

Table of Contents

1. Reflect and Respond
2. Reading for Meaning

Reflect and Respond

This section encourages students to explore the cultural significance and diversity of traditional hand fans, known as pankhas, across different Indian states. It begins with simple questions about the use and names of hand fans in students' families and languages, fostering personal connection and curiosity.

Students then work in pairs to study images of traditional fans from Assam, Kerala, and Uttar Pradesh, noting their shapes, materials, and regional origins. This activity highlights the unique characteristics of pankhas from various regions, such as the round fan from Assam, the semicircular palm leaf fan from Kerala, and the square Moonj grass fan from Uttar Pradesh.

Further, students engage in vocabulary building by matching underlined words from a passage about a crafts fair with their meanings. This exercise enhances understanding of words like "indigenous," "artefact," and "industrious," which are key to appreciating the cultural and artistic context of pankha-making.

Key Elements

- Understanding regional diversity of pankhas
- Materials used in traditional fans

- Vocabulary related to crafts and culture
- Collaborative learning through pair work

Textual Evidence

"Each indigenous artefact was an innovative creation of industrious craftspersons with its intricate design."

Practice Set

- **Level 1:** Name the materials used in the fans from Assam, Kerala, and Uttar Pradesh.
- **Level 2:** Explain the significance of indigenous artefacts in cultural preservation.
- **Level 3:** Discuss how vocabulary exercises help in understanding cultural texts better.

Answer Key

- Assam fan material: (Not specified in image, students to infer or research)
- Kerala fan material: Palm leaf
- Uttar Pradesh fan material: Moonj grass
- Indigenous artefacts represent local culture and craftsmanship, preserving traditions and promoting respect for artisans.
- Vocabulary exercises enhance comprehension and appreciation of cultural nuances in texts.

Quick Reference

- Pankha: Traditional hand fan
- Indigenous: Originating locally
- Artefact: Handmade cultural object

Glossary

- **Indigenous:** Originating in a particular place; native.
- **Artefact:** An object made by a human being, typically of cultural or historical interest.
- **Industrious:** Hardworking and diligent.

Reading for Meaning

This section provides a detailed historical and cultural overview of pankhas, traditional hand fans in India. It traces the origin of the word "punkha" from "pankh," meaning bird feather, and explains the distinction between pankha and pankhi, the latter being a small plumed fan used in ancient India.

Evidence of pankha use is found in ancient Buddhist wall paintings at Ajanta dating back to the 2nd century CE, as well as in sculptures and carvings. Historically, pankhas were used in temples to fan deities and in royal courts to fan kings, varying greatly in size and design.

The text highlights the cultural diversity of pankhas across India, with different regions crafting pankhas from materials like bamboo, cane, palm leaf, silk, brass, leather, and silver. Each region's pankhas reflect its cultural identity, such as the applique, zardozi, and painted fans of Rajasthan, the mirror work and bead fans of Gujarat, and the sola grass fans of Bengal.

Despite their decline in everyday use due to modern technology, pankhas remain important cultural artifacts and sources of livelihood for artisans. Efforts to preserve this craft include workshops and exhibitions that celebrate pankha-making and promote awareness of its cultural significance.

Key Elements

- Historical origin and cultural significance of pankhas

- Regional variations and materials used
- Artistic techniques: applique, zardozi, embroidery, beadwork, mirror work
- Preservation efforts and contemporary relevance

Textual Evidence

"The appliqué hand fan of Rajasthan is an antique pankha made of pieces of fabric in different shapes and patterns sewn onto another cloth with the use of ornamental needlework."

"With time and the advent of technology and innovative creations, the beautiful culture of pankhas runs the risk of slowly losing its presence among Indians."

Practice Set

- **Level 1:** Define the word "pankha" and explain its origin.
- **Level 2:** Describe the different materials used in pankha-making across India.
- **Level 3:** Analyze the impact of modern technology on the traditional craft of pankha-making.

Answer Key

- "Pankha" originates from "pankh," meaning bird feather, and refers to traditional hand fans in India.
- Materials include bamboo, cane, palm leaf, silk, brass, leather, silver, sola grass, and decorative beads and stones.
- Modern technology has reduced the everyday use of pankhas, risking the loss of this traditional craft, but also created commercial opportunities for artisans through exhibitions and workshops.

Quick Reference

- Appliqué: Decorative needlework sewing fabric pieces onto cloth.
- Zardozi: Embroidery using gold or silver thread.
- Sola: A type of water grass used in fan-making.
- Advent: Arrival or beginning of something new.

Glossary

- **Encrusted:** Covered or decorated with a layer of something.
- **Sola:** A type of water grass used in handicrafts.
- **Perpetually:** Constantly or continuously.
- **Antiquity:** The ancient past.
- **Advent:** The arrival or beginning of an important event or period.

Prepzy