

## Unit Three

# About Our Past

## Language Focus

### Language Functions

#### Asking Permission

eg. Can I write -----?

#### Expressing likes

eg. I would like to -----  
I too like -----

#### Expressing feelings

eg. Isn't that wonderful ?

#### Agreeing

eg. Sure -----

### Grammar

#### Referring to Future

eg. I'm going to write -----  
I want to write -----  
I'll write -----

#### Use of modals "can"

eg. Can you remember  
Can I write

#### Use of the apostrophe

##### Possessive form

eg. Raja's topic

##### Shortened form

eg. I'm (I am)

#### Passive voice

eg. Pottery is made of clay } present  
Pots are made of clay }  
eg. The Paddyfield was ploughed } Past  
Buffaloes were used }

# *About Our Past*

# 3

## Project Planning

### Speaking /Listening

Teacher - Good morning children, I told you about a project last week. Can you remember what it is ?

Tikiri - Yes, teacher, “Learning about our past”.

Teacher - Have you decided what to do ?

Tikiri - Yes, teacher. I’m going to write on pottery.

Mihiri - Teacher, I would like to write about Sri Lanka’s gems.

Lahiru - I want to write about farming.

Raja - I too like to write about farming, but now I’ll write about the First king of Sri Lanka.

Teacher - Why are you silent Munash ?

Munash - Raja’s topic is very easy. I wanted it. But now can I write on handicrafts or batiks?

Teacher - Yes, you can write on one or on both.



## Activity 3.1 Comprehension

### Reading / Writing

Read the above dialogue again and answer the questions given below. Write the answers in your writing book.

- 1) What is the title of the project ?
- 2) Who hasn't decided on the subject yet?
- 3) According to the dialogue how many students are discussing the project ?
- 4) Who is interested in "pottery" ?
- 5) Name the projects the students are going to discuss.



## Activity 3.2

### Grammar I

Notice how the apostrophe has been used in the dialogue.

#### Shortened forms

- 1) I'm = I am
- 2) I'll = I will

#### Possessive forms

- Sri Lanka's gems  
Raja's topic

- 1) The **Shortened form** is used to show that one or two letters are omitted.
- 2) The **Possessive form** is used to show ownership.

### Writing

Write in your writing book the shortened forms for the following. Look at the example.

e.g. What is = What's

- |            |             |             |
|------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1) here is | 2) where is | 3) who is   |
| 4) that is | 5) it is    | 6) he will  |
| 7) you are | 8) they are | 9) there is |

## Grammar II

**Possession is indicated by the use of apostrophe and ‘s’.**

eg. - boy - boy’s work

If a noun is singular and “s” like in “boy’s”

If a noun is plural and ends in ‘s’ add only the apostrophe after the ‘s’ like in “boys’”

**Rewrite the following as phrases to show possession.**

- (a) My brother - purse                      (d) The names - the boys  
(b) Sister - bangles                      (e) The hats - the girls  
(c) The pupils - the record              (f) The room - the scouts



### Activity 3.3

## Writing

**(a) Write in your writing book the possessive forms of the words given below. Look at the example.**

e.g. the book of Seetha = Seetha’s book

- 1) the pen of Amal
- 2) the pencil of Kasuni
- 3) the wheel of the potter
- 4) the handicrafts of Sri Lankans
- 5) the eyes of the cat.
- 6) the bag of the teacher.

**(b) Write five sentences using possessive forms of nouns in your writing book as given in the example :**

eg: Sita’s book is very neat and tidy.



## Activity 3.4 Pair Work

### Writing / Reading

Phrases in column B relate to the words in column A. Match them correctly and write sentences as shown in the example in your writing book.

#### *Example :*

A potter is a person who makes vessels of clay.

A	B
1. Artist	who makes his living by farming
2. Doctor	who is qualified to practise medicine
3. Farmer	who catches fish
4. Fisherman	who plucks tea leaves
5. Florist	one who deals in flowers
6. Jeweller	who works in a mine
7. Miner	who weaves at a loom
8. Pedlar	one who carries his goods for sale in a pack
9. Potter	who makes his craft a fine art
10. A tailor	who makes vessels of clay
11. Tea plucker	one who makes clothes
12. Weaver	who designs jewellery.



## Activity 3.5 Group Work

### Writing

- (a) List the services you require daily and name the persons who give those services. Start with your room, continue with food, clothes and other conveniences.

e.g. - wall - mason  
- furniture - carpenter

Select the person whose services can be considered the most important. Write a short paragraph explaining why you think so.

e.g. - I think the baker is the most important because he bakes the bread we eat.

- (b) Some activities or jobs are not found in the present society. With the change in our society these jobs are done by others. Sometimes these jobs are done in a different manner in different places.

The following sentences give descriptions of several jobs that are not found now.

1. A barber comes home regularly to give the males a hair cut.
2. A clothier makes and sells clothes.
3. A cobbler works with leather and makes shoes.
4. A confectioner sells sweets.
5. A pedlar goes from house to house selling small household foods.

Now write accounts of 3 persons as given in the example.

e.g. A clothier is one who makes and sells clothes. We do not have clothiers now. Cloth is made in one place and clothes are made in another place. They are sold in still another place today.

## Reading

Here is Tikiri's presentation of the project plan.

# Pottery

Pots are made of clay. Pottery is a living craft that relates very much to the life of Sri Lankans. Small votive lamps, graceful water jugs, decorative ornaments and various cooking vessels of



clay are very popular among people. Even though there are many new ideas in this field, many potters still employ traditional methods.

Most of the pottery is made on a rotating disk that the potter keeps turning. It's called a potter's wheel. It is a fast turning wheel. A lump of clay is placed on this wheel and then the potter forms a pot by turning the lump of clay. Decoration to the pot is done by incising patterns or stamping with dyes while the clay is still wet. Most pots are fired in a primitive kiln built of bricks or stones. It is covered with a wattle and daub roof.

Pottery is now used mostly for decoration. Saucepans have replaced the clay pot in most homes.



## Activity 3.6 Comprehension

### Writing

- 1) Name five pottery crafts.
- 2) What is a kiln ?
- 3) Who keeps turning the potter's wheel?
- 4) Why do you say pottery is a living craft? Give reasons.
- 5) Is Tikiri's presentation a complete description on pottery?  
What can you add to it?



## Activity 3.7

### Writing

Copy this chart on to your writing book and enter the following objects under clay, plastic, porcelain, glass or steel. Look at the example.

Objects	Clay	Plastic	Porcelain	Steel
pots	✓	✓		
bricks				
votive lamps				
jugs				
dishes				
bowls				
vases				
cups				
decorative ornaments				
basins				



## Reading

This is what Munash presented to the class.

# Handicrafts in Sri Lanka



Sri Lanka has a heritage of handicrafts. All crafts are made by hand. These handicrafts include weaving cloth, making baskets, leather items, pottery, jewellery, woodwork, brasswork and masks etc. Our handicrafts are an important part of the crafts tradition of our country. We must protect and maintain the flower of our heritage so that they don't disappear with time.



Earlier these crafts were a part of our day to day life. Even today they play a role. For example, we light the oil lamp when we start some new venture. The lamp has niches for nine wicks. These are meant to be for the 'navagraha'. The traditional lamp had a rooster at the top. This is now sometimes replaced with other symbols. So tradition is continued with change.



Wood carving is a very popular handicraft in our country even today. The Embakke temple built in the 14th century is famous the world over for its carved wooden pillars with intricate designs.



Masks are also imaginative creations of the village craftsmen coming down from ancient times. Masks are made of wood and used for rituals and folk plays. Masks are carved by craftsmen according to patterns accepted by custom and tradition. Ambalangoda is famous for its mask making industry.



Dumbara mats, jewellery, rattan baskets etc. are other traditional products that show our traditional arts and crafts. Some handicrafts are limited to certain areas in the island; it is because of the availability of the special raw material used and other historical factors. Most brassware is used as decorative ornaments. These are very popular as gifts and souvenirs. Pilimatalawa is a place famous for brasswork.