

18. My Family and Home



Try this.

Write about your family including the number of people in your family and the occupations of your parents.



- A family consists of a mother, father and their children.
- In some families, there are grandparents also.
- The number of people in a family may differ.

We are born in our family. We grow up in our family. We are brought up by our parents. They take care of us. In a family, we are secure in every way. Our family provides us with food, clothing and shelter. Other members of our family also take care of us. There is affection among family members. We like to be a part of a family because of the love and caring that we get. Family members help one another in times of difficulty. They try to see that no one suffers from any illness. But if we fall ill, our parents take care of us.

Small families and big families

Some families consist only of parents and one or two children. Such families are called small families. Some families consist of grandparents, aunts, uncles, brothers, sisters and cousins. Such families are called big families.

Extended family

Our family is linked with many other relatives. Aunts and uncles from the mother's and father's side, their children are all related to our family. Such a family is called an extended family. Our family gets extended because of our relatives.



Extended family

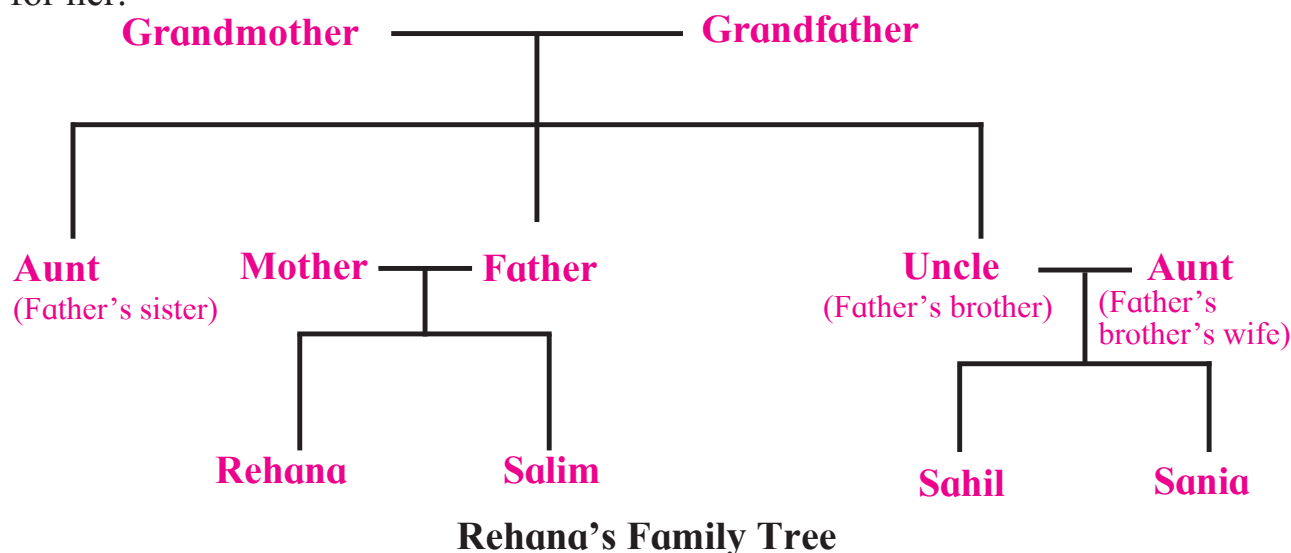
Members of an extended family may not live in one house, but there is love and affection between them. They meet each other on several occasions.

- Who are the members of your extended family ?
- How are you related to them ?
- On what occasions do the members of your extended family meet?



Try this.

A family tree : Rehana who is in the third standard was looking at a photo album of the people in her house. While looking at snapshots of birthdays and weddings, she found some familiar faces but some of the faces were unfamiliar. Some faces appeared again and again in the album. Rehana asked her mother, ‘Who are all these people?’ Her mother said, ‘They are all our relatives – your aunts, uncles, grandparents, you can see them all in these photos.’ Rehana asked her mother to explain it to her in detail. Rehana’s mother then drew a diagram for her.



In a family, generations follow one after the other over a period of time. They can be shown on the family tree.

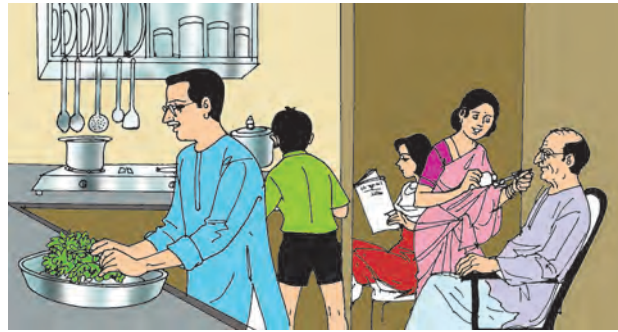
- Draw your family tree with the help of your parents.

Changes in the family system : The family system changes as time goes by. At one time, grandparents, aunts, uncles, parents, siblings and cousins all lived together and formed one big family. This was called a joint family. When members of a family move away because of their jobs or occupations, they start living separately, forming different families. Such smaller families are called nuclear families. The family system has changed in this way.

Our household chores



Only one person is working.



Every person in the house is working.



Try this.

- Prepare a list of chores that are done in your house.
- Who does these chores in your house ?
- Which of these chores do you like to do ?
- Do you do each other's chores ?

Storing water, cooking and cleaning are chores that need to be done in a family every day. Functions and festivals are often celebrated in the house. We have to welcome and entertain guests. The elderly people in the family need special attention. We should care for their health. There are many household chores which must be shared by everyone. If everyone in a family shares the work, no one has to bear the burden alone. Each chore is important, and family members do these chores with love and affection. We should be grateful for that.

Keeping the house clean and beautiful



Try this.

Make a list of all the things that need to be done to keep the house clean and tidy.



A tidy house



A littered house

- Write down the differences that you see between the two pictures above.

A clean and tidy house is pleasing. If there is a mess everywhere, no one can find their things on time. Keeping the house clean and tidy is the responsibility of every person in the family. We should throw rubbish in the dustbin and not throw it around. Garbage should never be thrown outside the house. This will help to keep the environment clean.



Always remember–

- Wet and dry garbage should be separated and put into separate bins. Wet garbage is useful for making manure. Paper, glass and metal can be sorted out from dry garbage and recycled.



Try this.

Decorating the house

- Get together and decide how you want to decorate the house.
- Ask adults to help with those things that you cannot do yourself.
- What materials have you used for the decoration ?

In the list of materials given below, put a cross (X) against those materials that should not be used as far as possible. Explain why they should not be used.

Flowers	Thermocol	Plastic	Paper	Rangoli	Chemical colours
☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐



Can you tell ?

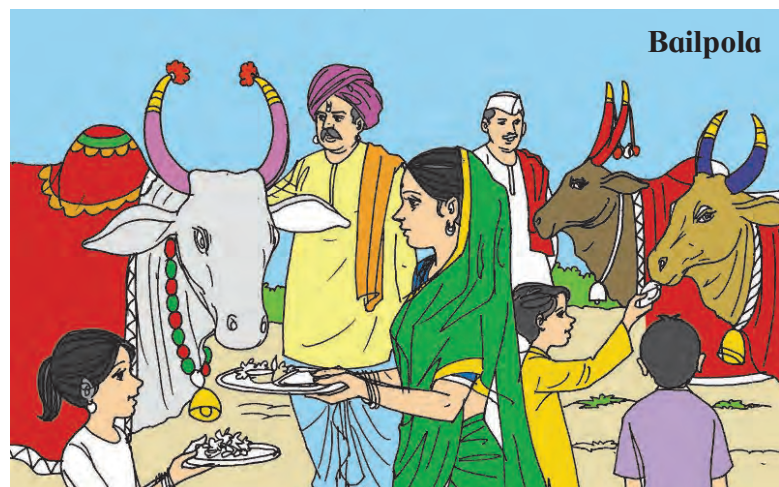
Festivals

- Why do we celebrate festivals ?
- What are our festivals linked with ?



Do you know ?

The use of electronic devices like mobiles, CDs, DVDs, pen drives and computers has increased greatly. When these things are damaged, they become useless. This gives rise to e-waste. The disposal of e-waste is a big problem.



We celebrate many festivals in the family. In the same way, different kinds of festivals are celebrated in different regions of the country. Agriculture is the main occupation in our country. Many of our festivals are related to agriculture and environment. Holi is the festival that marks the end of winter. In Punjab, 'Baisakhi', is celebrated at harvest time. In Maharashtra, we celebrate 'Bailpola' when the sowing of the crops is over. During the harvest season in Tamil Nadu, 'Pongal' is celebrated, while in Kerala they celebrate 'Onam'. Dasara, Diwali and Gudi Padwa are celebrated when the farm produce is ready.

Paryushana Parva, Buddha Poornima, Ramzan Eid, Christmas and Pateti are important festivals. Whatever the festival, all Indians take part in them happily and wish one another well.

'Independence Day' and 'Republic Day' are our national festivals. All citizens celebrate them. India gained independence from the British on 15th August, 1947. Hence that day is celebrated as Independence Day. The Indian Constitution came into effect from the 26th of January, 1950. So, this day is known as Republic Day.



Festivals bring people together. The feeling of togetherness grows. Festivals include songs, dances, rangolis, games, competitions and races. This gives us joy. While celebrating festivals, we must take care not to harm the environment. Small children and old people suffer if music is played too loudly. Loud noises cause noise pollution.



Do you know ?

India has several adivasi tribes. The 'Warli' tribe lives in Thane district. In June, at the beginning of the monsoon, they celebrate a family festival called 'Koli Bhaji'. Koli is a wild plant that is used as a vegetable. This plant grows after the rains begin. Family members go out into the surroundings and collect fresh tender koli. The vegetable is cooked and an offering is placed before the Gods. Then all the members of the family eat together.



Do you know ?

Makar Sankrant is a festival celebrated in winter. On this day, friends and relatives give each other tilgul (sesame and jaggery). Sesame is an important winter crop. Sesame is a good food for winter as it helps to keep us warm.



What we have learnt –

- * In a family, we are secure in every way.
- * Families are of different types – small families, big families, extended families.
- * A family tree shows several generations of people.
- * Every household chore is important.
- * We must keep our house and surroundings clean.
- * Many of our festivals are linked with agriculture and environment.
- * Independence Day and Republic Day are our national festivals.
- * Festivals increase the feeling of togetherness among people.
- * During festivals, we meet each other, talk to each other and feel connected.



Exercises



A. Answer the following in one sentence.

- (a) What does a family provide ?
- (b) Who takes care of us when we are ill ?
- (c) When do members of an extended family come together ?
- (d) What kinds of activities occur during a festival ?

B. Write whether right or wrong.

- (a) We must help each other in times of difficulty.
- (b) All family members should share the household chores.
- (c) Garbage should not be thrown in a garbage bin.
- (d) Music should not be played so loud as to cause noise pollution.

Activities

- (1) Make a list and draw pictures of ornaments and utensils of your grandparents' time.
- (2) With the help of a teacher or parents, find out the stories behind different festivals.

