An Alien Hand

Comprehension Check

Question 1. How does Tilloo manage to find his way to the 'forbidden passage'?

Answer: Tilloo managed to find his way to the 'forbidden passage' one day while his father was taking a nap. He used his father's security card to enter the passage.

Question 2. What did Tilloo hope to see once he emerged from his underground home?

Answer: Tilloo had hoped that he would be able to see the sun (if it was day) or stars (if it was night) once he emerged from his underground home.

Question 3. Why did Tilloo's father advise him not to try to reach the surface of the planet?

Answer: Tilloo's father advised him not to try to reach the surface of the planet because the surface had very thin air, which was hard to breathe, and it had a very low temperature, which Tilloo would not be able to withstand.

Question 4. What changes had occurred that forced people to live in underground homes?

Answer: The sun became way too cold and hostile. The birds became extinct. Then the animals and fish followed too. The air grew thinner, and the temperature fell extremely low. These were the changes that occurred that forced people to live in underground houses.

Comprehension Check

Question 1. Why was everyone in the Control Room greatly excited?

Answer: Everyone in the Control Room was greatly excited because they got to know that two spacecraft were approaching their planet.

Question 2. Was the spacecraft manned or unmanned? How do you know it?

Answer: As per the reports of the Central Bureau, the spacecraft was unmanned. It only had instruments.

Question 3. What did Number One and Number Two suggest should be done about the alien spacecraft?

Answer: Number One suggested that they should let the spacecraft land, and then it would be easy for them to make it ineffective.

Number Two suggested that they just wait and watch, as it would not be wise to reveal their existence. Fortunately, the surface of their planet gave no signs of life anyway.
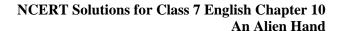
Comprehension Check

Question 1. What do you think the mechanical hand was trying to do?

Answer: The mechanical hand was trying to collect soil samples of Mars in order to understand if there was life on the planet.

Question 2. Tilloo pressed the red button, and "the damage was done". What was the damage?

Answer: The damage was that due to the press of the red button, the mechanical hand stopped working, and it became inactive.

Question 3. Where had the spacecraft come from?

Answer: The spacecraft had come from the planet Earth.

Question 4. On which planet do Tilloo and his parents live?

Answer: Tilloo and his parents lived underground on the planet Mars.

Exercises

Discuss the following topics in groups.

Question 1. If you had to live in a home like Tilloo's, what parts of life would you find most difficult? What compensations might there be?

Answer: The parts of life that I would find most difficult are that there would be no fresh air to breathe, no stars or sun or moon in the sky, no rain, no winter, no summer, no animals, no plants and no natural environment. It would be so dull and artificial.

The compensation that might be there would be the controlled temperature and air.

Question 2. What, if anything, might drive mankind to make their homes underground?

Answer: If the conditions on the surface of the planet are not good enough to survive, mankind might get driven to make their homes underground.

Question 3. Do you think there is life on other planets? Can you guess what kind of people there may be on them? In what ways are they likely to be different from us?

Answer: I think there might be life on other planets. There is a lot of research to find out if there is life on other planets. Space scientists from various countries are continuously trying to search for any such evidence. Spacecraft have been sent to the moon and Mars.

If there is any life form on other planets, that would be entirely different from us as they would have been exposed to different environmental conditions. They would have adapted accordingly.