

# Our Friendly Environment 2

## A VISIT TO YALA NATIONAL PARK



### Activity 1

#### Act Out

Grade 5 students of Sri Isipathana Pirivena visited Yala National Park for their annual trip.

Rohitha : It's very hot here, isn't it? I'm already sweating.

Venerable Chandima: Don't think about the heat. Enjoy the beauty of the forest.

Udaya : Haven't you got a cap, Rohitha?  
Rohitha : **No, I haven't.**  
Venerable Sobhitha : Then, let's move over there where it's shady.  
Udaya : Look! There's an elephant **splashing** about in that lake.  
Rohitha : Fantastic. There's a baby elephant close by.  
Venerable Chandima: Look over there. Do you see that giant **squirrel** on that tree?  
Rohitha : Wow! It's really big. I've never seen **one** that big before.  
Udaya : Doesn't the water in that **stream** look very clean?  
Venerable Chandima: Yes and look, there's a herd of deer coming to the waterhole.  
Venerable Sobhitha : Can't we take some photographs? Rohitha, have you brought your camera?  
Rohitha : **Yes, I have.** And I'll take some photos.  
Venerable Sobhitha : Do you know that this is the first time I've visited Yala?  
Rohitha : No, would you like to come again?  
Venerable Sobhitha : Yes, I'd love to.

### Activity 2 - Speaking and Reading

**First answer the following questions orally and then write the answers in your writing book.**

1. Who visited the Yala National Park?
2. What was the weather like?
3. What did they see there?
4. Who had brought a camera?
5. Who visited the park for the first time?
6. Write words with consonant clusters from the above conversation.

### Activity 3 - Pronunciation

Add the correct consonant clusters to complete the word. Then write the word in the given space.

scr / str / spl / squ

- My sister saw a snake and let out a ..... eam. (.....)
- I don't think he has the .....ength to lift that log. (.....)
- Mother gave my hand a big .....eeze. (.....)
- We heard the hinges of the door .....eak. (.....)
- He dived into the water and made a big .....ash. (.....)

### Learning Point

Substitution and ellipsis are common technical devices used to avoid unnecessary repetition in sentences.

#### *Ellipsis is:*

- the omission of a word or words from speech or writing that are not necessary for a phrase to be understood.

#### Examples:

- Are you ready?  
Yes, I'm ready. (**full form**) → Yes, I am. (**ellipted form**)
- Are you a teacher?  
No, I'm not a teacher. → No, I'm not.
- Do you speak Pali?  
Yes, I speak Pali. → Yes, I do.
- Do you play cricket?  
No, I don't play cricket. → No, I don't.
- Have you eaten durian ?  
Yes, I have eaten durian. → Yes, I have.
- Have you been to Jaffna?  
No, I haven't been to Jaffna? → No, I haven't.

### Activity 4 - Grammar

Shorten the underlined sentences to form elliptical sentences.

1. A : Do you know the way to the Yala National Park?  
B : Yes, I know the way to the Yala National Park. – Yes, I do.
2. A : Is that a crocodile?  
B : Yes, it is a crocodile. - .....
3. A : Are you Sahan's brother?  
B : No, I'm not Sahan's brother. - .....
4. A : Have you ever seen an eagle?  
B : No, I haven't seen an eagle. - .....
5. A : Does he play the violin?  
B : Yes, he plays the violin. - .....
6. A : Do elephants take care of their young?  
B : Yes, they take care of their young. - .....

### Substitution

Substitution is replacing a word or a word phrase with another word (one, some, any... ) to avoid repetition.

Read these sentences.

Do you see that giant squirrel on that tree?

I've never seen **one** that big before.

- The word **one** refers to the giant squirrel.



### Activity 5

Complete the sentences with the given words.

one                      some                      any                      ones

I. I went to buy sugar, but they didn't have .....

II. If you need sugar, I'll give you .....

III. Is that a giraffe? I've never seen ..... before.

IV. "Those roses are lovely. Yes, specially the yellow ....." "

### Activity 6 - Reading

Match the words with their meanings.

Words	Meanings
1. sanctuary	found only in a particular country or region
2. endemic	an area where wild birds or animals are protected
3. destination	the natural environment where an animal or plant lives
4. habitat	place that someone is going to
5. endangered	move about freely
6. roam	needing great energy and effort
7. strenuous	in danger of being hurt or destroyed



The Yala National Park is one of the largest national parks in Sri Lanka. Located 260 kilometres south east of Colombo, it lies over the Southern and Uva provinces covering about 378 square miles. Yala is a prominent ecotourism **destination** which attracts a vast number of local and foreign tourists.

Yala is the natural **habitat** of many different varieties of animals and birds. It provides shelter to 44 varieties of mammals and 215 species of birds. Elephants, leopards, sloth bears, spotted deer, sambars, jackals, crocodiles and peacocks are some of them. Among them, there are a number of bird and animal species endemic to Sri Lanka, including the Sri Lankan leopard (*Panthera pardus kotiya*).

Yala was named a wildlife **sanctuary** in 1900 and a national park in 1938. It is a place where wild animals are protected and allowed to **roam** free. It is a **strenuous** task to maintain a balanced ecosystem and take care of **endangered** species. Therefore, it is the duty and the responsibility of the visitors to abide by the rules and not invade the privacy of the wild animals.

Source: <http://yalasrilanka.lk/>

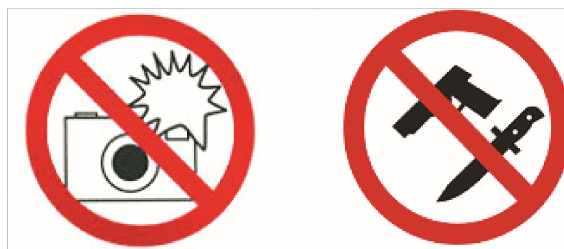
### Activity 7 - Reading

Read the text and answer the questions.

1. What is the national park mentioned in the text?
2. How many square kilometers does it cover?
3. Name some of the animals that live in the national park.
4. Name an animal endemic to Sri Lanka that lives in the park.
5. In which year was it named a wildlife sanctuary?
6. What should we keep in mind when visiting the park?

### Activity 8 - Listening

You will hear an announcement made at a national park. Listen to it and number the signs in the order you hear about them. The first one is done for you.

source: <http://yalasrilanka.lk/>

## Activity 9 - Speaking

### Step I

Here are two different pictures of animals in different places. Get into groups and have a discussion about the pictures. You may use the words from the box.

cage   natural habitat   free   food   affection  
fresh water   fresh air   lonely   roam   hunt   safe



### Step II

Now write sentences comparing the two pictures.

e.g. The animals are in the second picture in cages while the animals in the first picture are roaming freely.

## Activity 10 - Reading

Read the poem and answer the questions.

# Free Verse Poem



Nature

It's a beautiful thing

We go outside and it's right there

But we do not seem to notice it

With trees growing all around us

Birds soaring in the air

Flowers of many colours with sweet scents

Animals resting in the shade

Water flowing through rivers, lakes, seas and oceans

Fish swimming in the flowing water

Forests growing high into the sky

We all must try to keep it so

It's a beautiful thing

Nature

1. What is this poem about?
2. What is soaring in the air?
3. Write the line that speaks about the colours and the scents of flowers?
4. Where does the water flow?
5. What grows high into the sky? What does the poet mean by this phrase?
6. Find a word that rhymes with the word 'there' from the poem.
7. What is the message the poet is trying to convey in this poem?



### Activity 11 - Writing

Write an article for a magazine about the Asian elephant using the given information.

**Lives in south and Southeast Asia – India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Java Sumatra island in Indonesia.**

**Physical description- big animal, smaller than the African elephant, big ears, small eyes, trunk, some have tusks**

**Food- vegetation- (small plants, shrubs, fruit, tree bark, sugar cane, *Kitul*, coconut leaves)**

**Habits- lives in herds, deep family bonds, calves are raised and protected by their mother and the herd**

**Used by humans for lifting heavy logs, religions and cultural activities like Processions, transportation (mainly in the past)**

**Conservation Status – endangered due to loss of habitat, deforestation, poaching for ivory**

### Activity 12 - Speaking

The Buddha was the greatest environmentalist in the world. Buddhist teachings discuss many facts about protecting the environment. Collect some facts and deliver a sermon on the topic “Buddhism and Our Environment.”

You may include the facts given below.

- The Buddha’s attitude towards the well-being of all living creatures

The first of the five precepts – *I refrain from killing any living creature.*

- The Buddha admired eco-friendly deeds- “Those who construct parks, groves, plant fruit trees and grow forests, build bridges and supply drinking water, provide shelter etc. acquire merit by day, by night, forever and ever.– *Vana ropa Suttta. Samyutta Nikaya*

- Buddhist ethics regarding the protection of (flora and fauna) plants and animals – rules for the Buddhist community
  - Refrain from cutting down branches of trees
  - Refrain from urinating, passing stools or spitting where there is water
  - Refrain from urinating, passing stools or spitting on grasslands
- The importance of planting trees
- Many important events connected with the Buddha's life occurred in beautiful natural surroundings (Birth –at Lumbini park; Enlightenment-under the Bodhi tree; the first sermon – at Isipathana deer park; *Parinibbhana*- in Kusinara Sal grove)