



# Social Science

## Class 6

### Chapter 8: Unity in Diversity, or 'Many in the One'



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## Questions, Activities & Projects

**Q 1. Conduct a class discussion on the two quotations at the start of the chapter.**

**Ans:** Both these quotes are beautiful expressions of India's unity in diversity, which has been the hallmark of our country. The following points can be taken up while discussing in the class:

**Quote by Tagore:**

1. Rabindranath Tagore considers 'unity in diversity' as a touch of joy.
2. He prays that we should never lose the sense of unity hidden in this beautiful diversity.
3. This quote encourages humanity, tolerance and mutual understanding.

**Quote by Sri Aurobindo:**

1. He considers unity in diversity as the basis of India's nature and existence.
2. The sense of "one in many" shows that despite having different religions, languages, cultures and customs, India is united as a nation.
3. This quote reflects the depth of India's soul and culture.

**Q 2. Read the National Anthem and its translation in the preliminary pages of this textbook. Where do you see the diversity? And where the unity? Write two or three paragraphs on this.**

**Ans:** "Jana Gana Mana" is a beautiful depiction of diversity and unity. The national anthem mentions the various regions of India - Punjab, Sindhu, Gujarat, Maratha, Dravida (South India), Utkal (Odisha) and Bengal. It shows that the country has diversity of language, geography and culture, yet all are tied together by a single thread. The national anthem gives the message that despite the differences, everyone's destiny is one and everyone together sings the Bharat Mata ki Jai.

Apart from this, the description of natural symbols like "Vindhya Himachal Yamuna Ganga" also shows the geographical diversity of India. Mountains, rivers, oceans - all together strengthen the unity of India. In this way, the national anthem not only honors the different regions and characteristics of India, but also shows that amidst all the diversity, we are all one - Bharatwasi.

**Q 3. Select a few stories from the Panchatantra and discuss how their message is still valid today. Do you know of any similar stories from your region?**

**Ans:** Let us choose famous stories from Panchatantra and discuss their messages relevant to today:

1. **"Mitrabhed"** - The Story of the Lion and the Jackal:- This story shows the treachery and cunningness between a lion and his advisors, the jackals.  
Message: Trust is important in friendship, but one should be cautious of superstitions and false advisors. Even in today's time, whether in business or personal life, choosing the right friend is very important.
2. **"The Story of the Crow and the Swan"**:- A crow tries to imitate the beautiful swan but fails.  
Message: It is important to maintain your identity; copying others does not bring success. Even today, in the age of social media, when people are in a race to be like others, this story is very meaningful.
3. **"The Tortoise and the Swan"**:- The swans want to fly and take the tortoise away, but the tortoise does not give up its habit of talking and falls down and loses its life.  
Message: Discipline and restraint are essential. Even today, speaking or acting hastily and without thinking can be harmful.

**Folktales related to my region (if we talk about Delhi or North India):** The stories of "Akbar-Birbal" are very famous. The stories based on Birbal's cleverness and intelligence still teach us that solutions can be found in difficult situations with patience and understanding. These stories also give moral lessons like Panchatantra.

**Q 4. Collect a few folk tales from your region and discuss their message.**

**Ans:** Some folktales from your region and their messages-

1. **Heer-Ranjha:-** The love story of Heer and Ranjha is one of the most famous love stories of the Indian subcontinent. This story depicts the struggle of two lovers between social constraints and family opposition.

**Message:**

- (i). Sacrifice and struggle are necessary for true love.
- (ii). Love and truth should be respected even if it goes against social norms.
- (iii). Equality and self-sacrifice are valued in love.

2. **Raja Nala and Damyanti:-** The story of Raja Nala and Damyanti is a story of love, trust, and stability amidst difficulties. Nala struggles with his fate and circumstances but is finally reunited with Damyanti's love and patience.

**Message:**

- (i). True love stands the test of time.
- (ii). Any difficulty can be overcome with patience, trust and mutual cooperation.

3. **The Lion and the Woodcutter:-** Once a woodcutter rescues a lion trapped in the jungle. Later the same lion becomes his friend and helps him after seeing his honesty and courage.

**Message:**

- (i). Compassion and helping can make anyone a friend, no matter how powerful he is.
- (ii). Helping in times of crisis can prove to be auspicious for you in the future.

4. **Mohan and the King of Snakes:-** A simple boy named Mohan helps the King of Snakes. The King of Snakes blesses him with a special boon, which makes Mohan's life happy and prosperous.

**Message:**

- (i). Selfless service and goodwill are sure to be rewarded.
- (ii). Kindness and politeness towards others brings happiness in life.

5. **Satyawadi Raja Harishchandra:-** King Harishchandra sacrifices his kingdom, family, and all his wealth to follow the truth. He faces many difficulties but never deviates from the truth.

**Message:**

- (i). Following the path of truth and righteousness is the highest duty.
- (ii). One should stick to principles even in difficult situations.

**Q 5. Is there any ancient story that you have seen being depicted through a form of art? It could be a sculpture, a painting, a dance performance, a movie ... Discuss with your classmates.**

**Ans:** Yes! I have seen the "Story of Nataraja" depicted or portrayed through art

**Nataraj - Dancing Lord Shiva**

Dialogue:

- "Hello friends,
- Today I would like to tell you about the story of 'Nataraj' and the art associated with it.
- Nataraj is the form of Lord Shiva in which he performs Ananda Tandava.
- His dance is believed to symbolize the creation, preservation and destruction of the entire universe.
- We can see this story through sculpture - especially in the famous bronze statues of South India, where Shiva is shown dancing within a circle.
- He has four hands, in which he holds a damru and fire.
- This dance represents the constant change of life.
- This statue and its story teach us that change is the law of the world.
- The dance of Nataraja also inspires us that it is necessary to maintain balance and rhythm in life.

Thank you."

**Q 6.** Discuss in class the following quotation by India's first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, when he travelled to many parts of India before Independence:

**“Everywhere I found a cultural background which had exerted a powerful influence on their lives.... The old epics of India, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata and other books, in popular translations and paraphrases, were widely known among the masses, and every incident and story and moral in them was engraved on the popular mind and gave a richness and content to it. Illiterate villagers would know hundreds of verses by heart and their conversation would be full of references to them or to some story with a moral, enshrined in some old classic.”**

**Ans:** Jawaharlal Nehru, while touring India, observed that India's cultural traditions were deeply rooted in the lives of the people. Even illiterate villagers knew the stories of the Ramayana, the Mahabharata and other scriptures by heart and their conversations reflected moral teachings. These epics linked the masses with life values like morality, truth and religion and provided a cultural unity, which is still a deep identity of Indian society.



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