



THE INDIAN INSTITUTE OF GEOGRAPHICAL STUDIES

and

## **Young Creators' Den**

Invite you to

### **Explore A World Of Ideas!**

**A monthly gathering of curious minds, age 8 and above – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of every month**

### **How Earth Made Us**

#### **Part 3**

#### **Wind**

**Presented by Dr. Iain Stewart, Geologist**

(Duration: 1 hour)

Earth breathes just as we do. The atmosphere surrounding Earth is always moving. It carries various gases, moisture, heat, soil, living things ... including humans from place to place. Wind has helped to shape the stories of civilizations ... where we have lived, where we took people, how we survived, etc. It is the life-breath of the planet. Like many other things, it can also be deadly!

In this episode we go on a journey of exploration of how wind has been crucial to human life on Earth. The journey is full of surprising connections! You will never again see geography the same way.

Join us in exploring this vital resource. We will also look at wind's role in our own daily lives and how our culture views wind.

And if you have an atlas you can carry easily, bring it with you.

**Come and explore with us on**

**Sunday, 11 December 2011, 4:30 to 6:30pm at the Young Creators' Den**

**Kids and parents are welcome!**

**To register:** Send an email to [geo@tiigs.org](mailto:geo@tiigs.org) with your name, age, class/standard, and name of your school; we will reply to your email confirming your registration **OR**

Call **Mrs Vasanthakumari** at **93412 18387** Registration is on first-come-first-serve basis.

<b>Study sheet</b>
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Air in motion is called wind. Winds are the breath of Earth.

Around the world, winds move in regular patterns and in regular directions. Winds, like water and the other elements, have helped civilizations rise and fall.

People from early civilizations used their observations and knowledge of winds to help them predict seasons and know how to increase the production of food from agriculture. They were also able to find new lands to live on.

Later, European explorers used winds to travel to distant lands in search of riches. Most importantly they wanted find a sea route to India and south-east Asia. Here, they wanted to pick up gold, precious stones, spices, silks, and other items that were very much in demand in Europe. In the process, many civilizations started exchanging not just goods, but also languages, astronomy, mathematics, religious beliefs, foods, fashions, literature, arts, and many other things with each other.

These led to increase in knowledge of geography ... and made a huge impact on history.

In this episode of How Earth Made Us, Scottish geologist, Dr. Iain Stewart shows us how winds made and unmade human life.

Here are twenty samskrutam words for “wind” and their meanings. These meanings tell us how people of our culture observed and understood wind. How many of the properties of wind can you identify in the documentary?

श्वसनः स्पर्शनो वायुर्मातरिश्वा सदागतिः

पृषदश्वो गन्धवहो गन्धवाहः—अनिल—आशुगाः ।

समीर—मारुत—मरुत्—जगत्प्राण—समीरणाः

नभस्वत्—वातः—पवन—पवमान—प्रभञ्जनाः ॥

(*amarakosha*, 1<sup>st</sup> Kaanda, shlokas 61, 62; all are masculine gender nouns)

	<b>Samskrutam word</b>	<b>Pronounced ...</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
1.	श्वसनः	Shvasanaha	That which living beings breathe
2.	स्पर्शनः	Sparshanaha	That which touches everything
3.	वायुः	Vaayuhu	That which moves about freely
4.	मातरिश्वा	Maatarishvaa	That which expands in the sky
5.	सदागतिः	Sadaagatihi	That which moves around always
6.	पृषदश्वः	Prushadashvaha	Whose vehicle is the deer named Prushad - May be according to some Pauranic story
7.	गन्धवहः	gandhavaha	That which carries smell/aroma/fragrance
8.	गन्धवाहः	gandhavaaha	
9.	अनिलः	Anilaha	That which living beings breathe
10.	आशुगाः	Aashugaha	That which moves very fast

11.	समीरः	Sameeraha	That which moves about well
12.	मारुतः	Maarutaha	If this gets angry living beings perishes - meaning this is base for life in the planet
13.	मरुत्	marut	
14.	जगत्प्राणः	Jagatpraanaha	The life-breath of the world
15.	समीरणाः	Sameeranaha	That which moves about well
16.	नभस्वत्	Nabhasvat	That which has space
17.	वातः	Vaataha	That which moves about freely
18.	पवनः	Pavanaha	That which purifies
19.	पवमानः	Pavamaanaha	
20.	प्रभञ्जनः	prabhanjanaha	One which breaks the branches

[Thanks to Sri Rajagopalan Ayilam, Rishi Valley School for the selection, translation, and explanation of the words for "wind" in the amarakosha, a samskrtam book containing synonyms for various things.]

Write the LETTER of the item in List B that matches with each item in List A, in the middle column. One example has been shown to get you started.

LIST A	Your answers	LIST B
1. SAHARA	f	A. Air in motion
2. DESERT		B. People who don't live in one place but keep on moving
3. WIND		C. Imaginary vertical lines on the globe we use for locating places
4. DUNE		D. ___ Stream ... very powerful winds high up in the atmosphere
5. EQUATOR		E. "Hill" of sand in the desert that keeps moving
6. NOMADS		F. Largest desert on Earth
7. LATITUDES		G. Fertile soil brought by wind
8. LONGITUDES		H. Very dry area with lots of sand and hardly any plants
9. SLAVERY		I. Imaginary horizontal lines on the globe we use for locating places
10. JET		J. Latitude where it is the hottest
11. LOESS		K. Selling and buying human beings to work without freedom

Online information about some of the places mentioned in the documentary:

- Chinguetti: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chinguetti>
- Elmina, Gold Coast, Ghana: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elmina>
- Bahamas: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bahamas>
- Australia: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Australia>
- Yap island, in the Pacific Ocean: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yap>
- California, USA: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/California>