

2-THE HOLY GANGA



The Ganga is our National River. It is one of the world heritages. The Ganga is the lifeline of India and one of the most important rivers of our country. It is considered sacred and worshipped as Goddess Ganga. The Ganga begins its journey from Gomukh. Gomukh is a cave made of ice in the Himalayas. The ice melts, and the water flows out as a tiny stream. As the Ganga flows down the mountains more and more little streams join her. Thus, the Ganga becomes bigger and bigger. It flows down the mountains very fast. It becomes wider and wider as it reaches the plains.

It reaches the plains at Haridwar. In the plains it flows through many villages and towns of India. On both the sides of the River Ganga there are green fields.

Many big rivers join the Ganga in the plains. The Yamuna and the Saraswati meet the Ganga at Allahabad. This meeting place of the three rivers is called Triveni Sangam. This place is very holy. It is

called Teerth Raj Prayag. Kumbh Mela at Prayag has gained international fame as the world's largest religious gathering of people. Many Hindus believe that taking a holy dip in the Ganga can purify a person's soul of all past sins. After passing through many big cities, the Ganga flows towards the sea. As it reaches closer to the sea, its speed becomes slower and slower and finally it merges into the sea. The Ganga's long journey from high up in the mountains ends at the Bay of Bengal. This place where the Ganga joins the sea is called the 'Ganga Sagar'.

Ganga's purity is our responsibility

New Words

Word Pronunciation Meaning

lifeline - लाइफलाइन - जीवन रेखा

sacred - सेक्रेड - पवित्र

worshipped - वरशिप्पेद - पूजा की

cave - केव - गुफा

melt - मेल्ट - पिघलना

international - इन्टरनेशनल - अन्तराष्ट्रीय

fame - फेम - प्रसिद्ध

journey - जअरनि - यात्रा

Comprehension Questions

1. Answer the following questions :

- a. Which is the "National River" of India?
- b. Where does the Ganga begin its journey from?
- c. Where do the Yamuna and the Saraswati join it?
- d. Where does the Ganga end its long journey?
- e. Why is Ganga's purity our responsibility?

2. Choose the right option :

- a. Gomukh is the place where-

(i) the Ganga begins its journey (ii) the river ends (iii) the mountains meet

- b. The Ganga ends at -

(i) Prayag (ii) Haridwar (iii) the Bay of Bengal

- c. Triveni Sangam is the meeting place of the-

(i) three mountains (ii) three cities (iii) three rivers

- d. The place where the Ganga joins the sea is -

(i) the Yamuna Sagar (ii) the Ganga Sagar (iii) the Saraswati Sagar

Word Power

1. Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box :

lifeline journey holy believe cultures

- a. ___ in yourself.
- b. Dal Lake is the ___ of Kashmir.
- c. Bible is the ___ book of Christians.
- d. Children should respect different _
- e. I always enjoy a ___ by train.

2. Make the correct words from the jumbled letters and use capital letters where necessary :

- a. ggana
- b. uhokmg
- c. rrdiahwa
- d. etirvin
- e. masgna

Language Practice

Adjectives-

Adjectives are words that are used to qualify or describe nouns and pronouns. Every adjective has three degrees. They are positive, comparative and superlative degrees. Add 'er' to an adjective to make the comparative degree. Add 'est' to an adjective to make the superlative degree.

1. Write each adjective in its comparative and superlative forms :

Positive Comparative Superlative

- | | | |
|---------|--------|---------|
| a. slow | slower | slowest |
| b. wide | _____ | _____ |
| c. fast | _____ | _____ |
| d. near | _____ | _____ |
| e. big | _____ | _____ |

2. Write a few sentences under the following head. First discuss it with your teacher.

3. Read the following sentences carefully:

- a. I have a book.
- b. The table has four legs.
- c. The tiger has black stripes.
- d. Butterflies have coloured wings.

Now, fill have/has wherever necessary:

- a. A crocodile ___ four legs.
- b. I ___ no brother.
- c. My friend ___ two brothers.
- d. Do you ___ a car ?
- e. Hari ___ a scooter.

Let's Know More

» Kumbh Mela, in Hindu religion, is a religious festival that is celebrated four times at four different places over the course of twelve years. The places where it is held are-

- Allahabad at Triveni Sangam
- Haridwar on the bank of the River Ganga
- Nasik on the bank of the River Godavari
- Ujjain on the bank of the River Kshipra



Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj

The following steps can be taken to prevent pollution in the Ganga :

- » Do not take bath and wash clothes in the river.
- » Do not throw polythene bags and other garbage into it.
- » Do not bathe animals in the river.
- » Do not throw harmful industrial wastes and chemicals into it.
- » Organize awareness programmes on the importance of clean Ganga with local people.
- » Encourage people to immerse ashes of dead bodies at the specific place provided for that purpose.

Activity

- » The teacher explains to the children the importance of 'Van-Mahotsava'. Each student is asked to bring one sapling that is to be planted in the school.