

Unit 11

The Pursuit of Wisdom

Introduction

In Grade 9, you learnt about the basic concepts of wisdom. In this unit, you will learn about the relationship between knowledge and wisdom and the three fundamental forms of knowledge. You will grasp the importance of cultivating the habit of reading for personal development.

Lessons

1. The Relationship between Knowledge and Wisdom
 2. The Three Fundamental Forms of Knowledge
 3. Use of Information
 4. Knowledge and the Habit of Reading
 5. Truthfulness
- realize the purpose of information.
 - appreciate the importance of developing good reading habits.

Key words and concepts

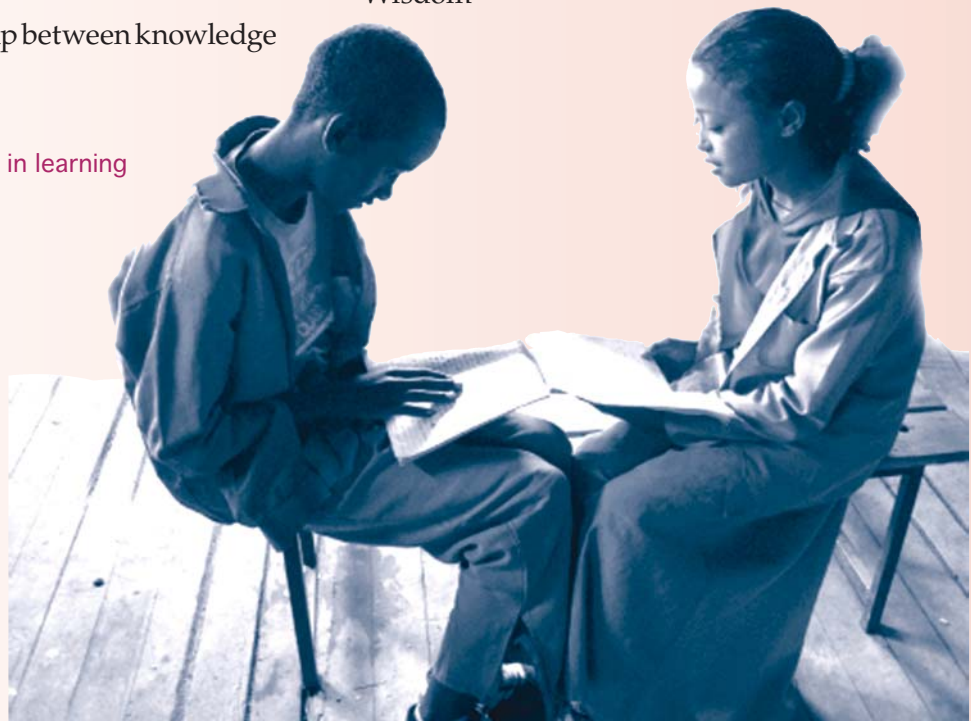
- Concepts
- Data
- Facts
- Generalization
- Knowledge
- Wisdom

What you will learn

You will:

- appreciate the relationship between knowledge and wisdom.

Young students involved in learning



1

LESSON

The Relationship between Knowledge and Wisdom

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- explain the relationship between knowledge and wisdom.

What do you think is the relationship between knowledge and wisdom?

In Grade 9, you learnt about the basis of knowledge and wisdom and ways of acquiring them. In this lesson, you will learn more about them.

Learning means acquiring knowledge about the world around us and humans are the only animals that do this. Knowledge can be defined as the information, understanding or skills that you gain through education or experience. It also means learning about particular facts, ideas or situations. Knowledge forms the basis for our feelings, attitudes and values. Knowledge helps to determine the course of action to choose when doing something. Knowledge is like a torchlight in dark that clearly shows the way forward. Knowledge goes together with wisdom.

Wisdom refers to the good use of knowledge. It is to be able to have a mature understanding of things, to make sensible decisions. As you acquire more knowledge, you will have more power to guide you through life. Knowledge offers alternative ways of doing things, but wisdom

helps you to choose the best option, to be more effective.

Not all types of knowledge are applicable for a given situation. The type of knowledge you need for a certain circumstance might be specific. To choose and apply the knowledge required for a given situation involves wisdom. Wisdom is the skill of making use of knowledge for an intended purpose.

Knowledge and wisdom can be accumulated. Societies with more knowledge and wisdom are better off than societies which have less. You build on your knowledge starting from birth throughout your life. After school you still have a long way to go before qualifying as an engineer, doctor, accountant, manager, economist, historian or writer, but in the process of learning you are gradually accumulating knowledge.

The more you learn, the more able you are to manage your life and adapt to the environment. You must learn more in order to use knowledge in a proper way. The knowledge you acquire and the wisdom you demonstrate will help you and the country to develop.

? Give two examples of how you have used your knowledge and wisdom in daily life.

The Relationship between Knowledge and Wisdom

CASE STUDY

Rabindranath Tagore (1861 – 1941)

India's best-known poet believed in education as a great hope for the betterment of the human condition. Born to an upper-class family in Calcutta, Tagore's opportunities were broad, including a brief period of study in England.

In later life, as he established a worldwide reputation, he travelled to Europe, the United States and Japan.

He began writing for periodicals while still very young and acquired a lifelong interest in education as a great hope for the betterment of the human condition. In 1901 he established a school in his native Bengal to put his ideas into practice.

He continued to write and, in 1913, was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature. He promptly devoted the proceeds to his school. Knighted in 1915, Tagore resigned the title in 1919 in protest against the harsh, repressive tactics employed by the British in maintaining their empire in India. Among his many works are *One Hundred Poems of Kabir* (1915), *Nationalism* (1917), *The Home and the World* (1919), *Broken Ties* (1925), and *The Religion of Man* (1931).



Ethiopian artist at work
exploring his perception of the world

REMEMBER

- ❑ Learning means acquiring knowledge about the world around us.
- ❑ Wisdom refers to the good use of knowledge.
- ❑ Knowledge forms the basis for our feelings, thoughts and values.
- ❑ When you are able to combine knowledge with wisdom you will be able to help yourself and contribute to the development of Ethiopia.

LESSON 2

The Three Fundamental Forms of Knowledge

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe the three forms of knowledge.

Tell your neighbour three facts about yourself.

In Grade 9, you gained a general understanding of knowledge. In this lesson, you will learn how to use facts, concepts and generalizations to form knowledge.

Facts

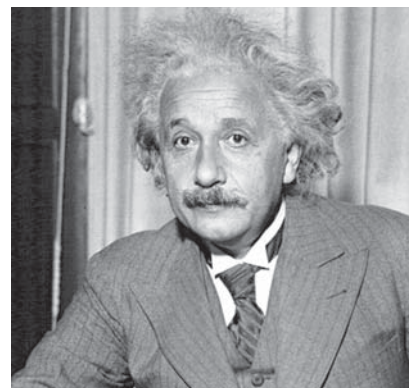
Facts are true and real. People cannot disagree with facts. In your class there are facts that every student accepts without disagreement. If your classroom is 7 meters in width and 8 meters in length, then the total area of your class is 56 square meters. The colour of the Ethiopian flag is green, yellow and red. You might have learnt about the Pythagorean Theorem. It is about the calculation of the length of the sides of right-angled triangle. The theorem expresses that the sum of the squares of the two sides of the right angle is equal to the square of the hypotenuse. No one in your class could disagree about the facts given above. You cannot disagree about facts with others unless a person lacks knowledge about the subject.

Concepts

A concept is an idea or thought that comes from the analysis of facts. Different thoughts are

combined to form concepts. Concepts involve **analysis, evaluation** and **comparison**. When you think seriously about a concept, you analyze it. When you examine its use, you evaluate it. When you compare a given concept to other concepts, you make a comparison. Scientific theories such as Archimedes Principle or Boyle's Law were developed through factual knowledge to create these concepts. The mind produces the concepts so concepts are the product of careful thinking.

As students you will learn to put facts together to form concepts. One of the objectives of learning is to be able to conceptualize and produce refined and higher ideas. Obviously we all benefit from those great scientists and thinkers who changed this world. Their great minds brought change in the world. If you learn seriously, you too may be one of the great scientists of the world like Albert Einstein or Isaac Newton.



Albert Einstein

The Three Fundamental Forms of Knowledge

Generalizations

A generalization is a statement, principle or opinion based on some, but not all, of the facts. Human beings have a natural tendency to group or categorize things and ideas into like types. The purpose of generalization is to express more than what a single fact or concept can express. For example, you might be interested to find out why Africa remains the poorest continent in the world. In your investigation, you may find the following facts characterizing Africa:

1. High illiteracy rate;
2. Absence of democracy, for most part;

3. Widespread corruption and internal conflicts.

Based on the general facts given above, you develop the concept that the combination of them is the source of poverty in Africa. Furthermore, you may generalize, stating that countries with a high illiteracy rate, absence of democracy, widespread corruption and internal conflicts will remain poor. So you might generally conclude that Africa has remained poor because it is home to these problems.

? In small groups give at least two more examples of facts, concepts and generalizations. Share your examples with another group.

CASE STUDY

Ethiopia in the new Millennium

Ethiopia is located in the Horn of Africa. Its population is estimated at over 70,000,000, the second most populous country in Africa. Ethiopia has huge natural resources vital for its development.

Due to the autocratic and dictatorial political systems that prevailed in the country, the nation remained poor.

Ethiopians celebrated the second millennium seven years behind the celebration of the western world. Ethiopia follows the Julian calendar and the Western World follows the Gregorian calendar. The millennium celebration offered a unique opportunity for Ethiopians to make a resolution to be more hardworking and to transform the country. Ethiopians look forward to writing a new page of history that will undo poverty and backwardness.

? In your groups discuss and list the facts, concepts and generalizations given in the above case study.



Millennium celebrations

The Three Fundamental Forms of Knowledge

CASE STUDY

Foreign assistance obtained from multilateral and bilateral sources during the previous decade

Fiscal year	Million USD	Fiscal year	Million USD
1991/92	546.93	1999/00	426.78
1992/93	1241.37	2000/01	996.16
1993/94	511.22	Total	7601.35
1994/95	419.61		
1995/96	785.35		
1996/97	625.93		
1997/98	1081.47		
1998/99	966.53		

Source: Merewa. A quarterly magazine June, 2002

? What information can you gather from this table. What can you generalize from the total figure given in terms of developing the economy of the country?

REMEMBER

- Knowledge is made up of facts, concepts and generalizations.
- Facts are true and real.
- A concept is an idea or thought that is developed based on facts.
- Concepts are the product of careful thinking.
- A generalization is about a statement, principle or opinion based on some facts.
- The purpose of generalization is to make a conclusion based on facts or concepts.



Youngsters celebrate the Millennium

LESSON 3

Use of Information

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe the different sources of information.
- explain what is meant by the skill of using information.
- describe how data is collected.

What is information and how do you obtain and use it?

In Grade 9, you were introduced to the usefulness of knowledge. In this lesson, you will study the importance of information.

Information is definite knowledge acquired about a specific subject as a result of collected facts (data). Information is important for decision making. The right type of information is necessary for making a right decision. Such a decision is called an **informed decision**. Today we live in the age of information. When you need to make a decision on anything, you have to obtain the right type of information that is helpful for that purpose.

There are different **sources of information**. The first is **observation** through which you can gain information. The development of science and knowledge in general is based on observation. Observation means to focus on what you want to examine to gather information on it.

Books, magazines, newspapers, brochures and electronic media such as the internet are also sources of information.

But, in order to get the right type of information, you need to look for the right sources to ensure accuracy. The information obtained from the right sources can be considered as reliable. Such types of information can serve as data.

Data refers to facts or figures obtained from experiments or surveys used as a basis for making calculations or drawing conclusions. The data on which your decisions are based will have to be reliable. Data is necessary for decision making.

There are instruments for collecting data such as questionnaires, observations, group discussions etc. The amount of data needed for a specific case varies, depending on the nature and type of study or investigation conducted. The amount of data you collect, referred to as 'samples', must be a true representation of the area you are researching to enable you to make the right conclusions.

For example, if you would like to know the courses students most often like in your own school, you should involve a number of students who properly represent the whole school. However, if you were to do this just with students of your section, your sample would not be truly representative of the whole school. Hence, the outcome of your findings might be wrong, leading you to the wrong conclusion.

Use of Information

? Form groups to discuss the use of information and data. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for discussion.

Region	Number of Grade 11 Students		Ratio	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Tigray	5883	6563	1	1.16
Afar	615	195	1	0.32
Amhara	13954	10157	1	0.73
Oromia	19856	8919	1	0.45
Somale	3225	1140	1	0.35
Benishangul-Gumuz	808	218	1	0.27
SNNP	8778	4147	1	0.47
Gambella	171	8	1	0.05
Harari	358	223	1	0.62
Addis Ababa	6990	7588	1	1.09
Dire Dawa	887	684	1	0.77
Total	61525	39842	1	0.65

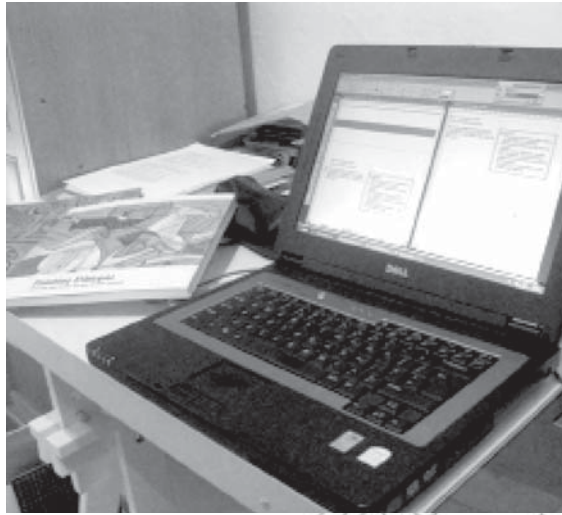
Enrolment in Secondary Schools-Regular-1999 E.C, Ministry of Education

? Using the data above, gathered by the Ministry of Education, provide information about the number of male and female students across the different regions at Grade 11.

Why do you think some regions have far fewer females in education at Grade 11?

Why do you think there are more Grade 11 female students in two regions?

Use of Information



One source of information

REMEMBER

- ❑ Information can be knowledge about a specific subject or situation.
- ❑ Information is important for decision making.
- ❑ Reading books, magazines, newspapers, brochures, and the electronic media such as the internet are sources of information.
- ❑ The right type of information is vital to make the right decision.
- ❑ Sample is data collected through different instruments for research.

LESSON 4

Knowledge and the Habit of Reading

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- explain how to acquire knowledge through reading.
- be better readers.

Discuss some of the ways you could become a better reader.

In Grade 9, you dealt with the habit of reading. In this lesson, you will learn more about developing reading skills to gain more knowledge.

Reading is an important means of acquiring knowledge. You gain subject knowledge from reading textbooks. But you can read outside your field of study for the purpose of expanding your general knowledge and pleasure. For example, you can read a newspaper to gain knowledge on what is happening in the world or you could check the internet in order to find updated information. You could read a sign to find out where to go, or a manual to find out how to use a new mobile phone. You could read a letter from a friend or member of your family to find out how they are, or a text message to arrange a meeting. The possibilities of what you can do with the ability to read are endless.


As the fisherman casts his net wide to trap as many fish as possible, you too need to do the

same in order to get more knowledge in different areas. Reading helps you to be a well-rounded person. This is achieved when you develop the habit of reading.

Your school library could be a place to frequently visit to read books and learn more. In some libraries you get thousands of books under a single roof. In libraries books are shelved so that users can access them easily. In your school you might see books arranged by subject (such as biology, physics, geography, etc.). In other libraries the arrangement may be different. For example, it could be by the author's name or title of the book. You have to care for books to enable others to use them after you.

The internet is another important source of knowledge. You can select topics and access what you would like to know. But, careful use of the internet is essential because there are unsuitable and inaccurate websites.

In general, the habit of reading offers the opportunity to get more knowledge to make a difference. People with knowledge command respect in society. You can aim to be one of them.

 Form groups and discuss how you can develop the habit of reading. Group leaders should report their ideas to the class for discussion.


Knowledge and the Habit of Reading

CASE STUDY

Paulos Gnogno — a person who transformed himself through reading

Paulos Gnogno was one of the famous journalists in Ethiopia. He only learned up to fourth grade. He was known to be great lover of books. He spent most of his time reading and became a very knowledgeable person. He had developed the habit to read starting early on. Because of his knowledge and wit he was a respected journalist. Some of the books he wrote include Yenewochu Geredoch, Yearadaw Tadesse, Yegetachew Mistoch, Deblekelek, Ye-Ethiopia ena ye-Italian Tornet and Atse Menelik. You can get some of


his works compiled in a single book entitled Yepaulos Gnogno Sebeseb Serawotch (The collected works of Paulos Gnogno). Paulos Gnogno is widely known for his great sense of humor. After his death there were journalism clubs established in his name across the country.

 Form groups to discuss what you have learnt from a Grade 4 student who became a famous journalist.

CASE STUDY

A program for daily activity for a student

There is a well-organized student in a school who likes to do things to a routine. This student follows a daily program except when faced with some family or personal problems. The daily activities are shown in the program below.

 Form groups to discuss the benefits of having such a program for students like you. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class.

Day	Time	Activity	Rest period
Monday to Friday	8:00 AM – 5:00 PM	Learning in School	Sleep
	6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	Doing homework/study	
	9:00 PM – 9:30 PM	Dinner	
	9:30 PM – 10:30 PM	Study	
	11:00 PM – 5:30 AM		
	6:00 AM – 6:45 AM	Study	
Saturday	8:00 AM – 10:00 AM	Study	Free (rest)
	10:00 AM – 10:30 AM		
	10:30 AM – 12:30 AM	Study	Free (rest)
	12:30 AM – 2:00 PM		
	2:00 PM – 5:00 PM	Study	Free (rest)
	5:00 PM onwards		

Knowledge and the Habit of Reading

Sunday	9:00 AM – 11:30 AM	Study	
	11:30 AM – 2:00 PM		Free (rest)
	2:00 PM – 4:00 PM	General reading	
	4:00 PM onwards		Free (rest)

REMEMBER

- Reading books is one of the ways through which knowledge is obtained.
- Books express and articulate knowledge.
- The habit of reading offers the opportunity to gain knowledge to make a difference.

LESSON 5

Truthfulness

By the end of this lesson, you should be able to:

- describe the importance of truth.

Is it always good to be truthful?

Use examples to explain your answer.

Truthfulness refers to being honest in what one says and does. You have the moral and legal duty to tell the truth. It is important to be truthful to others. Truthfulness is one of the characteristics of a **good citizen**. If you do some damage at home or in school then you have to tell the truth about it. If you try to hide and implicate others for your own wrong-doings, this is morally wrong and will do much harm.

Even though humans can make mistakes, there is the opportunity to learn from our own mistakes. In order to learn from one's own mistakes, the first thing is to admit to them. You

have to be open to learn from your own mistakes rather than attempting to hide them. When you are a truthful citizen, you gain the respect you deserve. Organizations like to promote truthful persons to higher positions. They do this because they trust them and it is good for the image of the organizations.

Copy this table. Form groups then discuss and list on the copy the benefits of truthfulness and the damage that telling lies could cause in the table below. Examples are provided.



	Benefits of truthfulness	Outcomes of telling lies
1	Acceptance	Loss of friends
2		
3		
4		
5		

CASE STUDY

Dishonest behaviour

In a high school, there were three Grade 10 students who wanted to unfairly accuse one of their teachers. The students fabricated a false story against the teacher. They agreed to do this because he had once reprimanded them when he had seen them doing something wrong. They manipulated their classmates

to get support to accuse him. Unaware of the fake story created, the students of the section drew up a petition.

The school administration could not find any fault with the teacher. The administration then discovered that the story was the sheer creation of

Truthfulness

some students. Those students who were behind the plot were identified. They were taken to the office and their parents were called and informed about the case. They realized that their children were going to face expulsion from the school.



Form groups to discuss what lessons you can learn from such an event. Group leaders should present their ideas to the class for discussion.

REMEMBER

- Truthfulness refers to being honest in what one says and does.
- As a responsible citizen you have to be truthful.
- As a truthful person you gain the respect you deserve.
- You have a moral and legal duty to tell the truth.
- Truthfulness is one of the characteristics of a good citizen.

UNIT SUMMARY

In this unit, you have expanded your knowledge on the pursuit of wisdom. You have seen that humans are the only learning animals which, on the basis of what they learn, can produce new knowledge. You have learnt that knowledge and wisdom contribute to bring about a difference in life.

You have learnt about the three fundamental forms of knowledge, their use and how they are linked. You have learnt that knowledge is obtained through reading and observations.

You have seen how truthfulness is important in life. Generally, what you get in this unit should encourage you to further expand your knowledge in all aspects.

GLOSSARY

Concepts:	An idea or thought based on fact.
Data:	Information/facts.
Facts:	Information regarded as being true or real.
Generalization:	Concluding statements, principles or opinions based on some facts.
Information:	Something which gives knowledge in the form of facts.
Knowledge:	Understanding of information.
Truthfulness:	The habit of telling the truth.
Wisdom:	The quality of using knowledge for a purpose.

UNIT REVIEW EXERCISES

Do these review exercises in your exercise book.

Part I – Multiple choice

- The pursuit of wisdom gives rise to:
 - more knowledge
 - being able to use information and data
 - a better understanding of the world
 - all
- Which one of the following statements is not correct?
 - humans are the only learning animals who can come up with their own production of knowledge
 - wisdom is the quality of being wise
 - knowledge is an endless journey
 - none
- Which one of the following refers to a concept?
 - idea or thought, based on analysis of facts
 - truthfulness
 - something which gives knowledge in a form of facts
 - information or data

4. Which one of the following statements is correct?
- (a) knowledge **only** comes from schools
- (b) knowledge **only** comes from books
- (c) knowledge is obtained through formal and informal channels
- (d) none
5. Which one of the following statements is not correct?
- (a) truthfulness is the habit of telling the truth
- (b) telling some lies can be morally wrong or punishable by law
- (c) truthful people are often not trusted by their organizations
- (d) none

Part II – Matching

Column A	Column B
1. The skill of reading could be developed through	A. Data collected to undertake a given research
2. Facts, concepts and generalization	B. Instruments for data collection
3. Sample	C. Practice
4. Questionnaire, observations, group discussion etc.	D. The rational use of knowledge
5. Wisdom	E. The three forms of knowledge

Part III – Short answers

1. What is the relationship between knowledge and wisdom?
2. What are the three forms of knowledge?
3. What do you understand by information?
4. How do you collect data for a study?