

19. My School

Surekha and Mihir woke up earlier than usual.

They began to get dressed without their parents' help. They were in a hurry to get to school. Mother asked, 'Surekha, why are you in such a hurry today?'

Surekha replied, 'Today is the birthday of my school. We will get sweets today. We cleaned our classroom yesterday. Today, there is a class cleanliness and decoration competition. I like my school very much.'

Father said, 'Mihir, we didn't have anything like this in our time.' Mihir replied, 'Daddy, just as we celebrate my birthday at home, in the school, we celebrate our school's birthday. My school ranks first in sports and various other competitions. We hold elocution and sports competitions within the school, too. Daddy, I like working on the projects, going on trips and taking part in get-togethers.'



Can you tell ?

- (1) When was your school established?
- (2) How do you celebrate the Foundation Day of your school?
- (3) What do you like about your school?



Do you know ?

In the olden days in our country, students used to go to their teacher's house to receive education. They lived there for a few years and completed their education. In the later period, a teacher and students of different ages came together. The teacher would then teach the students. Students traced letters and numbers on the ground. In this period, opportunities for girls' education were very rare. When the British introduced the present school system, Mahatma Phule and Krantijyoti Savitribai Phule began in Pune, to educate girls.

Changes in school: Earlier, schools were held in every town and village. In villages, students gathered under a large banyan tree or in a shady place, where one teacher taught students of different ages. They were taught reading, writing and simple arithmetic. When the British came to India, they introduced the modern school system. Our people realized that there can be no progress without education. People began to come forward to send their children to school. This is how the present day schools were formed.



Try this.

With the help of your teacher and parents, find out more about the following people. They have done great work in the field of schools and education.



Mahatma Jotirao Phule



Savitribai Phule



Maharaja Sayajirao Gaikwad



Rajarshi Shahu Maharaj



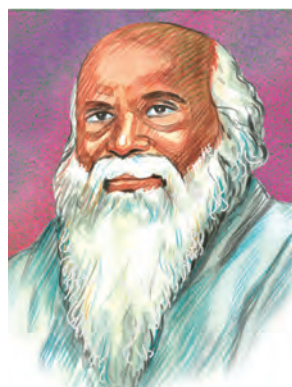
Pandita Ramabai



Maharshi Dhondo Keshav Karve



Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar



Karmveer Bhaurao Patil

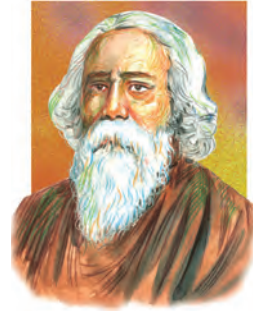


Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh



Do you know ?

- Many people were curious to see the annual results of Savitribai Phule's school for girls. When the girl who stood first was given a prize, she said, 'I don't want a prize, I want a library for the school.' This girl used to study until late in the night at home. Jotirao and Savitribai had arranged to give agricultural and technical education to the children in the school.
- Our national anthem was written by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. He had started a school in Bolpur in Bengal. The school was held in the midst of green trees, colourful flowers, chirping birds under the blue skies. The school was called 'Shantiniketan'. Children loved that school very much. How peaceful it was ! No noise or chaos. No sounds of automobiles, no clatter of horse carriages. A school in the shade of a tree! Students were taught to sing and dance. They were taught arts and crafts. Children put up their own plays, sang, danced and learned new subjects. Children from other countries also came to study here. Tagore was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1913. He gave the prize money to his school.



Rabindranath Tagore
Nobel Prize in



Mahatma Gandhi

- Mahatma Gandhi's views about education are important. He laid stress on the dignity of labour and on learning by doing.
- Maulana Azad was the first Education Minister of independent India. He appointed the 'University Education Commission' and the 'Secondary Education Commission'. He also played an important part in the establishment of the University Grants Commission.



Maulana Azad

He firmly believed that Science and Technology must be included in curriculum. The 11th of November, the date of his birth is observed all over the country as National Education Day.

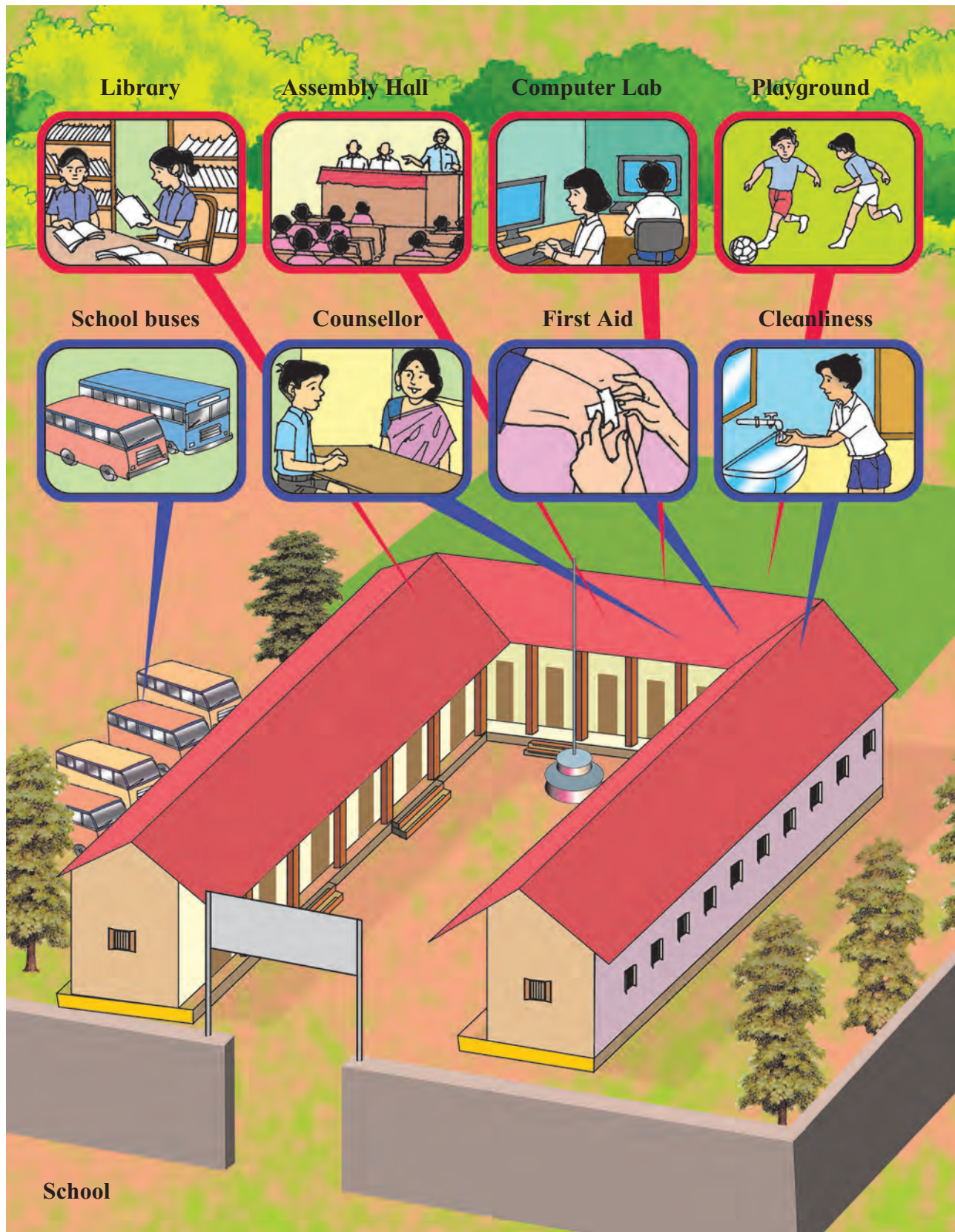


Can you tell ?

- What games are played on a school playground?
- How is a school kept clean?
- How do you help to keep your school clean?
- Which school activities do you take part in?
- How do you go to school every day?

We learn many new things in school. We recite poems, sing songs and draw pictures. We also get to play in school. We play kho-kho, kabaddi and also lejim in school. We must go to school regularly. Going to school on time teaches us punctuality.

In school, we learn how to keep ourselves clean. We also learn the importance of keeping the public places clean. Personal and public hygiene helps to keep us healthy.





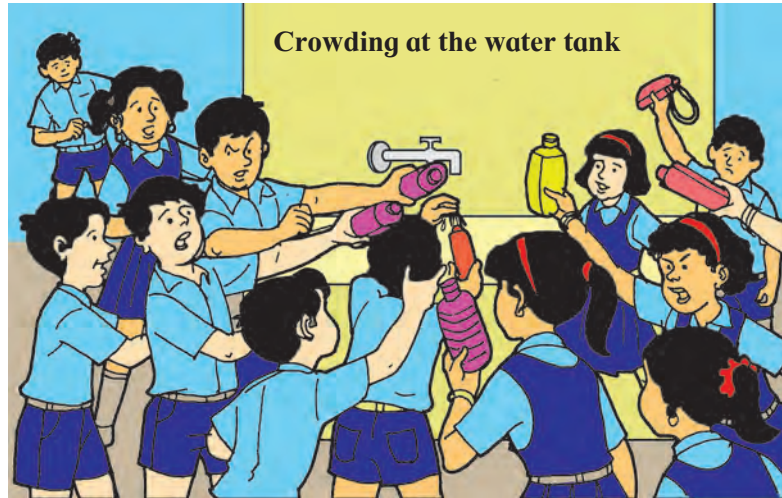
Try this.

In some schools, 2-3 students in each classroom take turns to remove the garbage in the classroom after school is over. They keep the class clean. Thus, children get used to voluntary work. They feel affection for the school and the class. Does your school have such an arrangement? If not, prepare a monthly timetable for cleaning your classroom. Include all of your classmates in this task. A certificate or rotating cup or shield can be given for a clean classroom.



Can you tell ?

- Why is there a crowd and some hullabaloo near the water tank?
- What rules should be followed while using school facilities?
- Where else can we use the rules of school discipline?



We all like school. A school has facilities like a library, playground and computer lab which we all use. Everyone should be able to use these facilities. We should follow certain rules while using these facilities. We should wait in queues. Books borrowed from the library should be returned on time. We should not tear or damage the pages of the books. We must keep the walls and benches in the classroom clean. We must return the sports equipment to its proper place after using it.



Can you tell ?

- Why do friends quarrel?
- What will you do to resolve a quarrel peacefully?
- How will you behave with the person you have quarrelled with, after the quarrel has ended?
- Will you take the help of a teacher to resolve the quarrel?



Some children are fighting so the teacher intervenes.

Quarrels may arise between friends, but they should be resolved amicably. Every person who is quarrelling, should get a chance to present their side. Quarrels should not lead to physical fights. The teacher should be asked to help if a quarrel cannot be resolved. Resolving quarrels peacefully is a good way to end them. It teaches us to solve problems in community life amicably. If issues in community life are resolved peacefully, many of our problems will be solved.



Can you tell ?



Are there any children in your area who do not attend school? Why do they not go to school?

Each child must get the opportunity to attend school. School is for everyone. We learn how to get along with others at school. We get to know a lot of people. At school, we realize that we are a part of society.



Do you know ?

There is a ban on employing children below the age of 14 years in factories, mines and in other hazardous occupations. In 2006, the right against exploitation was expanded to include child labour. It made all kinds of child labour illegal.



What we have learnt –

- * Personal and public hygiene helps to keep us healthy.
- * We all like school.
- * Issues arising in community life should be resolved amicably.
- * Each child must have the opportunity to attend school.



Exercises

A. Answer the following questions in one sentence.

- (1) What games do you play in school?
- (2) What facilities does a school offer?
- (3) How should a quarrel be resolved?

B. Fill in the blanks.

- (1) Going to school on time teaches us ----- .
- (2) ----- borrowed from the library should be returned on time.
- (3) Each child must get the ----- to attend school.

C. Put a '✓' against a correct statement and a 'x' against a wrong statement.

- (1) Pages of books should not be torn.
- (2) Sports equipment should not be put back in its place after use.
- (3) School is for everyone.

Activities

- (1) Discuss the old and new 'drinking water' facilities in the school.
- (2) What efforts will you take to make your school an ideal school?
Draw up an action plan in brief.
- (3) If you get a chance to visit another school, compare that school with your own school.
- (4) During school functions, gift saplings instead of flowers.
Encourage others to do the same.
- (5) Interview teachers from other schools and note down their special activities.
- (6) Make a collection of school songs.

