

# 5

## A Trip to Andaman

Look at the picture and answer the following questions:

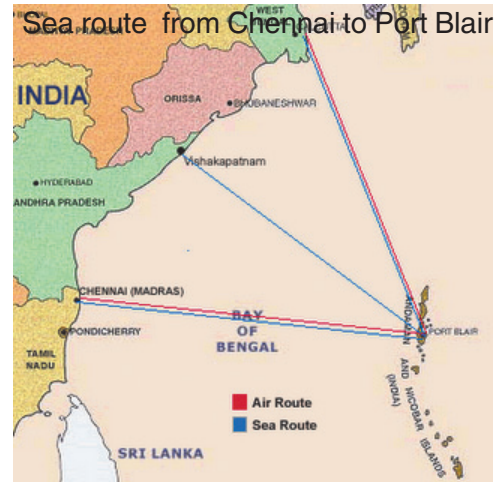


1. What do you see in the picture?
  2. Have you ever been to a sea beach? If yes, which beach did you go to?
  3. What do you guess this lesson is going to talk about?
  4. What does the word Andaman bring to your mind?
- Share your thoughts with your classmates.

## A. Reading

Read the following essay and answer the questions that follow:

We had been longing to make a trip to Andaman; and Dad made it possible for us during the last summer holidays. Soon after the examinations were over, Mom made preparations for the trip. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, we took the Pinakini Express from Vijayawada and reached Chennai Central by 1 p.m. After lunch, we hired a taxi for the port.



In the evening, we boarded a ship for Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The ship looked much bigger than our school building. It had four storeys. It set out after sounding a loud horn. People who had come to see off their friends and relatives cheered them up by waving their hands. My sister Amala and I too waved our hands while Mom and Dad smiled at us.

Tall buildings, cell towers and factory chimneys began to vanish gradually. After a while, the twinkling lights of Chennai bade us farewell. Soon everything around us began to look dark and calm but inside the ship it was all bright and beautiful. When we closed the windows and doors of our cabin, we did not feel the movement of the ship.

On the second day, we came to know that we were in the middle of the sea. The weather was pleasant on the sea. The day was sunny and the sea was reflecting the clouds like a flat mirror. We saw Dolphins swimming along the ship. They sprang and dived again and again. It was quite amusing.

I was curious to know what other people were doing on the ship. So I went around. I saw some watching films and some others eating and drinking in the restaurants. A few were buying things in the fancy stores. I was surprised to see some in a saloon getting their hair cut.

The medical staff was busy treating the patients suffering mostly from sea-sickness. The sanitary workers were on their job of keeping the cabins, corridors and toilets neat and clean. The crew of the ship was very friendly and courteous. They gladly answered all my queries about the ship.





It was the third day. Early in the morning, Mom woke us up to show us the magnificent spectacle of the dawn at the sea. After two days, we reached Port Blair.

“Dad, do you have any idea about these islands and the people who live there?” I asked.

Dad said, “I know a little. There are about six hundred islands. They are located between India’s coast and Myanmar. Only 37 of them are inhabited. They have plant, animal and marine life in abundance.”



We learnt that the inhabitants of the islands were the aboriginal tribes. Some of them lived far away from the civilized society. Despite this, the islands today look like a miniature India. We saw people of different languages, cultures, and faiths living together happily.

We visited a famous national monument, the Cellular jail. We learnt that the Cellular jail was built by the British. It was no longer a jail. It had been converted into a big hospital.

### **Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park**

After a while, we reached an exciting place, the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park. The park was spread over a wide area of 15 islands. Open creeks running through the park area were a special attraction. We watched coral reefs, fishes of different colours and sea turtles through glass-bottomed boats. For some time, we felt ourselves as a part of them. Amala and I cheered the fish and turtles.



We travelled by a ferry from Port Blair to a place called Havelock island. The ferries carry people, vehicles and goods. We enjoyed *panipuri*, *samosas* and *gharam chai* during the ferry journey.





## Havelock Island

A majestic lighthouse greeted us on our arrival at the Havelock Island. We felt as if the sandy beaches and greenish-blue sea were warmly welcoming us.



Some foreign tourists on the beaches were basking in the sun and enjoying themselves. We saw tourists enjoying swimming in the sea, and riding on elephants. Silky sands, foaming tides and cool breeze of the sea attracted us very much. We took lots of pictures of the beautiful scenery.

## Scuba diving

We visited the beach called Elephant beach. To our amazement, we saw some swimmers diving into the sea from the motor boats. They were dressed in a different way. They put masks on their faces and carried air cylinders on their backs.



I asked Dad “Why are the swimmers diving into the sea?”

Dad replied, “They want to watch the coral reefs and beautiful coloured fishes and sea turtles. They stay for a long time beneath the sea and swim along with them. It is called Scuba diving.” The Scuba diving filled my heart with a spirit of adventure. I wished I could do it.

## Elephant ride on the beach

Lastly, we visited Radhanagar beach. It was a beautiful place with white sand and thick green forests along the coastline. We saw a man riding an elephant. He offered rides on payment. My sister Amala and I enjoyed a jolly ride on the elephant. We tasted delicious Tandoori fish and other seafoods on the islands. My mouth still waters when I remember those moments. I cherish the memory of the great fun we had. I’ll never forget my trip to Andaman.



## Glossary

longing (n):	strong feeling or desire
vanish (v):	disappear
treating (v):	curing an illness or injury
inhabited (v):	lived
aboriginal (adj):	original people belonging to a place





- creek (n): a narrow area of water where the sea flows into the land
- coral reefs (n): a hard substance that is red, pink or white in colour and that forms on the bottom of the sea
- ferry (n): a boat or a ship that carries people, goods, vehicles across a river

### How well did I read?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I enjoyed reading the passage.	
I got the idea of the passage on my own.	
I got the idea with the help of my friends in the group.	
The teacher helped me to understand the passage.	
I used the glossary given at the end of the passage.	

### I. Answer the following questions:

- Based on your reading of the passage, list the tourist attractions of Andaman Island. Which one of them has fascinated you the most? Why?
- \*2. Would you like to go to Andaman during holidays? Give reasons for your answer.
- \*3. Which means of transport is, in your opinion, more enjoyable for visiting a place like Andaman? Give reasons for your answer.
- \*4. The Andaman and Nicobar Islands have been called a miniature India. Do you agree with this view? Give reasons for your answer.
5. What does 'I' refer to in the passage?
6. The writer saw many interesting things on the ship. But which one surprised him the most? Why?
7. How did the tourists enjoy on the beach?
8. Who guided the family on the Islands?
9. Why do you think the Scuba divers need air cylinders?
- \*10. Have you ever visited any tourist place? Share your experience.

### II. Tick the correct answer

- How did the author feel, when the windows and doors of their cabin were closed.
  - The author felt the ship sinking. ( )
  - The author felt uncomfortable. ( )
  - The author did not feel the movement of the ship. ( )
  - The author felt the fast movement of the ship. ( )





2. The most favourable time to visit Andaman is the.....
- A) winter. ( )
- B) spring. ( )
- C) summer. ( )
- D) monsoon. ( )
3. Why did the family go to Andaman?
- A) to learn about the aborigines ( )
- B) to watch how foreigners enjoy themselves ( )
- C) to explore a tourist spot ( )
- D) to view only the sea beaches. ( )

## Vocabulary

- I. Find the antonyms of the following words from the text and write them in your notebooks. Also, write one sentence each for the word and its antonym.

impossible	suddenly	ugly	bright	tasteless
dim	above	hostile	cloudy	notorious

- II. Read the following sentences and notice how the word 'wave' has been used differently:

1. My sister Amala and I too waved our hands while Mom and Dad smiled at us.
2. Silky sands, foaming waves and cool breeze of the sea attracted us very much.

In Sentence 1 'wave' is used as a verb in the past tense and in Sentence 2, it is used as a noun in its plural form. As a verb, it means 'to move hand or arm from side to side' and as a noun, it refers to 'raised lines of water that move across the surface of the sea or ocean.'

**Fill in the blanks with appropriate forms of the words given in the brackets. They can be used both as nouns and verbs.**

1. The volleyball team of our school \_\_\_\_\_ four matches. The fourth day \_\_\_\_\_ was excellent. (play)
2. Latha is \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of problems. I am sorry to see tears on her lovely \_\_\_\_\_. (face)
3. My grand-daughter said, "Grandpa, you look very sweet when I see a \_\_\_\_\_ on your face." On hearing this Grandpa \_\_\_\_\_ at once. (smile)
4. Suresh \_\_\_\_\_ that he would pass the examination. But his.... disappeared when he saw the question paper. (hope)



5. When I answered a question correctly, the English teacher \_\_\_\_\_ me on my back and said, "Well done, Smarty." Her \_\_\_\_\_ made me feel very happy and proud. (pat)

### III. Read the following sentences from the passage.

1. The ship set out after sounding a loud horn.
2. People who came to see off their friends and relatives cheered them up by waving their hands.

The sets of words underlined are 'phrasal verbs'.

**Pick out from a dictionary more phrasal verbs beginning with the word 'set', find out their meanings, and use them in sentences of your own.**

## Grammar

### I. Simple Past Tense

**Read the following lines taken from the lesson:**

*Soon after the examinations were over, Mom made preparations for the trip. On the 25<sup>th</sup> of April, we took the Pinakini Express from Vijayawada and reached Chennai at 1 p.m.*

The underlined words are verbs in the simple past tense and refer to actions that took place in the past. The Simple Past Tense is used here to talk of completed actions in the past.

Given below is the action plan prepared by the Headmaster of Mahatma Gandhi Zilla Parishad High School, Dosakayalapalli for a tour to Nagarjuna Sagar Project. They finished the tour on 15-10-2011. Describe the tour in the past tense by making appropriate changes in the verbs given in the action plan.

6.00 a.m.	board the bus at the school
8.30 a.m.	stop at Eluru for breakfast
12.00 noon	reach the spot
1.00 p.m.	take lunch
1.30 to 3.30 p.m.	visit the Nagarjuna Sagar project
3.30 to 4.30 p.m.	visit the museum
4.40 p.m.	visit Ettipothala falls
5.00 p.m.	board the bus
8.30 p.m.	take supper at Eluru
10.30 p.m.	reach the school



**You can start like this:**

On 15-10-2011, the students of MGZPH school, Dosakayalapalli started their tour to Nagarjuna Sagar Project. They boarded the bus at the school at 6.00 a.m...

## **II. Past Continuous Tense**

**Read the following lines taken from the lesson:**

Some foreign tourists on the beaches were basking in the sun and enjoying themselves. *The underlined verbs 'were basking' and '(were) enjoying' are in the Past Continuous Tense. The Past Continuous Tense is used to talk about or describe an action which someone was doing or an event which was happening at a particular time in the past.*

### **I. Fill in the blanks with appropriate forms of the verbs given in the brackets.**

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ with each other when the police \_\_\_\_\_.( fight, arrive)
2. When Rajesh \_\_\_\_\_, he \_\_\_\_\_ down and \_\_\_\_\_ his leg.( run, fall, injure)
3. While he \_\_\_\_\_ it \_\_\_\_\_ to rain.( play, begin)
4. The children \_\_\_\_\_ a film when the lights \_\_\_\_\_ off.(watch, go off)
5. My mother was \_\_\_\_\_ when the guests \_\_\_\_\_. (still cook, arrive)
6. The teacher \_\_\_\_\_ when the principal \_\_\_\_\_ the room.( teach, enter)
7. Father was \_\_\_\_\_ the T.V. when the telephone bell \_\_\_\_\_. (watch, ring)
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ ready for our journey when the power \_\_\_\_\_ off. (get, go)

**Work in pairs**

**\*II. Narrate what your family members were doing yesterday when you reached home after school.**

## **Writing**

**I. Arrange the following sentences in proper sequence using appropriate connectors and replacing 'we' with 'they'. You can add some more information you may have liked in the passage.**

1. We visited a beach called Elephant beach.
2. We reached Port Blair.
3. We travelled by a ferry from Port Blair to a place called Havelock island.
4. In the evening we boarded a ship for Port Blair.







5. We visited Radhanagar beach.
6. After a while, we reached an exciting place, the Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park.
7. We had been longing to make a trip to Andaman.
8. We visited a famous national monument, the Cellular jail.

## II. Describing a place

You have read about a famous tourist place, Andaman. After reading the description don't you feel that you have actually visited the place? This is because the author has given a vivid picture of the place through the description of the place and the activities. When you want to describe a place you need to find answers for the following questions:

1. Where is the place located? What is it famous for?
2. How can one reach there? How is the weather during the time of the visit? What is the best time to visit? What things to carry? What sort of accommodation is available?
3. What places and things can be seen on the way to the place?
4. What are the major tourist attractions?

**One of your friends wishes to visit the place you have visited recently. Write a letter to your friend describing the details mentioned above to help him make his/her trip successful.**

### How well did I write?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I was able to explain / describe / narrate well.	
The sentences I used were properly connected.	
I was able to express my ideas in apt words.	
The ideas were arranged in proper sequence.	
I used proper punctuation marks.	

### How well did I edit my work?

Fill in the boxes using yes/ somewhat/ no.	
I deleted the excess words.	
I corrected the wrong forms of words.	
I corrected the punctuation errors.	
I added new words wherever necessary.	
I corrected the misspelt words.	



## Study Skills

This table shows the climate of Port Blair

Climate	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Temperature high (°C)	27	28	29	30	29	28	27	27	27	28	28	27
Temperature low (°C)	23	23	24	26	26	26	25	25	25	25	25	25
Precipitation(mm) (Rain, snow, etc. that falls)	46	27	29	69	360	501	424	425	463	301	235	155

\* Write briefly in your own words the best and the most uncomfortable time to visit Port Blair. Give reasons.

## Listening and Speaking

I. Your teacher will read the story 'Gulliver in Lilliput'. Listen carefully and answer the following questions:

1. Why did Gulliver go to Lilliput?
2. Why did the little people shoot arrows at Gulliver?
3. What do you think is the size of the Lilliputian's house?
4. How many Lilliputians can you carry in your bag?
- \*5. Would you like to live among such strange people?
6. Pigmies are also very small people. Find out who is smaller?  
A Pygmy or a Lilliputian?
7. Why did the king like Gulliver?

II. Work in pairs.

Ask and answer the following questions:

- \*1. If you were the king, how would you use Gulliver?
- \*2. If you lived in Lilliput, what problems would you face?
- \*3. In stories, we often come across very small people like elves and dwarfs.  
How are they different from Lilliputians?



\*III. Here is a list of places of South India Tourism. Tell your group about the city you would like to visit and why. What is special about the city? What should visitors do there?

Tirupati

Araku Valley

Amaravathi

Hyderabad

Nagarjuna Sagar

Warangal

Kerala

Kanyakumari

## B. Reading

Read the following poem:

### My Trip to the Moon

I was sitting alone in my house,  
Studying the structure of a mouse,  
My exams were going on,  
And science I hadn't done.  
Suddenly the lights went out,  
Then I heard a loud burst,  
Someone was there, outside,  
I went out to look, full of fright.  
I saw a huge rocket,  
And an astronaut in white,  
He invited me on a flight to the moon,  
We reached there by afternoon.  
We jumped around  
As we couldn't walk on the ground.  
It was a lot of fun,  
I reached home before the setting sun.  
My science test went very well,  
But no one knows the secret,  
Which even now inside me dwells.

– Akriti Goel





### Answer the following questions:

1. Do you think the child really went to the moon?
2. What was the child's feeling about his trip to the moon?
3. Why couldn't the astronaut and the child walk on the moon?
4. How would you feel if you were in his place?
5. If you were given a chance, which planet would you visit?
6. Can you guess the secret that dwells inside the child's mind?

## Project

**\*Take a few important tourist places in your district / state, collect a few pictures and paste them on a big chart with a small write up under each picture. Display this in your classroom. The write up should include the following.**

The name of the place

Its importance

Salient features of the place

## C. Reading

Read the following story:

### Sindbad, the Sailor

I bought a substantial stock of goods to trade, and sailed on a ship with a number of my merchant friends. We placed ourselves in the care of Allah and set off. Soon we reached an island.

We decided to go ashore. My friends went to gather fruits and flowers, but I took my food packet to a place in the shade. I had a good meal and lay down to sleep under the trees. I don't know how long I slept, but when I awoke and looked out to sea, the ship had gone. I was all alone. Not knowing what to do, I climbed up to the top of a tall tree and looked over the island on all sides. In the distance I could see something white, and decided to find out what it was.

Soon, I came to what seemed like a huge white ball. When I touched it, it felt very smooth. It was so high that I could not see the top of it, and it was more than fifty paces round. There was no door on any side, and it was too smooth to climb.

Suddenly, the sky above me became dark, as if a huge cloud was covering it. Looking up, I saw that the darkness was caused by the shadow of a huge bird that was flying towards me. I had often heard sailors talk of a great and wonderful bird, called a 'roc'. This must be a roc, I thought, and this huge ball must be its egg!





The bird came nearer and sat on its egg. I soon crept close to the egg. Near me was one of the bird's legs, which was as big as a tree. I decided to tie myself to the leg of this bird with my turban so that when it flew away from the island, it would carry me with it.

At day break, the bird flew up so high that I was carried out of sight of the island. Then it came down again so fast that I lost my senses. When I found myself on the ground, I quickly untied the turban. The bird caught up a snake and flew away.

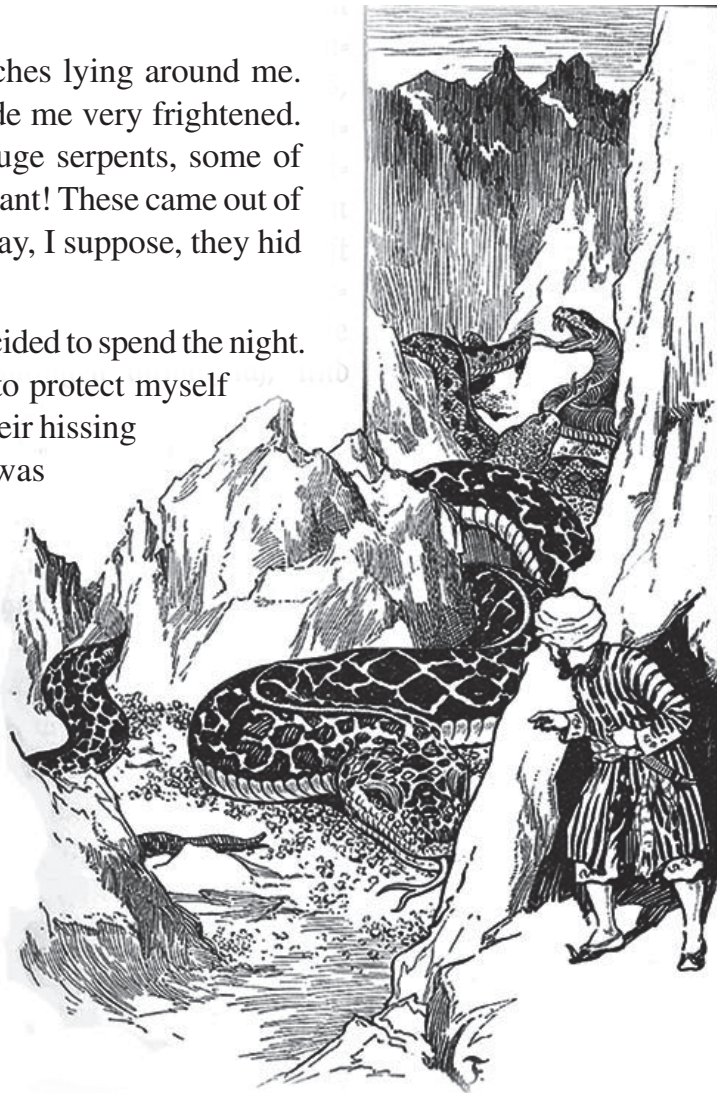
This time I found myself surrounded on all sides by immense mountains that seemed to reach above the clouds.

The sides of the valley looked so steep that there was no possibility of climbing them. When I began to look around the valley, I found that there were large diamonds lying on the ground.

I was excited to find such riches lying around me. Then I saw something else that made me very frightened. All around the valley there were huge serpents, some of them big enough to even eat an elephant! These came out of their holes at nightfall. During the day, I suppose, they hid themselves from the rocs.

I found a small cave where I decided to spend the night. At the entrance I put a large stone to protect myself from the serpents, but the noise of their hissing outside made sleep impossible. I was glad that they went to their holes as daylight came on, and I was able to come out again. But I was still frightened - in fact, I found myself walking upon diamonds without a thought of their value! At last, being very tired, I decided to eat a little of my food, and then to have a short sleep in the sun.

I was suddenly awakened by something which fell near me. I sat up, and found that it was a huge piece of raw meat! At the same time, more





pieces fell down from the rocks above the valley. I had heard stories in the past about this valley of diamonds, but had not believed them. Now I saw with my own eyes what the local merchants did to obtain the jewels; they used huge eagles to carry up the diamonds for them!

When the eagles have young ones in their nests among the rocks, they fly down into the valley to get food for them. So, the merchants would throw down large pieces of raw meat; the diamonds stick to the meat, and in this way get carried to the eagles nests. Each merchant has his own nest, and considers its jewels his. The idea came to me that I too could use these eagles – I myself could be lifted up from this deep valley, and thus escape from it! The eagles were so big and strong that my weight would seem little.

First, I collected a number of large diamonds. These I put in my wallet and tied the wallet to my waist. Next, I tied one of the large pieces of meat to the middle of my back with my turban. I then lay down with my face to the ground, and waited there. There was the sound of huge wings around me. Then I felt myself lifted up and carried to the top of the rocky walls of the valley.

Soon I was in one of the nests. The merchants were surprised to see me there, and when they heard my story, they helped me to find a ship to go home. When I got back to Baghdad, I was a very wealthy man. I gave large amounts of money to the poor and lived peacefully in my own home.

#### Answer the following questions:

1. Who changed the fate of Sindbad? How?
- \*2. What would you want to become in your life? Would you like to become a sailor? Why? Why not?
- \*3. How would you have handled the encounter with a roc?
- \*4. What factors would you change to make the story more adventurous and thrilling?
5. Describe Sindbad's preparations for his journey.

### What is a palindrome?

A palindrome is a word (or a number), phrase or sentence which reads the same backwards or forwards. Look at the following examples and try to discover some more palindromes.

WORDS : madam, bib, level, Malayalam

PHRASES : dog's god, lion oil, too hot to hoot

SENTENCES : Madam, I'm Adam; Was it a cat I saw? Rise to vote, Sir.

