

# Our Heritage 3

## Act Out

### The Aluvihare Rock Temple



A group of grade 04 students of Sri Rahula Pirivena were asked to prepare a booklet on the Cultural Triangle for a classroom assignment. Therefore, they organized their annual trip to the Cultural Triangle. On their way to Dambulla, they had their breakfast at the famous 'Aluvihare Rock Temple' in Matale. There, they met Venerable Dunukewatte Rathana, who resides at the temple.

Students : Good morning, Venerable Sir!

Venerable Rathana : Good morning ! Where are you from?

Student - 1 : From Gampaha, Venerable Sir.

Venerable Rathana : You must have left Gampaha early in the morning.

Students - 2 : Yes, we did. This temple is situated in a very attractive location, isn't it?

Venerable Rathana: Yes, indeed. It is surrounded by the picturesque Knuckles Mountains.

Student - 1 : Venerable Sir, Could you please give us some more information about this temple?

Venerable Rathana : Yes, certainly. Here is a brochure about this temple. Take it. It has all the information you need.

Students : Thank you very much, Venerable Sir.

Venerable Rathana : You're welcome. May the Triple Gem bless you!

### Activity 01 - Reading

A) Answer these questions.

1. What were the students asked to prepare?
2. Who did they meet at the temple?
3. Where did they have their breakfast?
4. What is the name of the mountain range that surrounds the temple?
5. Write synonyms from the text.
  - a. fascinating .....
  - b. scenic .....
  - c. lives .....
  - d. yearly .....

### Discourse Markers

Discourse markers are linking words which help to keep a conversation or a text flowing smoothly.

eg:- **however, then , nevertheless, therefore, after that**

Look at the following example taken from the text.

A group of grade 04 students of Sri Rahula Pirivena were asked to prepare a booklet on the Cultural Triangle for a classroom assignment. Therefore, they organized their annual trip to the Cultural Triangle.

### Activity 02 - Grammar

Fill in the blanks using the discourse markers given below.

(therefore, after that, then)

Last Sunday was a Poya day. .... I went to temple with my mother. First, we offered flowers to the stupa. .... we paid homage to the Bodhi tree. .... we offered flowers to the Buddha in the shrine room.

### Activity 03 – Reading & Speaking

A) Here is a page taken from the brochure given by Venerable Rathana .  
Read it and answer the questions given below.

In the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC, during the reign of King Valagamba, Sri Lanka underwent a famine for 12 years. As a result, the Buddhist monks did not receive sufficient alms and faced many difficulties.

Thereafter, they managed to live on the banks of the Mahaweli River under difficult conditions and survived for 12 years till the famine came to an end.

However, there was a South Indian invasion and the Buddhist monks of that time realized that due to the prevailing situation, memorizing and repeating the Dhamma (doctrine) was difficult.

Meanwhile, King Valagamba, who had been overthrown by a rebellion during the invasion from South India, regained the throne by defeating the invaders after fourteen years.

As a result, the monks who left for India and for the hilly areas of Sri Lanka, during the difficult period, returned to Anuradhapura, and decided to transcribe the Tripitaka for the use of future generations.

The monks selected the Aluvihare Rock Temple in Matale as the most suitable and secure place to carry out this important task.

The entire transcription was done in Pali and in books made of ola leaves, locally known as Puskola Poth. These books were made up from the leaves of the palmyra tree, also known as the talipot palm. A metal stylus was used to inscribe the characters on the ola leaves.

1. According to the passage, what happened in Sri Lanka in the 1<sup>st</sup> century BC?
2. Who was the King of Sri Lanka at that time?
3. What happened to him?
4. Where did the Buddhist monks go?
5. Why did the Buddhist monks come back?
6. What did the monks do after they returned, and why?
7. Where did the monks decide to transcribe the Dhamma and why?
8. On what was the Dhamma transcribed and how was it done?

B) Using the information given in the above passage, make a speech on the topic “Transcription of the Dhamma”.

You may begin like this...

“Venerable Principal, dear teachers and my dear friends. I am going to speak on ...”

Use discourse markers such as **however**, **therefore**, **as a result**, and **meanwhile**.

### **Learning Point**

#### **Relative Pronouns**

Read these sentences and see how they are connected to each other.

\* They met Venerable Dunukewatte Rathana, who resides at the temple.

\* It is situated in a very attractive place, which is surrounded by the Knuckles mountains.

These underlined words are called relative pronouns.

<b>Note.</b>		
Relative pronoun		connected with
Who	.....>	persons
Which	.....>	things/animals
That	.....>	persons/animals/things

**Note.**

When a relative clause identifies the noun that comes before it, we do not use commas to separate the relative clause .

e.g.:- **The dictionary which I bought yesterday cost two thousand rupees.**

The relative clause *which I bought yesterday* tells the reader which dictionary is being referred to.

When a relative clause does not identify the noun that comes before it but simply gives some additional information about it, we set off the relative clause with commas.

In this kind of situation we can use only **who** or **which** and not **that**.

e.g.:- The Aluvihara Rock Temple , which is in the Matale district, is visited by many Buddhist devotees.

The relative clause *which is in the Matale district* simply gives some additional information about the Aluvihara Rock Temple rather than identifying it.

**Activity 04 - Grammar**

Join these sentences using relative pronouns, **who** , **which** or **that**. The first one is done for you.



A reclining statue of the Buddha



e.g.:-

1. This is a reclining statue of the Buddha.
2. It is in the Aluvihare temple . (which)

This is a reclining statue of the Buddha which is in the Aluvihare temple.



King Valagamba

- (1) 1.King Valagamba was the ruler of Sri Lanka.
2. He was overthrown for a short period of time by a rebellion. (who)



An Arch of the Dragon

- (1) 1.This is an Arch of the Dragon.
- 2.It is found at the entrance to the shrine room. (which)

### Activity 05

Join these sentences using the relative pronouns **who /which/that**.

- 1) 1. I met a woman.  
2. She can speak six languages.
- 2) 1. Binara was wearing a hat.  
2. It was too big for him.

- 3) 1. An elephant is an animal.
2. It is used to carry heavy logs.

### Activity 06 - Listening

Listen to the teacher and label the following picture of a moonstone.



### Activity 07 - Reading

Look at the picture of the moonstone and fill in the blanks using the following words.

four , first, third, fourth, half,

A moonstone of the Anuradhapura period

The moonstone was first created during the latter stage of the ancient

Anuradhapura Kingdom. It was only placed at entrances to Buddhist temples during this period.

The carvings of the semi-circular stone slab are the same in every moonstone. A 1..... lotus is carved in the centre, which is enclosed by several concentric bands. The 2 ..... band from the half lotus is decorated with a procession of swans, followed by a band with an intricate foliage design known as Liyavel. The 3..... band has carvings of four animals : elephants, lions, horses and bulls. These 4..... animals follow each other in a procession symbolizing the four stages in life: growth, energy, power and forbearance. The 5 ..... and outermost band contains a carving of flames.

### Activity 08

Match the words in column A with their definitions in column B.

A	B
1) half	a) leaves of a tree
2) centre	b) semi
3) foliage	c) being patient
4) stage	d) middle point
5) forbearance	e) period of development

### *Makara Thorana ( The Arch of Dragon)*





*Makara Thorana* is a common sight found both at the entrance to the temple and over the structure where the statue of the Buddha is placed. This imaginary carving basically consists of parts of different animals. The *Makara* has the front of an elephant, the feet of a lion, the ear of a pig and the body of a fish living in water, with sharp teeth, the eyes of the *Hanuman*, and a decorative tail.

### Activity 09

Match the body parts of the Dragon with the animals.

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| A        | B           |
| 1. front | a. fish     |
| 2. ear   | b. elephant |
| 3. body  | c. pig      |
| 4. feet  | d. hanuman  |
| 5. eyes  | e. lion     |

### Activity 10 - Vocabulary

Word Search

D	C	P	A	R	E	N	T	S	B
H	P	A	R	C	H	E	R	M	R
O	B	M	O	N	K	S	I	T	E
M	U	H	B	Z	O	T	A	R	A
A	D	L	E	U	T	E	N	I	K
G	D	E	B	X	L	E	G	A	F
E	H	T	O	U	R	L	L	N	A
B	A	O	Y	F	O	W	A	G	S
F	R	E	S	C	O	E	S	L	T
I	U	S	E	G	M	T	J	E	V

- A) Find as many words as possible from the word search above.  
 B) Find words with similar meaning for the following words/ phrases from the word search above.

- i. Bhikkhu .....
- ii. Wall paintings .....
- iii. Reverence .....
- iv. Morning meal .....

**Used to**

If something used to happen , it happened regularly or all the time in the past , but does not happen now.

e.g.: I **used to** smoke, but I gave up a couple of years ago.

We use “be + used to ’’ to talk about something that we are familiar with.

e.g.: I’m **used to** getting up early.

We’re used to the noise from the traffic now.

**Activity 11 - Grammar**

Complete these sentences .Use **used to + verb (present)**.

e.g.:- When I was a child, I used to eat chocolates.

1. Binara .....a car, but he sold it a few years ago.
2. Nikila .....a lot, but he does not read much these days.
3. I .....tennis. I stopped playing a few years ago.
4. “Have you got a car?” “No , I ..... one but I sold it”.

## I have to ...

I'm sick. This is my medicine, I have to take it four times a day.



**We use “have to” to indicate necessity or obligation.**

I /you/ we/they .....> have to

he/she/it .....> has to

e.g.:- I'll be late for work tomorrow. I **have** to go to the dentist.

Ravi starts work at 7 o' clock. So he **has** to get up early.

### Activity 12

Complete the sentences. Use *have to* or *has to* + one of these verbs:

read, wear, travel, face, teach.

1. My eyes are not very good. I ..... glasses.
2. At the end of the term all the students ..... a test.
3. Venerabla Shantha is studying literature. He ..... a lot of books.
4. Dinuth doesn't understand much English. You ..... him very slowly.
5. Sunimal is not often at home. He ..... a lot in his job.