

HOW THE SQUIRREL GOT HIS STRIPES

LESSON OVERVIEW

L.No.	Title of the Lesson	Skills			Grammar/Figures of speech	Activity	Life Skills
		Listening/ speaking	Reading	Writing			
2	How the Squirrel Got His Stripes	Poem on human family/asking and solving riddles	Prose (story from mythology)	Notice: 'Lost and Found'	Adjectives	Things you can do and things others can do.	Taking decisions

SUMMARY

This is a short mythological story taken from the Ramayana. It tells us how the squirrel came to get the stripes on its body.

Once, Lord Rama, wishing to cross the sea, asked his army of monkeys to build a bridge for him. There was a small squirrel too. When he heard about the bridge, he decided to help too. He loved Lord Rama so much that he wanted to do something for him. Because of his small size, he could carry only small pebbles in his mouth and kept dropping them into the sea. One day, he came in the path of a big monkey carrying a big stone. In order to save him, the monkey had to move to one side and while doing so he nearly tripped. He was very angry and asked the squirrel what he was doing there. When he heard the squirrel's answer, he told him that his efforts were useless. But the squirrel, unmindful of the monkey's remarks, continued to carry the pebbles. One day another monkey saw him. He was so annoyed that he lifted him in his hands and threw him away. The squirrel landed in Lord Rama's hands. Lord Rama was touched by his love for him. He stroked him gently on the back and put him aside. The loving strokes of fingers left a permanent mark on the squirrel's body in the form of stripes.

PRINCIPAL POINTS

1. No one should consider herself/himself too strong or too weak.
2. God loves all creatures, big and small alike.
3. Sincere efforts, however insignificant they may seem, never go waste.
4. We should not bully or make fun of anyone.

LET'S LEARN NEW EXPRESSIONS

The story, 'How the Squirrel Got His Stripes' is taken from the Epic, the Ramayana. This short story is a myth.

Myth: A myth is a story based on beliefs and unnatural facts. It has no historical or scientific evidence but such stories have a message.

Mythology is, therefore, a collection of myths. **An Epic** is a long story told in verse form which depicts actions of heroic figures from the past. The Ramayana and The Mahabharata are two epics of India.

ENHANCE YOUR PERFORMANCE

Writing notices for 'Lost and Found' items/people:

Such notices can appear on notice boards outside police stations or in newspapers.

- They must be brief and should give all details of the lost item or person.

For an item, mention the following:

- Item name and make – any other description, e.g. colour, size, etc.
- Where it was lost.
- Contact details (e.g. tel no., address, etc.) of the person to whom it should be returned.

If the notice is for a missing person then mention the following:

sex, age, height, complexion, clothes, missing since when and from where. Do not forget to give details of who to contact in case someone finds him/her.

Writing a notice:

You must have seen notices in newspapers, office receptions, schools or gates of residential colonies, etc. The purpose of a notice is to:

- notify general public about some information which is of great importance.
- notify people about an event and invite them.

Notices are also given in the following cases:

- as advance information, e.g. letter of resignation
- warnings from a senior person or a legal person.

When writing any notice, ensure the following:

Format:

- Name of the organisation
- Date
- Signature of the person who has issued the notice
- Name and designation of the authorized person

Content (subject matter): This must give all possible details.

- The content/ subject matter must be written in simple language and in an impersonal/ neutral style which means we should not use first or second person personal pronouns.

GRAMMAR

Adjectives: Adjectives are words which describe a noun or a pronoun (e.g. person, place or thing).

Adjectives describe colour, shape, size, number, age, material, etc.

A combination of two or more adjectives can also be used to describe a person, place or thing.

E.g. I saw **acute, silky white** kitten lapping the milk in my kitchen.

Try to construct a sentence using adjectives of colour and size.

TEST TYPES

1. MCQ/Objective type question (global understanding)

Complete the following statement by choosing the best option from the ones given below:

The aim of the story is to tell its readers

- the efforts made to construct the bridge.
- the reason for constructing the bridge.
- how bridges can be made with huge stones
- that no work done with sincerity goes waste.

2. VSA (understanding)

Complete the following statement in a few words only:

The squirrel proved his true love for God by

3. SA (extrapolatory)

It is not the size or the quantum of work done that matters. What matters is the spirit in which a work is done. How does the story of the squirrel bring out this truth?

4. LA (extrapolatory)

You are Balram, Secretary of the Village Youth Cultural Society. You and your friends decide to organise a play in your village on the eve of New Year. You want to ensure involvement of all children in one way or the other so you delegate duties and responsibilities to all. One of your friends is assigned the task of back stage coordination. He refuses to accept it because he feels his contribution will not be noticed. Taking example from the squirrel's story, write a letter to your friend explaining the importance of each one's contribution to the eventual success of the show.