



This is a primary level worksheet and is suitable for children from class 4 – class 6

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Mawlynnong: A tale of a village

(adapted from information on the Internet and magazines)

Mawlynnong is a small village in the beautiful hill state of Meghalaya in the north-eastern region of India. It is situated 90 km south of Shillong and is slowly becoming a tourist destination. This little village has earned the unique distinction of being the cleanest village in Asia. A team of experts from the famous travel and tourism journal, *Discovery India*, declared the village as the cleanest in Asia in 2003. The word Mawlynnong means 'rock pools'. 'Maw' in Khasi means rock and 'lynnongs' are the small pools formed on rocks by water erosion. There are hundreds of lynnongs in the village, which gives the village its name.

The village of Mawlynnong has nearly a hundred houses. These houses are made of bamboo and wood. The roofs are made of tin sheets over wooden beams. The gardens around the houses have beautiful flowers like marigold and roses in various colours. The main occupation of the villagers is agriculture. They mostly grow betel nut and material that is used to make broomsticks. Despite their daily schedule of farming and cultivating, the villagers have worked hard to earn this distinction.

The residents of Mawlynnong keep their surroundings clean by voluntarily performing all the civic duties. They sweep the roads and lanes, water the plants in public areas and clean the drains. The residents also build sewage and drainage systems as these are compulsory community activities. Dustbins made of bamboo and metal are found all along the village. Everyone makes it a point not to throw dirt and waste anywhere and everywhere. The waste from the dustbins is collected and kept in a pit, which the villagers use as manure. The village council has also banned plastic. The village has hundred per cent literacy. The people are conscious and are spreading the message of conservation and protection of the forest. Locals plant trees regularly to ensure that the forest is kept intact.

The cleanliness drive in the village started around 50 years ago. Earlier, the village had bad roads, no drains and people used to die of contagious diseases. The state officials could not reach the village due to lack of roads and therefore the villagers had to take care of themselves. The villagers realized that if they kept themselves and their surroundings clean, there would be fewer diseases. This plan worked and today the villagers rarely have to visit Shillong for medical treatment.

Mawlynnong also has other interesting things to offer tourists. The 'Living Root Bridge' which is believed to be around 1100 years old is an extraordinary sight. Other natural wonders like the 'balancing rock' and the 'shark's jaw' have quite a few visitors. Mawlynnong's reputation is now attracting an endless number of visitors from across the country and abroad. To accommodate the growing number of tourists, the village council has built two guest houses. These houses are made of bamboo and are quite comfortable. There are also tree houses and bamboo walkways, which make the stay memorable. The village council has now set up a special committee to ensure that the village's cleanliness standards are kept by residents and tourists alike. The committee also takes care of village beautification. The picture perfect village of Mawlynnong is a source of inspiration for the rest of India. It shows how a small group of people can make a big difference to the environment and the people in it.

Glossary

Region: a particular part of the world

Destination: (here) tourist spot/place

Unique: special/different in some way

Distinction: the quality of being special, excellence

Khasi: a language spoken in Meghalaya

Erosion: the gradual process of destruction by wind, water etc.

Schedule: timetable

Surroundings: in and around someone's living place

Voluntarily: doing something according to one's own wish

Performing: doing

Community: group of people with commonality

Literacy: the ability to read and write

Conservation: preservation of natural resources like water, forest, wildlife

Cleanliness: the state of being clean

Contagious diseases: diseases which are caught and spread easily. Example – cold, swine flu, cholera.

Extraordinary: very special

Wonder: object that causes a feeling of great surprise and admiration

Beautification: to improve the appearance of something

Environment: the air, water, and land in or on which people, animals, and plants live

Activity 1 – Warm-up activity



Show a map of India and ask the students the following questions:

- Can you locate the north-eastern region of India on the map?
 - Can you locate Shillong on the map?
 - Why do you think Shillong is famous? (The wettest region on earth, centre of western music, the Switzerland of India)
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Activity 2 – Reading Comprehension

(a) Answer the following questions in one sentence.

i. Where is Mawlynnong?

ii. How far is Mawlynnong from the state capital of Meghalaya?

iii. What does Mawlynnong mean?

iv. Why is Mawlynnong famous?

v. What is the main occupation of the villagers of Mawlynnong?

vi. Name one travel and tourism journal mentioned in the passage.

vii. Give some examples of contagious diseases.

viii. Underline the word 'villagers' in the passage. There are two other words related to 'villagers'. Can you identify them? Use the clue: one word starts with 'L' and the other with 'R'.

(b) Answer the following questions in two/three sentences.

i. How do the villagers keep the village clean?

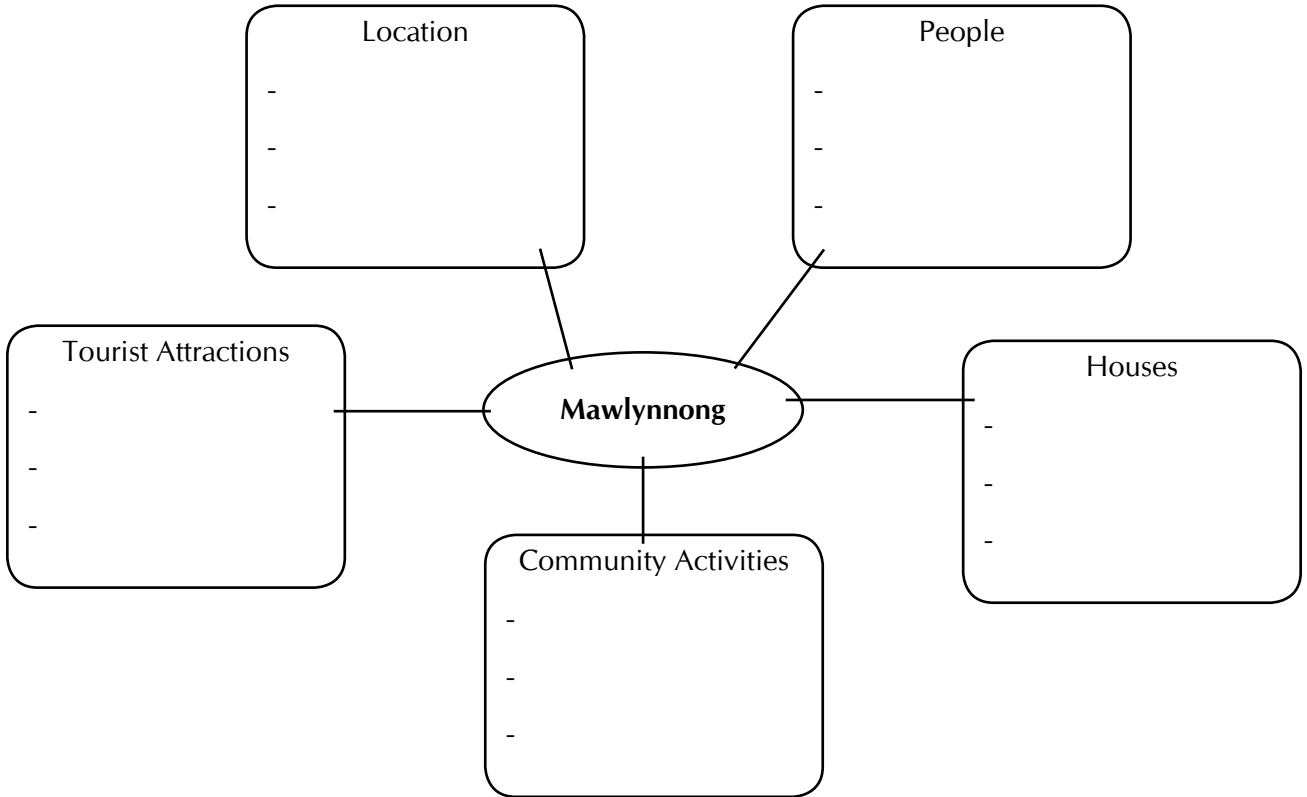
ii. List the various things the rest of India should learn from the people of Mawlynnong.

iii. "This little village has earned the unique distinction of being the cleanest village in Asia." What is the distinction? Why do you think the writer calls this distinction 'unique'?

(c) Decide whether the following sentences are True or False. Correct the false ones.

- i. Mawlynnong has many big buildings. _____
- ii. The people of Mawlynnong do not know how to read and write. _____
- iii. The 'Living Root Bridge' is around 1100 years old. _____
- iv. The people of Mawlynnong use plastic bags. _____

(d) Fill the boxes given below with relevant information about Mawlynnong. Please do not write full sentences, instead use bullet forms.



Activity 3 – Word work

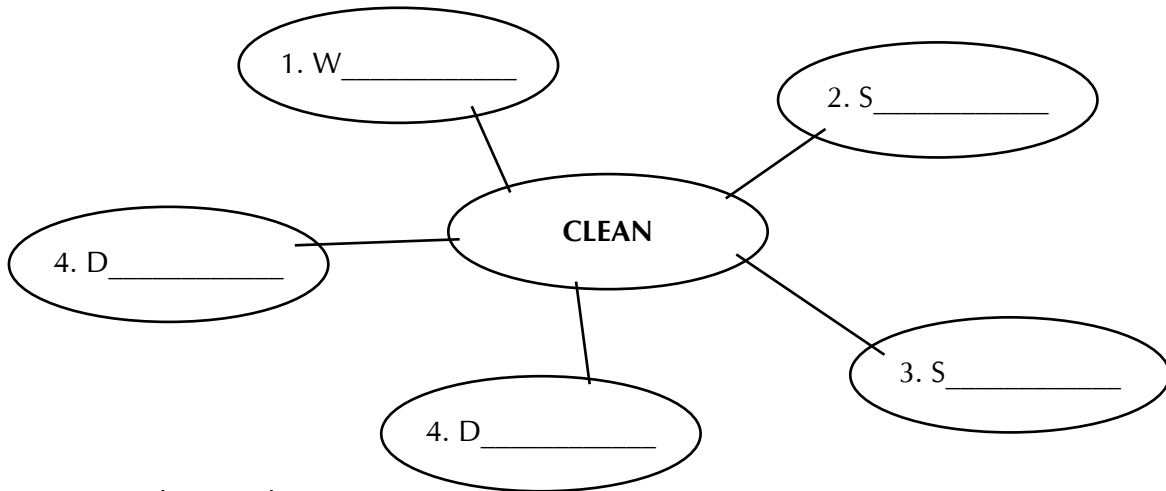
(a) Guess the words using the clues given in brackets. The last two letters of the word are given.

- i. _____ ll (indicates size)
- ii. _____ an (opposite of dirty)
- iii. _____ ge (a place where people live)
- iv. _____ al (antonym of tourist or visitor)
- v. _____ rt (a person with vast knowledge/expertise)
- vi. _____ ry (opposite word for optional)

(b) Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the above passage. You may have to add 's' or 'es' at the end of some of the words.

- i. School uniform is _____ in our school.
- ii. I would like to live in a _____ town than a big city.
- iii. You should always _____ your teeth in the morning.
- iv. Chennai's Marina beach is popular with both _____ and tourists.
- v. Anil Kumble was an _____ spin bowler of Indian cricket team.
- vi. Many people come from _____ to towns in search of jobs.

(c) Fill the bubbles with words related to CLEAN from the passage. Use the clues.



1. Unwanted material.
2. To clean the floor by using a broom.
3. Waste matters like human urine, water, etc.
4. A system of water or waste flowing away from home.
5. A container to keep waste.

Activity 4 – Let's listen

(a) Listen to the following statements about Mawlynnong (**Teacher will read the statements clearly and loudly**). While listening try to find out the true and false statements and tick the options ('yes' for true and 'no' for false) given in brackets [*Adapted from Richards, 2008*].

- i. Mawlynnong is a small, clean, beautiful village situated about 90 kms South of Shillong. (yes/no)
- ii. The people of the village do not know reading and writing. (yes/no)
- iii. Mawlynnong has many interesting things to offer tourists. (yes/no)
- iv. Earlier, the state officials could not reach this village due to lack of roads. (yes/no)

(b) Listen to the paragraph given in the following box. (**Teachers are expected to read the entire paragraph stressing the words given in bold letters**).

People of Mawlynnong **sweep** the roads and lanes on their own. They **plant** trees regularly in the surroundings and **water** them. The villagers also **clean** the drains and **build** sewage and drainage systems in the village.

While listening, the students can do the following:

- a. Find out which of the words given in the first column of the table below do you hear. If you hear the word, write **YES** against it in the second column. Write **NO** if you do not hear the words.
- b. Indicate the order of hearing the words using 1, 2, 3, etc., in the third column of the table below. Write 1 if you hear the word was uttered first, 2 if second, and so on. (one example has been given)

Words	Do you hear these words?	Order of hearing
Water	Yes	3
Locals		
Sweep		
Build		
Plant		
Residents		
Clean		

(Adapted from Richards, 2008)

Activity 5 – Let’s talk

Divide the class into groups. Ask the students to think about the following questions and make notes (one person in each group) and talk about it in the class. Students can use the following format while making notes based on their discussion.

- What are the houses in Mawlynnong like?
- Are they similar or different from the houses in your area?
- What are the differences between the houses in Mawlynnong and the houses in your locality?
- Why do you think houses are different in different places?

Houses in Mawlynnong	Houses in our area	Differences between the two	Reasons for differences

Activity 6 – Let’s play



Sit in pairs and play the role of a local and a tourist. Now, do the following:

Local: Talk about the tourist attractions in your place or any neighbouring place with your partner (tourist) and persuade him/her to visit the place.

Tourist: Ask questions about the tourist spots, means of transport, hotels, restaurants, price, etc.

Model conversation

Local: _____ nice place. A popular tourist spot is _____.

Tourist: Wow! Great! Why is it so popular?

Local: Because it’s famous for _____.

Tourist: I would also like to see the place. Could you tell me the easiest way to reach there?

Local: Sure! The easiest way would be to hire a taxi. It’s not very costly.

Activity 7 – Let’s observe and share

Go out and observe your own village/town or neighbouring village/town.

Find out the following and make notes:

- Is it clean or not?

- If it is clean, how are the people of the village/town maintaining the cleanliness?

- If it is not clean, who is responsible for it?

Share your experience with the class:

- Talk about your experience of observing your village/town.

Activity 8 – Let’s discuss and write

Prepare a report based on the observation made in the previous task.

Pre-writing stage

Teacher can discuss the main points of the report with the children. These may include:

- Objective (e.g., I am writing a report of the observation...)
- Location (village/town/locality)
- Description of current state (clean/dirty/polluted, etc)
- If it is clean, how are the people of the village/town maintaining the cleanliness?
- If it is dirty, who is responsible for it?

Teacher can also mention some of the important vocabularies from the text and the previous tasks which might be used in writing the report.

Activity 9 – Sense the tenses

Read the following explanations of how we use different tenses (1 – 6). Match the examples (a – h) to the explanations (1 – 6).

- We use the **Simple present tense** to talk about things in general (1 _____)
- We also use the **Simple present tense** to describe illustrations/to provide explanation (2 _____)
- We use the **Simple present continuous tense** to talk about activities happening around now (3 _____)
- We use the **Simple past tense** to talk about things that happened in the past (4 _____)
- We use the **Present perfect tense** to talk about recent events (5 _____)
- We also use the **Present perfect tense** to talk about the action in the past has a result now (6 _____)

- Mawlynnong **is** a small village in the beautiful hill state of Meghalaya...
- ... *Discovery India*, **declared** the village as the cleanest in Asia in 2003.
- ...Shillong and **is** slowly **becoming** a tourist destination.
- This little village **has earned** the unique distinction of being the cleanest village in Asia.
- The cleanliness drive in the village **started** around 50 years ago.
- Mawlynnong's reputation **is** now **attracting** an endless number of visitors...
- To accommodate the growing number of tourists, the village council **has built** two guest houses.
- Maw' in Khasi **means** rock and 'lynnongs' **are** the small pools...

Put the verbs given in brackets (1 – 6) into the correct form, simple present, simple past, present continuous, or present perfect.

- The devastating tsunami _____ in 2004 and _____ thousands of people. (**come** and **kill**)
- Everyone _____ a face mask these days to avoid air pollution. (**wear**)
- Figure 10 _____ the effect of global warming on human health. (**show**)
- My sister _____ in a hospital. (**work**)
- Lalitha _____ engaged. (**get**)
- She told me her name, but I _____ it. (**forget**)