



# English



Self-Learning pack  
Grade 8



## Lesson 21

## Let's read and comprehend.

*First let's read and find the words we already know.*

**Activity - Read the article. Underline 10 nouns.**

### Sigiriya, the Rock Fortress

Sigiriya is an ancient rock fortress located in Matale District near the town of Dambulla. It is also known as the “Lion Rock” due to its form of a lion. Sigiriya is an ancient rock fortress built by King Kashyapa during the 5th century. There is a ruined palace, surrounded by vast gardens, ponds, canals, alleys and fountains.

The palace is decorated with colourful frescoes. They are the paintings of some ladies. Another special place in Sigiriya is the “Mirror Wall”. There are beautiful poems written on it. There are three types of gardens as water gardens, cave and boulder gardens, and terraced gardens.

Sigiriya is known by locals as the Eighth Wonder of the World. This ancient palace and fortress complex has archaeological importance and attracts thousands of tourists every year. It is probably the most visited tourist destination of Sri Lanka. Sigiriya is important because it is a world heritage site named by the UNESCO.



Fortress



Frescoes



Mirror Wall



Terrace Garden



Alleys



boulder garden



fountain

*There is more information and details about Sigiriya. Here I searched the dictionary for the new words.*

**Ancient** - පෞරාණික

**consist** - සමන්විත වේ.

**fortress complex** - බලකොටු සංකීර්ණය **heritage** - උරුමය

**Landscape** - භූ දර්ශනය

**Archeological** - පුරාවිද්‍යා

**Locals** - ප්‍රදේශවාසීන්

**tourists** - සංචාරකයෝ

**decorate** - අලංකාර කරනවා



### Activity 21.1

Using the information about Sigiriya, fill in the given table.

Heading	Details
1. Place	Sigiriya
2. Location	
3. Other names	
4. Built by	
5. Built in	
6. Special things to see	
7. Types of gardens	
8. Importance	



## Activity 21.2

Read the given passage carefully. Fill the given mind map using the information. One is done for you.

### Our beautiful Motherland.

Sri Lanka is an island located in the Indian Ocean. Therefore, it is called “The Pearl of Indian Ocean”. Sri Lanka has a population of about 21.4 million people. The capital city is Sri Jayawardhanapura Kotte. But the commercial city is Colombo.

. The Highest Water Fall is Bambarakanda. It is 241m in height. The highest peak is Piduruthalagala which is 2524 m. The longest river is Mahaweli. It is 335 km long. The land area of Sri Lanka is 65,606 sq. km. Sinhala, Tamil are used as the main languages and English is widely used as a link language. Sri Lankans follow main four religions. They are Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Christianity . The currency of Sri Lanka is Sri Lankan Rupee (one Rupee = 100 Cents).

Sri Lanka has a tropical climate dominated by two monsoon seasons. The island is rich in natural resources, and has a diverse economy based on apparel industry, tourism ,agriculture, mining, fishing and manufacturing etc.

currency- මුදල්      mining-පතල් කැණීම

natural resources-ස්වභාවික සම්පත්

widely used-බහුලව භාවිතා කරන

commercial city-වාණිජ නගරය

tropical climate-නිවර්තන දේශගුණය

diverse economy-විවිධාංකාත ආර්ථිකය

manufacturing-නිෂ්පාදන

