

## MOTHER NATURE

## 4

**Activity 4.1****Act out**

Hussain and Kaveen are Grade 8 students at Kannangara Maha Vidyalaya. Kaveen was absent one day and Hussain called him to inform him about the programme for their annual trip to Kandy.

**Hussain:** Hello! Can I speak to Kaveen please?

**Kaveen:** Hello Hussain! I was not feeling well in the morning. That's why I was absent today.

**Hussain:** Oh! How are you feeling now?

**Kaveen:** Much better, thanks!

**Hussain:** That's great! By the way, you'll be joining us on the trip, won't you?

**Kaveen:** Why not? I'm all set to go on the trip. Did you get the itinerary?

**Hussain:** Yes. The bus will leave the school premises at 5.30 in the morning. We were asked to be in school half an hour early.





**Kaveen:** Ah! That means at 5 o’ clock. Am I right?  
**Hussain:** Yes. Earlier the better.  
**Kaveen:** That’s true. By the way, how about our meals?  
**Hussain:** We were asked to bring only breakfast in a lunch box or wrapped in a banana leaf. Lunch will be provided.  
**Kaveen:** Well, anything else?  
**Hussain:** Mmm.. an extra uniform, a cap, an umbrella and...urr... a notebook to write down notes when necessary.  
**Kaveen:** Alright. Is that all?  
**Hussain:** Ah, I forgot to tell you. We were all given a booklet each; with details about the places that we’re going to see.  
**Kaveen:** Oh! How can I get mine?  
**Hussain:** Don’t worry. I’ve got your copy with me.  
**Kaveen:** Ok Thanks! I’ll ask my father to get it on his way back home from work. Thank you for calling Hussain. Bye!  
**Hussain:** Sure. I’ll give it to your father. Let me know the time he’s coming here. See you tomorrow morning. Bye!

- a) Read the text and fill in the blanks with suitable words.
1. Kaveen didn’t go to school because .....
  2. They are going on a trip to ..... tomorrow.
  3. The pupils will leave the school at.....
  4. The teacher asked them to bring .....
  5. The information given in the booklet is about .....
- b) Read the following words aloud and circle the silent letters.
- |          |         |         |
|----------|---------|---------|
| 1) half  | 2) hour | 3) wrap |
| 4) write | 5) know |         |
- c) Find out more words with silent letters from the dictionary and read them aloud.



## Activity 4.2

### *Hidden beauties in India*

India, the largest country in the South Asian region is well known for its diversity in cultures, great personalities such as Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore and for places like Agra and the Himalayas. It is a less known fact that this subcontinent is also rich with a number of places with enchanting scenic beauty that attracts both local and foreign tourists.

Nohkilakai falls ('Jump of Ki Lakai' in the local language) in Cherrapunji is one such place hidden within the dense forests in the East Khasi mountains in the state of Meghalaya. Cherrapunji is one of the wettest areas in the world with an annual rainfall about 1176 cm. This is the tallest plunge waterfall in India



and is fed by the water collected in the plateau above. The pool below has unusually greenish water which makes it more attractive.



Matheran ('Forest on the forehead of mountains') Hill station is another favourite among the tourists. It is located in close proximity to Mumbai, the busiest city in the state of Maharashtra. It is 2,625 feet above sea level and declared an eco-sensitive region by the Indian government.

Roads in this area are made of red laterite earth and you can see well preserved old British style buildings too. There are several lookout points in Matheran such as the Panorama point which gives a 360° view of the surrounding area.



Bellum caves in Andrapradesh is another site with a major tourist attraction. With an approximate length about 3.5 km, it is the longest and the largest cave in India. It is made of black limestone and formed by the constant flow of underground water. There are also deposits

of quartz. They are well known for the stalactite and stalagmite formations. There are long passages, spacious chambers, fresh water pools and siphons. The deepest point is 150 feet from the entrance level and is called “Pataalaganga”, which means the ‘river in the underworld’.

a.) Complete the grid

Name	meaning	Location	Main attractions

b.) This is a picture of Seethawaka Wet Zone Botanical Gardens. Write an article about it, including the following points.





**Special features**

- 105 acres in extent
- A calm and quiet environment with beautiful natural surroundings
- A cool temperate climate
- A beautiful stream flows through the garden
- Can go on boat rides
- Various species of plants with economic, aesthetic and ecological value.
- Many Kumbuk/Marudhamaram trees are found
- Nicely arranged path directs you to the summit of the park
- Opening hours from 8.00 to 5.00 p.m.
- An ideal place for a wonderful day out

**Location**

- In the Colombo district
- Close to Avissawella
- Turn from the Puwakpitiya station to reach this garden easily
- Located in Ilukovita on the Puwakpitiya-Thummodara main road

**History**

- The construction of the garden commenced in 2008.
- Opened to the public in October, 2014
- Launched this park to conserve threatened wet, endemic plants for future generations

c) Speak about any botanical garden that you know.



## Activity 4.3

### *Nature inspired creations*



Nature inspires creations. Many incredible creations of scientists and engineers are excellent models of nature. Some of the most wonderful constructions in the world are ideal examples of how nature had provided inspiration for the designers and architects.



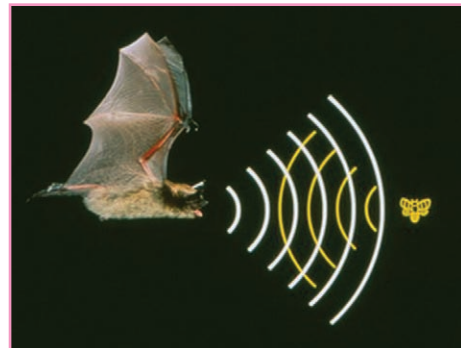
Have you noticed that there is a physical relationship between the aeroplanes and birds? The aeroplane is based not only on the bird's streamlined body shape, but also on the arrangement of wings and feathers. Leonardo da Vinci analyzed the flight of birds and adapted it for the construction of flying machines.



There are a number of architectural monuments based on nature. The architects have created the Eiffel Tower based on the structure of the human bone tissues. The telegraph poles have the method of wind resistance similar to blades of grass. Joseph Paxton, the designer of the Crystal Palace in London used the leaves of the tropical water lily as his model. Today, house paints, roof tiles and window glasses use

the 'lotus effect'. This concept is based on the surface of a lotus leaf. As it is covered with a layer of fine fibers, hair and wax crystals, the dust and dirt dissolve in water and roll off, so that the leaf remains clean and dry.

Nature has also influenced the medical world. Diagnosis of diseases through ultra sound is based on the ultra sound that bats use to detect its prey. Even, the flippers that the divers use are based on the webbed feet of frogs.



Similarly, we can list out various creations of man that are based on the structures of nature. By considering all these, we can decide that Nature is not only a healer, but also an excellent teacher.



Complete the table by adding more examples from the text.

Examples taken from nature	Inventions and constructions
<i>e.g.</i> :- 1) birds' streamlined body shape 2) flight of birds	

## Activity 4.4

*Read and enjoy*

### A NURSE'S SONG

When the voices of children are heard on the green,  
And laughing is heard on the hill,  
My heart is at rest within my breast,  
And everything else is still.

'Then come home, my children, the sun is gone down,  
And the dews of night arise;  
Come, come, leave off play, and let us away  
Till the morning appears in the skies.'

No, no, let us play, for it is yet day,  
And we cannot go to sleep;  
Besides, in the sky the little birds fly,  
And the hills are all cover'd with sheep.'

'Well, well, go and play till the light fades away,  
And then go home to bed.'  
The little ones leap'd and shouted and laugh'd  
And all the hills echoed.

*William Blake*



Answer the following questions.

1. Underline the correct answer.

The main character of the poem is pleased by,

- seeing the little birds.
- seeing the running sheep.
- hearing the voices of children.

2. What is the name of the poet?

3. How many stanzas are there in the poem?

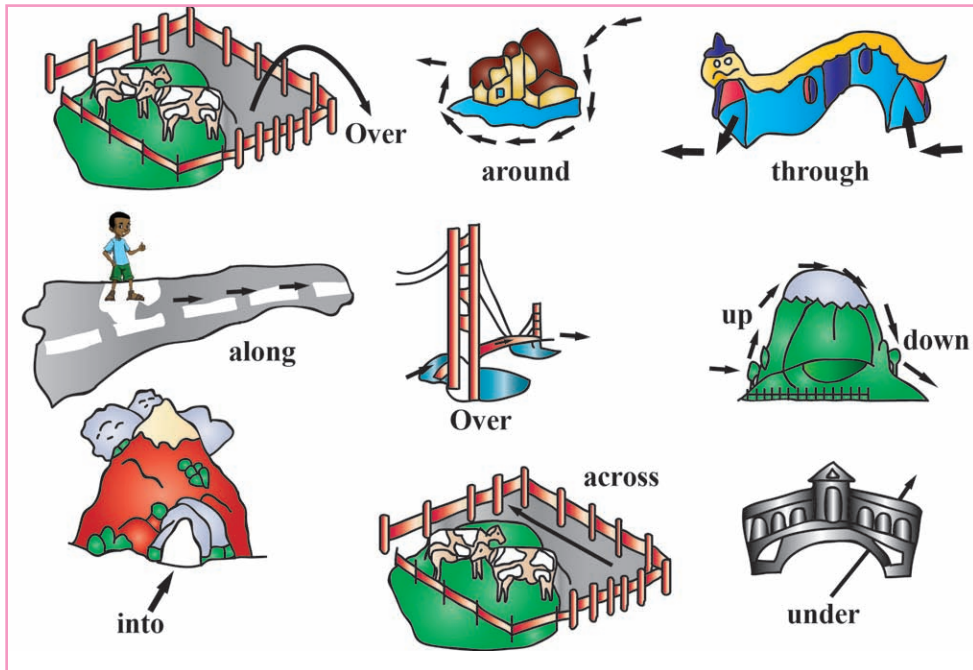
4. Write the two lines that say that the children don't like to stop playing.

5. Write rhyming words for the following.

- |         |   |         |   |        |   |
|---------|---|---------|---|--------|---|
| • hill  | - | • arise | - | • play | - |
| • sleep | - | • rest  | - | • sky  | - |

### Activity 4.5

#### Let's learn prepositions



There is a Magic Sword in the cave. Can you get it? Although you can follow the instructions given, they are not in order, Write them in the correct order.



- Jump **over** the fence again and walk slowly **through** the tunnel.
- Start your journey from A and walk **along** the road.
- Next, climb **up** the hill and come **down**.
- Then, you can see a big bridge and walk **over** it.
- After that, go **through** the dark forest.
- Great! Now, the magic sword is yours.
- Then, jump **over** the fence and run **across** the field.
- After that, walk **around** the farm and go **under** the little bridge.
- Walk **into** the cave carefully.

**LEARNING POINT**

*Plural forms of collective nouns*

Singular	Plural
1. A group of boys	Groups of boys
2. A flock of birds	Flocks of birds
3. A herd of elephants	Herds of elephants
4. A bunch of keys	.....
5. A pack of cards	.....

**Activity 4.6**

Study the pictures and rewrite the given instructions in the correct order.

*Let's make compost*

Cage and barrel method

- inoculants - materials that help in the process of decay
- decomposition - the process of decay.

Step

1. ....  
 .....



Step

2. ....  
.....



Step

3. ....  
.....



Step

4. ....  
.....



Step

5. ....  
.....





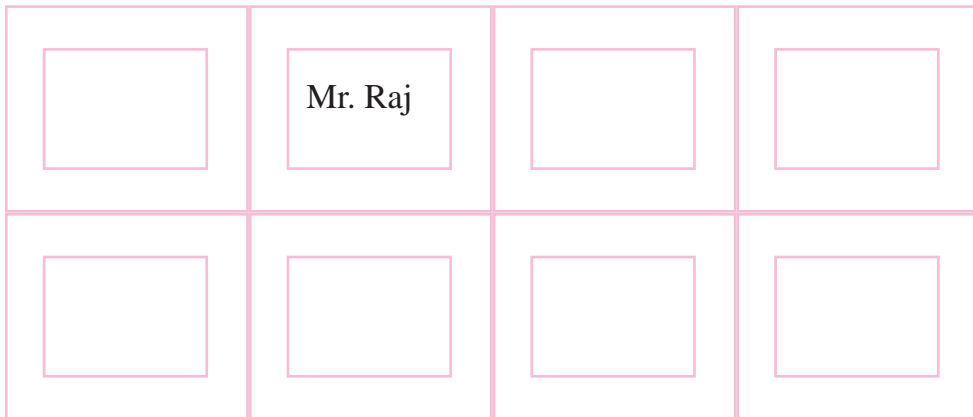


- Cover the cage or barrel with coconut fronds or suitable covering material and maintain the moisture inside.
- Finally, collect produced compost from the bottom of the cage or barrel.
- Add water regularly.
- Then, fill in the cage or barrel with different raw materials such as green leaves, weeds, banana leaves and trunks, salvinia, sawdust, vegetable peels, crop waste and animal waste.
- Add inoculants to increase the decomposition of raw materials.

### Activity 4.7

#### Listening

Draw the following picture in your book. Your teacher is going to describe it. Listen and label the building.



## Activity 4.8

### *Let's Sing*

#### Mother Nature

If just one person shines  
others will follow in line  
as we board the greenhouse train  
we'll say good-bye to acid rain  
as we fight global warming  
we'll stand united as one  
all around the world a new day has begun  
we're so afraid of pollution  
but we can find a brighter day  
let's work on the solutions  
so our children can play  
in pure clean water  
in blue skies above  
its not a fantasy  
we'll make it our reality  
we've got to all come together  
and start planting the seeds  
mother nature needs us  
we were blind but now we see  
we're so afraid of pollution  
but we can find a brighter day  
let's work on the solutions  
(so our children can play  
let's save our planet  
we've got to all come together  
and start planting the seeds  
mother nature needs us



it's up to you and me  
chicken little said the sky  
is fallen down  
we've got to work together  
to keep the world going round  
let's think about our children  
and leave a cleaner world a behind  
mother nature needs us  
till the end of time...  
mother nature needs us  
till the end of time...  
we've got to all come together  
and start planting the seeds  
mother nature needs us  
it's up to you and me  
mother nature needs us now!!

*P.J. Grand Band*