

Environment

There is pleasure in the pathless woods

1

→ Language Focus

Language Functions

01. Emphasising

- Sinharaja is the only undisturbed rainforest.
- Policy makers should pay greater attention.

02. Expressing likes

- From my young days I liked to have trees...
- I used to spend hours swimming, diving and playing in the water.

03. Presenting facts

- Rainforests maintain about 50% of plant, animal, bird, reptile and insect species of the world..
- We started this organization in 1975.

Grammar

Use of the prepositional phrases as adjuncts.

1. Cause, reason

- I feel relaxed because *of all these trees*.
- Sri Lanka is called the pearl of the Indian Ocean because *of her natural beauty and shape*.

2. Purpose

- Sinharaja provides a habitat *for animals*.
- Cleaning of the forest *for agriculture*.

3. Manner

- They move about *in groups*.
- Work *in groups*.

4. Place

- Some threatened species are found *in Sinharaja*.
- They are found *in South and Central America*.

5. Direct / Indirect Speech

- 'I'm just after a cup of tea.'
- Sansith said that he was just after a cup of tea.

Please do not write anything in this book. Use your writing book for writing.

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Environment

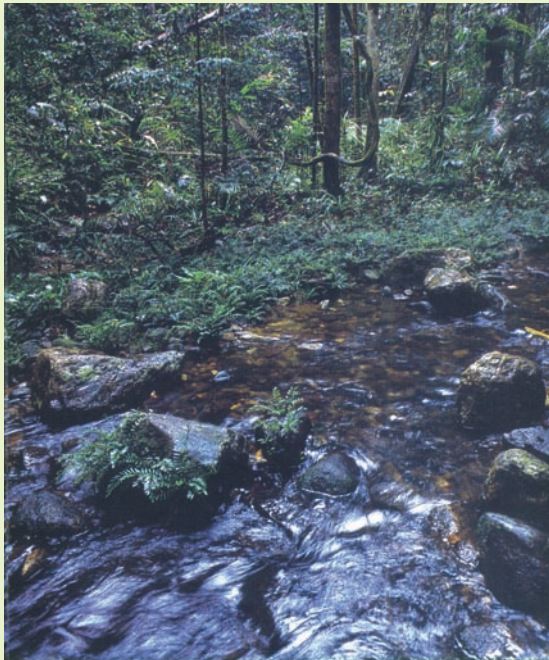
There is pleasure in the pathless woods

Activity 1.1 > Pair work

■ Reading

SINHARAJA RAINFOREST

The Sinharaja forest is the only undisturbed rainforest left in Sri Lanka. It is about 9000 hectares in extent. Many of the plants are very rare. Over 60% of the tree species are found only in the lowland wet zone of Sri Lanka. If these species of trees were allowed to get destroyed, the world would lose them altogether. So it is important that much effort is made to conserve this rich, valuable and fragile habitat.



The Sinharaja rainforest is the largest rainforest reserve in Sri Lanka. In 1840 Sinharaja became a crown property. In 1988 the Sinharaja was made a National Wilderness area. In 1989 UNESCO included the Sinharaja Forest in the World Heritage list, as the first National Heritage of Sri Lanka.

The Sinharaja forest is home to many rare animals, birds, butterflies, insects, reptiles and trees. Ferns and mosses grow well as the climate is humid because of heavy rainfall.

The vegetation

Vegetation means trees, shrubs, herbs and woody climbers. The average height of trees in the Sinharaja varies between 35 to 40 metres. Some trees are above 50 metres.



The animals and the birds

Sinharaja provides a habitat for animals. The plants provide them with food. There are large mammals as well as small ones living there. The purple faced monkeys can be observed easily. They move about in groups. There are herbivores, carnivores as well as mixed feeders. The wild pig, the sambur, the mouse-deer and the barking-deer are some that you find in the Sinharaja. There is also evidence of the presence of the leopard. Among others are the rusty spotted cat and the fishing cat. There are many other varieties of small mammals.

Studies have recorded 147 species of birds. Some threatened species of birds are found in the Sinharaja. Among them are the blue magpie, the white-headed starling and the ash-headed babbler.



Phaenicophaeus pyrrhocephalus
(Red-faced Malkoha)

Reptiles

Studies have recorded 45 varieties of reptiles. These include snakes, lizards and tortoises. The viper and the cobra are among the venomous species. Conservation of Sinharaja is of vital necessity. It ensures the maintenance of water resources. It also controls floods, which is a constant threat due to heavy rainfall in the area.

Activity 1.2 > Vocabulary

Writing

Find the right words from the text and fill in the blanks.

Write the sentences in your writing book.

1. Leopards are _____.
They have to hunt for their food.
2. Elephants are _____.
They love to eat *kithul* trunks.
3. Birds are _____. They feed on grains, insects and worms.
4. Some reptiles are _____, but others are not.
5. _____ are a constant threat due to heavy rainfall.

Activity 1.3 > Comprehension

■ Writing

Complete the following sentences selecting the right answer.
Write the sentences in your writing book.

1. In 1840 Sinharaja was declared a property owned by _____
 - a. the state.
 - b. the private sector.
 - c. the state and the private sector.

2. The average height of a tree is _____
 - a. 50 metres.
 - b. 35 to 40 metres.
 - c. less than 30 metres.

3. Species of _____ live in the Sinharaja forest.
 - a. all venomous reptiles
 - b. animals, birds and reptiles
 - c. some rare migrant birds

4. _____ is commonly seen in the Sinharaja forest.
 - a. The leopard
 - b. The purple faced monkey
 - c. The ash headed babbler

5. _____ reptiles are found there.
 - a. All the venomous
 - b. All non-venomous
 - c. Some venomous and non-venomous

RAINFORESTS

The Importance of Rainforests

Tropical rainforests are located around the equator. The temperature around the equator is high. Hence the rate of water evaporation is high. As a result there is frequent rain in rainforests. They are found in South and Central America, Africa, in the islands around Australia and Asia. The rainforests are important to human existence and the surroundings. Rainforests are a rich source of medicinal plants, food and useful forest products. They maintain about 50% of the plant, animal, bird, reptile and insect species of the world. These forests help to maintain a regular rainfall. They also stand as a buffer against floods, droughts and erosion. These forests produce a significant amount of the world's oxygen.



Activity 1.4 > Pair work

■ Writing

- a.
 1. What is the location of rainforests in relation to the equator ?
 2. What causes water evaporation ?
 3. Is it possible for humans to exist without rainforests ?
 4. Do animals and birds find their needs in these forests ?
 5. Why are these forests called rainforests ?
- b.
 6. What will happen if the forest coverage is reduced ?
 7. How do the rainforests stop soil erosion ?

Activity 1.5 > Pair work

■ Writing

Make a list of benefits for man from rainforests.

e.g. Rainforests provide food for man:
fruits, nuts and yams.

Select the right word from the list of words and fill in the blanks.

Write in your writing book.

surface / rainforests / less / use / brief / world's / found / oxygen

Rainforests are found near the equator. In the rainforests there is usually a _____ season of less rain. Rainforests cover _____ than 6% of earth's land _____. More than half of the _____ plant and animal species are _____ in tropical rainforests. Tropical _____ produce 40% of the _____. About 1/4 of the medicines we _____ comes from the rainforests.

Activity 1.6

■ Reading Enjoy reading this poem



DREAM POEM

*in a corner of my bedroom
grew a tree
a happy tree
my own tree
its leaves were soft
like flesh
and its birds sang poems for me
then
without warning
two men
with understanding smiles
and axes
made out forged excuses
came and chopped it down
either yesterday
or the day before
i think it was the day before.*

ROGER McGOUGH

Activity 1.7 > Group work

Speaking / Reading / Writing

Discuss the threats to the forest. Next make a list of the threats.

Write them in your writing book.

Present your list to the class.


- e.g.
- 1 Expansion of the villages surrounding the forests.
 - 2 Clearing of the forest for agricultural purposes.

Activity 1.8 > Pair work

Speaking / Reading / Writing

Say what you should do and what you should not do while in a forest.

Write in point form in your writing books.

Dos	Don'ts
<p>1. We must get about quietly.</p> 	<p>We must not make any noise because it can disturb the animals, birds, reptiles and insects.</p>



Then exchange books and read each other's work.

Activity 1.9 > Grammar

Writing

Prepositional Phrases expressing cause / reason

- I feel relaxed because *of all these trees*.
- Sri Lanka is called the Pearl of the Indian Ocean because *of her natural beauty and shape*.

Complete the sentences in 'A' joining with a suitable Prepositional Phrase from 'B'.

A	B
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. She works 2. The farmers could not cultivate the fields because 3. When it began to rain everyone ran 4. The social workers organized a programme 5. The philanthropist built a house 	<p>to clean up the hospital. for her country. for the poor woman. for shelter. of the drought.</p>

Activity 1.10

Speaking / Reading

A Meeting

Grade 10 students of Daranagama Maha Vidyalaya have organized a tree planting week. Sansith is the editor of the Class Magazine, 'Our Environment'. He has made an appointment with Mrs. Irangani Serasinghe founder member of the organization, *Ruk-Reka Ganno*, to get her views about protection of our environment. The interview is given below.



I entered through the little gate and looked around in amazement; a small forest in the busy city. A charming, modest lady walked up to me.

Mrs. Irangani Serasinghe : Come, I've been waiting for you.

Sansith : Sorry if I'm late, madam. Your house is hidden among the trees. It must be very cool here.

Mrs. Serasinghe : Yes, I don't feel the heat. Look at my Ehela tree.

Sansith : It's beautiful. Looks like a large golden umbrella.

Mrs. Serasinghe : Look at those clusters of flowers hanging down. In the morning the entire area is strewn with flowers. Would you like a cup of tea?

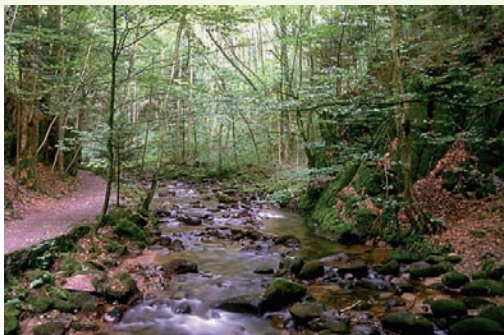
Sansith : Thank you madam, I'm just after a cup of tea.

Mrs. Serasinghe : From my young days I love to have trees, animals and birds around me. Our ancestral home is in Mudugamuwa, in the Kegalle District. Gurugoda Oya flowed in front of our house and joined the Kelani river. There were thickets of bamboo trees, on the banks sloping down to the Oya. I loved to listen to the rustling of the bamboo leaves. There is music in the flow of water.

Sansith : Did you go for baths in the oya?

Mrs. Serasinghe : Of course! I used to spend hours swimming, diving and playing in the water. During our young days, we led a very leisurely life. We had time to play, time to be with nature and also time for our studies. But today everyone is busy.

- Sansith** : What other memories do you have about your childhood?
- Mrs. Serasinghe** : When I recollect my childhood, pleasant memories flood my mind. I was in the habit of sitting on the trunk of a fallen tree or on a rock in the back garden, looking at the paddy fields. The paddy plants swayed and danced to the rhythm of the breeze.
- Sansith** : Madam, I've heard that you are a founder member of the organization, 'Ruk Reka Ganno'.
- Mrs. Serasinghe** : We started this organization in 1975. Our aim is to protect trees, as well as other living creatures. They are strands in one web. If you destroy one, it affects the others.
- Sansith** : Madam, could you please tell us more about this organization?
- Mrs. Serasinghe** : If we destroy the trees we destroy the animals, birds and the soil. There will be no rain. We won't have water to drink, food to eat, we will all perish. Our organization has started to educate the people. We encourage them to protect the trees and also to plant more and more trees. We make them understand the importance of protecting nature.
- Sansith** : Madam, are you a member of the Wild Life Society ?
- Mrs. Serasinghe** : Yes, I'm a member of the Wild Life Society. We have prepared pamphlets and other forms of literature about the conservation of nature. We meet the people and speak to them. I'll give you a few pamphlets for you to read.
- Sansith** : Madam, thank you for giving me your valuable time. Thank you. Good bye.
- Mrs. Serasinghe** : Thank you Sansith. Goodbye.



Activity 1.11 > Comprehension

■ Writing

Answer the questions in your writing books.

- a.
01. Why was Sansith amazed ?
 02. How did Mrs. Serasinghe know that Sansith was coming to meet her ?
 03. What made Sansith think that her house would be cool ?
 04. Why does she say that they led “a leisurely life”, when they were young?
 05. When did they start the organization, ‘Ruk-Reka Ganno’ ?
 06. Read the line that tells us that Sansith got late.
 07. Find a word that tells us about sounds.
- b.
08. How do the members of ‘Ruk-Reka Ganno’ carry their message to the people?
 09. What happens when you fell trees ?
 10. Are the ‘Ruk-Reka Ganno’ interested only in protecting trees ?

Activity 1.12 > Pair work

■ Writing

Write down in point form the facts you gather about Mrs. Irangani Serasinghe from the conversation. Write them in your writing book.

e.g. 1. born in Mudugamuwa.

Activity 1.13 > Pair work

■ Writing

Write a short composition about Mrs. Irangani Serasinghe using the points and some phrases below. Write in your writing book.

founder member	sloping down
in amazement	leisurely life
a radiant smile	recollecting (her) childhood
a modest lady	in a web
an / the ancestral home	a strand
thickets of bamboo trees	clusters of flowers.

Activity 1.14 > Grammar

■ Writing

Direct / Indirect speech - When you want to report to someone what someone else said you use the reported / indirect speech.

e.g. Sansith said, ‘I’m just after a cup of tea.’

Sansith said that he was just after a cup of tea.

Write the following statements in reported speech in your writing book.

Mrs. Irangani Serasinghe said :



‘I love to have trees, animals and birds around me.’

‘I don’t feel the heat.’

‘There is music in the flowing water.’

‘There will be no mist.’

‘I will give you a few pamphlets.’

● Activity 1.15 > Comprehension

■ Reading / Writing

Amazon Rainforest

Facts about the Amazon Rainforest are given below. Use them and write a composition about the Amazon Rainforest. A few sentences to begin your composition are given below. The map of Amazon Rainforest



The Amazon Rainforest

The Amazon Rainforest in South America is the world's largest tropical rainforest. It is several millions of square kilo-metres in extent. It covers some parts of Brazil, Bolivia, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, Guiana, Surinam and French Guiana.

01. annual rainfall about 7,000 mm
02. some trees reach a height of 40 metres.
03. smaller trees and shrubs grow under them.
04. ferns and exotic wild orchids.
05. a wider variety of plants and animals.
06. economically important plants.
07. Brazil nuts, cocoa, pineapples, rubber.
08. over 250 species of trees.
09. over 1500 species of birds.
10. 3000 known species of fish.
11. 30 million different insect species.
12. threats :
 - rapid population growth
 - loggers cut down trees
 - expansion of agricultural lands
 - hunting
13. 10% of the Amazon Rainforest has been destroyed.

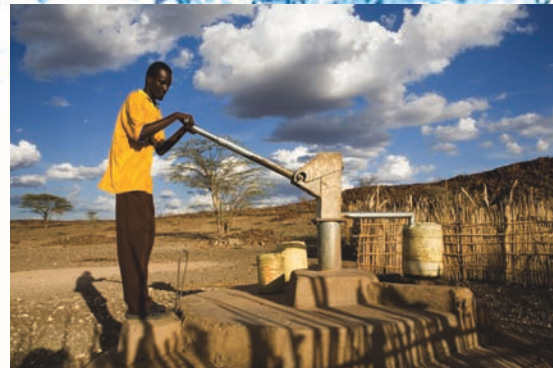
Activity 1.16 > Comprehension

Reading

Water

the needs of nature and people

Sri Lanka is lucky that she does not have to share water with any other country. Hence she is able to manage her water resources and minimize environmental hazards. If we are to preserve the natural beauty of Sri Lanka we have to manage our water resources well. Sri Lanka is called, 'the Pearl of the Indian Ocean', because of her shape and natural beauty.



There are two aspects to water management; firstly to allocate water to the environment according to the environmental demands, secondly to supply the human requirement of water for agriculture, industry, power generation and domestic work.



Excessive removal of water from rivers, tanks and other waterways has exposed bird, animal, fish and plant species to danger. It also has threatened the livelihood of farmers and fishermen. Many people depend on river water for drinking, cooking, washing and for various other uses. When the supply of water for irrigation is interrupted, the farmers cannot cultivate their lands and inland fishing will not be possible.

The flow of water keeps the ecosystem healthy and productive. Dr. Validimir Smakhtin, the principal researcher at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) based in Colombo, points out that the water flow has to vary at different times of the year, to maintain the good health of the ecosystem. According to the IWMI, the environmental needs are not being met as too much of water is being removed. The

policy makers should pay greater attention to the over exploitation of fresh water. They must recognize the need to allocate water for the maintenance of the environment. The water wastage must be controlled. They must also monitor the flow of water and pay greater attention to environmental effects. Finally they must take steps to maintain the ecosystem.

Activity 1.17 > Comprehension

■ Reading / Writing

Pick the right clauses from the box and complete the sentences.

Write in the writing book.

01. To lessen the environmental problems _____	■ <i>we must maintain the natural beauty.</i>
02. To attract tourists to Sri Lanka _____	■ <i>we must meet their requirements of water.</i>
03. To protect the natural beauty _____	■ <i>we must manage water well.</i>
04. To supply human needs _____	■ <i>we must supply water to the environment.</i>
05. To stop the pollution of water _____	■ <i>the lagoons must be looked after.</i>
06. To protect the eco-system _____	■ <i>the flow of water should vary.</i>
07. To attract migratory birds _____	■ <i>the policy makers should take necessary actions.</i>
08. To stop water wastage _____	■ <i>the flow of water must be maintained.</i>

Activity 1.18 > Comprehension

■ Speaking / Writing / Reading

a. Why do we need water? Write ten uses in your writing book.

e.g : 01. for farming

b. When you finish, read out the list to the class.

c. When others read out their lists, copy down what you have missed on to your list.

Activity 1.19 > Pair work

■ Writing

a. What happens when there is a drought? Write a description in your writing book on, 'A drought has come'.

You may start this way -

A drought has come

The trees, bushes and vines have withered. The few leaves left on trees have lost their green colour. Cattle, goats and other animals are roaming about looking for something to eat and drink. Their skins have sunk into their bones _____

b. Exchange books and read the compositions written by others.

Activity 1.20 > Pair work

■ Writing

Suggest some ways to save water in your home and in the country.

Do this activity in your writing book.

Home	Country
<i>01. Collect rain water in tubs and barrels for home use.</i>	<i>01. Water should be released to farmers only when required for cultivation.</i>

Activity 1.21 > Pair work

Reading / Writing

Read the following points on 'Yala National Park'.

01. in the Hambantota District.
02. 19 kilometres of sea - coast covering unspoiled natural beaches. 1360 sq. kilometres in extent.
03. climate - usually hot and dry.
04. North East monsoon rains from November to January. Inter monsoonal rains in March / April.
05. Menik Ganga provides water.
06. tanks and natural water holes hold water.
07. extensive grasslands surrounding the tanks and waterholes.
08. elephants, leopards, many species of deer, the sambur, the hog deer, grey monkeys etc.
09. reptiles, crocodiles, beautiful tortoises.
10. wild, hard flowers.
11. large numbers of tourists visit.
12. events during Tsunami.

Activity 1.22 > Composition

Writing

Make use of the facts given above and write a description for a Tourist Brochure about the Yala National Park.

You may start with a general statement like - Yala National Park, one of the best known reserves in the island, covers over 1300 sq. kilometres.



Activity 1.23 > Group Work

■ Writing

Copy the grid on to your exercise book and fill it with information about other National Parks and Sanctuaries in Sri Lanka. Get the information from your elders, teachers, friends and books.

Name	Extent	Location	What one can see

Activity 1.24

■ Reading

BLUE STARS AND GOLD

While walking through the trams and cars
I chanced to look up at the sky,
And saw that it was full of stars!

So starry-sown! A man could not,
With any care, have stuck a pin
Through any single vacant spot.

And some were shining furiously;
And some were big and some were small;
But all were beautiful to see

Blue stars and gold! A sky of grey!
The air between a velvet pall!
I could not take my eyes away!

And there I sang this little psalm
Most awkwardly! Because I was
Standing between a car and a train!

JAMES STEPHENS



🔻 Activity 1.25 > Group Work

■ Listening

- a. Listen to the teacher, reciting the poem.
- b. Get one of the members in your group to recite the poem aloud.
- c. Now you recite the poem.
- d. Divide the class into five groups and recite one stanza each.
- e. Next, exchange the stanzas and recite.

🔻 Activity 1.26 > Group Work

■ Listening

Complete each sentence choosing the right word group from among a-b-c and write in your writing book.

01. **The speaker is**

- (a) in a town.
- (b) in a village.
- (c) inside a bus / train.

02. **The speaker looks up**

- (a) at the stars.
- (b) at the sky.
- (c) at the stars and the sky.

03. **The stars**

- (a) were here and there.
- (b) filled the sky.
- (c) were like pins.

04. **The stars were**

- (a) shining angrily.
- (b) making the sky beautiful.
- (c) of different sizes.

05. **The speaker could not take his eyes away because**

- (a) the sky was grey.
- (b) of the velvet air.
- (c) the stars were so beautiful.

06. **The poet feels that**

- (a) the sky was beautiful because of the stars.
- (b) he could sing a song standing between a car and a train.
- (c) he could be more happy away from the town.

Activity 1.27 > Group Work

■ Listening / Writing

Complete the story giving an interesting humorous ending.
Give the story a title. Write in your writing book and present it to the class.

There was a coconut tree behind our house, bending over the kitchen roof. Coconut fronds and nuts often came down on the kitchen roof. Every time this happened father had to go up a ladder to get on to the roof and reset the broken tiles. Mother was annoyed and she complained about the tree. One morning father came with two men. One carried a long, thick rope and the other had an axe in his hand. One of them climbed the coconut palm and tied one end of the rope round it. After he had come down the other worker began to cut the tree. When the trunk was half cut, father and the two men took the other end of the rope away from the house and tugged at it.



Activity 1.28 > Group Work

■ Listening / Writing

Imagine you are a member of the Ruk Reka Ganno Organization. Prepare some questions to ask the owner of the tree, why he cut down the coconut tree without protecting it.

e.g. Wasn't there anyway to protect this tree ?