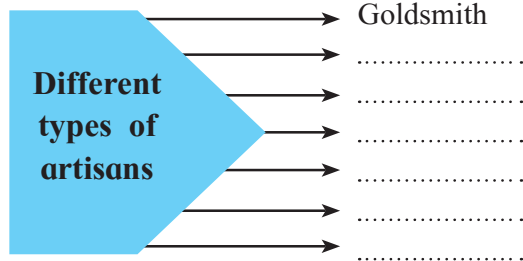


## 2.2 Indian Weavers

### ICE BREAKERS

- **Artisans are also called craftsmen. They are creators of diverse goods and use their hands to create unique, functional and also decorative items using traditional techniques. Now complete the web given below:**



- **Discuss with your partner the seasons/occasions when we need :**
  - (a) woollen clothes
  - (b) casual clothes
  - (c) rich silk clothes
  - (d) colourful, comfortable clothes
- **Let's play a game. The teacher will ask the students some questions. Students will understand that there are some exceptions to the general rules. Let's start.**
  - One who weaves is a weaver.
  - One who plays a game is a .....
  - One who sings is a .....
  - One who dances is a .....
  - One who teaches is a .....
  - One who cooks is a .....
- **We have often seen the picture of Gandhiji spinning on his *charkha*. Discuss the reasons behind this. One has been given for you.**
  - (a) To give rural people an opportunity to earn their livelihood.
  - (b) .....
  - (c) .....
  - (d) .....
- **Name some tools used by the weavers.**
  - (a) Loom
  - (b) .....
  - (c) .....
- **Name some types of yarns used by the weavers.**
  - (a) Linen
  - (b) .....
  - (c) .....

**Sarojini Naidu (1879 to 1949)** was a political activist, feminist and the first Indian woman who became the President of the Indian National Congress. She was an important figure in India's Struggle for Independence. Sarojini Naidu's work as a poet earned her the sobriquet of Nightingale of India. Later she became the Governor of the United Provinces in 1947 becoming the first woman to hold the office of the Governor in Independent India.



'Indian Weavers' is a short poem where the poet talks about three types of garment that the weavers weave at three particular times of a day. Each stanza of the poem represents the three important events of human life: birth (childhood), adulthood (young) and death (old). The colours mentioned in the stanzas are very significant as they indicate the moods related to the events.

**halcyon:** Kingfisher, a bird which has bright, colourful plumes

**plumes:** soft feathers

**shroud:** a cloth in which a dead person is wrapped

## Indian Weavers

Weavers, weaving at break of day,  
Why do you weave a garment so gay?.....

Blue as the wing of a **halcyon** wild,  
We weave the robes of a new-born child.

Weavers, weaving at fall of night,  
Why do you weave a garment so bright?.....  
Like the **plumes** of a peacock, purple and green,  
We weave the marriage-veils of a queen.

Weavers, weaving solemn and still,  
What do you weave in the moonlight chill.....  
White as a feather and white as a cloud,  
We weave a dead man's funeral **shroud**.

- Sarojini Naidu

## BRAINSTORMING

(A1) Discuss with your partner about the following vocations:

- |              |                  |
|--------------|------------------|
| (a) Weaving  | (b) Tailoring    |
| (c) Knitting | (d) Embroidering |

(A2) (i) Discuss the various products made by the weavers in the poem.

(ii) The words in the three stanzas of the poem mention different times of a day. Complete the table.

Time of the day	Words/phrases	Weaver's work
Early morning	Break of day	Weavers weave robes for the new-born child
Late in the evening		
Cold night		

(iii) The poem reveals three phases of life. Fill in the blanks with feelings and colours appropriate to the phases of life. One is done for you.

	New-born/ Childhood	Youth/ Adulthood	Old age/ Death
Colour	Blue		
Feeling	Hopes and expectations		

(iv) Complete: The weavers weave in the chill moonlight .....

(v) Pick out two words used to describe the weavers in the last stanza. Also state their importance.

(vi) Express your views about the present condition of weavers.

(vii) Describe in your own words the steps or measures that can be taken to solve the problems of the weavers.

(viii) Express your own views and opinions from the weavers' point of view and complete the following table.

Stanza	Activity (done by weavers)	Views/Opinion
First stanza	Robes for a new-born child	The weavers feel ..... because .....
Second stanza	.....	.....
Third stanza	.....	.....

(A3) (i) Pick out the rhyming words from the poem.

- (ii) Give antonyms and synonyms of the following and make sentences of your own.

Word	Antonym	Sentence	Synonym	Sentence
new				
bright				
dead				
still				
wild				
fall				
child				

- (iii) Make a word register for clothes/attire/dress.

- (A4) (i) Complete the following table.

Figure of Speech	Line
Simile	
Imagery	
Metaphor	
Alliteration	

- (ii) The rhyme scheme in the first stanza is 'aabb'. Find rhyme schemes in the second and third stanzas.

- (A5) (i) The poet has asked a question at the beginning of every stanza. Explain the effect it creates on the reader.

- (ii) Write an appreciation of the poem.

- (iii) Compose four lines on 'Importance of clothes.'

- (iv) Write an appeal to use handloom products in our daily life.

- (v) Visit a handloom factory near your locality and write a report of it.

- (vi) A handicraft exhibition is being organized in your college. You are given the task to comper the inaugural function. Write the script for compering.

- (A6) (i) Go to your college library and collect and read the poems written by Sarojini Naidu.

- (ii) Find various career opportunities in Small Scale Industries like Handloom, Art and Craft, Block Printing etc.

- (iii) Find out information about the *Mahavastra* of Maharashtra– *Paithani*.

