

Class: VI-VIII

Crafts of Bangladesh

Materials Designed by BRAC University Centre for Languages (BU-CfL)

Dear students, do you know that our country has a rich tradition of crafts? Many people of Bangladesh are involved in this profession for years. Crafts are a part of our culture and heritage. Today we will read about some of the crafts in Bangladesh.

**A. Read about Halima Khatun and Kashem Mia.**



**Bamboo Craft**

I am Halima Khatun. I make various bamboo-made products such as stools, mats, hats, household utensils, toys, baskets, handmade fans, traps as well as some decorative items. When I was young, I used to help my mother in making things with bamboo and cane. I learned to do it more neatly from my mother-in-law after my marriage. My husband sells these items in our village market. My products have high demand and I am always busy in making them. I only wish if we could sell our products directly to the city shops for getting the real price we deserve. It is not only a matter of earning money; these products also uphold our culture and tradition.

**Brass Craft**

Hello! My name is Kashem Mia. I live in Jessore. People of my village usually call me Kansaru because I make various household things from kansa or brass as you call it. I make small water vessel, pot, cup, dish, large and small cooking pot, incense holder, hookah, candle holder and so on. I buy my materials in the form of brass sheets, which I hammer into different shapes. In Bangladesh this brass industry is very popular in the districts of Dhaka, Faridpur and Jessore. I enjoy making things from brass and selling all my products in markets. The development of aluminum, plastic and steel and also the rising price of brass has made it very difficult for us to survive with our traditional business.



**Based on your reading answer the following two questions:**

1. Why are the craftsmen in our country at risk?
2. What can we do to preserve our crafts?

**Write True or False beside the following statements:**

1. The price of brass is high.
2. Brass products are not traditional.
3. Bamboo and cane products can be made at home.
4. Urban people do not use bamboo products.



**B.**

Here, a potter is describing the process of making pottery. Put the joining words to complete the process.



Then	As	at first
At the end	After that	and

Hello! I am Raghunath Pala. I am a potter. To make a pottery, 1. \_\_\_\_\_, I collect the finest soil which I collect from low land 2. \_\_\_\_\_ blend it with water to make soft clay from the soil. 3. \_\_\_\_\_ I place the clay on a revolving wheel. 4. \_\_\_\_\_ the wheel revolves, I use my hand to get the expected shape. 5. \_\_\_\_\_ I burn the pottery inside an underground burner called 'poon'. 6. \_\_\_\_\_, I dry it under the sun and colour it. I wonder how I make such a beautiful thing out of simple clay! Sometimes I get order from big shops like Aarong.

**C.**

See the following pictures carefully. There are five differences between them. Find out the differences and write in full sentences. One is done for you.



Picture -1



Picture -2

1. In picture 1, there is a cow near the tree but in picture 2, there is no cow.
2. In picture 1, \_\_\_\_\_ but in picture 2, \_\_\_\_\_
3. In picture 1, \_\_\_\_\_ but in picture 2, \_\_\_\_\_
4. In picture 1, \_\_\_\_\_ but in picture 2, \_\_\_\_\_
5. In picture 1, \_\_\_\_\_ but in picture 2, \_\_\_\_\_

**Learning Objectives:**

Reading comprehension  
Use of transitional words  
Sentence making  
Vocabulary

**Answer Key**

1. at first
2. and
3. After that
4. As
5. Then
6. At the end

**D.**

Selina and Roxana are two neighbours. They are good friends too. Selina has brought a gift for Roxana. Read their conversation.

Look sister! I've brought a gift for you. It's made of jute.

Oh it's marvellous! I've never seen such an amazing bag in my life! Thank you so much.

**Selina :** You're welcome. But you know, people nowadays don't buy these kinds of jute products.

**Roxana:** No! It's not true. Now people are rather more interested in jute products. They want to decorate their houses with indigenous and traditional things.

**Selina :** Really?

**Roxana:** Yes, because jute is very eco-friendly and it costs very little to make things out of jute.

**Match the following words with their meanings:**

words	Meanings
1. Amazing	a. from one's own country
2. Marvellous	b. wonderful
3. Favourite	c. beliefs and ways of life followed for many years
4. Decorate	d. to make something attractive
5. Indigenous	e. to like something very much
6. Tradition	f. very surprising or pleasant



## Use energy saving lamps

Normal light bulbs use a lot of power and give out heat in the atmosphere. However, energy saving lamps do not consume too much electricity and they are also environment friendly.  
**Save electricity, Save environment.**



আপনার সচেতনতাই আপনার শক্তি, জ্বলে উঠুন আপন শক্তিতে