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Understanding Diversity

Lesson at a Glance

- Everyone on earth differs from each other with respect to aspects like looks, behaviour, culture, religion, language, talent etc. This means that there is diversity among people in these aspects. **Diversity** means the lack of uniformity and the sense of variety.
- Inequality comes about among people when they have different access to resources and opportunities. The caste system, religion, financial well-being, education, etc. are various forms of **inequality** in the society.
- India is a country of several diversities. Since it is a very big country, people in different parts differ in their customs, language, habits, etc. These diversities arise from the fact that different regions have different histories and environments.
- Despite the diversities listed above, there are similarities that **unite** us. We all are Indian and during the freedom struggle, the whole country came together to send away the British, Irrespective of their diverse backgrounds. The Indian national flag is the most important national symbol and it reminds us of our unity in diversity.

IN-TEXT QUESTIONS SOLVED

9. 1. Fill out the following information about yourself:

- When I go out I like wearing
- At home I speak in
- My favourite sport is
- I like reading books about

(NCERT Textbook, page 4)

- Ans.
- T-shirt and pant.
 - Hindi, sometimes in English.
 - cricket.
 - adventure.

9. 2. Name three ways in which Samir Ek and Samir Do were different. Did these differences prevent them from becoming friends?
(NCERT Textbook, page 5)

Ans. The three ways in which Samir Ek and Samir Do were different.

- While Samir Ek is more familiar with English, Samir do speaks Hindi.
- While Samir Ek is a Hindu, Samir Do is a Muslim.
- Samir Ek is a school-going boy, but Samir Do does not go to school. Instead he sells newspapers.

Despite these differences they are very close friends.

9. 3. Make a list of the festivals that might have been celebrated by the two boys.

Samir Ek :

Samir Do :

Can you think of a situation in which you made friends with someone who was very different from you? Write a story that describes this. (NCERT Textbook, page 6)

Ans. The festivals celebrated by Samir Ek—Holi, Diwali, Durgapuja, Ram Navami, etc.

The festivals celebrated by Samir Do—Id-ul-Fitr, Id-ul-Zoha, Muharram, etc.

9. 4. Make a list of the food that you have eaten from different parts of India. (NCERT Textbook, page 6)

Ans. Curry-chawal, chhole-bhature, Idli-sambhar, Dosa, makke-ki-roti and Saraso ka saag, chicken, biriyani, etc.

9. 5. Make a list of the languages besides your mothertongue that you can speak at least one or two words of.

(NCERT Textbook, page 6)

Ans. My mothertongue is Hindi. Besides Hindi, I can also speak a few other languages such as English, Punjabi, Bhojpuri and Maithili. But I am not as much fluent in these languages as in Hindi.

9. 6. List three different ways in which people in India do the following. One of the possible answers has been provided for you already. (NCERT Textbook, page 8)

Different ways in which people pray	Through singing a hymn		
Different ways in which people get married		Through signing a register in the court	
Different ways in which people greet each other		In Jharkhand many adivasis say 'johar' to greet each other	
Different ways in which people cook rice	By making Biryani with meat or vegetables		
Different ways in which people dress			In Manipur women wear a Fanek.

Ans.

Different ways through which people pray	Through singing a hymn	Through offering Namaj at mosque	Through offering 'prasad' to deities
Different ways in which people get married	Through arranged marriage at home or at hotel	Through signing a register in the court	Through love marriage
Different ways in which people greet each other	In Panjab people greet each other by saying 'Satshri Akkal'	In Jharkhand many adivasis say 'johar' to greet each other	In Uttar Pradesh and Bihar people greet each other by saying 'Namaste'
Different ways in which people cook rice	By making Biryani with meat or vegetables	By making idli and dosa	By making simple chawal or pulao
Different ways in which people dress	In Panjab women wear Kurta and salwar with odni	In Rajasthan women wear ghaghra and choli	In Manipur women wear a Fanek.

TEXTBOOK QUESTIONS SOLVED

- Q. 1. Draw up a list of the different festivals celebrated in your locality. Which of these celebrations are shared by members of different regional and religious communities?

Ans.



Festivals shared by different regional and religious communities are :

- Independence Day
- Republic Day
- Gandhi Jayanti

These are our national festivals, so every Indian celebrates them irrespective of region and religion.

- Q. 2. What do you think living in India with its rich heritage of diversity adds to your life?

Ans. India is a country with a rich heritage of diversity. People here belong to various religions, speak different languages, wear different clothes, eat different things, among other diversities. However, despite all this, we unite together as Indians. We share the same national symbols, national virtues and feelings. Being an Indian gives us the divine idea of 'sarvadharmasambhava', which means that we have the virtue of respecting all religions, since all religions are one.

- Q. 3. Do you think the term "unity in diversity" is an appropriate term to describe India? What do you think Nehru is trying to say about Indian unity in the sentence quoted above from his book "The Discovery of India"?

Ans. Yes, I believe "unity in diversity" is an appropriate term to describe India.

Diversity. India is a large country and people of different parts follow different faiths, speak various languages,

wear and eat differently. This shows that India has a diversity spread across its people.

Unity. Despite the diversities, as Indians, we are one. As an Indian, we are no more a Gujarati or a Bengali, we celebrate the national days with equal zeal, we sing the national anthem with the same passion. This shows our unity.

Therefore, the phrase "unity in diversity" is justified. Nehru has written in his book "The Discovery of India", "It was something deeper and within its fold, the widest tolerance of belief and custom was practised and every variety acknowledged and even encouraged." He means that when one ponders over it deeply, one finds that India is not only united, but its people also know how to accept other customs and beliefs.

- Q. 4.** Underline the line in the poem sung after the Jallianwalla massacre, which according to you, reflects India's essential unity.

Ans. Don't forget the days of blood, O friend

In the midst of your happiness remember to shed a tear for us

The hunter has torn away every single flower

Do plant a flower in the desert garden dear friend

Having fallen to bullets we slept in Jallianwalla Bagh

Do light a lamp on this lonely grave O friend

The blood of Hindus and Muslims flows together today

Do soak your robe in this river of blood dear friend

Some rot in jails while others lie in their graves

Do shed a few tears for them O friend.

The underlined line reflects India's unity. When it came to struggling for freedom of the country, the Hindus and Muslims came together to fight and 'their blood flows together'.

- Q. 5.** Choose another region in India and do a similar study of the historical and geographical factors that influences the diversity found there. Are these historical and geographical factors connected to each other? How?

Ans. Do yourself.