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Reflect and Respond

This section encourages students to observe and think about the profession of postal workers through images and guided questions. It highlights the evolution of the postal service in India, from traditional foot postmen to modern uniformed postal workers, emphasizing the importance and challenges of their work.

Key Elements

- **Profession:** Postal workers, specifically Gramin Dak Sewaks (GDS).
- **Evolution:** From foot postmen and early airmail to modern postal services.
- **Challenges:** Harsh working conditions, long distances, and physical strain.
- **Social Impact:** Connecting remote areas and families through mail.

Textual Evidence

The images show various stages of mail delivery in India, including postage stamps commemorating India Post's history, a black and white photo of a traditional postman, and a modern postman in uniform.

Practice Set

- **Level 1:** Identify the profession shown in the images.
- **Level 2:** Discuss difficulties faced by postal workers.
- **Level 3:** Explain how postal workers impact the people they meet.

Answer Key

- The profession is that of postal workers or postmen.
- They face difficulties such as harsh weather, long distances, and carrying heavy loads.
- Their work helps people stay connected with their families and communities, especially in remote areas.

Quick Reference

- Postal workers deliver mail across India, adapting to changing times.
- They face physical and environmental challenges.
- They play a vital role in social communication.

Glossary

- **Postal Worker:** A person who delivers mail.
- **Gramin Dak Sewak:** Rural postal worker in India.
- **Postage Stamp:** A small piece of paper indicating payment for mail delivery.

Reading for Meaning

This section provides a detailed narrative about Khetaram, a Gramin Dak Sewak, who serves as the sole postman in a remote Rajasthani village near the Indo-Pakistan border. It describes his daily struggles, the harsh desert environment, and the importance of his role in connecting isolated communities.

Key Elements

- **Character Sketch:** Khetaram, a dedicated and resilient postal worker.
- **Themes:** Duty, perseverance, social connection, and the significance of communication.
- **Setting:** The Thar Desert, remote villages near the border.
- **Literary Devices:** Imagery (desert, footprints), symbolism (mail as a link), and personification (desert's furies).

Textual Evidence

Quotes such as "His left shoulder slumped from years of carrying a mailbag" and "Defying all elements of the harshest desert of India, the Thar" illustrate Khetaram's physical and emotional endurance.

Solved Example

Extract-based question: Explain the significance of Khetaram's role as a Gramin Dak Sewak.

Answer: Khetaram serves as the vital link between remote villages and the outside world, delivering mail and money orders that sustain families. His work ensures communication and trust in the postal system, despite harsh environmental conditions.

Practice Set

- **Level 1:** Define the term Gramin Dak Sewak.
- **Level 2:** Describe the challenges Khetaram faces in his job.
- **Level 3:** Analyze the social importance of Khetaram's work in rural India.

Answer Key

- Gramin Dak Sewak is a rural postal worker who delivers mail in remote areas.
- Khetaram faces extreme heat, sandstorms, long distances, and heavy loads.
- His work connects isolated communities, supports financial transactions, and maintains social bonds.

Quick Reference

- Khetaram is a symbol of dedication and resilience.
- His role is crucial for communication in inaccessible regions.
- The postal system fosters trust and social cohesion.

Glossary

- **Sole:** Only one.
- **Hamlets:** Small settlements.
- **Ply:** To move or travel regularly.
- **Hefted:** Lifted or carried.
- **Stipulate:** To specify or demand.
- **Mojri:** Traditional footwear of Rajasthan.
- **Operating:** Working.
- **Riverine:** Situated on a riverbank.
- **Inaccessible:** Difficult to reach.
- **Ambit:** Range or scope.

Check Your Understanding

This section provides an activity to fill in a job profile for Khetaram based on the reading, encouraging comprehension and application of information from the text. It also includes discussion questions to deepen understanding of Khetaram's motivations and feelings about his work.

Key Elements

- **Activity:** Fill in Khetaram's job profile with details such as position, employer, address, transport, and responsibilities.
- **Discussion:** Reasons for choosing the job and emotional aspects of the work.

Practice Set

- **Level 1:** Complete the job profile using information from the text.
- **Level 2:** Discuss why Khetaram took up this challenging job.
- **Level 3:** Reflect on how Khetaram might feel about his daily duties.

Answer Key

- **Position:** Gramin Dak Sewak (Rural Postal Worker).
- **Employer:** India Post.
- **Official Address:** Somarad Branch Post Office, Rajasthan.
- **Mode of Transport:** On foot, sometimes bus.
- **Key Responsibilities:** Delivering mail and money orders to remote villages, maintaining communication links.
- Khetaram took the job for assured income and to support his family during difficult times.
- He likely feels a sense of duty, pride, and sometimes physical strain.

Quick Reference

- Job profiles help organize work details clearly.
- Khetaram’s role is vital for rural communication.
- Understanding motivations helps appreciate the challenges faced.

Glossary

- **Remitted:** Sent as money or gift.
- **Scrap:** To remove or discard.
- **Dwell:** To stay or linger.

- **Threshold:** Entrance or doorway.
- **BSF:** Border Security Force.
- **Dreads:** Fears or worries.
- **Missive:** A letter or message.
- **Entail:** To involve or require.
- **Striding:** Walking with long steps.

Prepzy