

Buddha's Disciples 3

Activity 1 Act Out



The students of Mahanama Pirivena in Dehiattakandiya are going on a trip to Trincomalee. Now they are at Thiriyaya Stupa.

Saman : What is the name of this stupa?

Teacher : Thiriyaya Stupa.

Saman : This is a marvellous place, isn't it, teacher?

Teacher : Of course, do you know the historical value of this stupa?

Saman : No teacher, this is my first visit to this place.

Teacher : Actually this is the first stupa **built** in Sri Lanka. It was built by two traders Tapassu Balluka, in the 8th century B.C.

Vipul : Are there any relics enshrined here?

Teacher : Yes, the Buddha's hair relic is enshrined here. As we have many other places to visit, shall we go back to the bus?

Children : Ok, teacher.

Activity 2 - Reading

Read the dialogue and answer the questions.

1. What is the name of the pirivena mentioned in the text?
2. Where are the children going on a trip?
3. What is the place that they are visiting now?
4. Who built the stupa mentioned in the text?
5. What was enshrined in the stupa when it was built?

Activity 3 - Listening

Read the sentences by yourself first. Then, the teacher will read them out aloud. Listen to them and underline the words that are stressed.

e.g. This is the first stupa built in Sri Lanka.

1. This is the first stupa built in Sri Lanka.
2. Have you visited Sigiriya?
3. Have you visited Sigiriya?
4. We went to Anuradhapura by rain.
5. We went to Anuradhapura by train.

Activity 4 - Grammar

Read the following sentence.

The first stupa in Sri Lanka was built by the traders, Tapassu and Bhalluka in the 8th century B.C.

Learning Point

Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation – a set of initials representing a name, organization where each letter is pronounced separately.

e.g., UK, BC, CD, UNO, WHO, RSVP

Acronyms - A word formed from the first letters of the name of something such as an organization. e.g.: Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries – OPEC. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation - SAARC.

These are also called initialism.

Activity 5 - Grammar

Match each abbreviation or acronym with what it stands for.

| | |
|--------|--|
| UNICEF | The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund |
| USA | Automated Teller Machine |
| BC | Please Turn Over |
| ATM | United State of America |
| NASA | Very Important Person |
| YMBA | Intelligent Quotients |
| VIP | Young Mens' Buddhist Association |
| IQ | World Wide Web |
| PTO | National Aeronautics and Space Administration |
| WWW | Before Christ |

Activity 6 - Pronunciation

Find words with consonant clusters used in the mid position of the word from the dialogue.

e.g.: teacher



Two Good Friends

Once upon a time there were two villages called Upatissa and Kolitha. These two villages were close to the city of Rajagaha.

The headman of each village was known by the name of the village. Their two sons were also called Upatissa and Kolitha. They were best of friends. **Both** of them were enjoying life, doing things like watching dramas, going to festivals and learning about new things. Finally, they got tired of all these and began to look for ways to find greater happiness.

Near Rajagaha, there was an ascetic called Sanjaya. The two friends decided to meet him to get some advice. However, after speaking with him, they realized that they were not satisfied with his teachings. They felt that they wanted to know something more. So they decided to set out on two different routes in their quest to find the Truth. They promised each other that the one who succeeds in finding the Truth would let the other know about it.

Upatissa, who was travelling through Rajagaha, saw a monk going from door to door with an alms bowl. Upatissa was struck by the ascetic's look, for he had an extremely peaceful and serene look. Upatissa continued to observe him as the monk walked along the road and waited calmly until the people served food onto his bowl. The monk was calm and modest in everything he did. Upatissa decided to go to the ascetic and find out more about him.

After collecting the alms, the ascetic walked out of the city gates. Upatissa followed him and waited patiently till the ascetic finished his meals and asked him, "Sir, you look so calm and serene. Who is your teacher?" The monk answered, "There is a great ascetic from the Sakya clan. He is my teacher, it is his teachings that I follow and practise," the monk answered. "I am a newcomer to the Dhamma of the Buddha, I began to study the teachings of the Buddha quite recently. **Hence** I only know a little. I will tell you what I know in short," the monk said and he began to explain, "There is a cause for everything. If there is no cause, there's no result, this is the essence of what he teaches us."

The monk's name was Assaji. He was one of the first of five monks who was in attendance at the Buddha's first sermon. Venerable Assaji began to recite a Dhamma stanza in order to guide Upatissa in the correct path.

Upon hearing the first two lines, Upatissa attained Sotapanna. He thanked the monk and went to meet his friend Kolitha as he had promised. "I have found the truth of life," Upatissa said to Kolitha. Upatissa repeated the stanza which he heard from Venerable Assaji. On hearing the whole stanza, he too attained Sotapanna. Together they went to meet the Buddha who was at *Veluvanaramaya*.

When they arrived at *Veluvanaramaya*, the Buddha admitted them into the order on their request and entered into the Buddhist order. Later, they became the Chief Disciples of the Buddha. Upatissa came to be known as *Sariputta* and Kolitha as *Moggallana*.

³The first stage of arahantship

Activity 7 - Reading

Answer the following questions.

1. Who was Kolitha?
2. Who was Upatissa?
3. To whom did they go first to find happiness?
4. Were they successful in finding happiness?
5. Who was the monk that Upatissa met?
6. What did he notice about the ascetic?
7. Where did they go to meet the Buddha?
8. What were their names and titles in the order of the Sangha?

Learning Point

Conjunctions

Conjunctions are used to connect:

- two words
*e.g. Kolitha **and** Upatissa were good friends.*
- a group of words (phrases)
*e.g. The hermit meditated in the cave **or** under a big tree.*
- clauses
*e.g. What you say **and** what you do are completely different.*
- sentences
*e.g. **After** he collected the alms, the ascetic walked out of the city gate.*

Activity 8 - Grammar

Join the following sentences using a suitable conjunction given in the box. Make the necessary changes in punctuation.

since/ because / till / although /before

1. He was sick. He didn't go to school.
2. I will wait. You come.
3. Wash your hands. You take your meal.
4. We went there on time. They had already left.
5. Saman didn't pass the examination. He didn't work hard.

Activity 9 - Writing

Write the story of *Arahat Angulimala* using the information given. Add more information of your own.

- son of *Bhaggava* and *Mantani*
- real name: *Ahinsanka*
- sent to *Taxila* to study
- was loyal to his teacher
- his teacher asked him to bring him a garland of a thousand fingers
- began to cut fingers of people
- became known as *Angulimala*⁵
- his mother heard about his actions
- she went to the jungle in search of him
- by this time, *Angulimala* had collected 999 fingers and was looking for a victim to collect the last finger and to fulfil his promise to his teacher.
- on that day, the Buddha wanted to find out (to whom he could be of help the most)



- The Buddha saw that *Angulimala* could commit matricide (one of five unredeemable sins in Buddhism)
- The Buddha stopped *Angulimala* from killing his mother
- threw his sword away and knelt down
- The Buddha blessed him
- attained the state of *Arahat*

⁵. A man wearing a garland of fingers

Activity 10 - Group Work

Talk about how the places mentioned below have contributed to the propagation of Buddhism by uplifting the education of Buddhist monks. You may make use of the given facts.

| Anuradhapura Maha Viharaya | Nalanda Buddhist Monastery |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a Buddhist monastery • established by Arahat Mahinda thero in 236 B.C. during the reign of king Devanampiyatissa • situated in Maha Mahamevna park in Anuradhapura • a centre for <i>Theravada</i> Buddhism • housed and educated many Monks • initiated the Buddhist traditions and rituals in <i>pirith</i> chanting, wearing robes, religious rituals/ under the Mahavihara tradition • one of the prominent pirivenas in southern or eastern Asia in the 5th century • the famous scholar Buddhaghosa Thero resided here and wrote <i>Visuddhimagga</i> and translated Tripitaka from Sinhala to Pali | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • situated in Maghadha kingdom (modern-day Bihar) in India • founded in the 5th century BC • a Buddhist centre of learning • consisted of a library with many volumes of Buddhist literature • Buddhist scholars from Asian countries (Tibet, Laos, China etc.) visited and studied in this university • subjects such as management, astrology, and languages were also taught • provided practical education • reached its peak in the 7th century AD • housed more than 10,000 students |

Activity 11

Read the poem and answer the questions.

Ozymandias

I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—“Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away.”

1. Where did the traveler come/return from?

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2. What did the traveler see in the desert?

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3. Describe the face of the statue.

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4. What does the face of the statue say about its sculptor?

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.....

5. What is written on the pedestal?

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.....

6. What can be seen in the area surrounding the ruins?

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.....

7. This poem conveys a message which is closely connected with the Buddhist philosophy. Can you guess what it is?

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.....

8. What are the rhyming words found in this poem?

.....
.....

9. Find examples from the poem for these figures of speech.

I. Alliteration:

II. Irony:

III. Hyperbole:.....