



Marvellous Aunt Maneka

Aunt Maneka is an environmentalist, a Minister of State, and an animal lover. She is here to answer all your questions on animals and birds so that you can take better care of the animals around you and be a better friend of nature.

I love cats and dogs and would love to have them as pets. How can I adopt stray dogs and cats?

Nimrat Chawla, 7 years, Mumbai

Dear Nimrat,

A. Animals, irrespective of whether they are dogs or cats, should only be adopted from animal shelters or from the road. There are many strays that need love and care. You can easily adopt one from a shelter. If you love both dogs and cats, bring home puppies and kittens and let them grow together in your house. They will become friends. Make sure

you feed them and take good care of them and vaccinate them as well.



Q. What is silk made of?

Jay Patel, 12 years, Ahmedabad

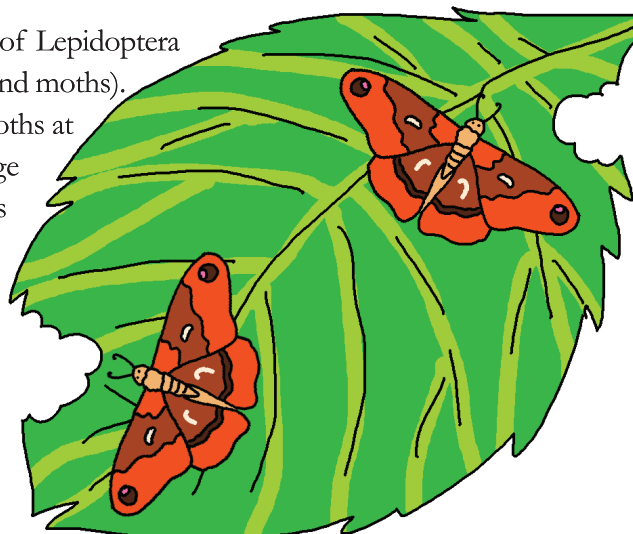
Dear Jay,

A. Silk is a fibre that is produced from the cocoons of insects called silkworms that belong


to the order of Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths).


These silkworms at the larva stage are known as silkworms which are reared for silk. This practice is known as sericulture and was

started in China some 5,000 years ago. These silkworms are fed mulberry leaves which they prefer the most. Similar to a butterfly, the silkworms build a cocoon around themselves made up of a long continuous fibre-like material secreted by their glands. The cocoon is reared before the silkworms emerge out from it as adult moths, so that the silk filament can be extracted as one continuous fibre. Each cocoon can produce up to 900 meters of silk filament, known as raw silk. Up to 48 such individual silk filaments are required to make up one thread of silk.



If you have questions about pets/animals/birds, write to us and we'll ask Aunt Maneka to answer.

 writetochampak@delhipress.in

 www.facebook.com/ChampakMagazine

