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Clothing through the Ages



Observe these pictures.

How these living beings survive situations like extreme heat, unbearable cold etc.?

Fur of goat, feathers of parrot and tortoise's shell provide protection like a clothing in unfavourable weather conditions. Have you ever thought about the way in which humans faced such situations?

- The clothing needed for humans had to be shaped with the materials available in nature.
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What types of clothing do people use today?

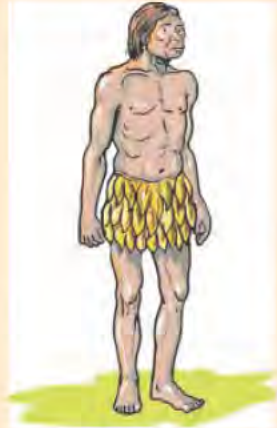


How does clothing become useful to us?
Complete the list by adding more details.

- Protection from cold
- Protection from heat
- Maintains body temperature
- Protection from insects
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The clothing we use has a long history. Let's see how we arrived at the design of the diverse types of clothing that we use today.

Observe the pictures.



What materials did early humans use as clothing?

- | |
|-----------------|
| • Bark of trees |
| • |
| • |

Humans used the materials they got from their surroundings as clothing when they lived by hunting. They used grass, bark of trees (Maravuri) and hide (animal skin) for making clothes. Horn and bone of animals were used as needles and tools to make clothes. During the period when polished stones were used as weapons, stone needles helped to sew clothes. They also made clothes by cleaning and softening animal skin and fur.



Stone needle



The making of clothes by early humans was not like that of today. What could be the reason?

Towards Weaving

In the early days, fibres collected from the surroundings were used for making clothes .

Fibres were combined and spun to make long yarns. Weaving is the technique of making cloth with these yarns.



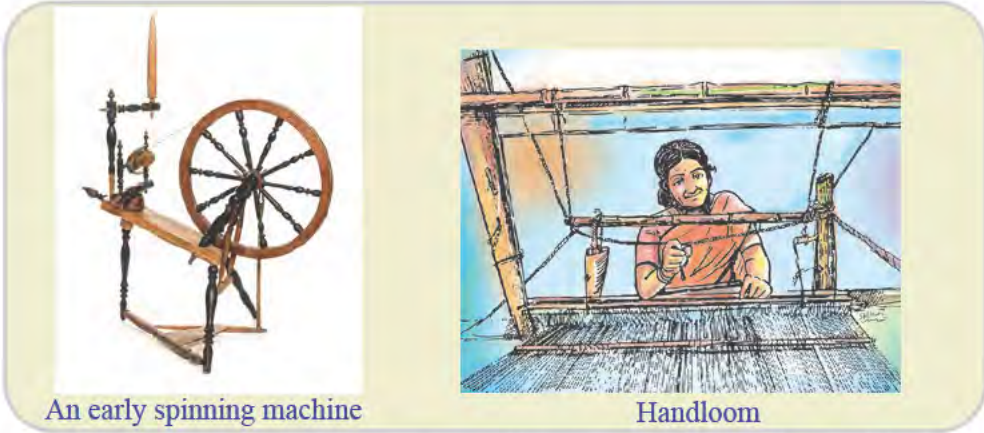
Clothing in the Indus Valley

The Indus Valley was an ancient river valley civilization that existed in the north western part of India. From the available evidences it is assumed that the people of Indus valley made clothing from cotton and wool. The dressed statues excavated from there reflect the clothing style of the people. It is believed that cotton was traded from here to other regions.



Gradually, the technique of weaving became more developed. In the early days, clothes were made by hands using yarns from cotton and jute. They realised that clothes woven from yarns were better than animal skin. This led to the spread of woven clothes. The method of making cloth using wooden looms was developed later.

The increase in the need of clothing led to the invention of weaving equipment. This helped to increase the speed of weaving. Handloom clothes are clothes woven on handloom using yarns.



The invention of handloom was a breakthrough in the field of cloth manufacturing. Clothes were coloured with a dye made from indigo plant. The technique of weaving became more popular over the years.



Cotton



Cotton is used to make clothing all over the world. Cotton obtained from the cotton plant is converted to yarns and used to make clothing. Cotton has been cultivated in India since ancient times.



Jute



Jute is produced from the jute plant. It is a natural fibre. Most of the world's jute cultivation is on the fertile banks of the river Ganges in India. Large quantities of jute were taken from India by foreigners for the textile industry.



Indigo




In the early days, a dye made from the indigo plant was used to colour clothes. Later various pigment were mixed with indigo, to make different colours.

There are many handloom centres in Kerala too. Balaramapuram in Thiruvananthapuram district, Kuthampulli in Thrissur district and Kannur are major handloom centres.




The progress in science has led to the invention of new machines in the field of cloth manufacturing. The Spinning Jenny seen in the picture is one such a machine.




Spinning Jenny

The spinning jenny was invented by James Hargreaves. The handmade yarn production was not enough to meet the demand of the textile industry at that time. The invention of the Spinning Jenny accelerated the production of yarn.




The rise in population increased the demand for clothing. New machines became a part of weaving. It reduced the human effort. The handloom was later replaced by the power loom.



Powerloom

Powerloom was invented by Edmund Cartwright. The power loom is operated either with the help of electricity or some other energy source. A powerloom can produce more cloth much faster than a handloom.





Mechanised cloth manufacturing

The Europeans travelled to different parts of the world in search of markets, to sell the clothes produced as a result of mechanisation. As part of it, they reached India also. They took the raw materials needed for the textile industry from India to Europe. Clothes they produced there with the help of machines were sold in India.



The Europeans

Europe is one of the seven continents. The people of this continent are called the Europeans. The Portuguese (Portugal), the Dutch (Netherlands), the English (England) and the French (France) came to India from Europe for trade. They colonised India and took the raw materials from here to their lands. Among them, the English colonised India for the longest period.

The changes in the society also had a significant impact on the cloth manufacturing. The increase in demand for clothing led to the development of more advanced weaving machines. Production increased with the help of machines. Clothes with better quality and variety reached more people. Artificial dyes began to be used to colour clothes.



Variety of clothing and clothes

The colour varieties found in most of our clothing we use today were made by mixing these types of dyes.

Notice the qualitative changes that took place in the textile field when the machines began to be used for manufacturing clothes.

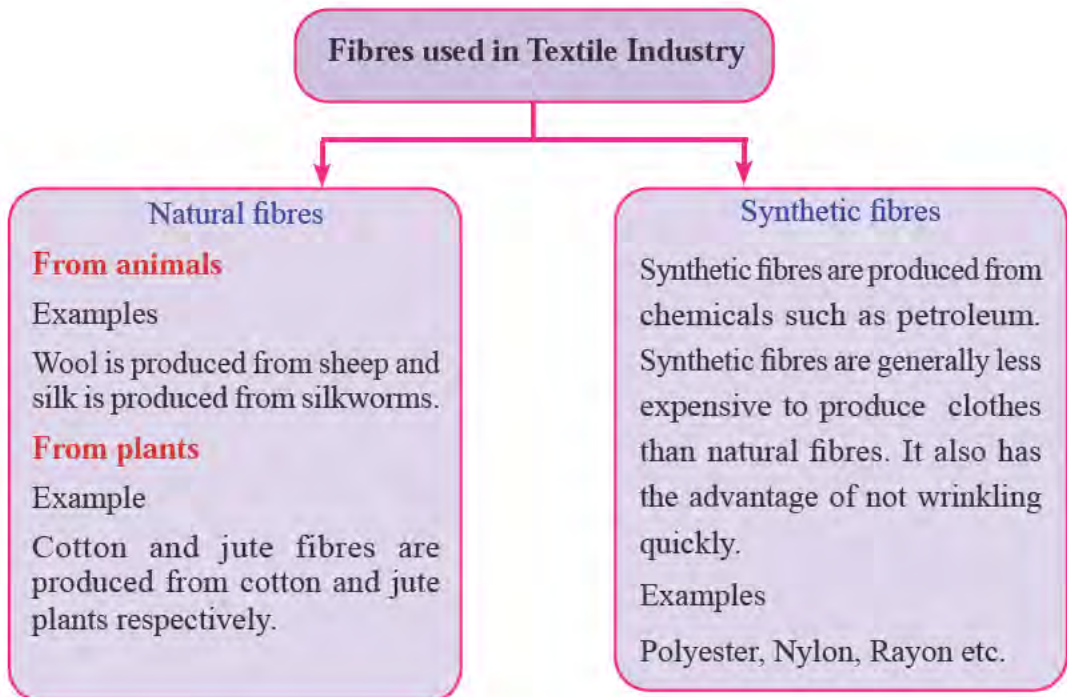
Changes brought by the use of machinery in the manufacture of clothes.

- Increase in production of clothes.
- Reduction in human labour
- Diversity in clothing
- Quality clothing
- Spread of clothing
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Discuss the changes in the textile industry brought about by the introduction of machines.

Both natural and synthetic fibres are used to manufacture clothes. Natural fibres are produced from animals and plants. The discovery of synthetic fibres led to the production of clothes of different textures and qualities. The use of synthetic fibres such as polyester and nylon helped to make clothing more durable and cost-effective.





Complete the table by finding the organisms and plants from which natural fibres are produced.

Wool
Silk	Silk worm
Cotton	Cotton plant
Jute



Collect scrap pieces of cloths by visiting a tailoring shop in your locality. Differentiate the clothes made from natural fibres and synthetic fibres and paste them on the chart and display them in your class.

Diversity in Clothing

Don't we wear different types of clothes that suit different climate? Are the differences in clothing only due to changes in climate?



Observe the given pictures. Find out the situations in which each type of the clothing is used. Write the corresponding number of the picture in the table given.



1



2



3



4



5



6

Climate	Immunity	Authority/Status	Employment
1

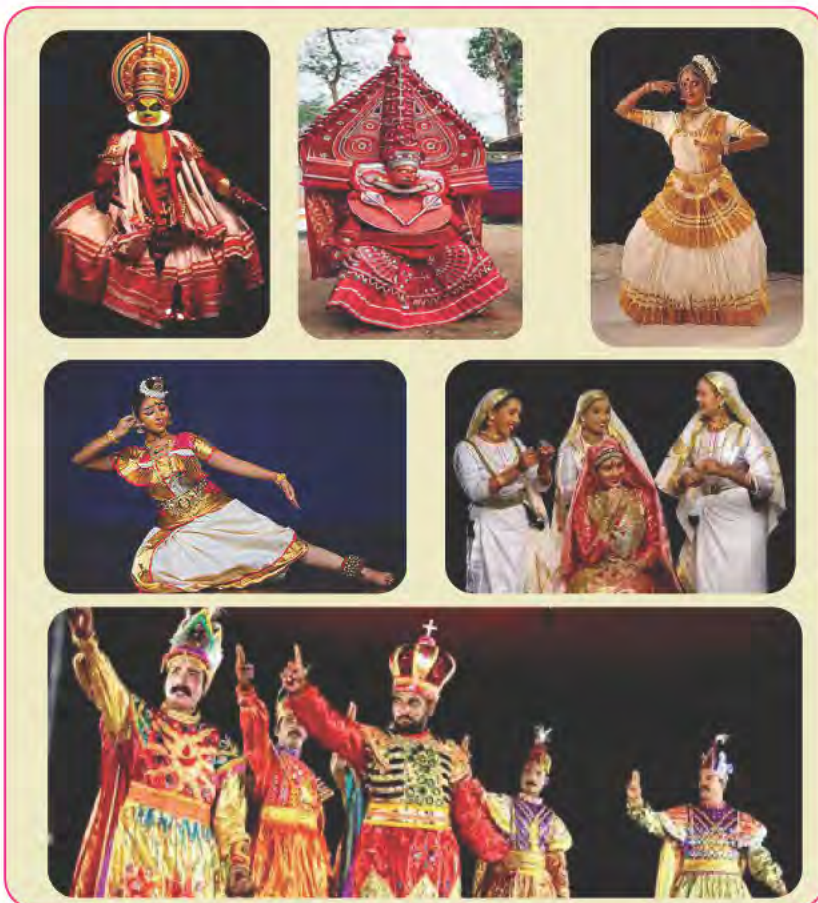


Prepare an album by collecting pictures indicating dressing in various situations.

Climate, customs, positions of power, employment and regional differences influence clothing. This variety can be seen not only in the clothing but also in jewellery, hats and footwear.

Now a days a lot of diversities and similarites can be seen in clothing and style of dressing. Most of us choose clothing suitable for climate and comfort for conveyance.

Another area where diversity in clothing can be seen is in the field of arts. Don't we like to enjoy art forms with a variety of colourful constumes?



Different art forms



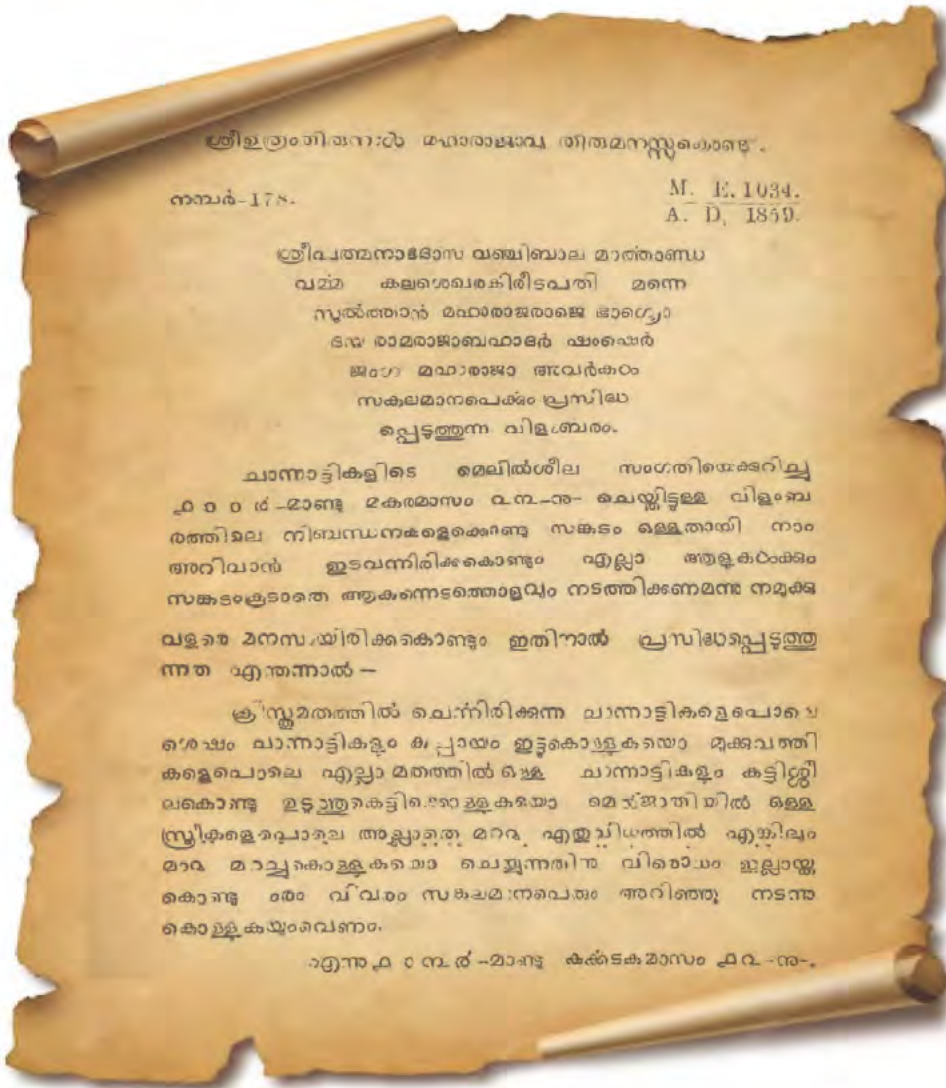
Observe the costumes in the given pictures. Identify the art forms to which they are associated and list them.

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-
-
-
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Discuss the diversity of costumes in various art forms.

Discrimination in Clothing



This is a proclamation issued by Uthram Tirunal Marthandavarma, the then king of Travancore in 1859, granting the right to women of the so called lower castes of southern Kerala to wear the upper clothes.

What do you understand from this proclamation?

This proclamation reveals that the caste system existed at that time prevented certain sections of the people from wearing clothes as they wish.

Travancore



Travancore was a princely state in British India comprising most of southern Kerala, a small part of central Kerala and Kanyakumari district, which is now a part of Tamil Nadu. The Travancore state expanded during the reign of Anizham Tirunal Marthandavarma in mid 18th century. With the formation of the state of Kerala in 1956, this princely state became a part of Kerala.

Upper Cloth Agitation

During the early 19th century, a certain section of the women in Southern Travancore made a protest for the right to cover the upper part of their body. At that time only women who were said to belong to the upper caste had the right to wear the upper clothes as they wished. Women of the so called lower castes did not have the right to cover the upper part of their body in front of the upper castes. This protest is known in history as Upper Cloth Agitation.



Discuss and make note about the violation of rights that existed in clothing.

Cloth as a Weapon of Agitation

Cloth has been used in the past as a weapon against various forms of exploitation. One of the most important among them was the struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi in India's Freedom Movement.

Gandhiji made khadi, charka and boycott of foreign goods as a part of the freedom struggle. He encouraged khadi clothes made by spinning in the charka. He exhorted people to wear khadi clothes. Gandhiji demanded to boycott foreign clothes by making and wearing indigenous clothes.



Indian people boycotting and burning foreign clothes



Gandhiji spinning yarn on the Charka

Gandhiji turned the freedom struggle into a mass movement by making clothes as a weapon of struggle. Charka became a symbol of the Swadeshi movement in Indian freedom struggle. Wearing khadi clothes and khadi caps became a symbol of patriotism.



The Swadeshi Movement

The Swadeshi Movement was started on 7th August 1905 as a part of India's freedom struggle. Its aim was to boycott the British-made goods and to promote the production and use of Indian-made goods. August 7 which marked the beginning of Swadeshi movement has been observed as National Handloom Day in India since 2015.

The Khadi Movement

The Khadi movement was started in India in 1918 under the leadership of Gandhiji. Khadi has a distinctive place in the history of India's freedom struggle. As the Khadi Movement gained momentum the sound of 'Charka' rose from Indian Villages. Then, the khadi clothing spread all over India.



How did Charka and khadi clothing become weapon of agitation against the British? Make a poster and display in class.

New Trends in Clothing

Do you like to wear the same types of clothes all the time?

What are your preferences in dressing?

Observe the pictures.



Changes take place day by day, not only in the methods of manufacturing but also in the design, style and use of clothing. Personal preferences, interests and convenience strongly influence today's clothing.

There is an interesting development in clothing also along with the change in beauty concepts. Advertisements, movies, social media etc. have a significant influence on the choice of clothing.



Organise a discussion on how advertisements, movies, social media etc. influence the choice of clothing.

A lot of employment opportunities are opening up today in the fields like fashion designing and embroidery. Today fashion designing has grown into a field of study with immense employment potential.

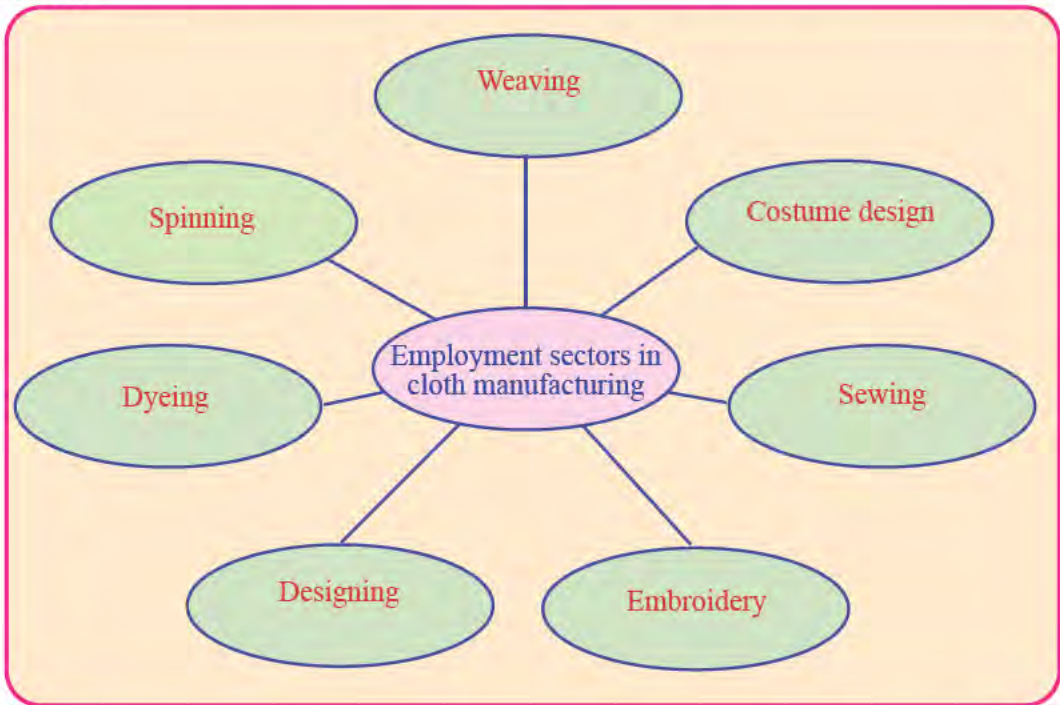


Embroidered cloth

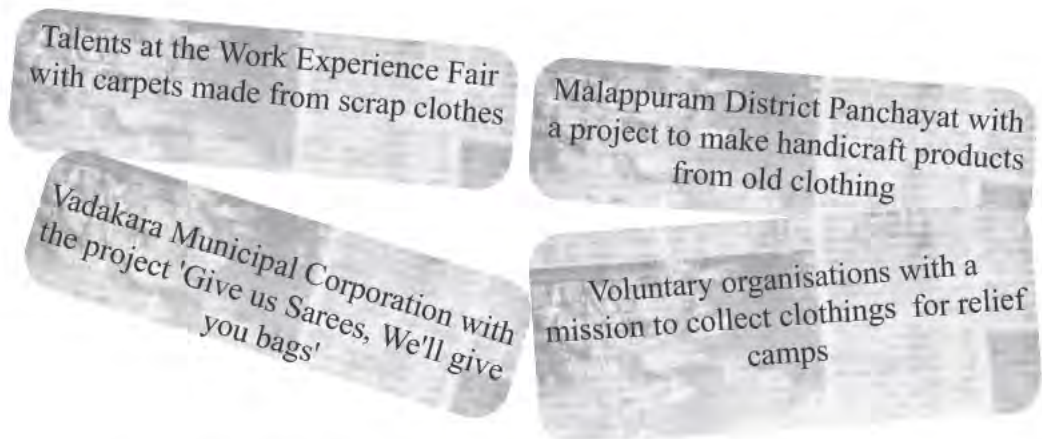


Fashion designing

Let's see what are the employment sectors in cloth manufacturing sector.



How can we convert used and unwanted clothing into useful materials?



Observe the given headlines.

Do you use all the clothes you buy?

Have you tried making handicrafts from used clothes?

Today, tons of clothes are thrown away all around the world. This adversely affects the environment. The volume of unused and discarded clothes is increasing in our country. How can such clothing be reused?

Observe the pictures.



Can we also make such craft products?

If we observe the historical timeline of clothing, we can see that in the early days, protection of body was given importance. Following that, the geography and climate influenced manufacturing of clothes and style of clothing. Changing beauty concepts and cultural diversities influence the style of contemporary clothing.

Don't we feel more proud and confident when we wear our favourite cloth?

Clothing, which is one of the basic human needs, should be available to all sections of the society. We can also be a part of such activities.



Extended Activities

1. Visit any handloom centre in your area and gather information about its method of cloth manufacturing.
2. Prepare an album based on the topic 'Diversity of Clothing in Indian States' by collecting pictures of diverse style of clothing in various states.
3. We live in an age in which a wide variety of clothing is readily available. But, the availability of clothes was limited in earlier times. Ask the elders in your family about the changes in clothing and style and make a note.
4. Collect pictures of different art forms and make an album titled 'Costume Diversity in Art'.
5. Collect old clothes from your home and do craft work with them. Present them in the Social Science Club.
6. Set up a Clothing Collection Centre in the school to collect old and clean clothes and deliver them to old age homes, orphanages and relief camps near your school with the help of the teacher.