



English

Class: 9th

Subject: English

**Unit 10: The Silent Predator and
the Majestic Prey - Snow
Leopard and Markhor**

❖ Paragraphs Translation:

Paragraph 1:

In the high-altitude regions of Pakistan, where the peaks of the Himalayas, Karakoram, and HinduKush touch the sky, two extraordinary animals have made these rugged landscapes home for centuries. The snow leopard and the markhor, predator and prey, represent the delicate balance of nature in some of the most remote areas of the world. Both species are not only fascinating in their own outlook but are also symbols of Pakistan's wild beauty and the need for conservation.

Urdu Translation:

پاکستان کے بلند پہاڑی علاقوں میں، جہاں ہمالیہ، قراقرم اور ہندوکش کی چوٹیاں آسمان کو چھوتی ہیں، دو غیر معمولی جانور صدیوں سے ان سخت و دشوار گزار مناظرات میں بستے آئے ہیں۔ سنو لیوپارڈ اور مارخور، شکاری اور شکار، دنیا کے کچھ سب سے دور دراز علاقوں میں فطرت کے نازک توازن کی نمائندگی کرتے ہیں۔ یہ دونوں انواع نہ صرف اپنی شکل و صورت میں دلچسپ ہیں بلکہ پاکستان کی جنگلی خوبصورتی اور تحفظ ماحول کی ضرورت کی علامت بھی ہیں۔

Paragraph 2:

The snow leopard is one of the most elusive animals on the planet. With its thick, spotted coat and piercing blue eyes, it blends perfectly with the rocky mountains. Often referred to as the "Ghost of the Mountains," the snow leopard roams at altitudes as high as 5,500 metres, surviving the cold with its dense fur and muscular build.

Urdu Translation:

سنو لیوپارڈ دنیا کے سب سے پراسرار جانوروں میں سے ایک ہے۔ اپنے گھنے، دھبے دار بالوں اور تیز نیلی آنکھوں کے ساتھ، یہ پتھریلے پہاڑوں میں مکمل طور پر گھل مل جاتا ہے۔ اکثر اسے "پہاڑوں کا بھوت" کہا جاتا ہے، سنو لیوپارڈ 5,500 میٹر تک کی بلندیوں میں گھومتا ہے اور اپنے گھنے بالوں اور مضبوط جسمانی بناوٹ کی بدولت شدید سردی میں زندہ رہتا ہے۔

Paragraph 3:

Snow leopards are highly adapted to their mountain habitats. Their wide, fur-covered paws allow them to walk on snow without sinking, and their long tails help them balance on narrow ledges. But despite their strength and agility, snow leopards are rarely seen by humans. This

mysterious predator is shy and solitary, avoiding human contact whenever possible.

Urdu Translation:

سنو لیوپارڈ اپنے پہاڑی مسکن کے ماحول کے مطابق بہت زیادہ ڈھال لیے ہوئے ہیں۔ ان کے چوڑے، بالوں سے ڈھکے پنجے انہیں بغیر دھنسے برف پر چلنے کی اجازت دیتے ہیں، اور ان کی لمبی دم تنگ چٹانوں پر توازن برقرار رکھنے میں مدد کرتی ہے۔ لیکن اپنی طاقت اور پھرتی کے باوجود، انسان کم ہی سنو لیوپارڈ دیکھ پاتے ہیں۔ یہ پراسرار شکاری شرمیلا اور اکیلا ہوتا ہے اور جہاں ممکن ہو انسانی رابطے سے بچتا ہے۔

Paragraph 4:

The snow leopard's primary prey is the markhor, though it also hunts ibex and wild sheep. As a top predator in the ecosystem, it plays a crucial role in maintaining the natural balance. If the snow leopard were to disappear, it would create a ripple effect, disturbing the populations of other animals and the overall health of the mountain environment.

Urdu Translation:

سنو لیوپارڈ کا بنیادی شکار مارخور ہے، اگرچہ یہ آئی بیکنس اور جنگلی بھیڑوں کا شکار بھی کرتا ہے۔ ماحولیاتی نظام میں ایک اعلیٰ شکاری کے طور پر، یہ فطری توازن برقرار رکھنے میں اہم کردار ادا کرتا ہے۔ اگر سنو لیوپارڈ غائب ہو جائے تو اس سے ایک سلسلہ وار اثر پیدا ہوگا، جو دیگر جانوروں کی آبادی اور پہاڑی ماحول کی مجموعی صحت کو متاثر کرے گا۔

Paragraph 5:

The markhor, with its impressive corkscrew-shaped horns, is Pakistan's national animal. Found in the mountainous regions of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan, and parts of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, the markhor is perfectly adapted to the steep and rocky terrain. Its wide hooves help it climb cliffs with ease, while its coat changes with the seasons, providing warmth in winter and shedding in summer.

Urdu Translation:

مارخور، اپنی شاندار کارکسکریو نما سینگوں کے ساتھ، پاکستان کا قومی جانور ہے۔ خیبر پختونخوا، گلگت بلتستان، بلوچستان اور آزاد جموں و کشمیر کے پہاڑی علاقوں میں پایا جانے والا مارخور تنگ اور پتھریلے

پہاڑوں کے ماحول کے لیے مکمل طور پر ڈھالا ہوا ہے۔ اس کے چوڑے پنچے اسے آسانی سے چٹانوں پر چڑھنے میں مدد دیتے ہیں، جبکہ اس کی کھال موسم کے مطابق بدلتی ہے، سردیوں میں گرمی فراہم کرتی ہے اور گرمیوں میں جھڑتی ہے۔

Paragraph 6:

The markhor is a herbivore, feeding on grasses, shrubs, and leaves. Living at altitudes of up to 3,600 metres, these animals are often seen perched on narrow ledges, grazing on vegetation. Males are known for their long, twisted horns, which can grow up to 1.5 metres.

Urdu Translation:

مارخور ایک گھاس خور جانور ہے، جو گھاس، جھاڑیوں اور پتوں پر زندگی گزارتا ہے۔ 3,600 میٹر تک کی بلندیوں میں رہنے والے یہ جانور اکثر تنگ چٹانوں پر بیٹھے، سبزہ چرنے کے لیے دیکھے جاتے ہیں۔ نر مارخور اپنی لمبی، مڑی ہوئی سینگوں کے لیے مشہور ہیں، جو 1.5 میٹر تک بڑھ سکتی ہیں۔

Paragraph 7:

The name "markhor" means "snake-eater" in Persian, a reference to the twisting horns that resemble coiled snakes. The markhor holds a special place in Pakistan's cultural and environmental heritage, but like the snow leopard, it has faced numerous challenges.

Urdu Translation:

نام "مارخور" فارسی میں "سانپ خور" کے معنی رکھتا ہے، جو ان کے مڑے ہوئے سینگوں کی طرف اشارہ ہے جو گول سانپوں کی مانند دکھائی دیتے ہیں۔ مارخور پاکستان کی ثقافتی اور ماحولیاتی وراثت میں ایک خاص مقام رکھتا ہے، لیکن سنو لیوپارڈ کی طرح اسے بھی متعدد چیلنجوں کا سامنا کرنا پڑا ہے۔

Paragraph 8:

The relationship between the snow leopard and the markhor is a classic example of predator and prey. Snow leopards rely on markhors for food, and markhors have evolved to escape these powerful predators by living in steep, rocky areas where they can quickly flee.

Urdu Translation:

سنو لیوپارڈ اور مارخور کے درمیان تعلق شکاری اور شکار کی ایک کلاسیکی مثال ہے۔ سنو لیوپارڈ خوراک کے لیے مارخور پر انحصار کرتے ہیں، اور مارخور نے ان طاقتور شکاریوں سے بچنے کے لیے اس طرح ارتقا کیا ہے کہ وہ تیز اور پتھریلے علاقوں میں رہیں جہاں سے وہ جلدی فرار ہو سکیں۔

Paragraph 9:

However, human activities have upset this delicate balance. Poaching, habitat destruction, and climate change have reduced populations of both the species. Markhors have been hunted for their valuable horns, while snow leopards have been killed by herders trying to protect their livestock.

Urdu Translation:

تاہم، انسانی سرگرمیوں نے اس نازک توازن کو بگاڑ دیا ہے۔ شکار، مسکن کے تباہ ہونے، اور ماحولیاتی تبدیلی نے دونوں انواع کی آبادی کو کم کر دیا ہے۔ مارخور کو ان کے قیمتی سینگوں کے لیے شکار کیا گیا ہے، جبکہ سنو لیوپارڈ کو چرواہوں نے مارا ہے جو اپنے مویشیوں کی حفاظت کرنے کی کوشش کر رہے تھے۔

Paragraph 10:

Despite these threats, both the snow leopard and the markhor have benefited from successful conservation efforts in Pakistan. Organisations such as the Snow Leopard Foundation and the WWF-Pakistan have worked tirelessly to protect these species. In areas like Chitral National Park and the Toshi Game Reserve, local communities, in collaboration with the government, have established trophy hunting programmes. These programmes allow foreign hunters to hunt a limited number of markhors under strict regulations. The revenue generated is used for wildlife conservation and to provide financial incentives for local people to protect the animals.

Urdu Translation:

ان خطرات کے باوجود، سنو لیوپارڈ اور مارخور دونوں نے پاکستان میں کامیاب تحفظ کے اقدامات سے فائدہ اٹھایا ہے۔ ادارے جیسے سنو لیوپارڈ فاؤنڈیشن اور WWF پاکستان ان انواع کی حفاظت کے لیے انتھک کام کر رہے ہیں۔ چترال نیشنل پارک اور توشی گیم ریزرو جیسے علاقوں میں، مقامی کمیونٹیز نے حکومت کے تعاون سے ٹرافی شکار کے پروگرام قائم کیے ہیں۔ یہ پروگرام غیر ملکی شکاریوں کو سخت ضوابط کے تحت محدود تعداد میں مارخور شکار کرنے کی اجازت دیتے ہیں۔

حاصل شدہ آمدنی جنگلی حیات کے تحفظ اور مقامی لوگوں کو جانوروں کی حفاظت کے لیے مالی ترغیب فراہم کرنے کے لیے استعمال کی جاتی ہے۔

Paragraph 11:

Thanks to the efforts to reduce human-leopard conflict, an improvement in the numbers of snow leopards has also been seen. By compensating herders who lose livestock due to snow leopard attacks and raising awareness of the species' importance, conservationists have reduced the killings of these endangered cats.

Urdu Translation:

انسان اور لیوپارڈ کے تنازعے کو کم کرنے کی کوششوں کی بدولت سنو لیوپارڈ کی تعداد میں بھی بہتری دیکھی گئی ہے۔ جو چرواہے سنو لیوپارڈ کے حملوں کی وجہ سے مویشی کھو دیتے ہیں ان کا معاوضہ دے کر اور اس نوع کی اہمیت کے بارے میں آگاہی بڑھا کر، ماحولیاتی کارکنوں نے ان خطرناک بلیوں کے شکار کو کم کیا ہے۔

Paragraph 12:

Despite these successes, both the species remain vulnerable. Continued efforts are needed to protect their habitats and prevent illegal hunting. By preserving the snow leopard and the markhor, Pakistan is also preserving its natural heritage and the balance of life in its wildest regions.

Urdu Translation:

ان کامیابیوں کے باوجود، دونوں انواع ابھی بھی خطرے میں ہیں۔ ان کے مسکن کی حفاظت اور غیر قانونی شکار کو روکنے کے لیے مسلسل کوششوں کی ضرورت ہے۔ سنو لیوپارڈ اور مارخور کی حفاظت کر کے، پاکستان اپنی قدرتی وراثت اور جنگلی علاقوں میں زندگی کے توازن کو بھی برقرار رکھ رہا ہے۔

Paragraph 13:

The survival of the snow leopard and the markhor is essential for the health of Pakistan's mountain ecosystems. Snow leopards keep the populations of herbivores like the markhor in check, ensuring that plant life in these areas remains balanced. Markhors, in turn, are critical for

maintaining the vegetation of the mountain slopes,
preventing overgrazing and soil erosion.

Urdu Translation:

سنو لیوپارڈ اور مارخور کی بقا پاکستان کے پہاڑی ماحولیاتی نظام کی صحت کے لیے ضروری ہے۔ سنو لیوپارڈ مارخور جیسے گھاس خور جانوروں کی آبادی کو کنٹرول میں رکھتے ہیں، جس سے ان علاقوں کی نباتاتی زندگی متوازن رہتی ہے۔ مارخور اس کے بدلے میں پہاڑی ڈھلوانوں کی نباتات کو برقرار رکھنے میں اہم کردار ادا کرتے ہیں، زیادہ چرائی اور مٹی کے کٹاؤ کو روکتے ہیں۔

Paragraph 14:

Without these two species, the entire ecosystem would be at risk. Protecting them is not only about saving two magnificent animals but also preserving the very environment they inhabit.

Urdu Translation:

ان دونوں انواع کے بغیر، پورا ماحولیاتی نظام خطرے میں پڑ جائے گا۔ ان کی حفاظت صرف دو شاندار جانوروں کو بچانے کے بارے میں نہیں ہے بلکہ اس ماحول کی حفاظت کے بارے میں بھی ہے جس میں یہ رہتے ہیں۔

❖ Exercise Short Questions:

1. Why is the predator-prey relationship between the snow leopard and the markhor important for the ecosystem?

Ans: The predator-prey relationship maintains the balance of the ecosystem. Snow leopards control herbivore populations like the markhor, which prevents overgrazing and helps plants and vegetation to thrive.

2. How do the snow leopard and the markhor's adaptations help them survive in the mountains?

Ans: Snow leopards have thick fur, wide paws, and long tails to survive cold and move on snow. Markhors have wide hooves, twisting horns, and seasonal coat changes to climb cliffs, escape predators, and survive harsh weather.

3. What are the benefits and potential concerns of community-led conservation programmes like trophy hunting?

Answer:

Benefits: Generates funds for wildlife conservation and gives financial incentives to locals to protect animals.

Concerns: If not regulated, it can lead to overhunting and harm populations.

4. What might happen to the mountain ecosystem if either the snow leopard or the markhor disappeared?

Ans: The ecosystem would be disturbed. Overpopulation of herbivores could occur, leading to overgrazing and soil erosion, which would damage vegetation and reduce biodiversity.

5. How do human activities like poaching and habitat destruction threaten the balance between the snow leopard and the markhor?

Ans: Poaching reduces populations of both species. Habitat destruction and climate change make survival harder, and humans sometimes kill snow leopards to protect livestock, disrupting the natural predator-prey balance.

6. How is the markhor adapted to living in mountainous regions?

Ans: Markhors have wide hooves for climbing, twisting horns for defense, seasonal coat changes for warmth and shedding, and can graze on sparse vegetation on steep slopes.

7. What more can be done to raise awareness about protecting endangered species like the snow leopard and the markhor?

Ans: Public education, wildlife campaigns, documentaries, school programs, government policies, and community participation can raise awareness about their importance and conservation.

8. How did the description of the snow leopard and the markhor impact your understanding of these animals and their environment?

Ans: The description shows that both animals are highly adapted to survive harsh mountain conditions and play a critical role in maintaining ecosystem balance, emphasizing the importance of their conservation.

❖ Short Questions From the Syllabus:

1. Why are snow leopards rarely seen by humans?

Ans: Snow leopards are shy, solitary, and live in remote, high-altitude mountains, which makes human encounters rare.

2. What do markhors eat?

Ans: Markhors are herbivores and feed on grasses, shrubs, and leaves.

3. How have conservation efforts helped increase snow leopard numbers?

Ans: Conservationists compensate herders for livestock loss, raise awareness about the species, and implement protection programs, which have reduced killings and helped snow leopard populations grow.

❖ Exercise MCQs:

1. What might be the long-term impact on the ecosystem if the snow leopard were to become extinct?

- (a) The population of herbivores like markhor would increase, leading to overgrazing
- (b) The markhor population would decrease due to a lack of protection
- (c) The ecosystem would become healthier without predators
- (d) The environment would remain unchanged

2. How do community-based conservation efforts, such as trophy hunting, benefit both wildlife and local people?

- (a) They reduce human-wildlife conflict by eliminating predators
- (b) They generate income for locals and fund wildlife protection efforts
- (c) They help introduce foreign species into local ecosystems
- (d) They allow uncontrolled hunting, reducing animal populations

3. What lesson can be learned from the successful conservation efforts of the snow leopard and the markhor?

- (a) Conservation only works if predators are removed from the ecosystem
- (b) Animals can survive without human intervention

(c) Involving local communities in conservation efforts leads to better outcomes ✓

(d) Conservation is not necessary for naturally strong species

4. Why is it important to maintain the balance between predator and prey in ecosystems like those of the snow leopard and the markhor?

(a) to increase tourism in mountain regions

(b) to ensure that predators do not starve

(c) to keep herbivore populations in check and protect vegetation ✓

(d) to help predators dominate the ecosystem

5. What is one potential drawback of trophy hunting programmes, even when they help conservation efforts?

(a) They may lead to uncontrolled hunting of species

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- (b) They only focus on predators like the snow leopard
 - (c) They may prioritise financial gain over the welfare of animals
 - (d) They do not involve local communities in any way

❖ Important Mcqs:

1. Which two animals represent the delicate balance of nature in Pakistan's high-altitude regions?

- (a) Snow leopard and tiger
- (b) Markhor and ibex
- (c) Snow leopard and markhor
- (d) Tiger and lion

2. What is the snow leopard often called due to its elusive nature?

(a) King of Mountains

(b) Ghost of the Mountains

(c) Mountain Tiger

(d) Shadow Cat

3. Up to what altitude do snow leopards roam?

(a) 3,000 metres

(b) 4,500 metres

(c) 5,500 metres

(d) 6,500 metres



4. What helps snow leopards walk on snow without sinking?

(a) Sharp claws

(b) Long tails

(c) Wide, fur-covered paws

(d) Strong teeth

5. Why are snow leopards rarely seen by humans?

(a) They are aggressive

(b) They are shy and solitary

(c) They are nocturnal only

(d) They live in forests

6. What is the primary prey of the snow leopard?

(a) Ibex

(b) Markhor

(c) Wild goat

(d) Deer

7. What is Pakistan's national animal?

(a) Snow leopard

(b) Markhor

(c) Tiger

(d) Ibex

8. In which regions of Pakistan is the markhor found?

(a) Punjab and Sindh

(b) Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Gilgit-Baltistan, Balochistan, and parts of Azad Kashmir

(c) Sindh and Balochistan only

(d) Punjab and Gilgit

9. How do markhors adapt to steep and rocky terrain?

- (a) Sharp teeth
- (b) Wide hooves and seasonal coat changes
- (c) Long tails
- (d) Camouflage fur only

10. What does the name "markhor" mean in Persian?

- (a) Mountain goat
- (b) Snake-eater
- (c) Horned goat
- (d) Fast runner

11. Why have human activities disturbed the balance between snow leopards and markhors?

(a) Migration

(b) Poaching, habitat destruction, and climate change

(c) Overpopulation of humans only

(d) Predators leaving the area

12. Why are trophy hunting programmes allowed in Pakistan?

(a) To increase tourist hunting

(b) To control predator population

(c) To generate revenue for wildlife conservation and provide incentives to locals

(d) To reduce the number of markhors

13. Which organisations work for snow leopard and markhor conservation?

(a) Red Cross

(b) WWF-Pakistan and Snow Leopard Foundation

(c) United Nations only

(d) National Geographic

14. How do markhors escape from snow leopards?

(a) By swimming rivers

(b) By climbing steep, rocky areas quickly

(c) By running long distances on plains

(d) By hiding in trees

15. What is the maximum length of a male markhor's horn?

(a) 1 metre

(b) 1.5 metres

(c) 2 metres

(d) 2.5 metres

16. What role do snow leopards play in the ecosystem?

(a) They are herbivores

(b) They control herbivore populations like markhor

(c) They increase vegetation

(d) They protect humans

17. What do markhors feed on?

(a) Meat

(b) Fruits only

(c) Grasses, shrubs, and leaves

(d) Fish

18. How have conservationists reduced killings of snow leopards?

(a) By relocating them

(b) By compensating herders and raising awareness

(c) By hunting their prey

(d) By increasing tourism



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19. Despite conservation success, why are these species still vulnerable?

(a) Because their predators are increasing

(b) Because continuous protection is needed to prevent illegal hunting and habitat loss

(c) Because they migrate to other countries

(d) Because they eat too much

20. What would happen if snow leopards disappeared?

(a) Ecosystem balance would improve

(b) Herbivore populations would increase, harming vegetation

(c) Mountains would become more fertile

(d) Predators would dominate

21. What is a critical role of markhors in mountain ecosystems?

(a) Maintaining vegetation and preventing soil erosion

(b) Controlling predator population

(c) Hunting ibex

(d) Spreading seeds only

22. What is the main threat to markhors and snow leopards?

- (a) Natural disasters
- (b) Human activities like poaching and habitat destruction
- (c) Competition with each other
- (d) Migration to plains

23. What is the importance of preserving these species?

- (a) To increase tourism only
- (b) To preserve Pakistan's natural heritage and ecosystem balance
- (c) To introduce foreign species
- (d) To reduce local hunting

24. How do snow leopards survive cold mountain temperatures?

- (a) By hibernating
- (b) Dense fur and muscular build
- (c) By living in caves only
- (d) By eating warm-blooded animals

25. How do snow leopards balance on narrow ledges?

- (a) Strong claws
- (b) Long tails
- (c) Wide paws only
- (d) Short legs

26. What is one challenge markhors face despite conservation?

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- (a) Predation by tigers
 - (b) Hunting for valuable horns
 - (c) Lack of food only
 - (d) Cold weather only

27. What is the maximum altitude markhors can live at?

- (a) 2,500 metres
- (b) 3,600 metres
- (c) 4,500 metres
- (d) 5,500 metres



28. How do trophy hunting programmes help locals?

- (a) By giving them hunting rights
- (b) By providing financial incentives to protect wildlife

(c) By giving free livestock

(d) By reducing vegetation

29. Which is an example of predator-prey relationship?

(a) Markhor hunting grass

(b) Snow leopard hunting markhor

(c) Markhor hunting ibex

(d) Snow leopard eating plants

30. What is the long-term significance of snow leopards and markhors?

(a) Only for tourism

(b) Essential for ecosystem balance and vegetation protection

(c) Only as national symbols



(d) Only to attract hunters

Note:

This chapter is designed to provide a solid foundation of knowledge, with the goal of deepening understanding and encouraging further exploration of the subject. The content has been carefully selected to support effective learning and inspire students to engage with the topic more deeply.

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Purpose: To contribute to education by offering insightful, valuable content that enhances learning and understanding.

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