

# Exploring Sri Lanka

# 9



## Activity 1

### Act Out

### Holidays are here

It is the last day of the term. Venerable Suseema Thero, Pasan and Ramesh are at the pirivena gate.



I'm glad we've got the holidays.



Yes, Venerable sir. What are you going to do during the holidays?



We are planning to visit Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa, where we can see the ruins of our ancient kingdoms.



Oh! what a coincidence! We too are going to Anuradhapura. Yes, it is the most sacred city in Sri Lanka.



Sacred city! What do you mean by that?



Yes, it became sacred after a sapling of the Bodhi Tree under which the Buddha attained Enlightenment was brought there in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Century B.C.



That's great. And I've heard that it was the first political and religious capital of Sri Lanka, wasn't it?



Of course, that's true. It was once a major centre of Sri Lankan civilization.



By the way, what can we see in Anuradhapura?

There's much to see including the eight major places of worship, monasteries and monuments.



Oh, that's good! What are the eight major places of worship we can see there?

Well, *Sri Maha Bodhiya*, *Ruwanweliseya*, *Thuparamaya*, *Lovamahapaya* and *Abayagiri Stupa* are some of them.



Sounds interesting. Then shall we plan to go there together?

Yes, that would be great.



Let's ask our parents.

## Activity 2 - Reading

Read the dialogue and answer the following questions.

1. What are the names of the students?
2. Where are they now?
3. Why are they happy?
4. Where do they hope to go during the holidays?
5. Why is it called the most sacred city in Sri Lanka?
6. What can you see in Anuradhapura?
7. Besides those mentioned in the dialogue, what are the other three major places of worship?

## Activity 3- Writing

Read the passage and answer the questions.

When Sudewa went to the kitchen, his mother was packing food in containers. She has been preparing food since early morning. "Hurry up and have your breakfast," she said. "Did you pack your sweaters and some warm socks?" she asked. "It can be chilly there, especially at night." "Of course. I'm all packed up," Sudewa answered. He finished his breakfast and filled some bottles with water and put them in a cooler box. All the luggage was placed in the front room, ready to be loaded into the van. His father came into the room, carrying some bags. "What! You're not yet dressed?" he asked. "Hurry up. The van will be here any minute." "Sumali!" mother called Sudewa's sister. "Make sure you wear comfortable shoes, or your feet will get sore/start hurting". Don't worry mother, I've put on my walking shoes," Sumali replied. Sudewa ran to his room.



1. Where is this incident taking place?
2. What are they preparing for?
3. Why do you think Sudewa's mother asked him to pack sweaters and warm socks?
4. Why do you think mother asked Sumali to wear comfortable shoes?
5. Why do you think did Sudewa ran to his room?

#### **Activity 4 - Reading and Writing**

**The following is the itinerary for a four day Pilgrimage to Anuradhapura and Polonnaruwa. Use the information to write an article for the class magazine.**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Accommodation</b>	<b>Things to do</b>
First day	Hill Capital Kandy	Hotel Araliya	Visit the Botanical Gardens at Peradeniya  See the Kandyan dancers
Second day	Ancient city of Polonnaruwa	Rest house	Visit the shrines and the ruins
Third day	Ancient city of Anuradhapura	Miridiya Hotel	Visit the shrines and the ruins
Fourth day	Return to Matara		

## Activity 5 - Reading

Complete the following passage by using the information given in Activity 4.

### A Pilgrimage to Anuradhapura

We travelled to Kandy in my uncle's van. On the first day we stayed at \_\_\_\_\_. In the afternoon we visited \_\_\_\_\_. We spent the second day in \_\_\_\_\_ and stayed at \_\_\_\_\_ for the night. We visited \_\_\_\_\_. From there we went to \_\_\_\_\_ for the third day. We stayed at \_\_\_\_\_. On the last day we \_\_\_\_\_.

### *A Letter from a Pen Friend*

Last month Kamal's pen friend, Upendra Subramaniam, visited some of the most interesting places in Sri Lanka. During his visit he stayed with Kamal. When he returned home to Jaffna, he wrote to Kamal. Given below is the letter he wrote.

28/A, Thilai Junction,  
Jaffna Road,  
Jaffna.

15<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Kamal,

How are you? I arrived home safely on the 13<sup>th</sup> of December. **Though** it was a long journey, I wasn't very tired. Let me thank you very

much for your hospitality. **Since** we stayed with you, we had ample time for our visits.

I remember the many interesting places we visited. The ruins of ancient kingdoms in Anuradhapura, Polonnaruwa and Sigiriya reflect the majesty of our country in the past. I will never forget my experience at the Yala National Park, **where** I saw a lot of wild animals. It was the first time I saw a herd of wild elephants.

The cool climate of Nuwara Eliya, the beauty of the Haggala Gardens **and** the colourful underwater world of corals at Hikkaduwa will remain in my mind forever. I took a lot of pictures of many beautiful places in Sri Lanka. I presented four of them for an exhibition and they won awards.

**However**, I was most fascinated with Sigiriya, the rock fortress and the World's End. I'd be glad if you could send me details about Horton Plains.

I hope to visit you again. Please give my regards to your parents.

God bless you!

With love,

Upendra

### Activity 6 - Reading

**Identify the features of an informal letter by looking at the above letter. Copy the following grid into your writing book and write the information in the relevant box.**

1. Sender's address	
2. Date	
3. Salutation	

4. Body of the Letter	
5. Ending	
6. Sender's signature/ and name	

### Activity 7

Copy the following grid into your writing book. Read Upendra's letter again. Find relevant information and complete it.

What Upendra saw	Where he saw them	Other places of similar features
Ruins		
Wild life		
Corals		
Scenic beauty		

### Activity 8 - Reading

There are so many ancient places in Sri Lanka. Pasan has collected information about some of them. Read the descriptions and complete the grid.

#### Aukana Buddha Statue



This is a 13 metre- high statue carved out of solid granite. It goes back to the 5<sup>th</sup> century. It was carved during the reign of King Dhathusena. It is situated about 50km south of Anuradhapura. It is said that on a rainy day one can see droplets of water falling off the tip of the statue's nose hitting the ground exactly between the toes. The brick enclosure around and above was built recently to protect the statue from the weather.

### *Ruwanveliseya*



*Ruwanveliseya* is popularly regarded as the greatest of the stupas in Anuradhapura. It was built by the great King Dutugemunu in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century B.C. This stupa is supposed to have the perfect water bubble shape. Among the many statues within the precincts of the stupa is one of a man, which is large in size. This is believed to be that of King Dutugemunu himself watching his work from a distance.

### *The Sacred Quadrangle “Vatadage”*



The sacred quadrangle or *Vatadage* is a compact group of beautiful and impressive ruins within a raised platform surrounded by a wall. It is one of the most attractive buildings in the whole ancient city, and a must see for any visitor. In the middle of the quadrangle is a circular relic house typical of its kind. It has four entrances all flanked by large guard statues. The four entrances all lead to a central stupa which consists of four Buddha statues.

### **Rankot Vehera**



*Rankot Vehera*, which is 54 metres in height, is the largest stupa in Polonnaruwa. Still in excellent condition, it dates back to King Nissanka malla's (1187-1196) reign. The path leading to the stupa is flanked by dense vegetation.

### **Isurumuniya Lovers**



The Isurumuniya temple built in the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. is noted for its rock carvings. The best known among these is the “Lovers”. It is believed that the carvings represent Saliya, the son of the great King Dutugamunu and Ashokamala, the low-caste maiden whom he loved.

<i>Name of the place</i>	<i>Where it is situated</i>	<i>Who built it</i>	<i>When it was built</i>	<i>Special features</i>

### Activity 9 - Reading

**Pick phrases or words from the text which are similar in meaning to those in column B. Write them in column A.**

	A	B
1		carved object
2		very old
3		remains of a building
4		young unmarried woman
5		place for entering
6		sculpture / icon
7		compound
8		ruling period of a king
9		a period of 100 years

10		firm and stable in shape
----	--	--------------------------

### Activity 10

Fill in the blanks with the correct words given in the brackets.

### Mihintale



Mihintale is a mountain ..... (peek/ peak) in the Anuradhapura district. This is a sacred place of worship..... (for/ four) the Buddhists. Arahat Mahinda met King Devanampiyatissa in Mihintale. Pilgrims ..... (visit/ look)Mihintale on Poson ..... (ful/ full) moon Poya day..... (there/ their) are many ..... (ruins/ remains) and historical places in Mihintale.

**Ambasthala stupa**, the **Kantaku stupa**, **Naga Pokuna**, **Mihindu**..... (cave/ cavity) are some of the interesting..... (shrines/ stupas) in Mihintale.

### Activity 11 - Listening

### Ancient City - Tissamaharama



**Listen and underline the correct answer to complete the sentences.**

1. Tissamaharama is more famous for being .....
  - a) a gateway to the Yala National Park.
  - b) a gateway to the Kumana National Park.
  - c) a gateway to the Wasgamuwa National Park.
2. Tissamaharama has an interesting history back .....
  - a) in the sixth century B.C.
  - b) in the third century B.C.
  - c) in the fourth century B.C.
3. It even served as .....
  - a) the capital of Kingdom of Maya.
  - b) the capital of Kingdom of Pihiti.
  - c) the capital of Kingdom of Ruhunu.
4. It is also..... as a number of delightful birds can be seen in this area.
  - a) a haven for wild animal watchers
  - b) a haven for bird watchers
  - c) a haven for butterfly watchers
5. This lake was built ..... hundreds of years before.
  - a) for agricultural purposes
  - b) for trade purposes
  - c) for irrigation purposes
6. Santagari stupas have been built in .....
  - a) the modern Sinhalese architectural style.

- b) the classical Hindu architectural style.
- c) the classical Sinhalese architectural style.

### Activity 12 - Speaking

**Give a speech on an ancient place to your classmates and write it in your writing book. You can start like this.**

Good morning / afternoon! Dear teachers and friends. I'm here today to speak about Sigiriya. It is .....

### Activity 13 - Grammar

**Fill in the blanks with the correct pronoun.**

1. Leela is going home. \_\_\_\_\_ is ill. (She)
2. Jane is a perfect. The girls like \_\_\_\_\_. (She)
3. He teaches us English. We like \_\_\_\_\_. (He)
4. The baby is crying. \_\_\_\_\_ is very hungry. (He)
5. The dog's name is Jim. \_\_\_\_\_ is a fierce dog. (It)
6. I am reading a book. \_\_\_\_\_ is very interesting. (It)
7. Tom and Jerry are playing. We are watching \_\_\_\_\_. (They)
8. We are studying German. Mr. Silva is teaching \_\_\_\_\_. (We)
9. My aunt is closing the gate. \_\_\_\_\_ is going out. (She)
10. My father is in his office. A clerk is talking to \_\_\_\_\_. (He)

### Activity 14 - Pronunciation

Read the whole unit again and fill in the table with the words beginning and ending with consonant clusters.

Begins with "wh" sound	Begins with "sh" sound	Begins with "gl" sound	Ends with "ch" sound	Begins with "th" sound	Ends with "nd" sound
where	shrines shape	glad	speech	there the	friend