Our planet has different kinds of people each has specific languages and unique traditions. They follow different religions and cultures. These differences enrich our lives.

The Indian Constitution recognizes the right for everyone to practice any religion and develop their own language and culture. We all are one, despite the differences.

**OUR CULTURE TODAY**

Culture consists of ideas, beliefs, customs, art, religions, music and dance. The food habits of the people, the festivals they celebrate, their art and handicrafts are all part of their culture.

**Festivals**

Some festivals are religious and some are linked to the seasons.
Civics Class VI
We also celebrate the birthdays of gods and great men as festivals. For example, Lord 184 Krishna's birthday is celebrated as Janmashtami, the birthday of Gautam Buddha is celebrated as Buddha Purnima, Lord Mahavir birthday is celebrated as Mahavir Jayanti and Guru Nanak's birthday as Gurpurab.

Dance and music
India has two major kinds of dances - classical and folk. The classical dance such as Bharatnatyam is popular in Tamil Nadu, Kathakali in Kerala. Most of these dances tell stories from our two epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Indian music, like the dance forms, also goes back to the Vedas. There are two main schools of classical music, the North Indian School is called Hindustani and the South Indian School is called the Carnatic.

Art and sculpture
The earliest form of art, based on the teachings of the Buddha is the cave paintings at Ajanta and Ellora in Maharashtra. The stupas of Sanchi were built by Emperor Ashoka and the Taj Mahal by Shah Jahan. Many famous monuments and buildings are a part of our heritage.

Food
The food grains, vegetables and fruits grown in our country vary from place to place depending upon the landform, climate and season.

Clothes
Land and climate also determine the dress worn by the people of an area. Some parts are covered with thick forests and some areas are near the sea. In some parts summers are very hot and winters are very cold while in other parts the climate is almost the same throughout the year.

Unity
Civics Class VI

The history of the freedom movement proves that although we had and still have diverse cultures and backgrounds, people from different regions came together to fight against the foreign rulers.

The Indian flag, the National Anthem and the patriotic songs are all symbols of our unity.

Globalization

Progress in communication, transport and technology during the 20th century has enabled us to overcome geographical boundaries and has revolutionized our way of living. The world is linked as never before. Economies, societies and cultures have been connected through a global network, not only in India but throughout the world.

Ladakh

Ladakh is a desert in the mountains in the eastern part of Jammu and Kashmir. Very little agriculture is possible here since this region does not receive any rain and is covered in snow for a large part of the year. There are very few trees that can grow in the region. For drinking water, people depend on the melting snow during the summer months.

The goats in this region are special because they produce pashmina wool. This wool is prized and pashmina shawls cost a lot of money. The people in Ladakh carefully collect the wool of the goats and sell this to traders from Kashmir.

Buddhism reached Tibet via Ladakh. Ladakh is also called Little Tibet. Ladakh has a very rich oral tradition of songs and poems. Local versions of the Tibetan national epic ‘The Kesar Saga’ are performed and sung by both Muslims and Buddhists.

Kerala

Kerala is a state in the southwest corner of India. It is surrounded by the sea on one side and hills on the other. A number of spices like pepper,
Civics Class VI
cloves and cardamoms are grown on the hills. It is spices that made this
region an attractive place for traders.

Jewish and Arab traders were the first to come here. The Apostle of Christ,
St. Thomas is believed to bringing Christianity to India. Many Arab traders
also came and settled down here. Ibn Battuta, who travelled here a little
less than seven hundred years ago, wrote a travelogue in which he
describes the lives of Muslims and says that they were a highly respected
community. The Portuguese discovered the sea route to India from Europe
when Vasco da Gama landed with his ship here.

Because of all these various historical influences, people in Kerala practice
different religions such as Judaism, Islam, Christianity, Hinduism and
Buddhism. The fertile land and climate are suited to growing rice and a
majority of people here eat rice, fish and vegetables.

*TO BE WRITTEN IN NOTES COPY*

LESSON 1 UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Question & Answers -

C. Give short answers for the following questions.

Q.1. How is India a diverse country?

Ans) India is a large country. Different parts of country have different
customs, languages, dress and food habits.

Q.2. What is the art of folk theatre? Give two examples.

Ans) Stories with morals were told through song, dance and drama. This is
called the art of folk theatre. Most of these dances tell stories from our
two epics, the Ramayana and the Mahabharata.

Q.3. What is religious music and folk music?
Devotional music such as couplets by Kabir and bhajans by Surdas, Tulsidas and Mirabai are sung all over the country. Indian folk music consists of traditional songs sung during festivals and weddings.


D. Give long answers for the following questions

Q.1. What is culture?

Ans) Culture consists of ideas, beliefs, customs, art, religions, music and dance. The food habits of the people, the festivals they celebrate, their art and handicrafts are all parts of their culture.

Q.2. which are the two main schools of Indian Classical - music? What is the Gharana Tradition?

Ans) There are two main schools of classical music—the North Indian school is called Hindustani and the south Indian school is called the Carnatic. In Indian music we have the Gharana tradition. Students learn music from a guru by living in his house.

Q.3. Write short notes on the backwaters and the gompas.

Backwaters - The backwaters are a peculiar feature of the Kerala state. They are a network of canals and lakes and are fed by as many as 38 rivers. The chief mode of transport is by boat.
Civics Class VI

Gompas - Gompas are an important part of the lives of the people of Ladakh. These Gompas serve as places of worship, meditation, and as schools.

Q.4. How has globalization affected our world today?

Ans) Globalization has resulted in spreading information and ideas. Economically speaking, it has increased money flow, investment, and international trade. This has brought all the countries into a single giant world market.

Q.5. Why are the fishing and coir industries flourishing in Kerala?

Ans) The backwaters and inland waterways have helped in the growth of the coir industry, which is the oldest traditional cottage industry in the Kerala state. Coir is made out of coconut husk and as transported through waterways.

Fishing is a flourishing industry in the several parts of the state.