

Unit Six

Wonders of Nature

Language Focus

Language Functions

Asking for information

eg. - *What happened?*

Expressing surprise and wonder

eg. - *Oh! How exciting !*

Reporting experience

eg.- *Yesterday I tried to pick a Nidikumba flower.*

Expressing hope

eg. - *Hoping to hear from you soon*

Expressing feelings

eg. - *Isn't it very beautiful?*

Describing a process

eg. - *First I tried with my fingers*

Grammar

Present Perfect Tense

eg. - *It has given protection to the birds.*

Past Perfect Tense

eg.- *Had you visited Horton?*
..... *had visited Horton*

Adjectives as:

(a) Pre - modifiers

- *strange photograph*

(b) Superlative

- *The highest mountain*

Adverbs as

(a) Degree

Did you manage to do it successfully ?

(b) Manner

Then I took a pair of scissors very carefully.

Wonders of Nature

6

Reading

You may have seen or heard that a small animal becomes the prey of a large animal, but have you ever seen a plant which catches insects? Don't you like to know about such plants? The pitcher plants is one of them.

Pitcher plant

Pitcher plant grows in shallow areas where soil is poor in nitrogen. This plant has large leaves which are twisted by themselves to form a pitch shaped vessel with a lid. It attracts insects by its pitcher shaped leaves in which rainwater can accumulate. Inside the wall of the pitcher there are hairs which are directed downwards so that when an insect goes into the pitcher it gets trapped inside. Although, it would struggle to come out, it has no escape. The hairs keep it entangled and the insect would die exhausted. Ultimately, the insect is digested and absorbed by the plant. This is how the plant catches insects.



Activity 6.1 Comprehension

Reading / Writing

Answer the following questions.

- a.
 1. What is the name of the plant?
 2. Where does the plant hold water?
 3. What makes it difficult for the insects to come out?
 4. What else does the pitcher plant do to digest the insect?
 5. Name two other plants that you know which trap insects?
- b. Describe to a friend the process of trapping an insect by a plant.



Activity 6.2

Speaking / Reading

Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B and write them in your writing book.

A	B
1. attract	- Separate
2. accumulate	- catch/twist
3. absorb	- feel very tired
4. divide	- try to prevent a bad situation
5. digest	- it interests you and makes you want it.
6. entangle	- gather
7. exhaust	- get
8. struggle	- it is changed into pieces

(ii) Write down the past tense of the words in column A in your writing book. Select five words and make meaningful sentences as you like. You can use any tense of the verb.

e.g. - My home garden with beautiful flowers and fruits attracts many birds and squirrels into it.

Reading

Touch me not

The Nature Club of Pilimathalawa Central College is going to organize a photographic exhibition. The students of grade seven are talking about the photographs they have brought.

Amali : Look! This is a very strange photograph.

Bodhini : What is it?

Amali : It's a *Nidikumaba* flower. Isn't it very beautiful?



- Bodhini : *Nidikumba*? What are you going to do with it Chamari?
- Chamari : Don't you know that it has a scientific value.
- Bodhini : Really! What is it?
- Chamari : Have you heard about sleeping plants? Just like human beings and animals, plants too sleep at night.
- Amali : Yes, but the *Nidikumba* goes to sleep whenever we touch them. 'Touch me not' is another name for *Nidikumba*.
- Bodhini : This is the first time I've heard about them. Are there any other similar sleeping plants?
- Amali : Yes, the *Kathurumurunga*, *Siyambala* and Mara. They sleep only at night.
- Bodhini : Do they?
- Chamari : Yesterday I tried to pick a *Nidikumba* flower without making the leaves go to sleep.
- Bodhini : How did you do it?
- Chamari : First I tried with my fingers but I couldn't. Then I took a pair of scissors and tried again very carefully.
- Bodhini : Did you manage to do it successfully?
- Chamari : Yes, quite successfully, but I had to do it very carefully and patiently.
- Bodhini : Oh! How exciting. I want to try it out myself.



Activity 6.3 Comprehension

Reading / Writing

Answer the following questions.

- a. 1. What is the Nature Club going to organize?
2. What is the strange thing mentioned in the dialogue?
3. Who brought 'the strange photograph'?
4. Name three sleeping plants or trees mentioned in the dialogue.
5. What did Chamari try to do with the Nidikumba yesterday?
- b. **Find out the colour, the shape of petals, the size of the flower and other details about a plant in your garden and write a few sentences about it.**
- c. **What are the plants/trees you have heard which have medicinal value? Write their names in your writing book.**



Activity 6.4

Reading / Writing

Re-arrange the letters of the following and find the words to match the meaning. Write them in your writing book with the meanings.

n	t	h
i	x	i
b	e	i
o		

Collection of things, for example works of art, that are shown to the public.

r t p
o o g
a h p
h

a picture that is made by using
a camera.

g s r
n t e
a

unusual or surprising

c n s
i e c
i t f
i

systematic

i c x
i n t
g e

causing great interest



Activity 6.5 Group work

Reading / Writing

Copy the following grid into your writing book. Read the dialogue.
'Touch me not.' List all the nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs.

Noun	Verb	Adjective	Adverb
→ flower	→ do	→ beautiful	→ carefully
→	→	→	→
→	→	→	→

Reading / Speaking

Activity Group work

You need* a dice * four counters of different colours.*2-4 players
→ to equal number of players

Steps
→

Each player plays taking turns. They can overtake each other.

- The first player throws the dice and puts the counter on the square as appropriate
- If there is a word on that square, the player has to say whether it is a noun, verb, adjective or adverb.
- The other three students act as the jury and have to decide whether the player is right or wrong.
- If it is right the player can move on, but goes back five squares if he / she gets the word wrong.
- If the player lands on an empty square he / she stays in that square.
- Then the second player takes his / her turn and proceeds in similar manner.
- Players can over take each other.
- The winner is the first to get to the end.

Play the game

31	32 animals	33 brought	34 careful	35 FINISH
30 photographic	29 exciting	28 scissor	27	26 tried
21	22 fingers	23 sleep	24 touch	25 leaves
20 successfully	19 heard	18 scientific	17	16 talk
11	12 flower	13	14 plants	15 fall
10 students	9 do	8 beautiful	7	6 patiently
1 START	2	3 photographs	4 strange	5 organize

Reading

Grasses of Sri Lanka

As a tropical country, Sri Lanka is fortunate to have a variety of indigenous grasses. They grow in different areas under different climatic conditions in the dry zone or wet zone.



Potu Tana (*Axonopus Compressus*)

This broad leaf carpet grass is a good pasture grass. It grows well in the wet zone. It is frequently used as a lawn grass and for turfing slopes and banks. It is common and found at all elevations of Sri Lanka. This carpet grass is grown in home gardens in urban areas.

Heen Potu Tana (*Axonopus Affinis*)

This narrow leaf carpet grass is a good pasture grass. It grows in the lowlands and mid country elevations. It does not need a lot of moisture.



Heen Ettora (*Cynodon Dacylon*)



This grass grows well in the dry zone especially in poor soils. It is also a good pasture grass. It is difficult to destroy Heen Ettora and it often becomes a troublesome weed. It is found throughout the island. It is common in open areas and on road sides.

Tuttiri (*Chrysopogan Aciculatus*)

This 'love grass' is eaten by the cattle before the production of flowers. It is a troublesome weed in pastures and lawns. When a person steps over this grass its flowers stick to the clothes very firmly. Perhaps it is named 'love grass' due to this reason.



Adapted from 'Island'

14.05.2007



Activity 6.6

Reading / Writing

Find the opposite words from the reading text for the words given below. Write them in your writing book.

good

rich

wide

unfortunate

rare

high

easy

similar

loosely

rural

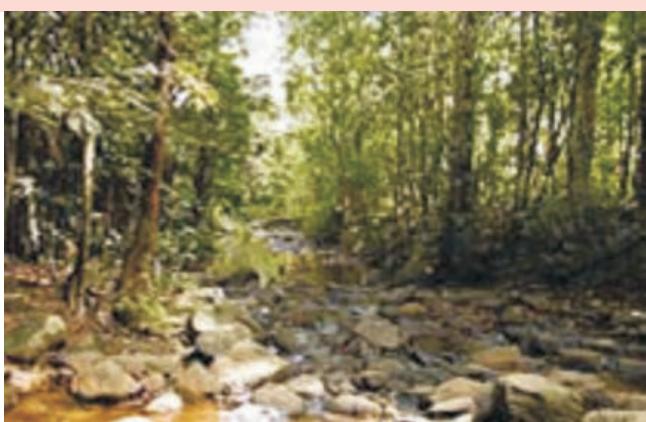
Write a similar paragraph about a weed found in your garden.

Reading

A letter to Kayla

No. 07. Kandy Road,
Imbulgoda.
Sri Lanka,
27th January 2007.

Dear Kayla,



Thank you for your letter. You have asked me about our Sinharaja Rainforest. It is the first World Heritage Forest in Sri Lanka.

The forest at its lowest is 270 metres above the sea level. Its highest

point is 1060 metres. Sinharaja has 9 hills of which the tallest is Hinipitigala. Its peak is 1170 metres high.

Many streams start from the high grounds of Sinharaja and fall into bigger rivers. There is a small waterfall called Duhuvilli Ella. Perhaps it is named after the dust like spray of the waterfall. The rainfall in the area is high throughout the year. It makes the waterways rush and gush adding beauty to the forest.

The attraction of Sinharaja to the visitor is mainly the vegetation. Birds and animals are there, but it is the trees, the plants and the flowers that attract the nature lover most. For thousands of years the forest has mothered these trees, creepers and streams. It has been home to the elephant, the leopard, the deer and the sambhur.

It has given protection to the birds, the bees and butterflies. All these years it has remained just as nature created it.

There are foot paths in the forest created by the people in the boundary villages. People who go looking for fruits, firewood and bees' honey have all left their foot prints. The forest is theirs. The foot prints are helpful to the visitors too. However, there are some who come to destroy the beautiful jungle. Visitors are welcome as long as they go in, leave nothing behind and take nothing except the wonderful memories of Sinharaja. We are really proud of this green land.

I am sending you a few photographs of our beautiful Sinharaja. Let me know if you want to know more about important places in our country.



*Wish you all the best.
Hoping to hear from you soon.*

*With love,
Malshi.*