

NCERT Solutions for Class 8 English (Poorvi)

Chapter 9 : Spectacular Wonders

Let us discuss

I Complete the information in the table given below. One example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and teacher.

Amazing Natural Phenomena	Location	One Unique Feature
1. The Valley of Flowers	Chamoli district, Uttarakhand	Around 600 species of exotic flowers
2. The Living Root Bridges		
3.	Buldhana district, Maharashtra	
4. Magnetic Hills		
5. Glowing Waters		
6.	West Bengal	
7.	Balasore district, Odisha	

Answers:

Amazing Natural Phenomena	Location	One Unique Feature
1. The Valley of Flowers	Chamoli district, Uttarakhand	Around 600 species of exotic flowers
2. The Living Root Bridges	Meghalaya	Made of intertwined roots; built naturally by indigenous people; long-lasting
3. The Lonar Crater Lake	Buldhana district, Maharashtra	Formed by a meteorite impact in basaltic rock; third largest crater in the world
4. Magnetic Hills	Leh district, Ladakh	Vehicles appear to move uphill due to an optical illusion
5. Glowing Waters	Kumbalangi, near Kochi, Kerala	Waters glow at night due to bioluminescent micro-planktons

6. The Sundarbans	West Bengal	World's largest mangrove forest; home to Bengal tiger and other rare species
7. The Invisible Chandipur Beach	Balasore district, Odisha	Sea disappears and reappears due to ebb and high tides

Let us think and reflect

I Read the given extracts and answer the questions that follow.

1. India is home to some of the most mystifying natural phenomena that surprise and spark our imagination.

(i) Replace the underlined phrase with one from the extract.

India is the birthplace of several rare species of flora and fauna that thrive in its diverse ecosystems.

Answer: home to

(ii) What does the phrase 'nature's unusual side' suggest about the phenomena described?

Answer: It suggests that nature can create rare, strange, and unexpected events or sights that are different from everyday natural experiences and can leave us surprised or amazed.

(iii) Complete the similarity by choosing the correct option. spark: imagination : : ____ : ____.

- A. inspiration; creativity
- B. wonder; amazement
- C. effort; reward
- D. knowledge; books

Answer: B. wonder; amazement

(iv) Identify whether the following statement is true or false. Some natural phenomena can surprise people.

Answer: True

2. Have you seen things disappearing in front of your eyes? Well, such things happen at times, when we keep things at some place, and just forget where we have kept them. But, what if there's a sea that disappears?

This happens in Odisha. It is a beach in the Balasore district where one

can witness the sea disappearing mysteriously—the Chandipur Beach which is known for its unique feature of playing hide-and-seek with its visitors.

(i) Complete the following sentence with a suitable reason.

The writer's most likely purpose to introduce the information about the Chandipur Beach phenomenon with a question is to _____. (engage the reader's curiosity and create a sense of suspense/draw the reader to learn more about the unusual phenomenon/set the tone for the surprising nature of the content that follows)

Answer: engage the reader's curiosity and create a sense of suspense

(ii) Select the option that is correct for both Assertion (A) and Reason (R).

(A): Chandipur Beach in Odisha is known for its unique feature of the sea disappearing.

(R): The tides retreat drastically, exposing the Chandipur beach.

- A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).
- B. Both (A) and (R) are true, but (R) is not the correct explanation of (A).
- C. (A) is true, but (R) is false.
- D. (A) is false, but (R) is true.

Answer: A. Both (A) and (R) are true, and (R) is the correct explanation of (A).

(iii) What does the term 'unique' suggest about the beach in Balasore?

- A. very popular
- B. one of its kind
- C. ancient place
- D. far from city

Answer: B. one of its kind

(iv) What does the writer want to convey with the use of the phrase 'playing hide-and-seek with its visitors'?

Answer: The writer wants to express the surprising and magical quality of the sea disappearing and reappearing at Chandipur Beach, just like a game of hide-and-seek, making it an unusual natural spectacle.

II Answer the following questions.

1. How are the living root bridges a boon for the local people of Meghalaya?

Answer: The Living Root Bridges are a boon because they offer a sustainable, long-lasting solution to cross rivers and streams, especially during monsoons. They are made naturally using tree roots, are strong, and reflect the ingenuity and environmental knowledge of the indigenous people.

2. Why is the Lonar Crater Lake considered a remarkable and rare site?

Answer: It is the only crater in India formed in basaltic rock by a meteorite impact and ranks as the third-largest crater in the world. Its perfect circular shape, unique saline lake, and blend of celestial and terrestrial features make it a rare geological wonder.

3. What might be the writer's purpose of highlighting the awe-inspiring natural wonders of India?

Answer: The writer aims to evoke a sense of wonder and appreciation for nature, highlight India's diverse natural heritage, and encourage curiosity, environmental awareness, and exploration of these unique places.

4. The writer uses descriptive language and introductory questions for some of the natural phenomena. What impact does it have on the readers?

Answer: It grabs the reader's attention, creates curiosity, and makes the content more engaging. It also helps readers visualize the wonders and understand their uniqueness more vividly.

5. Which of these unusual phenomena did you find the most interesting and why?

Answer: I found the Glowing Waters of Kerala most interesting because the idea of water glowing in the dark due to living organisms is magical and scientifically fascinating. It combines beauty with mystery.