



Just the Right Gift!

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Dear Parents and Teachers,
Read out this story to the little ones with suitable gestures and voice modulation so that they listen to you with rapt attention.

—Editor

Mittu was very excited. His friends the fish, the elephant, the rooster and the lion cub were waiting at the lake behind his house. Mittu

was just back from his summer holidays and he got beautiful gifts for all of them.

He got a comb for the elephant, a pair of sandals for the fish, swimming goggles for the rooster and delicious sugarcane for the lion.

The friends were very excited at seeing the gifts but then, the lion was very sad.

“What happened, lion?” asked Mittu astonished.

“Well, I like your gift very much and thank you for it,” said the lion hesitantly. “But I never eat sugarcane, you see,” he concluded.

Mittu was silent and thoughtful. He felt bad. His best friend the lion did not like his gift. While he stood thinking what to do, the rooster began slowly, “Well, I cannot use the goggles either,” he blurted out, “because I cannot swim.”

“And neither could I use the comb,” said the elephant unhappily, “I don’t have any hair.”

Mittu felt terrible. He has chosen the wrong gifts for all his friends. Oh! He made himself and his friends very unhappy. What should he do now!

Mittu turned to the little fish and asked “Do you like your gift at least, little fish?”

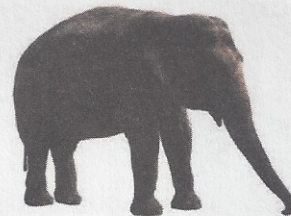
“Yes...Oh yes! I like it” said the little fish doubtfully, “but I would like to have the swimming goggles, if the rooster can spare them. I think they would make me look cute,” he said looking expectantly at the rooster.

“Of course little fish!” said the rooster gladly and immediately gave the goggles to the fish.

“Would you like to try my sandals, rooster? I can’t use them anyway as I have no feet,” asked the little fish.

The rooster thought for a while, “Well, I walk all the way uphill to wake

**Circle the one who
cannot live on the
land for long.
Write its name below.**



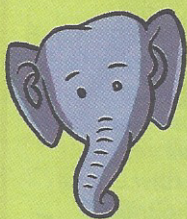
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Enjoy the story and match the animals with the gifts.



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the sun up. So my feet might feel good in a pair of sandals.” He beamed and tried the sandals on. The sandals were a perfect fit and the rooster felt very good.

“Ah! Now that we have begun exchanging the gifts,” smiled the lion sheepishly, “can I have the comb you gave the elephant? It is sort of nice for combing my mane.”

“Oh! Sure!” cried the elephant happily and said, “and I love sugarcane and would like to have it, if the lion can give it.”

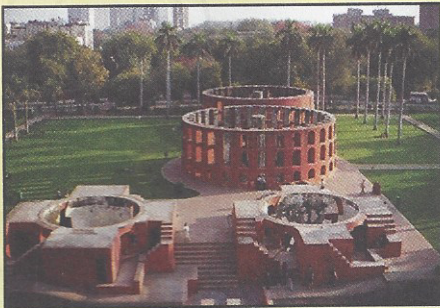
Suddenly the friends realized that they loved the gifts Mittu brought. They said, “It was nice and thoughtful of you

Mittu to give us such perfect gifts. We love you. Thank you!" The friends gathered round Mittu and hugged him. Mittu was very happy. "I love all of you too" he said as he hugged them back. And they all had a lovely time together! ●



Jantar Mantar-Delhi.

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The Jantar Mantar is located in the modern city of New Delhi. It consists of 13 architectural astronomy instruments. The site is one of the five built by Maharaja Jai Singh II of Jaipur, from 1724 onwards, as he was given the task by the Mughal Emperor Muhammed Shah of revising the calendar and astronomical tables. There is a plaque fixed in 1910 mistakenly dating the construction of the complex to the year 1710 on one of the structures in the Jantar Mantar observatory in New Delhi. Later research, though, suggests 1724 as the

actual year of construction.

The primary purpose of the observatory was to compile astronomical tables, and to predict the time and movement of the sun, moon and planets. Some of these purposes nowadays would be classified as astronomy.

Completed in 1724, the Delhi Jantar Mantar had decayed considerably by 1867.

Between 1727 and 1734 Jai Singh II built five similar observatories in West-Central India, all named Jantar Mantar. They are located at Jaipur, Ujjain, Mathura and Varanasi. While the purpose of the Jantar Mantars is astronomy and astrology (Jyotish), they are also major tourist attractions and significant monuments in the history of astronomy. ●