very busy.

In Reported Speech, the **TENSE** usually changes. This is because when we use Reported Speech, we are usually talking about a time in the past (because the person who spoke originally spoke in the past). The **verbs** therefore usually have to be in the past tense too.

DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
"I am going to the cinema", he said.	He said that he was going to the cinema.

### TENSE CHANGE :

Present Tense forms of the verbs in the Direct Speech change into their immediate past forms in the Reported speech.

DIRECT SPEECH	YOUR EXAMPLE	INDIRECT SPEECH	YOUR EXAMPLE
<b>Simple Present Tense</b> Hari said, "I <b>want</b> to buy a new bicycle."		<b>Simple Past Tense</b> Hari said that he <b>wanted</b> to buy a new bicycle.	
<b>Present Continuous Tense</b> The clerk said, "My Manager <b>is writing</b> letters".		<b>Past Continuous Tense</b> The clerk said that his Manager <b>was writing</b> letters.	
<b>Present Perfect Tense</b> Shama said, "I <b>have bought</b> a cycle".		<b>Past Perfect Tense</b> Shama said that she <b>had bought</b> a cycle.	
<b>Simple Past Tense</b> Murali said, "Sarath <b>came</b> at night".		<b>Past Perfect Tense</b> Murali said that Sarath <b>had come</b> at night.	

### EXCEPTION :

(a) If the Direct Speech states a universal truth or a habitual fact, then the tense does not change.

**Eg.**

Direct Speech	:	He said, "The earth moves round the sun."
Indirect Speech	:	He said that the earth moves round the sun.
Direct Speech	:	The teacher said "Honesty is the best policy".
Indirect Speech	:	The teacher said that honesty is the best policy.

Your example: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) If the Reporting verb is in the present tense, the verb pattern remains unchanged in the Reported form. (Reporting verbs are words which come before the inverted commas)

**Eg.**

**Direct Speech** : He says, "I am happy"

**Indirect Speech** : He says that he is happy.

Your example: \_\_\_\_\_

### Changes in Pronouns:

Pronouns in the first person in the Direct Speech are changed to third person pronouns in the reported speech.

**Direct Speech** : She said, "I have done my homework."

**Indirect Speech** : She said that she had done her homework.

Your example: \_\_\_\_\_

Modal verb forms also change:

DIRECT SPEECH	INDIRECT SPEECH
may / can	might / could
shall / will	should / would

**Eg.**

Direct Speech : The teacher said , "Ashok will certainly pass"

Indirect Speech : The teacher said that Ashok would certainly pass.

Direct Speech : My brother said, "I may go to Mumbai."

Indirect Speech : My brother said that he might go to Mumbai.

Your example: \_\_\_\_\_

Your example: \_\_\_\_\_