

CHAPTER – 8

‘FIRE:FRIEND AND FOE’

HANDOUT

LET'S HAVE A QUICK REVIEW OF THE FIRST HALF...

KEYPOINTS: -

1. For the early man, fire must have been dangerous and frightening.
2. It had been a mystery to him, though he was aware of its disastrous damaging effects.
3. It is also true that lightning and volcanoes have always been a natural part of human existence on earth, the two major forms of fire and its power.
4. Fire is the result of a chemical reaction, as we know today.
5. Oxygen in the air combines with carbon and hydrogen in a fuel resulting in the release of energy in the form of heat and light called fire.
6. Three things required to make fire are fuel, oxygen and heat.
7. Numerous examples of the sources of these three elements are there. For example, wood, coal and cooking gas are all fuels. Air provides oxygen. However, the heat is also essential. A newspaper or a stick lying in the open doesn't burn on its own. We use a lighted match for this.
8. Every fuel burns at a particular temperature known as 'flash point' or 'kindling temperature' of the fuel.
9. A fire is a good servant but a bad master. It is good as long as it is under control.
10. There are numerous uses of fire like to cook food, to warm our homes in winter and to generate electricity.
11. Uncontrolled fire can cause great damage to human life, property, houses and even forests.
12. There are three main ways to put out fire. One way is taking away the fuel or by not adding more to a burning one.