

# CHAPTER- 11

## The Jungles of Chhattisgarh

The jungle of Chhattisgarh

Were explored by Uncle's binoculars.

Birds at a place

Appeared near and easy to trace.

Uncle climbed a tree

And saw panthers there.

Then suddenly Kalu, the monkey

Played tricks and looked funny.

Make a note in your diary of animals that your uncle saw in the jungle.

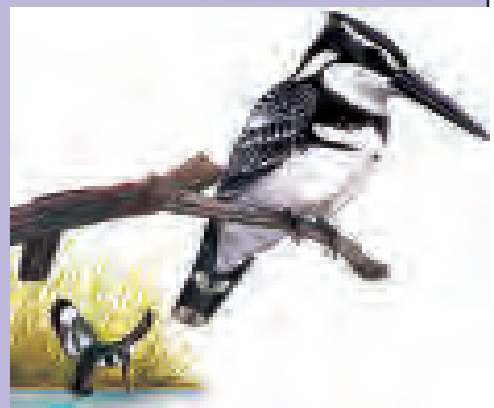
**29<sup>th</sup> April 2005**

Today, it was quite hot. The local tribals were collecting honey in the jungle. I talked to them. They told me a lot of interesting things about the jungle which were unknown to me. They told me about the living creatures of the jungle and also the use of many wild plants.

**20<sup>th</sup> June 2005**

It was wonderful day today. I saw many species of plants, insects and birds. I saw an insect eating a bug.

There was a spotted bird catching a fish. For the first time I got to see a birds nest.



**21st Sept. 2006**

It was raining today. All the creatures of the jungle hid themselves in the cluster of trees. The thick vegetation was preventing there creatures from strong rain showers. There was total silence in the jungle. Because of the rain, even the

**Have you ever been to a jungle?**

-----

**What have you seen in a jungle?**

-----

**Draw a jungle scene in your notebook.**

Come, let's find more about the jungles of Chhattisgarh.

Part of Chhattisgarh has thick jungles whereas some parts have scanty vegetation. There are a variety of trees in these jungles. To name a few, we have Sal, Sagaon(Teak), Mahua, Sheesham, Haldu, Amla, Bamboo etc.

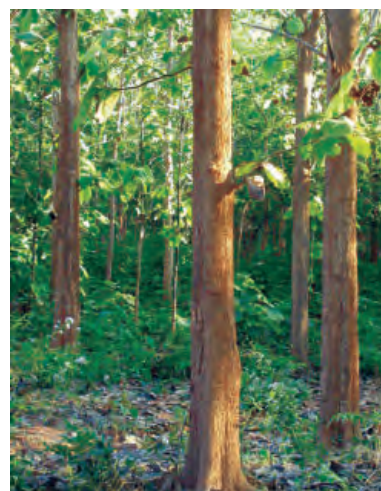


## Sal Forests

Sal trees are most commonly found in the jungles of Ambikapur and Jashpur in Chhattisgarh. These areas experience heavy rain fall resulting in thick vegetation. Though a variety of trees grow here, sal is found in abundance. Hence, there jungles are named after the 'Sal' trees as, the Sal jungles

The sal jungles are recognized by these tall trees. Its bark is black, hard and twisted.

These trees shed their leaves in the months of March-April and look green all the year round. Such trees are called evergreen trees. These forests look green and remain cool even in summers.



**Sal Tree**

Apart from clay, sal trees require hot and wet climate to grow.

### Use

Sal wood is used in construction. As it is firm and durable, it is used for making doors, windows furniture etc. It is waterproof and hence is durable. Earlier, its wood was used for laying rail tracks and making sleepers. Today, sleepers are made of cement or concrete. Apart from this, sal is also used for making bridges, boats, tools and implements. Its bark and leaves are used in leather industry. Its juice 'ral' is extracted to prepare incense, shoe polish, medicines for ear problems etc. The oil extracted from its seeds is used in making soap.



Flowers and leaves of sal

If you come across a sal tree, you must observe its bark, leaves, flowers, fruits etc.

**If you happen to find sal wood, just look at it and tell how its colour is?**

.....

**How are the different parts of Sal used? (eg. its bark, seeds, fruits and leaves)**

.....

**Find out what are the things which are made with sal wood?**

.....

### Sagaon jungles

The sagaon jungles are found in the south-west areas of Chattisgarh. There trees remain green only for a few months after the monsoons. By the end of winters, its leaves dry up and by summers the trees shed their leaves. As a result, the sagaon jungles look withered and deserted during the summer season.

**How are the various parts of sagaon tree useful? Find and write.**

.....

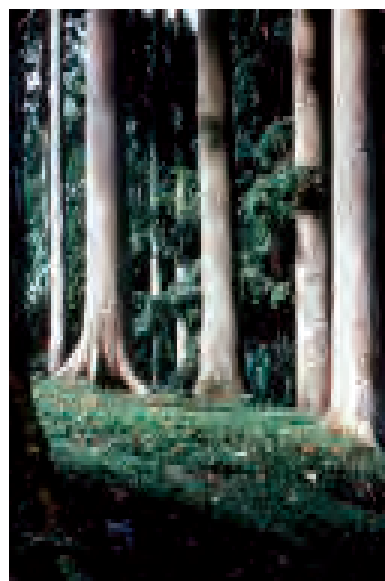


Flowers and leaves of teak

Apart from sal and sagaon, many other trees like Sheesham, Mahua, Kher, Bija, Saja, Tendu, Bamboo, Arjun, Palash, Mango, Tamarind etc; are also found in these jungles. Tendu leaves, mahua, tamarind are means of livelihood for the local people. Many herbal plants are also found here. This is why Chhattisgarh is called the herbal state.

**Many other varieties of trees are also found in these jungles. Find out from your elders how their leaves, wood, flowers, fruits etc. are useful to us. Fill up this information in a tabular form.**

**If the deforestation goes on how will the wild life survive? Think and write.**



**Sagon Tree**

.....  
 .....

**Find out from elders at house whether the jungle have increased or decreased in comparison to the past. If at all they have decreased then-**

**a) How has it affected the local tribals?**

.....

**b) How has it affected the wild life?**

.....

Do you know that the elephants are killed for their horns (ivory). In the same way rhino for horn and tiger, crocodile and snakes for their skin are killed. In our country Tiger and in our state animal Bison and state bird PahariMaina's numbers have lessened so much that our government is protecting many forests to conserve these birds and animals. In these forest, people are prohibited to harm animals and the forest. These are known as sanctuaries.

Find out where are the sanctuaries for conservation of animals in our state.

### **Conservation of Forests**

**Cutting of trees is banned in forest. If the forest catches fire it causes**

heavy loss. Hence, the workers of the forest department regularly clean the dry grass leaving patches of clean ground in the centre. Care is taken that no damage is caused to the trees by bugs and insects.

### What have we learnt

#### Oral

1. Name the districts of Chhattisgarh, where we find dense forest.
2. How is the Sal wood useful to us?
3. Name the trees found in the forests of Chhattisgarh.

#### Written

1. Why is the Sal tree so special?
2. Why is Chhattisgarh called the herbal state?
3. Name the creatures found in these jungles.
4. How can deforestation affect us?
5. Compare the forests of sal and sagaon on the basis of the following titles-

No.	Title	Sal	Sagaon
1.	Districts where they are found		
2.	Use of bark		
3.	Use of wood		
4.	Use of seeds		
5.	Time when they shed their leaves		

### Find around

1. What are the reasons for deforestation in your surrounding areas?
2. Find out from your elders the creatures found in these jungles.

