

THE VILLAGE PHARMACY

LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills			Grammar/Figures of speech	Activity	Life Skills
		Listening/ speaking	Reading	Writing			
21	The Village Pharmacy	Talk on 'Save our trees'	Prose (factual text)	Message, Notice	Adjectives, Active / passive voice	Crossword	Appreciation of traditional knowledge such as benefits of a neem tree. Developing eco-friendly and agro-friendly sensitivity

SUMMARY

In the year 2004, a terrible fire broke out in a school in Kumbakonam, killing 94 children. This accident raised some concerns about the safety norms followed in all schools and their preparedness for such disasters.

'The Village Pharmacy' is a story about a school which had a special way of paying homage to the children who had lost their lives in the terrible fire. The school distributed neem saplings to all the children with a double purpose. Firstly, planting trees would be healthy for the environment and secondly a neem tree has immense medicinal qualities. Each part of the neem tree—the bark, branches, leaves and seeds—has medicinal properties. Because of this reason, it is also lovingly called 'The Village Pharmacy'. Besides having medicinal qualities, it also a good source of fertilizer, pesticide and timber.

An evergreen tree, it can survive for 200 to 300 years. It provides cool shelter. The temperature under the tree is cooler by 10 degrees.

In short, Neem is a unique tree (a panacea) providing numerous benefits to all.

PRINCIPAL POINTS

- Growing trees is a wonderful way to remember those who are no more.
- We must learn to value traditional knowledge.
- It is better to grow trees which are of long lasting value rather than ornamental/ decorative trees.

- Neem tree is a gift of nature to mankind –it is perhaps the only tree which has total benefits.
- We must grow more trees that are useful.

LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

Village Pharmacy: A place where all kinds of medicines are sold. By calling neem tree the village pharmacy, the author wants to say that the neem tree has multiple medicinal uses.

If they escape your axe: if they are not cut down.

ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE

1. Writing a notice: A notice, as the word signifies, is meant to notify/ inform the public about something. We can see notices in newspapers, notice boards of schools, offices and residential colonies etc. The following things must be kept in mind:

- **Format:** Such as name of the organization, heading, date, name and signature of the issuing authority .
- **Content:** Subject matter, who is being informed, details of event or information to be given , action expected (if any) notices should be written in the passive voice.

2. Writing a message: When we wish to convey something to a person and the person is not there, we leave a message for him /her. Messages should be simple short and should cover all information that needs to be given.

Messages generally consist of four major points:

- Name of the person for whom the message is intended, the name of the person leaving the message, date and the intended information
- Messages can be both formal and informal.

GRAMMAR

1. Adjectives of quality and quantity: They are words which describe a noun or a pronoun (persons, places or things) are called adjectives.

Adjectives of quantity: such adjectives answer the question ' how much or how many.'

E.g. There are **millions** of trees growing in the world. **All** the trees are useful in one way or the other. **Most** trees have medicinal properties too.

Adjectives of quality tell us more about the noun and answer the question ' of what kind.'

E.g. It was a terribly **hot** afternoon. ('Hot' describes the noun afternoon)

2. Active /passive voice:

- When the subject of a sentence is also the doer of an action the sentence is said to be in the active voice
- When the receiver of the action or action itself is more important than the doer, the position of the subject is changed or not mentioned at all.

E.g.

We planted a number of trees along the road. (active voice)

A number of trees were planted along the road. (passive voice)

3. The passive voice is written in the third form of verb, e.g. taken, hidden, found, etc.

4. The Passive voice is used while writing notices, reports, experiments, processes, procedures ,etc.

TEST TYPES

1. MCQ/ objective type question

Complete the following statement by choosing the best options from the list given below:

Neema's grandfather says that the air conditioners we use may not match the healthy cooling effects of a neem tree: By this he means that:

- Neem tree is as effective as an air conditioner.
- Neem tree has very strong and healthy cooling properties.

- C. Neem tree is not as effective as an air conditioner
- D. Neem tree is cheaper and more effective than an air conditioner.

2. VSA (extrapolatory)

Complete the following sentence

Neem tree can be called a **'one stop shop'** for all treatments because

3. SA (extrapolatory)

The best gift one can give to each other is a sapling or a book. Do you agree? Justify your answer.

4. LA (extrapolatory)

The Resident's Welfare Association / Village Panchayat of which you are a member has convened a meeting of all residents to suggest measures to make the area eco-friendly, beautiful and self-sustaining. Everybody has been asked to give at least one suggestion. You decide to suggest large scale plantation of medicinal and ornamental trees as well as creating a herbarium where different herbs can be grown. Taking ideas from the lesson and also adding some more of your own, prepare a talk for one minute on advantages of growing trees specially neem and also medicinal herbs.