

Unit 6

Our neighbours

Objectives

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

- ◆ read, comprehend and summarise texts
- ◆ ask and answer questions
- ◆ learn about travelling
- ◆ write letters to friends/others describing interesting places.

Overview

Lesson 1 : Nepal, the land of Everest.

Lesson 2 : SriLanka : The pearl of the Indian Ocean.

Lesson 3 : The Maldives.

Lesson 4 : India: Unity within diversity.

Lesson 5 : Bhutan : The land of happiness.

Answer Key

Lesson 1 : Nepal, the land of Everest

Look at the Picture and describe it to your friend.



Houses beside the Mount Everest in Nepal



A. Read the following passage on Nepal

Nepal is known as the land of Everest. It is one of the most charming countries in Asia. It is the only Hindu Kingdom in the world. Nepal is a small land of sublime beauty. It has some of the world's best and very important temples. It is rich in scenic beauty and cultural treasures.

Nepal lies between India and the Tibetan part of China. It has an area of 147181 square kilometers. Southern Nepal the tropical lowland known as the Tarai Plain has hot summers and warm winters. Here the temperatures reach up to 40⁰c in April and May and the monsoon causes rain from June to September. The central hill-lands including the Kathmandu and Pokhara valleys have a temperate climate and the influence of the monsoon. The main part of the Himlayan range is to the North of Nepal. This part of Nepal has some of the highest peaks of the world including Everest. About 29000000 people live in Nepal. Most of the people live in village. There are dozens of ethnic groups and castes. Out of 103 castes and ethnic group Chetri and Bahun are the largest groups. Others are Magar, Tharu and Tamang, Newar, Muslim, Gurung and Damai. About 48 percent people speak Nepali. Maithali, Bhojpuri, Tharu and Tamang

are also spoken. Nepal is the holy land of Lord Pashupatinath and Gautam Buddha. So the Hindus and Buddhists are living together in harmony for centuries. Sometimes they pray together in the same temple. The Temple of Pashupatinath is the most sacred Hindu Shrine of the country.

The Kathmandu Valley is the rich cultural heritage centre of Nepal. The three ancient cities are the Valley Patan, Kathmandu and Bhaktapur. These cities are famous for religious monuments in the world. The seven monument zones situated within the valley have been declared as the World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.

Daisan or Dusherra is the most important and biggest animal sacrifice of the year. The Holi and Chaitra Daisan, Haribodhini Ekadashi, Maha Sivaratri, the Krishna Jayanti, Mani Rimd, Buddha Jayanti, Losar are some of the festivals of the Hindus and the Buddhists.



B Read and note.

Kingdom (n)	:	রাজত্ব
population(n)	:	জনসংখ্যা
region (n)	:	অঞ্চল
beautiful (adj)	:	সুন্দর
independent (adj)	:	স্বাধীন
ancient	:	প্রাচীন
century	:	শতাব্দী



C. Read the following sentences to choose the correct answer from the alternatives.

1. Temperate climate means-----
 - (a) a weather condition of high temperature
 - (b) a moderate climate
 - (c) a climate that is uncountable to live in.
 - (d) a climate with high rainfall.
2. Ethnic groups means-----
 - (a) groups based on their religions faiths.
 - (b) groups of people living in the hills tracts.
 - (c) groups having distinct racial and cultural features.
 - (d) groups who believe in Buddhism.

3. The Kathmandu Valley is rich in-----
- cultural heritage
 - business and commerce
 - tourists spot
 - trade and commerce
4. Tropical lowland bearing the meaning is -----
- an area of land having humid climate
 - a land situated on the hill
 - a low-land close to river
 - a land that lies at the foot of a hill.
5. The main part of the Himalayan is to the-----
- North of Nepal
 - South of Nepal
 - North East of Nepal
 - West of Nepal

D. Answer the following questions first orally and then in writing.

- How many ethnic groups are there in Nepal?
- What do you know about the weather of Nepal?
- What are the festivals celebrated in Nepal?
- Write the name of three ancient cities of Nepal.
- Where is Nepal located?

E. Read the text A again and summarise it in no more than 90 to 100 words.

F. Look at the advertisement of a package tour to Nepal.

Dhaka-Kathmandu-Pokhara-Dhaka Package Tour

Price : BDT 29,999/-

Duration : 3 nights and 4 days.

Package includes :

- ◆ Return Air Ticket with Bangladesh airport tax and Kathmandu departure tax.
- ◆ 2 nights accommodation in Kathmandu.
- ◆ 1 night accommodation in Pokhara.
- ◆ Buffet : Daily Breakfast and Lunch.
- ◆ Both way Airport transfers in Kathmandu.
- ◆ Kathmandu-Pokhara-Kathmandu by A/C Bus.
- ◆ Half day sightseeing in Kathmandu Valley.

Now, discuss the following statements as true/false. If false, write the correct information.

- (a) The package includes the cost of return ticket.
- (b) The tourists will be provided with breakfast, lunch and dinner.
- (c) The tourists do not have to pay extra for a half-day sightseeing in Pokhara.
- (d) The tour operators will bear all visa related costs.
- (e) The tour package was for 4 days and 3 nights.

G. Suppose you have chosen the package tour shown in F to visit Kathmandu and Pokhara. Now, write a letter to your friend highlighting the main attractions offered by the package.

Lesson 2

Sri Lanka: the pearl of the Indian Ocean

A. Look at the following map and answer the questions first orally then in writing



Map of Sri Lanka

- (a) Which country is shown in the map?
- (b) Why is it called the pearl of the Indian Ocean?



B. Read the text carefully

Sri Lanka is located in the Indian Ocean, just to the south-eastern coast of India. Its shape is like a teardrop. It has many nicknames: Serendip, Ceylon, Teardrop of India, pearl of the Indian Ocean etc. These names reveal the richness and beauty of Sri Lanka. Many travellers both ancient and modern have been attracted by the beauty of this island. The total land of this island is about 65000 square kilometers. It has more than 1340 kilometres of coastline. It has a population of about 20 million. It is a country of multi-religions, races and languages. Sinhales, Sri Lankan Tamils, Indian Tamils and Muslims are the four major ethnic groups. The ancient history of Sri Lanka is depicted in the Hindu epic the Ramayan.

Sri Lanka's economy is dependent on agriculture. Crops like tea, rubber and coconuts are exported. It is the largest tea exporter country of the world. The country also produces spices such as cinnamon, cardamom, peppers, cloves and nutmeg. Cinnamon first originated in Sri Lanka and was introduced later to the world by the Arab merchants.

Sri Lanka's archaeological treasures reflect the civilizations of the past that covered the golden age of Greece, the Roman Empire, Mayan citadels and Napoleonic greatness. The Sri Lankan culture has been enriched by the recent influences of western colonizers and Eastern traders. It is blessed with scenic natural beauty, sandy beaches, azure seas, green hills cascading waterfalls, abundant wildlife and a variety of flowers and fruits. The country abounds with coconuts groves, spice gardens, tea estates and many other gardens and woods. Tourists and travellers from all over the world can pass enjoyable days in Sri Lanka by swimming, fishing or sailing.



C. Read and note.

dependent	: subordinate
ethnic	: of human race.
export (v)	: send goods abroad.
merchants	: businessman
enrich (v)	: make rich
influence (n)	: power
abundant	: plentiful

D. From your reading the text B fill in the blanks with suitable words. Use one word only in each blank.

Sri Lanka is a rich and (a)_____ country. It is (b)_____ the pearl of the Indian Ocean. Its total land area (c)_____ about 65000 square kilometres. It (d)_____ a population of about 20 million. Sri Lanka's economy is (e)_____ on agriculture. It is a country of natural beauty.

- E. Match the parts of sentences given in column 'A' and column 'B' to write five complete sentences. There are more parts of sentences in column 'B' than required.**

Column A	Column B
(a) Sri Lanka has many	(i) tea exporter country of the world.
(b) There are	(ii) multi-religious, races and languages.
(c) It is the largest	(iii) a glorious day in Sri Lanka.
(d) It is a country of	(iv) four major ethnic groups.
(e) Sri Lanka is located	(v) blessed with natural beauty.
	(vi) in the Indian ocean.
	(vii) nick names.

- F. Write a paragraph on your visit in Sri Lanka. Use your own words and the information given in section B**

Lesson 3 : The Maldives

A. Read the questions below

1. Did you ever visit any island or see any island on TV?
2. Have you ever heard of a coral island? Is there any coral island in Bangladesh?
 1. What do you know about the Maldives?



B. Now read the text below and answer the questions that follow.

The Republic of Maldives is an island country in the Indian Ocean. It has 1199 islands that are clustered into 26 major atolls. An atoll is a ring-shaped coral reef. It is the eighth smallest country in the world and the smallest country in Asia. People have been living on the islands of the Maldives from 3000 years ago. People from Asia, Arabia, Europe and America came here for settlement.



Living hood in Maldives mainly depends on fishing

People from southern India and Sri Lanka were the earliest settlers of the Maldives in the 4th and 5th centuries BC. In the 12th century AD sailors from East Africa and Arab countries came to the Maldives. The original Buddhists, the Maldivians were converted to Sunni Islam in the mid 12th century. Maldives was ruled as an independent Islamic Sultanate from 1153 to 1968. The Maldives was a British colony from 1887 to 1965. Though the country gained independence from Britain in 1965, the sultanate ruled the country for another three years. With the abolition of Sultanate on November 11, 1968 the country took the present name.

The country is a famous tourists' spot for its enjoyable weather, natural beauties, luxurious holiday resorts and the peace loving people. In 2008 it has been ranked as the best country for its beach, rest and relaxation and the second best for its natural beauty. But this beautiful country is now under threat from rising sea levels due to global warming. Most of the country is just 1 - 5 metres above the sea level with a highest point of 2.3 metres! So, the government of the Maldives has begun to purchase land from nearby countries. The government of the Maldives held a cabinet meeting about five metre under water in a blue green lagoon on a small island for the first time in the world and signed a document calling on all nations to cut their carbon emissions.



C. Read and note.

Cluster (n)	:	bunch
atoll (n)	:	বলয়াকার প্রবাল-প্রাচীর
settlement (n)	:	arrangement

Settlers (n)	:	a colonist
Convert (v)	:	change from one religion to another
independent	:	free/not dependent on others.
enjoyable	:	satisfactory
relaxation (n)	:	the act of relaxing
threat (n)	:	indication of coming evil
purchase (v)	:	buy



D. Read the passage B and Answer these questions first orally and then in writing.

1. What is an atoll?
2. When was Islam introduced in the Maldives?
3. What makes the Maldives an ideal place for the tourists?
4. What dangers of climate change might affect the Maldives?
5. How can we reduce global warming?

E. Read the text B and write the following statements as true or false. If false, give the correct answer.

1. The Maldives is the seventh smallest country in the world.
2. The original Buddhists were converted to Sunni Islam in the mid 12th century.
3. It is known as the lowest land in the world.
4. We should not reduce global warming.

F. Read section B and then rearrange these jumbled sentences in correct order.

- a. The country was a British colony from 1887 to 1965.
- b. The original Maldivians were converted to Sunni Islam in the mid 12th century.
- c. The Republic of the Maldives is an island country in the Indian Ocean.
- d. People from Asia, Arabia, Europe and America came here for settlement.
- e. It has 1199 islands.
- f. East Africa and Arab countries came to the Maldives in the 12th century.
- g. It is one of the smallest countries in the world.
- h. Maldives were ruled as an independent Islamic Sultanate from 1153 to 1968.

Lesson 4 : India : Unity within diversity

A. Look at the picture 1 and 2 and try to answer these questions orally.



Picture-1: Map of India



Picture-2 The Taj Mahal

1. What do you know about India in Picture-1?
2. Why is the Taj Mahal famous?



B. Read the following text about India.

India is our closest neighbour. It is the largest country in South Asia. It is also the seventh largest country in the world with an area of 3,287,590 square kilometres. Its population is around 1.5 billion in 2010. It is located by the Indian ocean on the south, the Arabian sea on the west and the Bay of Bengal on the East. It is bordered by Pakistan to the west, China, Nepal and Bhutan to the North and Bangladesh and Myanmar to the East. It is the world's second most populous country after China. New Delhi is the capital of India.

India is a land of ancient civilization. Its history begins with the birth of the Indus Valley Civilization and the coming of the Aryans. In the third century BC Ashoka unified India and Buddhism spread in many parts of India during his reign. Islam came to India for the first time in the eighth century and established itself firmly by the eleventh century. During the reign of the Mughal Empire, India achieved a large measure of political unity.

It was in the 17th century that the Europeans came to India. As a result, India is divided into regional states. In 1774 Warren Hastings was appointed as the first Governor General of India by the East India Company. India came under the complete British rule in 1876. They ruled India for nearly two hundred years. During this period, India struggled for independence. At last India got its independence in 1947. It has a very ancient and unique culture. There are 17 major languages in India.

India is a country of tourists' spots. The Taj Mahal, Fatepur Sikri, the Qutab Minar and the Red Fort are a few of the many wonders. Kashmir has been described as a paradise on earth. It is a country of mountains, valleys, deserts, rivers and lakes. Ooty, Nilgiris, the temples of South India, Ajanta and Ellora caves are the places one can explore in India.



C. Read and note.

unify (v)	:	form into one
spread (v)	:	publish
reign (n)	:	ruling power
century	:	one hundred years
struggle(v)	:	strive
ancient (a)	:	very old
describe (v)	:	narrate



D. Answer these questions first orally and then in writing.

1. What is the population of India?
2. When did India get its independence?
3. What happened to India during the Mughal Empire?
4. Write the name of some tourist attractions in India.
5. When did Europeans come to India?

E. Read the text B carefully and complete the table below with information from the passage.

who/what	Event/activity	Year/when	place/where
India	got freedom	(i) _____	Britain
Warren Hastings	was appointed	in 1774 as governor	(ii) _____
(iii) _____	was ruled	around 200 years	by British
Mughal Empire	(iv) _____	1206 to 1526	in India.
Islam	came the first time in	(v) _____	India

F. Read the text B and write a letter to your friend about India.

Lesson 5 : Bhutan : The land of happiness

A. Answer the questions orally.

1. Do you know about Bhutan?
2. What is your idea about Bhutanese family?



A picture of Bhutanese family



B Read the following text carefully.

Bhutan is called the jewel of the Eastern Himalayas. It is located along the southern slopes of the Himalayan range, bounded by Tibet in the North and India from the other sides. The official name of Bhutan is Druk-Yul which means 'land of the thunder dragon'. It has an area of 38,594 square kilometers with a population of 716896. Bhutan has unique culture and tradition based on Buddhist beliefs.

The Bhutanese men wear Gho-a-knee long robe and women wear kira-a-sheet like cloth piece. The people of Bhutan build their houses with mud, stone and wood but no iron nails. The Bhutanese help one another in building their houses. Different festivals are celebrated all the year round in Bhutan. Tshechus is the main religious festival. People wear their best clothes and attend the programs. Losar another major festival is celebrated on the Lunar New year.

The country is an ideal destination for the environment lovers for its pure mountain air, blue sky and pristine vegetation cover. Rich flora and fauna are protected by strict laws. Even anyone found guilty of killing a black-necked crane could be sentenced to death. The government. has taken a number of steps to protect its biodiversity. Bhutan is the first country in the world with specific constitutional obligation on its people to protect the environment. As per the constitution at least 60 percent of the country must remain

under forest cover at all times. Foreign culture and values are strictly prohibited. Tourists were allowed for the first time in 1974. About 6000 tourists can visit the country a year. The government of Bhutan lifted ban on TV and the internet only in 1999. The Bhutanese government has made it mandatory for all the Bhutanese to wear only their national dress in public. Bhutan is the happiest country in Asia and the eighth happiest country in the world.



C. Read and note.

festival (a)	:	a joyful celebration
celebrate (v)	:	extol
wear (v)	:	put on
destination (n)	:	goal
protect (v)	:	defend
prohibit (v)	:	forbid
mandatory	:	under a command



D. Choose the most suitable answer for each of the questions below.

1. What is the passage about?

- (a) Bhutan
- (b) The people of Bhutan
- (c) about Bhutanese culture
- (d) Bhutanese food.

2. Which of the following activities is mentioned as a way of celebrating Losar?

- (a) cooking special dishes
- (b) wearing new clothes
- (c) having a trip to the nearest villages
- (d) harvesting crops.

3. As per the constitutional obligation imposed by the Bhutanese government.

- (a) 60% of the country must remain under forest cover.
- (b) foreign nationals are not allowed to visit Bhutan.
- (c) no citizen can use the internet in their houses.
- (d) people must not watch Television.

4. Bhutanese build their houses with

- (a) mud, stone, woods with iron nails.
- (b) a sheet of cloth and wooden roof
- (c) mud, stone with wooden roof.
- (d) bamboo and wood.

5. Bhutanese people are very-----

- (a) patriotic
- (b) unpatriotic
- (c) self-centred
- (d) selfish.

6. The word attraction means-----

- (a) willingness
- (b) reduction
- (c) wish
- (d) fascination.

7. "Bhutan is famous for its rich and unique cultural heritage" - means

- (a) Bhutan has no culture of its own
- (b) Bhutan has a poor culture.
- (c) Bhutan has no cultural identity.
- (d) Bhutan is culturally very rich.

E. From your reading of the text B fill in the blanks with suitable words. Use one word only in each blank.

Bhutan is famous for (a)_____heritage. One of the main attractions for tourists (b)_____the country's culture and traditions. Hinduism is the second dominant (c) _____in Bhutan. Rice, wheat and maize are their (d)_____foods. Bhutan is the first country in the world where the sale of tobacco is (e)_____in 2010.

F. Read the text B carefully and write the summary of the passage in no more than 90 to 100 words.

Answer Key

Lesson-1

C1. (b) a moderate climate.

2. (c) groups having distinct racial and cultural features.

3. (c) tourists spot.

4. (a) an area of land having humid climate.

5. (a) North of Nepal.

D.

Write the answers and show them to your tutor.

E.

Write the summary and show it to your tutor.

F.

(a) True

(b) False

CA : The tourists will be provided with breakfast and lunch.

(c) False

CA : The tourists do not have to pay extra for a half-day sightseeing in Kathmandu valley.

(d) True

(e) True

G.

Write the letter and show it to your tutor.

Lesson-2

D.

(a) beautiful

(b) called

(c) is

(d) has

(e) dependent

E.

(a + vii)

(b + iv)

(c + i)

(4 + ii)

(e + vi)

F.

Write a paragraph and show it your tutor.

Lesson : 3

D.

Write the answers and show them to your tutor.

E.

1. False

CA : The Maldives is the eighth smallest country in the world.

2. True

3. True

4. False

C A : We should reduce global warming.

F.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
c	e	g	d	f	b	h	a

Lesson-4

D.

Write the answers and show them to your tutor. (one is done for you)

(a) The population of India is around 1.5 billion in 2010.

E.

(I) 1947

(II) India

(III) India

(IV) ruled

(V) eighth century

F.

Write the letter and show it to your tutor.

Lesson-5

D.1. (a) Bhutan

2. (b) wearing new clothes

3. (c) 60% of the country must remain under forest cover.

4. (c) mud, stone with wooden roof.

5. (a) patriotic

6. (d) fascination

7. (4) Bhutan is culturally very rich.

E. (a) Cultural

(b) is

(c) religion

(d) staple

(e) banned

F.

Write the summary and show it to your tutor.