

# To My Beloved Motherland, India

## Pre-reading Activities

### Question 1:

#### Unity in Diversity

We know that India is a land of diversity. Form groups of four students each and complete the following table. Remember to write down the points that reveal the unity.

State	Language	Food	Festivals	Life-style
<b>Maharashtra</b>			Ganesh Pooja	<i>kurta dhoti, navvari sari</i>
<b>Punjab</b>	Punjabi			
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>		<i>idli / dosa</i>		
<b>Unity</b>				

### Answer:

State	Language	Food	Festivals	Life-style
<b>Maharashtra</b>	Marathi	<i>pithla, bhakri, puran poli, varan bhat</i>	Ganesh Pooja	<i>kurta dhoti, navvari sari</i>
<b>Punjab</b>	Punjabi	<i>paratha, sarso ka saag, lassi, makki di roti butter chicken, mutter paneer</i>	Lohri	<i>kurta-pajama, pagdi, salwar kameez</i>
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	Tamil	<i>idli / dosa</i>	Pongal	<i>lungi-shirt, sari / nine yards sari</i>
<b>Unity</b>	Hindi and English are commonly spoken and understood languages	enjoy their own traditional delicacies as well as that of other states	Diwali, Holi	<i>trousers-shirt, sari / salwar kameez</i>

### Question 2:

#### Our Heroes

Look at the photographs in your textbook and complete the following table. Within your group select the personality and after discussion complete the following table. The group leader will present the information to the class.

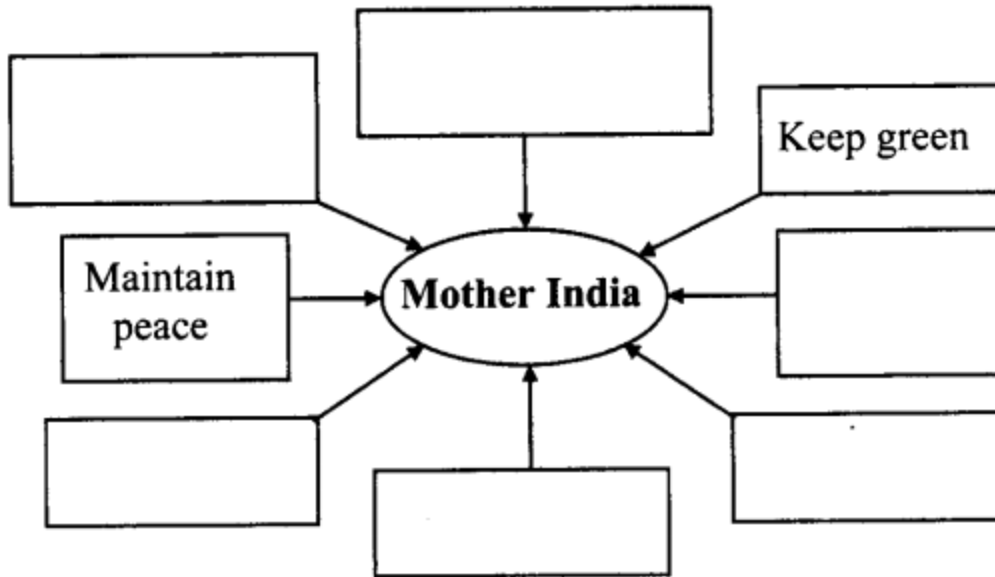
Name of the leader	Born on / Place	Contribution	Important Events	Message	Death

**Answer:**

Name of the leader	Born on / Place	Contribution	Important Events	Message	Death
Bal Gangadhar Tilak	23 <sup>rd</sup> July, 1856 / Ratnagiri	Father of the Indian unrest; various movements in the freedom struggle; Sarvajanik Ganeshotsav	Started newspapers 'Kesari' and 'Maratha'; organized Deccan Education Society; wrote Gita Rahasya in Mandalay	Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it.	1 <sup>st</sup> August, 1920
Mahatma Gandhi	2 <sup>nd</sup> October, 1869 / Porbandar	Lived and preached the principles of 'satyagraha', 'ahimsa', 'self-reliance' and 'simplicity'; leadership in Indian Independence Movement	Non-cooperation Movement; Civil disobedience Movement; Salt Satyagraha; Quit India Movement	Be the change you wish to see in the world.	30 <sup>th</sup> January, 1948
Smt. Indira Gandhi	19 <sup>th</sup> November, 1917 / Allahabad	Intervened in the Pakistani Civil War in support of East Pakistan; remained a staunch supporter of Palestinians in the Arab-Israeli conflict; brought in equal pay for equal work for both men and women; supported India's Nuclear Programme	Became the President of the Indian National Congress in 1959; became the Prime Minister of India on 24 <sup>th</sup> January, 1966; signed the historic Simla Agreement with Pakistan	We must give top priority to the unity and integrity of the country. Everything else is secondary.	31 <sup>st</sup> October, 1984
Sarojini Naidu	13 <sup>th</sup> February, 1879 / Hyderabad	Indian freedom fighter; eminent poet, Played a key role in Civil Disobedience and Quit India Movement	First Indian woman to become the President of the Indian National Congress and the first woman to become the Governor of U.P. Helped to establish Women's Indian Association in 1917	Empowerment of women.	2 <sup>nd</sup> March, 1949

**Question 3:****Duty towards the Motherland .**

Form pairs and complete the web with appropriate responses. Think how you would like to serve the Motherland.



**Answer:**

- i. Spread feeling of brotherhood
- ii. Preserve historical monuments
- iii. Help the poor
- iv. Mutual trust and respect
- v. Maintain unity
- vi. Protect from enemies

**Question 1:**

Read the extract carefully and state whether the following statements are True or False.

- i. The poet's heart fills with sorrow for being born here.
- ii. India is referred to as the Motherland of the poet.
- iii. The poet's ancestors came from some other country.
- iv. He will not spare any alien for a sum.
- v. The soil has given him food to eat.

**Answer:**

- i. False
- ii. True
- iii. False
- iv. True
- v. True

**Question 2:**

Match column A with B.

	<b>Column 'A'</b>		<b>Column 'B'</b>
*i.	Poet's heart [A6, pg. 186] [July 15]	a.	fill with anguish
*ii.	Poet's soul [A6, pg. 186] [July 15]	b.	is always ready to shed / sacrifice
*iii.	Poet's blood [A6, pg. 186]	c.	is quenched by the water
*iv.	Poet's thirst [A6, pg. 186] [Mar 14]	d.	is always ready to adorn
*v.	Poet's life [A6, pg. 186] [July 15]	e.	came from ancestors
vi.	Poet's home [July 15]	f.	leaps with joy
vii.	The poet feels proud [Mar 14]	g.	to sacrifice his life
viii.	The poet's soul is filled with anguish [Mar 14]	h.	because he is son of India
ix.	The poet is ready [Mar 14]	i.	see havoc done in country

**Answer:**

(i – f), (ii – a), (iii – b), (iv – c), (v – d), (vi – e), (vii – h), (viii – i), (ix – g)

**Question 3:**

Match the following expressions from the extract.

	Column 'A'		Column 'B'
i.	This is the air	a	which appeased my thirst.
ii.	This is the soil	b	that gave me my heartbeat.
iii.	This is the water	c	which I had breathed at first.
iv.	This is the place	d	that gave me food to eat.

**Answer:**

(i – c), (ii – d), (iii – a), (iv – b)

## A2. Understanding the Extract

**i. Answer in a paragraph.**

**Question 1:**

Who is proud to be the son of India?

**Answer:**

The poet is proud to be the son of India.

**Question 2:**

Why does the narrator feel proud?

**Answer:**

The poet is ready to sacrifice his life for the sake of the Motherland. He would protect and safeguard it and is not ready to give even an inch of it to an alien in exchange of money

**Question 3:**

When is the poet's soul filled with anguish?

**Answer:**

The poet's soul is filled with anguish to see the havoc done to his Motherland.

**Question 4:**

Who is referred to as beloved in the poem?

**Answer:**

The poet's motherland-India is referred to as beloved in the poem.

**Question 5:**

What should not be spared for a sum?

**Answer:**

Even an inch of the Motherland should not be spared to an alien for a sum.

**Question 6:**

Why is the poet not ready to give an inch of land?

**Answer:**

The poet is not ready to give an inch of land because it is his Motherland. It is the place where he was born and his ancestors came from. He loves and respects his Motherland. So, he is not ready to give it to anyone.

**Question 7:**

What are the things that the poet has received from his Motherland?

OR

Mention the things received by the poet from his Motherland.

**Answer:**

The poet's Motherland is the place where he had taken his first breath. The soil of his Motherland has given him food to eat and water to quench his thirst. The poet says that his Motherland has given him his heartbeat.

**Question 8:**

What is the poet ready to sacrifice for the Motherland?

**Answer:**

The poet is ready to sacrifice his life, his blood for the Motherland. ‘

**Question 9:**

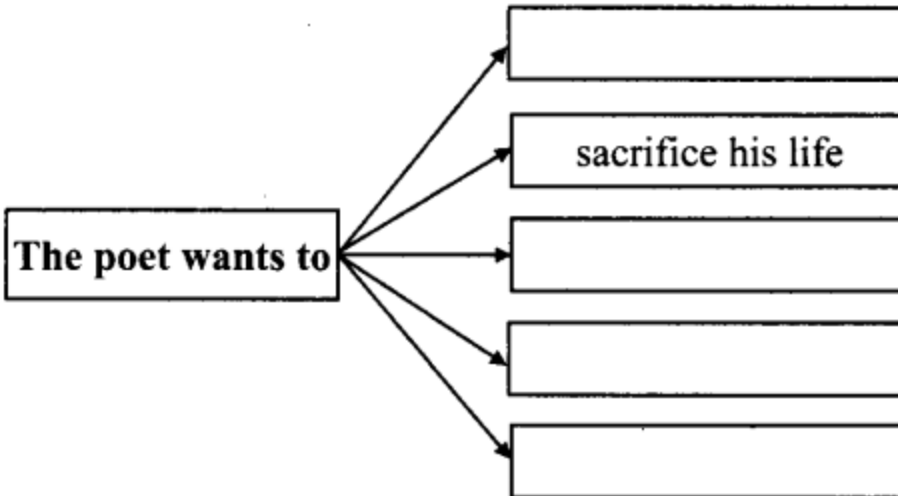
What is the poet ready to do for the sake of the Motherland?

**Answer:**

Carter and wealth. He is ready to shed his blood anytime in future for his Motherland.

**Question 10:**

Complete the web with suitable responses. Write all the things the poet is ready to do for the motherland.



**Answer:**

- i. adorn his Motherland with his life
- ii. reduce all the havoc done to his Motherland
- iii. protect every inch of his Motherland from aliens
- iv. keep the dignity of his Motherland unchallenged

**A3. Vocabulary**

**Question 1:**

Glance through the extract and you will come across many words that are now old fashioned. Make a list of such words along in the table?

Old words	Meaning
thy	your
canst	
thine	

**Answer:**

Old words	Meaning
thy	your
canst	can
thine	yours

**Question 2:**

Form a pair and find out the various rhyming words from the extract. Complete the following table after reading the extract.

Words	Rhyming words
son	done
born	
first	
eat	
state	

**Answer:**

Words	Rhyming words
son	done
born	adorn
first	thirst
eat	heartbeat
state	date

**Question 3:**

Find the rhyming words from the poem for:

i. dart ii. stare

**Answer:**

i. heart

ii. spare

**Question 4:**

Find and write down from the extract the words that describe the following.

i. Situation in which a lot of damage, destruction, etc. happens.

ii. Coming from a different country, race or group.

**Answer:**

i. havoc ii. alien

**Question 5:**

Find from the extract opposites of the following words.

i. sorrow ii. death

iii. last

**Answer:**

i. joy

ii. life

iii. first



## Additional Questions for Practice

### Question 1:

Read poem again the and after discussing with your partner answer the following questions.

\*a. Why does the narrator feel proud?

#### Answer:

The narrator feels proud because he is a son of India. He also feels proud for taking birth in India.

\*b. What feeling does the poem create in your mind?

#### Answer:

The poem evokes a patriotic feeling in my mind. It inspires me to respect and be proud of my motherland. It fills my heart with a strong desire to protect and safeguard it by sacrificing my life, if needed.

c. Are you proud of being an Indian? Why?

#### Answer:

Yes, I am proud of being an Indian. I feel that India offers a lot of career opportunities to students and people here are warm and welcoming. We have a rich cultural heritage and we celebrate vibrant festivals throughout the year. Our land is blessed with natural beauty. Apart from that, we are making progress towards being a developed country. With all these qualities, India is indeed a nation one can be proud of.

### Question 2:

#### Complete

Look at the following starting expressions. Complete them with the thoughts of your own. One is done for you.

#### For example:

This is the place .....

This is the place of my dream.

i. This is the place of .....

#### Answer:

This is the place of my ancestors.

ii. This is the country .....

#### Answer:

This is the country of rich and varied heritage.

iii. This is the school .....

#### Answer:

This is the school that taught me to be myself.

iv. This is the family .....

**Answer:**

This is the family that inculcated good values in me.

v. This is the mother .....

**Answer:**

This is the mother who nurtured me with love and care.

### **Question 3:**

#### **Observing a poem**

Observe the poem again with the following things in mind.

i. Number of stanzas .....

**Answer:**

There are four stanzas in the poem.

ii. Number of lines in each stanza .....

**Answer:**

There are four lines in each of the first three stanzas. There are only two lines in the last stanza.

iii. Total number of lines .....

**Answer:**

There are 14 lines in the poem.

This poem is a 'sonnet' where the 14 lines are broken down into sections called quatrains. The first three quatrains contain four lines each and the last quatrain contains two lines.

### **Question 4:**

#### **Changing word-order**

i. Look at a line taken from the poem and the sentence prepared by changing the order of words.

a. Even an inch of it, I cannot hand, Now read..

**Answer:**

I cannot hand even an inch of the land.

b. Observe which line makes the meaning more clear.

**Answer:**

Line (b) makes the meaning more clear. It is written in the correct prose order (subject + verb + object).

ii. Now, select any line from the poem and change the word order and rewrite.

**Answer:**

a. My heart with joy leaps for being here bom

Correct order: My heart leaps with joy for being bom here.

b. My soul with anguish fills for havoc done  
Correct order: My soul fills with anguish for havoc done.

**Question 5:**

**Be a poet**

Look at the expressions that begin with  
My India, I am .....

<b>This</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>the</b>	<b>air</b>	_____
<b>This</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>the</b>	<b>soil</b>	_____
<b>This</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>the</b>	<b>water</b>	_____
<b>This</b>	<b>is</b>	<b>the</b>	<b>place</b>	_____

Now, try to complete these lines in the way you feel appropriate.

**Answer:**

My India, I am glad to be your son.  
This is the air that gives life to each one.  
This is the soil so very fertile.  
This is the water that flows for a mile.  
This is the place where the sun shines bright.