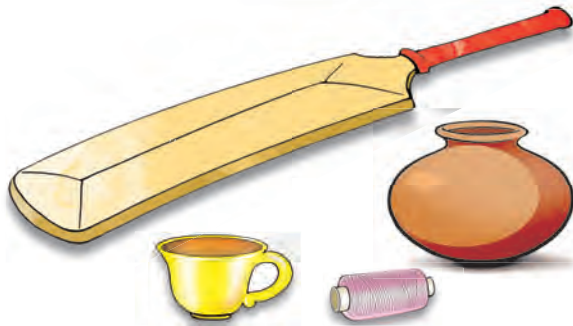




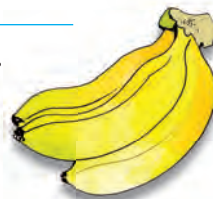
Can you tell ?

1. Our Environment

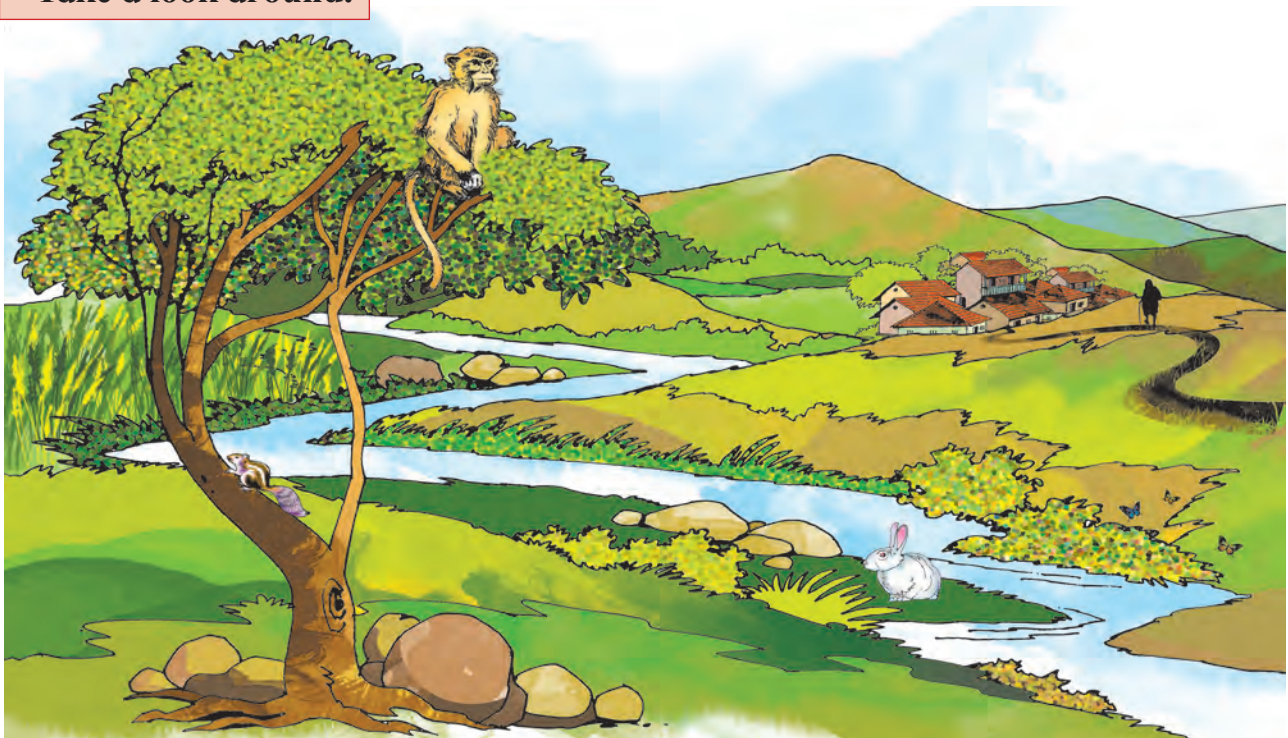


Look at the pictures alongside. You can easily name all these things. What materials are they made from? Where do we find these materials? What are the uses of these things?

You can name these things, too. Where do we find them? What are they used for?

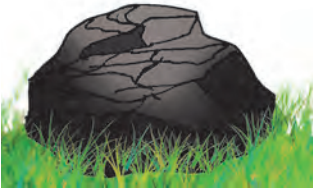


• Take a look around.



There are many things around us. They form our environment. There are stones and rocks and soil. There are rivers and streams and lakes. There is air. There are hills and mountains. There are jungles. There are fields and houses and roads and also barren lands. We also see many different animals around us. Different types of trees and bushes and climbers make our environment beautiful. We, too, are a part of this environment.

● A sparrow and a roadside stone



Now let us look at a stone and a sparrow in our surroundings and compare them.

A stone remains where it is. Its place changes only if someone picks it up and moves it. It doesn't eat. So it doesn't grow bigger. It doesn't have babies either.



It's not the same with sparrows. They build nests. They move here and there on their own.

They eat insects and grains. That is why they grow.

They lay eggs in nests. Little sparrows hatch from these eggs. Sparrows take a lot of care of their young ones.

● Why do we see these differences between the sparrow and the stone ?

The sparrow is a living thing and the stone is a non-living thing.

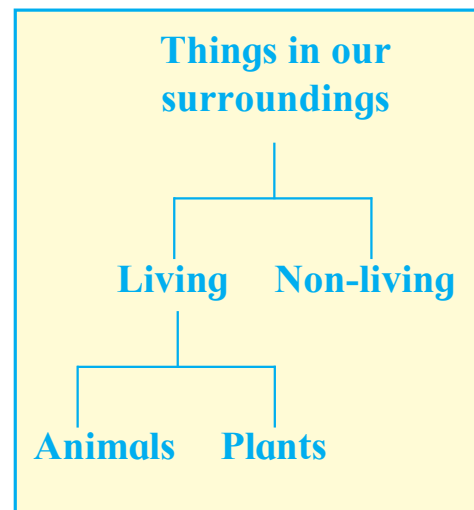
Things in our surroundings form two groups – **living things** and **non-living things**.

Living things are of two kinds, **plants** and **animals**.

Animals have babies and seedlings grow from seeds. The seedlings then grow into plants. This tells us that plants are living things.

Plants, too, move. For example, when a bud blooms into a flower, its petals open. But movements of plants are not so easily seen. Plants also need food.

Of course, plants do not move from place to place like animals do. Their roots hold them down in one place. This is a big difference between plants and animals.

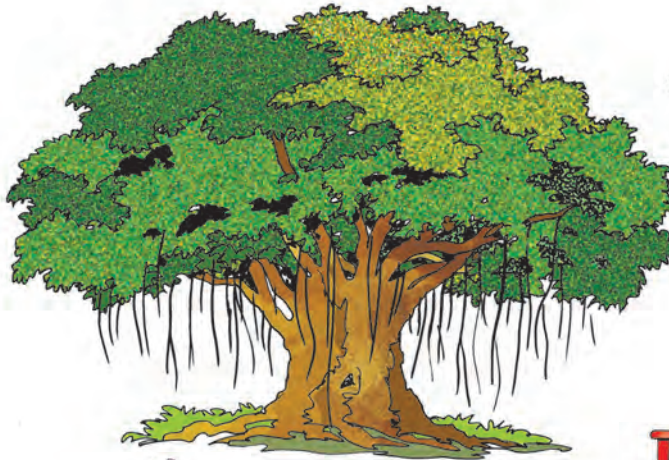




Can you tell ?

Are the things in these pictures living or non-living ?

If it is a living thing, is it a plant or an animal ?



Use your brain power !

- A railway engine goes to and fro. Is it living or non-living ?
- Wood comes from trees which are living things. A chair is made from wood. Now, is the chair living or non-living ?



Can you tell ?

- Which birds do you see in your surroundings ?
- Can you name some things that are made from stone ?

• The relationship between all things in the environment



Water and air are a part of the environment. All living things need them. Living things also need food. They get their food from the environment.

Whatever living things need to survive, they get from their environment. Birds build nests. They need cotton, twigs and threads to build them. They get these things from the environment.

Human beings use so many things from the environment. We get cotton, wool and silk from our environment. We weave cloth from them.



We make things like mats, baskets, paper from materials in our environment. We build houses using clay and stone and wood. These materials, too, we get from our environment.

The seeds of some plants are scattered by the wind. As a result, seedlings of those plants grow in new places. Thus, plants, too, get help from their environment.

Living things take many things from their environment. What effect does that have on the environment ?

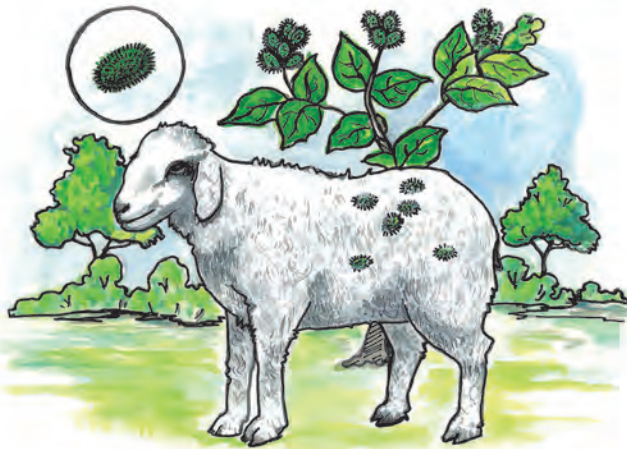
Animals like vultures and foxes eat the flesh of dead animals. Thus, they clean the environment while they satisfy their hunger.

Remains of dead animals decay. They mix with the soil. Leaves fall off trees. They, too, rot and get mixed in the soil. This makes the soil fertile. Plants get nourishment from fertile soil.

Thus, living things bring about changes in non-living things, too.



Do you know ?



A sheep's body is covered with wool. The sheep feeds on leaves of shrubs. As it does so, the seeds of some shrubs can get caught in its wool. When the sheep goes somewhere else, the seeds may fall off there. Thus, the sheep helps new seedlings of the shrub to grow in many different places. In this way, the sheep which is an animal and the shrub which is a plant help each other.



What we have learnt –

- * There are many things in our environment. Some of them are living things and some are non-living things.
- * Living things can move on their own.
- * Living things need food. Food helps them to grow.
- * Living things produce young ones like themselves.
- * Living things are of two kinds – plants and animals.
- * Living things get all that they need from their environment.
- * Living things bring about changes in non-living things too.
- * All things in the environment depend upon each other.



Always remember –

The needs of all living things are fulfilled by things in their environment. Such things should not be allowed to go waste. We must take care that we do not cause harm to the environment.



Exercises

A. What's the solution ?

There are a lot of unused pages in last year's notebooks. They must not get wasted.

B. Draw pictures.

- Draw a picture of a spider's web.
Find out why a spider weaves a web.
Under the picture, write the information you get.

C. Think and tell.

- (1) What are the uses of cotton?
- (2) What are chappals made from ?
- (3) If there is a loud noise nearby, what will a sparrow do? What will a stone do ?
- (4) What does the house lizard eat ?
- (5) Make a list of the things in your house that are made of wood.
- (6) Name the animals that feed on mice.

D. Fill in the blanks.

- (1) The place of a stone only if someone picks it up and moves it.
- (2) We weave from cotton, wool and silk.
- (3) Leaves trees. They, too, rot and get mixed with the soil.

E. Answer the following questions :

- (1) What are the things that we get from our environment?
- (2) What help do plants get from the environment?
- (3) What makes the soil in the forest fertile?

F. True or false ?

- (1) The seeds of some plants are scattered by the wind.
- (2) Plants are non-living things.
- (3) Sparrows grow by eating insects and food grains.



Activity

- Many festivals are connected with plants and animals. Find out :
Are any such festivals celebrated where you live ? How are they celebrated?

