

## A WESTWARD JOURNEY TO INDIA

Note: The transactional processes suggested in CISCE curriculum are highlighted in grey.

### Learning Outcomes

- To identify parts of a story
- To fill a story map
- To understand how people in the past travelled to foreign countries
- To recognise Xuanzang's determination, bravery and courage
- To understand the importance of helping others



### Pre-reading

This focusses on *assessment for learning*. While students do the matching exercise, they learn about some famous explorers. This helps them understand how the thirst for knowledge made people travel to faraway lands.

Let students share with the class where they would search for information about places

they have not visited. The most probable answer would be the internet, although books from the library are another source of information.

Proceed to tell students that in the olden days, people travelled far and wide to learn about people and places and wrote books about they saw and experienced.

## READING

*Students read to comprehend, summarise, sequence events*

Write the title on the board.

Ask students: (*Whole-class activity*)

*What do you think the story is about?* (List their answers on the board.)

*List some of the qualities that are needed to achieve success in life.* You may give desired direction to the discussion by adding words that you think will be needed to comprehend the chapter better.

*determination, keenness, hard work, wisdom, confidence, honesty, perseverance, discipline...*

Play the audio / Read the text and pause at relevant points to explain / check comprehension.

Draw a flow chart on the board and let students help you fill in the details during the course of the reading exercise. Prompt them with questions if required. This will help develop sequencing skills and in summarising.

Example:

**The Beginning:** In the year 629 CE, Xuanzang, a Buddhist monk, along with two companions, decided to travel to India to study Buddhism at the university of Nalanda, but only foreigners and merchants could leave the country.

They asked the travellers about the route and were told about the hardships and dangers they could face. Xuanzang's companions decided to turn back, but he was determined to carry on with the journey.

**The Middle:** The main text: Part 1.

1. Xuanzang met an old man who gave him a good horse. 2. He was discovered by soldiers at the first watch tower and was taken to their commander who gave him food and water and a letter to his cousin, who was the commander in the next watch tower. 3. The commander in the next watch tower advised him to be cautious and go towards the *Spring of Wild Horses*. Xuanzang then, continued his journey.

**The Middle:** The main text: Part 2.

1. Xuanzang crossed *The River of Sand*  
 2. His horse took a wrong turn but reached the *Spring of Wild Horses* by chance.  
 3. He met the king of Turpan who gifted him thirty horses, gold and silver along with twenty-four men. He also gave him letters to be presented at the countries he would pass by. After crossing some freezing mountains, he reached India.

**The end:**

Xuanzang stayed in India for the next thirteen years and returned in 645 CE. He became famous and when he returned to China, the king welcomed him with honour. Xuanzang translated many books which are still read in the country.

Explain

<p>The <b>beginning</b> shows Xuanzang setting out for India.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• gives us the reason for Xuanzang's pilgrimage to India</li> <li>• talks about the imperial decree</li> <li>• shows Xuanzang and his companions reaching the border town</li> <li>• describes Xuanzang crossing the river Hu-lu alone</li> </ul>	<p>The <b>middle</b> describes his journey further.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describes how Xuanzang passes through the watch-towers</li> <li>• gives an account of his travel through the desert</li> <li>• describes how he discovers the Spring of Wild Horses</li> <li>• tells how he reaches the kingdom of Hami and Turpan and gets help</li> </ul>	<p>The <b>end</b> describes the final stage in Xuanzang's journey.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• describes how he reaches Kashmir through Kabul</li> <li>• says that he stayed in India for thirteen years</li> <li>• describes his return to China in 645 CE and the honours he receives there</li> </ul>
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*Nalanda University was founded more than 1500 years ago.*

*Unscramble these letters to find the name of modern Indian state where the university was located: I R B A H (B I H A R)*

Ask students:

*Where does the story take place? What was the law in China? How was Xuanzang different from his companions?*

*Who were the different people who were kind to Xuanzang? Why did the old man offer Xuanzang his horse? How did the exchange of horses help Xuanzang? What were the dangers that Xuanzang could have encountered along the way? What qualities did Xuanzang show throughout the story?*

*Why do you think Xuanzang decided to hide and wait till nightfall?*

Xuanzang knew that the guards in the watchtowers had bows and arrows with them and only merchants and foreigners could leave the country. Xuanzang decided to hide and wait till nightfall so he could cross the watchtower in the dark without being seen.

Discuss

*What was Xuanzang's goal? Do you think this was a wise decision? Do you agree that luck favours the brave? How does the story end? What lesson does this story teach you?*

*How do you think the letters given by the king would help Xuanzang?*

The letters given by the king would help Xuanzang be welcomed at the countries he would pass on the way and keep him safe from danger. The letters would show that the king supported Xuanzang, so people would let him pass safely.

### Post-reading

Discuss the questions given under 'Think and Answer' with the class.



## GRAMMAR

### Comparative adjectives

Follow the input given in the Reader

## VOCABULARY

### Compound adjective

Explain to the class that a **compound adjective** is formed when two or more words are combined to modify the same noun. These words are mostly hyphenated.

example: *brightly-lit, open-minded, well-behaved*

Brainstorm with class for more compound adjectives.

## LISTENING

### Post-listening

Ask students if they have paid attention to announcements in railway stations or airports.

Ask students:

*What is the importance of such announcements? (Announcements give us information regarding our travel.)*

Tell the class that they will be listening to two kinds of announcements—in the airport as well as in the aircraft.

Play the recording twice so that students check their work/ fill in the answers they may have missed out the first time.



## SPEAKING

## Asking for and giving advice

The speaking task focusses on *assessment as learning*. Students learn to give and take advice as they role-play the tasks.

Ask students:

*What are some polite ways to ask for advice? What are polite ways to give advice?*

List out some situations where we might ask for or give advice. (Write the situations on the board, and add the given situations.)

Now ask for 2 volunteers to role play these situations and demonstrate how to give/refuse advice politely.

Let students do the task. Monitor the activity and help students to answer in complete sentences using the right expression.

## WRITING

## Informal letter

*Note:* Guide students through every step. Share the sample letter and guidelines with them but encourage them to write their own letter.

An **informal letter** is a letter you would write to a friend, a family member, or an acquaintance.

We write informal letters to:

- keep in touch with family and friends
- share information / inquire about their health and well being
- just chat

There are *five main components of an informal letter*:

- Date and place on the left side of the letter
- Greeting / Salutation: *Dear*
- Body: Main text or message using paragraphs. Keep it chatty and friendly.

*(Text or Body:* While writing the main content of the letter, keep in mind the following:

*Paragraphs:* Make sure the paragraphs are indented.

*Informal language usage:* Be as friendly as possible.)

- Closing: *Yours lovingly / your friend*

*(Close with a Compliment:* After writing the letter, sign off in a friendly manner such as 'Love,' or 'Missing you loads'... Don't forget to place a comma after the compliment. Add your name after that.)

- Signature – Just your name as this is an informal letter

## PROJECT

The project work integrates with EVS/Soc Studies and focusses on a wide range of skills and abilities. Students develop kinaesthetic, linguistic and spatial intelligences while working on the project.

Explain how scrap books are made. Let students do the task once they are familiar with the idea.

## STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

### A Westward Journey to India

#### Pre-reading

A. 1. Morocco      2. Portugal      3. China      4. Italy      5. Greece

B. (*Suggested answer*)

We would look for information in

- the encyclopaedia
- the atlas
- books written on that country
- the internet

#### Comprehension

- A. 1. Xuanzang wished to travel to India because he wanted to study Buddhism in the great university of Nalanda.
2. Xuanzang and his companions hid by the day and travelled by the night because in those days in China, there was a law which only allowed merchants and foreigners to leave the country. The ones other than merchants and foreigners who tried to leave were caught and punished.
3. The old man helped Xuanzang by offering his horse to him as the horse knew the way well.
4. When Xuanzang reached the first watchtower, he hid himself and waited till night. But he felt very hot and thirsty and since his water bag was empty, he crouched low and ran towards the waterhole close to the tower. When he drank some water and filled his water bag, the guards discovered him and shot arrows towards him.
5. When Xuanzang had to cross the desert called the River of Sand, he could not find any landmarks and soon lost his way. He could not find any spring and his water bag too had become empty. But he did not give up. He travelled without food and water for five days. On the sixth day, he discovered a spring in the middle of the desert.
6. The king of Turpan helped Xuanzang by giving him thirty horses and twenty-four men along with gold and silver for the expenses of the rest of the journey. He also gave him letters which he could present in different countries he would pass on the way.

- B.**
1.
    - a. The river Hu-lu cannot be crossed on a boat.
    - b. The river Hu-lu should only be crossed when it is narrow.
    - c. Xuanzang reached the river and saw a place where it was only ten feet wide. He cut long strips of wood from the trees nearby, made a bridge out of them and led his horse across it. This is how he crossed the river.
  2.
    - a. The speaker is the commander of the first watchtower. He is speaking to Xuanzang.
    - b. The commander requested Xuanzang to go back but Xuanzang did not listen to him.
    - c. The commander gave Xuanzang some food, water and a letter which he could take to his cousin who was the commander in the next watchtower.
- C.**
1. Xuanzang wanted to go to India in spite of all the difficulties because he was determined to study in the great Indian university of Nalanda. He was brave enough to travel to another country in spite of the strict laws in his country which only allowed merchants and foreigners to travel.
  2. No, Xuanzang's companions were not brave. When they heard about the five watchtowers and the guards in them who had bows and arrows, they went back. Xuanzang had to complete the rest of the journey all alone.
  3. The commander helped Xuanzang because he could not make him go back. He was impressed to see Xuanzang's determination and therefore, he helped him.

### Grammar

#### A.

Positive degree	Comparative degree	Superlative degree
happy	happier	happiest
sweet	sweeter	sweetest
interesting	more interesting	most interesting
narrow	narrower	narrowest
good	better	best

- B.** 2. shorter    3. hottest    4. better    5. careful / more careful    6. largest

### Vocabulary

- A.** 2. part-time    3. three-year    4. never-ending    5. kind-hearted    6. three-legged

- B.** 2. watchtowers    3. water bag    4. commander    5. desert    6. Chinese

### Listening

1. F
2. F
3. T
4. F
5. T
6. F

## Speaking

*Free Response*

## Punctuation

Xuanzang was a Buddhist monk who wanted to go to India and study at Nalanda University. He secretly went to the border with his companions and asked everyone about the route to India. The people told him, "You will not be able to cross the river as it flows at a great speed." They also told him, "Beyond the river are five watchtowers with guards who have bows and arrows." On hearing this, Xuanzang's companions decided to go back. So, Xuanzang decided to go alone.

## Writing

### Sample Answer—

1/3A J.K.N Road  
Mussoorie 248179

July 15, 2017

Dearest Mother,

I reached Mussoorie today at 3 p.m. in the afternoon. The train journey was a lot of fun as all my friends and school teachers were there.

I will be staying with two of my friends in the hotel room at Mussoorie. We will begin going for sightseeing tomorrow. We have planned to visit the Kempty Falls, the Mall Road and the Bhatta Falls. We will visit a few more places as well. We will also attend a cultural programme at a local school.

Presently, I am very tired as the train journey was very long. Mussoorie looks like a beautiful place. We should plan a family trip to Mussoorie soon. I hope you are fine. I will see you soon.

Your loving daughter,  
Sneha.

### ANSWER KEY TO WORKSHEET 11

- A.** 1. wiser                      2. easier                      3. tallest                      4. more interesting  
5. tastiest                      6. lovelier                      7. busiest                      8. healthier
- B.** 1. well-mannered    2. three-hundred-page    3. world-famous    4. three-week-long  
5. mouth-watering    6. old-fashioned            7. short-tempered    8. full-length
- C.** 1. a. occupation            2. respected, valued            3. honest, generous, honourable
2. a. True  
b. False.            Kailash Satyarthi established the Bachpan Bachao Andolan in 1980.  
c. False.            Kailash Satyarthi has helped several children all over the world.  
d. False.            Kailash Satyarthi has helped more than 83,000 children.  
e. True.
3. *Free Response*

## QUESTION BANK

### A Westward Journey to India

#### A. Answer in brief.

1. Why did Xuanzang's companions decide to turn back and not travel with him to India?

**Ans:** When Xuanzang's companions heard that the route to India was a difficult one and that the guards could shoot them with bows and arrows, they decided to turn back.

2. What did Xuanzang do when he returned to China after staying in India for thirteen years?

**Ans:** After he returned to China in 645CE, Xuanzang translated several valuable books that he had brought from India. His translations are still read and studied today.

#### B. Answer in detail.

1. Describe the western route that Xuanzang had to travel in order to reach India?

**Ans:** Xuanzang had to cross river Hu-lu which could not be crossed in a boat as its waters flowed at a great speed. So he had to cross it where it was narrow. Beyond the river were five watchtowers with guards in them. The guards had bows and arrows. Between the towers was land with no water, and beyond them lay the desert.

#### C. Choose the right answer.

Xuanzang was a \_\_\_\_\_ man.

- a. strong and hardworking
- b. determined and brave
- c. caring and helpful

**Ans:** b

#### D. Read the lines and answer the questions.

1. *"My horse knows the way well," said the man.*

- a. Who is the speaker? Who is he speaking to?
- b. What did the old man give him?
- c. How did the old man help Xuanzang?

**Ans:** a. The speaker is an old man and he is speaking to Xuanzang.

b. The old man gave him his horse.

c. The old man exchanged his horse with Xuanzang's as his horse knew the way.

2. *"I am a monk from the capital. Please do not shoot me."*

- a. Who is the speaker and who did he ask not to shoot him?
- b. What did the soldiers do?
- c. What did the commander ask Xuanzang to do?

**Ans:** a. The speaker is Xuanzang and he asked the guards from the watchtower not to shoot him.

b. The guards surrounded him and took him to their commander.

c. The commander pleaded with Xuanzang to go back, but the monk did not agree.



**E. Think and answer.**

a. Answer in brief.

1. How do we know that the commander had respect for Xuanzang?

**Ans:** The commander, instead of punishing Xuanzang, gave him some food and water and a letter for his cousin who was a commander in the next watchtower, to make his journey easier.

2. *'But this proved to be a miracle.'* What was the miracle and how did it help Xuanzang?

**Ans:** Xuanzang's horse happened to take a wrong turn and they discovered a big patch of green grass in the middle of the desert. This green grass had grown due to the spring which he had been looking for.

b. Answer in detail.

1. Xuanzang was a brave and determined man and he crossed many hurdles to reach India. What were the hurdles he crossed?

**Ans:** To reach India, Xuanzang crossed a river where the flow of water was so rapid that he could not cross it by boat. Beyond the river were five watchtowers with guards who had bows and arrows to shoot those who tried to leave. The monk then had to travel across a desert called the River of Sand where there were no landmarks. In the end, he crossed the great snowy mountains, piled with ice which did not melt even in summer.