



Pre Activity- Write a few names of environmentalists.

New words with meanings:

1. Environmentalist: a person who works to protect the environment
2. Quarry- a large deep pit from which stone or other materials are extracted.
3. Meagre- very limited or small quantity
4. Void- emptiness
5. Phenomenal- exceptionally good
6. Consistent- regular and steady
7. Doctorate- the high degree given as an honour to those who have made great contribution
8. Passionate- enthusiastic
9. Bestowed- granted

Answer the following:

1. Why did Thimmakka not go to school?

Ans- Thimmakka did not go to school because her parents did not have enough money to send her to school. They were poor labourers.

2. How did Thimmakka and her husband turn a great sorrow in their lives into something that was unique and useful?

Ans- Thimmakka and her husband could not have a child of their own even after 25 years of marriage. In order to overcome this sorrow, Thimmakka and her husband decided to adopt trees and plant saplings around their community and look after them as if they were their children.

3. Why has Thimmakka been recognised by the Government of India, and been conferred with the Padma Shri Award?

Ans- Thimmakka has been recognised by the Government of India for her work in protecting trees and the environment. She has been conferred with the Padma Shri Award, which is the highest civilian award as she devoted all her life taking care of the environment by planting trees.

4. How old is Thimmakka now?

Ans- Thimmakka is 110 years old now.

5. Why was Thimmakka given the title of ‘Vriksha Mathe’ which means the ‘mother of trees’?

Ans- Thimmakka is the world’s oldest environmentalist who has spent her life taking care of trees just like a mother. This is the reason she has been bestowed with the title of ‘Vriksha Mathe’ which means ‘the mother of trees’.

6. What created a void in the life of Thimmakka and her husband? How did they fill that void?

Ans- Thimmakka and her husband Chikkaiah did not have a child of their own, even after 25 years of marriage. This created a void in their lives. To fill this void, they decided to adopt trees and plant saplings around their community and look after them as if they were their children.

7. What was Chikkaiah’s occupation when he married Thimmakka?

Ans- Chikkaiah was a cattle herder when he got married to Thimmakka.

8. Describe Thimmakka’s early life.

Ans- Thimmakka was born in a village called Hulikal. Her parents were poor labourers and did not have enough money to send Thimmakka to school. So, she did not receive even elementary education. When she was 10 years old, she joined her parents and started working as a labourer in a quarry.

9. Who is Umesh BN? How is he connected to Thimmakka?

Ans- Umesh BN was a thirteen-year-old boy whom Thimmakka met through Hassan, another environmentalist. Thimmakka adopted Umesh as her son and now she lives with him and his family.

10. Why do you think the BBC named Thimmakka as one of the world’s most influential women?

Ans- The BBC named Thimmakka as one of the world’s most influential women because of the phenomenal work she has done in her entire life. She planted more than 8000 trees in eighty years and four hundred of these are banyan trees. She is now 110 years old and still taking care of trees.

Reference to Context:

“This idea gave a new direction to their lives from then on”

a. The above sentence talks about whose life?

Ans- It talks about Thimmakka and Chikkaiah's life.

b. What was the idea and how did they work on it?

Ans- The couple started working on a phenomenal mission – a mission to keep on planting trees for the rest of their lives and look after them with joy and affection.

Thimmakka and her husband decided to plant banyan saplings along the roadside. They chose the road next to the village called Kadur. In the first year they planted 10 saplings and the next year they planted 15 more saplings along the same road. In this way they increased the number of saplings and continued their efforts.

Post Activity:

Do you think Trees should be conserved? Give reasons for your answer.

Subject Teacher

HOD

Coordinator

Principal