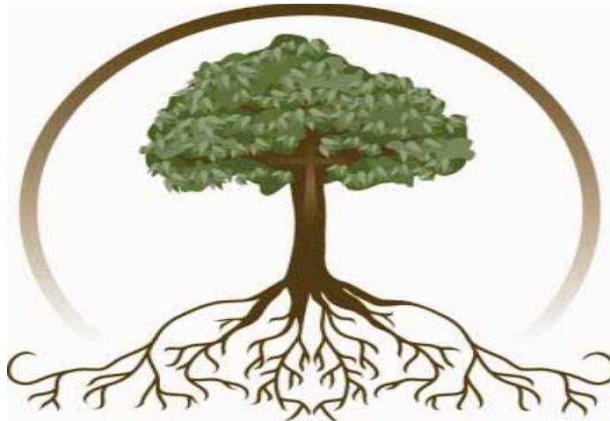


# Unit 12

## Roots



### OBJECTIVES

After the completion of this unit, you should be able to –

- narrate incidents and events in a logical sequence.
- present own ideas and views.
- give and ask for information.

### OVERVIEW

**Lesson 1:** My Roots-1

**Lesson 2:** My Roots-2

**Lesson 3:** The Return of the Native

**Lesson 4:** Revision and Test

### ANSWER KEY

## Lesson 1 : My Roots-1

A.



Look at the pictures and the caption below. How do you feel to see this photo? Why do you think people take such risks to go home to celebrate their Eid?



B.



Read the following passage.

Eid is the main religious festival of the Muslims in Bangladesh. Eid means happiness. Everyone wants to share this happiness with their near and dear ones. So most of the people, who are living outside their home for different reasons have a strong desire to get back home during the Eid vacations. As a result, there is a mad rush in the buses, trains, or launches for the home-bound people. This often causes transport accidents that take away many lives. However, it cannot stop people's desire to meet their family, in-laws, or friends. What makes people rush for their homes in spite of serious hazards? This is the pull of the roots. Do human beings have roots like the trees? The answer is 'yes' but unlike the roots of the trees they are invisible, they lie in our minds. It's these roots that make a bond between us and family members, in-laws, friends, neighbours or even between us and the land where we were born and grew up. In that sense our

families, land of birth, relatives, our culture, traditions, or surroundings are our roots. And wherever we stay, we have a continuous pull of our roots. It's our roots that develop our identity making us what we are. When we lose that bond, we become rootless. The human beings who do not have any root or contexts do not have their own identity. Such persons are devoid of values, humanity, and social responsibilities. They don't know where they are from, and/or where they are heading towards. This often makes them feel empty and lost.



**C. Read and note.**

Words	Meanings
roots	a person's original home, environment, and culture
festival	a day or time of religious or other celebration
desire	a longing, or craving
rush	movement with speed, or violence
transport	a system of public travel
in-laws	relatives by marriage
hazards	dangers
invisible	not perceptible by the eye
surroundings	environment
identity	character as to who a person or what a thing is
continuous	without pause
responsibilities	duties
bond	strong connection
humanity	kindness
values	beliefs



**D. Answer the questions.**

**1. Question:** Who lacks his/her own identity?

**Answer:** .....

**2. Question:** What make a bond between us and family members?

**Answer:** .....

**3. Question:** What is meant by in-laws?

**Answer:** .....

**4. Question:** What does everybody want to share with their relatives?

**Answer:** .....

**5. Question:** What often causes transport accidents?

**Answer:** .....



**E. Read the text in the speech bubbles below.**

1. Eid is the main religious festival of the Muslims in Bangladesh.

2. Eid means happiness.

3. In that sense our families, land of birth, relatives, our culture, traditions, or surroundings are our roots.

4. It's our root that develops our identity making what we are.

**Now, make questions for the text in the speech bubbles above. No. 1 is done for you.**

**1. Question:** What is the main religious festival of the Muslims in Bangladesh?

**2. Question:** .....

**3. Question:** .....

**4. Question:** .....

**F. Fill in the grid with appropriate information from the text above.**

That makes our roots		The problems of a rootless person	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	

## Lesson 2 : My Roots -2



**A. Read the following remarks and find out who is like you.**

I simply just can't bear the people who don't have any respect for their roots.

– Haridas Soren

We have a moderately big house in a town but we frequently go to our village home as well. I always feel so homely when I visit my village home and stay with my near ones.

– Bidisha Yasmin

I live in a small apartment with my mom, dad, and my little sister. Most of our in-laws live in a village. We seldom go over there as I don't like village life.

– Ifti Mahmud

Some people are so eager to leave their own home, friends, and everything behind only to be a part of the city life. They are not for me.

– Antara Gomes

To be frank, I don't get used to visiting my in-laws at the village.

– Jhilik Ahsan

I live in a city but I never forget my parents are from a tiny beautiful village. I know I have my roots there and I'm so proud of that.

– Anupom Chakma

I just can't stand the people who are grown up in the village but forgets it once they are out from there.

– Debashish Biswash

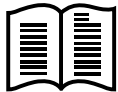


**B. Now write your own statement about your roots.**

.....  
 .....  
 .....  
 .....

**C. Read the above statements of different people again and make two lists – one stating their likes and the other stating their dislikes.**

The likes of the people	The dislikes of the people



**D. Read the following text.**

Mainul Islam is a qualified farmer in Naogaon. Mr. Islam was very brilliant as a student. He took his higher education from Bangladesh Agricultural University in Mymensingh. After completing his higher education Mainul came back home and started advanced farming. He has two brothers who are graduates in different areas. The specialty of the Islam family is that they all are living in their village, and all have fame in their own fields. His younger brother, who is a Rajshahi University graduate, is a science teacher in a local school. His youngest brother is a social science graduate and he too would like to start a local NGO to work for this area. When asked “What makes you decide to stay here in this village?”, Mr. Islam smiled. He said, “Look, it’s true that we could leave this village for a city life. I could be an officer or my brother could be a bureaucrat. But it didn’t attract us. We are sons of this soil. Yes, we have education but does education prepare a person only to be an officer? Don’t we have any obligation to the soil that has made us what we are?” He also added that every educated individual shouldn’t be a job seeker. He continued that since his discipline was Agriculture, after his education he took the occupation of a farmer. In response to the question whether they have any frustrations to live in a village, he confirmed that they were very pleased with their life. He said, “I work in my own farm, stay with my family members, pass time with my old friends, and sleep at my own home. All these count a lot.”

Mr. Islam is right. Many people go to cities and forget or loosen their roots knowingly or unknowingly. Mr. Islam and his brothers are great - they never forgot their roots. They not only stuck to their own roots, they have been torch bearers for others to be respectful of their own roots.



**E. If you are given a chance to meet Mr. Islam, what questions will you ask him?**

**Make both wh-questions and yes/no questions. No. 1 and 2 are done for you.**

1. **Question:** Which district are you from, Mr. Islam?
2. **Question:** Do you like your village?
3. **Question:** .....
4. **Question:** .....
5. **Question:** .....
6. **Question:** .....
7. **Question:** .....
8. **Question:** .....
9. **Question:** .....

**F. Read the statements in columns A and B. Now, match them to make complete sentences.**

Column A	Column B
1. Mr. Islam	a. if anyone has education she/he has to have multi-faced opportunities.
2. The specialty of Islam brothers is	b. in obligation to the soil that has made us
3. Mr. Islam believes that	c. graduated from Bangladesh Agriculture University.
4. Mr. Islam also believes	d. is the duty toward roots.
5. Staying in the roots	e. that city life couldn't attract them.

### Lesson 3 : The Return of the Native

**A. Look at the portrait of Michael Madhusudan Dutt, and think who he is and why he is famous.**



**B. Read the following text.**

Michael Madhusudan Dutt was a popular 19<sup>th</sup> century Bengali poet and dramatist. He was born in Sagordari on the bank of the Kopotaksho River in Jessore district.

From his early age, Dutt aspired to be an Englishman in form and manner. Though he was born in an aristocratic Hindu family, he took Christianity as a young man, much to the ire of his family, and adopted the first name Michael. In his childhood, he was recognized by his teachers as a precious child with a gift of literary talents. His early exposure to English education and European literature at home and his college inspired him to imitate the English in taste, manners and intellect.

Since his adolescence, he started believing that he was born on the wrong side of the planet, and that his society was unable to appreciate his intellect. He also believed that the West would be more receptive to his creative genius. Michael was an ardent follower of the famous English poet Lord Byron. So, after adopting Christianity, he went to Europe and started composing poetry and drama almost entirely in English. His works proved his higher level of intellectual ability. However, he failed to gain the right appreciation. With his utter frustration, he saw that he was not regarded as a native writer of English literature. Out of his frustration, he composed a sonnet in Bengali “Kopotaksha Nad”, which earned him huge reputation in Bengal. Gradually, he realized that his true identity lay here in this Bengal, and he was a sojourner in



Europe. Afterwards, he regretted his attraction for England and the Occident. He came back to Bengal and devoted himself to Bengali literature from this period. He is the poet to write the first Bengali epic *Meghand Badh Kabya*. (Source: Wikipedia)



**C. Answer the questions.**

1. **Question:** Who is Michael Madhusudan Dutt?

**Answer:** .....

2. **Question:** What is the title of the first Bengali epic?

**Answer:** .....

3. **Question:** Where is the Kopotaksho River?

**Answer:** .....

4. **Question:** What earned Michael huge reputation in Bengal?

**Answer:** .....

5. **Question:** Who is Lord Byron?

**Answer:** .....

**D. Gain some more information on Michael. Make questions for those statements. The first one (a) is done for you.**

a. What did Michael introduce in Bengali literature?

Michael introduced amitrakshar chhanda (blank verse) in Bengali literature.

b. ....

He passed most of his European days in Versailles, France.

c. ....

His days in Europe were terrible.

d. ....

It was unbearable to him as he had to suffer extreme poverty.

e. ....

It was Iswar Chandra Bidyasagar who helped him to clear off his loans and return to India.

f. ....

Dutt married twice. While living in Madras, he married Rebecca Mactavys, of English descent.

g. ....

Later, he married Henrietta Sophia White, who was also ethnic English.

h. ....

His second marriage lasted until the end of his life.

i. ....

Michael and Sophia had a son Napoleon and daughter Sharmistha.

j. ....

Dutt died in Calcutta General Hospital on 27 June 1873, three days after the death of Henrietta.

**E. Write notes about Michael under the following headings. One example is given for you.**

Michael as a man	Michael as a poet	Attitude to his roots
	popular 19 <sup>th</sup> century Bengali poet and dramatist	

**Revision and Test**

**F. Write the meanings of the words in the following table.**

Words	Meanings
festival	
Transport	
roots	
Hazard	
Relatives	
Brilliant	
Occupation	
frustration	
Adolescence	
Afterwards	

**G. Complete the following sentences. The first one is completed for you.**

1. Michael Madhusudan Dutt is a popular Bengali poet and dramatist.
2. Sagordari is in.....
3. *Meghand Badh Kabya* is the.....
4. Michael received English education at.....
5. After becoming a Christian, Michael went to.....
6. Michael wrote a sonnet titled.....
7. Iswar Chandra Bidyasagar helped.....

**H. Fill in the blanks in the following passage by inserting suitable words.**

A series of festivals varying from race to (a) — are observed in Bangladesh. Some of (b) — Muslim rites are Eid e-Miladunnabi, Eid ul-Fitr, Eid ul-Adha, Muharram and the like. The Hindus (c) — Durga Puja, Saraswati Puja, Kali Puja, and many other pujas. Christmas, popularly called *Baradin* in Bangla, is observed (d) — the Christians. There are also some common festivities which (e) — observed countrywide by people irrespective of races.

**I. Read the statements in columns A and B. Now, match them to make complete sentences.**

Column A	Column B
1. Eid means	a. a bond between us and family members.
2. Transport accidents take	b. my parents.
3. Our roots make	c. the first Bengali epic.
4. I live in a city but I never forget	d. happiness.
5. Michael is the poet to write	e. away many lives.

**Lesson-4 : Revision Test**

**A.**

*Write the meanings of the words in the following table.*

Words	Meanings
festival	
Transport	
roots	
Hazard	
Relatives	
Brilliant	
Occupation	
frustration	
Adolescence	
Afterwards	

**B.**

*Complete the following sentences. The first one is completed for you.*

1. Michael Madhusudan Dutt is a popular Bengali poet and dramatist.
2. Sagordari is in.....
3. *Meghand Badh Kabya* is the.....
4. Michael received English education at.....
5. After becoming a Christian, Michael went to.....
6. Michael wrote a sonnet titled.....
7. Iswar Chandra Bidyasagar helped.....

**C.**

*Fill in the blanks in the following passage by inserting suitable words.*

A series of festivals varying from race to (a) — are observed in Bangladesh. Some of (b) — Muslim rites are Eid e-Miladunnabi, Eid ul-Fitr, Eid ul-Adha, Muharram and the like. The Hindus (c) — Durga Puja, Saraswati Puja, Kali Puja, and many other pujas. Christmas, popularly called *Baradin* in Bangla, is observed (d) — the Christians. There are also some common festivities which (e) — observed countrywide by people irrespective of races.

**D. Read the statements in columns A and B. Now, match them to make complete sentences.**

Column A	Column B
1. Eid means	a. a bond between us and family members.
2. Transport accidents take	b. my parents.
3. Our roots make	c. the first Bengali epic.
4. I live in a city but I never forget	d. happiness.
5. Michael is the poet to write	e. away many lives.

**Key Answer Key :**

**Lesson-1**

**D.**

1. A rootless person lacks his/her own identity.
2. It is our roots that make a bond between us and family members.
3. In-laws mean the relatives by marriage.
4. Everyone wants to share the happiness of Eid with their relatives.
5. A mad rush in the buses, trains, or launches for the home-bound people often causes transport accidents.

**E.**

2. What does Eid mean?
3. What are our roots?
4. What develops our identity making what we are?

**F.**

That makes our roots		The problems of a rootless person	
1	our families	1	devoid of a bond
2	our land of birth	2	devoid of identity
3	our relatives	3	devoid of values

4	our traditions and culture	4	devoid of humanity
5	our surroundings	5	devoid of social responsibilities

**Lesson 2**

**C.**

<b>The likes of the people</b>	<b>The dislikes of the people</b>
We have a moderately big house in a town but we frequently go to our village home as well. I always feel so homely when I visit my village home and stay with my near ones.	I simply just can't bear the people who don't have any respect for their roots.
I live in a city but I never forget my parents are from a tiny beautiful village. I know I have my roots there and I'm so proud of that.	I live in a small apartment with my mom, dad, and my little sister. Most of our in-laws live in a village. We seldom go over there as I don't like village life.
	Some people are so eager to leave their own home, friends, and everything behind only to be a part of the city life. They are not for me.
	To be frank, I don't get used to visiting my in-laws at the village.
	I just can't stand the people who are grown up in the village but forgets it once they are out from there.

**E.**

3. Why do you like your village?
4. Where do you stay?
5. Don't you like a city?
6. Why do you live in your village?
7. What do you do in your village?
8. Do you like the village people?
9. How do you help the village people?

**F.**

1. Mr. Islam graduated from Bangladesh Agriculture University.
2. The specialty of Islam brothers is that city life couldn't attract them.
3. Mr. Islam believes that if anyone has education she/he has to have multi-faced opportunities.
4. Mr. Islam also believes in obligation to the soil that has made us.
5. Staying in the roots is the duty toward roots.

**Lesson-3****C.**

1. Michael Madhusudan Dutt is a Bengali poet and dramatist.
2. The title of the first Bengali epic is *Meghnad Badh Kabya*.
3. The Kopotaksho River is in Sagordari, the birthplace of Michael Madhusudan Dutt.
4. Michael Madhusudan Dutt's sonnet in Bengali "Kopotaksha Nad" earned huge reputation in Bengal.
5. Lord Byron is a famous English poet.

**D.**

- b. Where did he pass most of his European days?
- c. How were his days in Europe?
- d. What was unbearable to him?
- e. Who helped him to clear off his loans and return to India?
- f. How many times did Dutt marry? Whom did he marry while living in Madras?
- g. Whom did he marry later?
- h. How long did his second marriage last?
- i. Who were Napoleon and Sharmistha?
- j. Where and when did Dutt die?

**E.**

<b>Michael as a man</b>	<b>Michael as a poet</b>	<b>Attitude to his roots</b>
As a man, Michael was aristocratic and talented.	popular 19 <sup>th</sup> century Bengali poet and dramatist	Michael was indifferent to his roots, and imitated English in taste, manners and intellect.

**Lesson-4****A.**

<b>Words</b>	<b>Meanings</b>
festival	a day or time of religious or other celebration
transport	a means of transporting or conveying, as a truck or bus
roots	sources or origins
hazard	danger, risk
relatives	persons connected with another or others by blood or marriage
brilliant	distinguished, talented
occupation	a person's usual or principal work or business
frustration	a feeling of dissatisfaction
adolescence	the transitional period between puberty and adulthood
afterwards	later, subsequently

**B.**

2. Sagordari is in Jessore district.
3. *Meghnad Badh Kabya* is the first Bengali epic.
4. Michael received English education at home.
5. After becoming a Christian, Michael went to Europe.
6. Michael wrote a sonnet titled "Kopotaksha Nad".
7. Iswar Chandra Bidyasagar helped Michael Madhusudan Dutt to clear off his loans and return to India.

**C.**

A series of festivals varying from race to (a) race are observed in Bangladesh. Some of (b) the Muslim rites are Eid e-Miladunnabi, Eid ul-Fitr, Eid ul-Adha, Muharram and the like. The Hindus (c) observe Durga Puja, Saraswati Puja, Kali Puja, and many other pujas. Christmas, popularly called *Baradin* in Bangla, is observed (d) by the Christians. There are also some common festivities which (e) are observed countrywide by people irrespective of races.

**D.**

1. Eid means happiness.
2. Transport accidents take away many lives.
3. Our roots make a bond between us and family members.
4. I live in a city but I never forget my parents.
5. Michael is the poet to write the first Bengali epic.