

5. Six Honest Serving-Men



I keep six honest serving-men
(They taught me all I knew);
Their names are What and Why and When
And How and Where and Who.



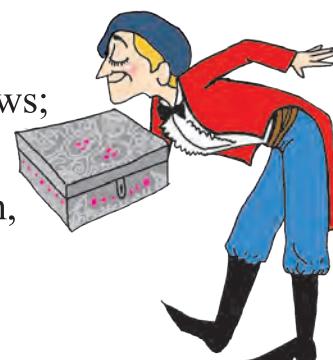
I send them over land and sea,
I send them east and west;
But after they have worked for me,
I give them all a rest.



I let them rest from nine till five,
For I am busy then,
As well as breakfast, lunch, and tea,
For they are hungry men.



But different folk have different views;
I know a person small—
She keeps ten million serving-men,
Who get no rest at all!



She sends 'em abroad on her own affairs,
From the second she opens her eyes—
One million Hows, two million Wheres,
And seven million Whys!

— Rudyard Kipling



- 'em : them. • sends 'em abroad on her own affairs : sends them away to other places to do her work.

Things to do :

1. Answer the following questions :
 - (a) Who has taught the poet all he knew ?
 - (b) When does the poet give them all a rest ?
 - (c) Who keeps ten million serving-men ?
 - (d) Do the serving-men of the small person get any rest ?
2. Write the names of the six serving-men. Frame questions on the following in such a way that you use each of them at least once. See that you use all six.

* Mr Patil is our English Teacher.	* The sun rises in the east.
* I come to school by bus.	* I was late because of the traffic jam.
* Our school starts at 11.00 a.m.	* Funny stories make me laugh.
3. Form pairs or groups. Select any topic from your Environmental Studies textbook. Use the following to frame a set of questions about that topic. (Do this orally with a number of topics.)
* What * Why * When * How * Where * Who
4. (a) Which of the six serving-men do you like the most ?
(b) Which of the six serving-men do you use the most ?