

Activity 2.18

■ *Reading*

Queen Victoria

The British came to Sri Lanka during the reign of Queen Victoria. As a result, our country is also influenced by Victorian values. During the Victorian period, which takes its name from Queen Victoria, fiction, poetry, drama, music and other forms of Literature flourished in England. The influence of Victorian values was left in our country too.

Alexandra Victoria, born on 24th of May 1818, became the Queen of England in 1832, and ruled the country till her death. She died on the 22nd of January 1909.

In 1840, she married her distant cousin Albert. He was a German prince. His ideas about queenly dignity changed Victoria's carefree outlook. As a result, the Victorian period is known for stern morality.

Before she came to the throne, the British rulers were not popular and had lost the respect of their subjects. Victoria had a strong sense of duty and her personal conduct was above reproach. She won back the respect and devotion of her subjects.

During her reign from 1837 - 1901 Britain reached the heights of its power and prosperity. The British empire extended around the globe. Clocks around the world were set by Greenwich Mean Time. (GMT)

The Victorian period was the great age of the English novel. Thackeray and Dickens are two figures who tower over the Victorian novel. Alfred Lord Tennyson who was made England's poet laureate in 1850, has been called the voice of Victorian England.



Activity 2.19 Pair work

■ *Comprehension*

- A 1. When did Victoria become Queen ?
2. Who was her husband ?
3. How old was she when she died ?
4. What nationality was her husband ?
5. Who are the novelists and poets who brought fame to this period?
6. Find a sentence which expresses the significance of the Victorian period.
7. What did the people feel for the British rulers before the time of Queen Victoria?
8. How did she win the respect of her subjects?

- B 9. What was the extent of the British empire?
10. What did Prince Albert want Victoria to do ?

Activity 2.20 Group work

■ *Speaking / Writing*

King Parakramabahu VI who lived in the Kotte Kingdom was a scholar. His period is considered as the golden era in Sinhalese Literature. That was the heyday of ‘Sandesa Poetry’.

Speak to your elders / teachers and write an account of the times of King Parakramabahu VI.

Activity 2.21 Grammar

■ **Writing**

Complex Sentences

- ◆ A sentence consisting of a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses is a complex sentence.
- ◆ A subordinate clause can be joined to the main clause with relative pronouns such as who, which, where, that, when etc.

Find the main clause and the subordinate clause of the following sentences and write them in your writing book.

e.g. Thackeray and Dickens are two figures who tower over the Victorian novel.

Main clause	Subordinate clause
Thackeray and Dickens are two figures	who tower over the Victorian novel.

1. Nirmala is the girl who won the 100m race.
2. Saman wore the shirt that he bought at the fair.
3. This is the house which belongs to my uncle.
4. I went to school while it was raining heavily.
5. This is the village where Thackeray was born.

Activity 2.22 Pair work

■ **Writing**

*Join each of these pairs of sentences to form a complex sentence.
Use the words in the brackets to join the sentences and write them in
your writing book.*

- e.g. ■ In 1840 Queen Victoria married her distant cousin Albert. (who)
■ He was a German prince.

In 1840 Queen Victoria married her distant cousin Albert who was a German prince.

- (1) On Saturday morning Geetha went to the library.
It lends books.
(which)

- (2) It is refreshing to eat fruits.
They grow in the village.
(that)

- (3) Nimali studied very hard for the O/L examinations.
It was held last year.
(which)

- (4) It started raining.
Sanath Jayasuriya was scoring at a rate.
(when)

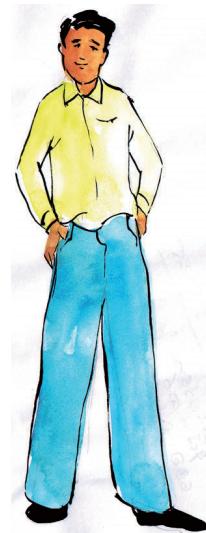
Activity 2.23

■ **Reading**

The customs and traditions of a culture influence the way its people dress. What a person wears for certain occasions is often governed by tradition. Many people still wear national or traditional costumes, the Kandyan and Indian saree, shalwar kameez, the Japanese kimono, to celebrate a special event.



In oriental and Islamic cultures, clothing traditions that developed early in the history of the country were later established as rules, to be followed. Respect for tradition thus discouraged changes in styles of dress. The same is true of clothing in Africa, Polynesia and the native cultures of Latin America.



In the West the tradition was to break it rather than keep it. Therefore changes and experimentation in clothing came to be admired. Thus there has been a great variety of changes in the history of Western dress.



Since recent times, in Sri Lanka the saree, shalwar kameez, shirt and trousers have become popular among all the communities.



Activity 2.24 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Write sentences on your own, using the underlined words/ phrases.

Activity 2.25 Pair work

■ *Speaking / Writing*

There are certain important events where traditional clothes according to the different cultures have to be worn.

- List the different situations and ceremonies where traditional clothes are worn and name the special clothing.**
- Write a description of a traditional dress worn at a cultural function.
Write in your writing book.**

eg :- at a wedding ceremony

Describe the bride's / bride groom's clothing - Kandyan, low country , North Indian , South Indian or Western.

- ◆ Write using the simple present tense. Start this way :
eg :- The Kandyan bride wears the traditional Kandyan saree-----

Activity 2.26 Group work

■ *Listening / Speaking*

Clothing is one area where cultural changes have played a major role.

- ◆ **List the different types of clothes worn now in our country.**
- ◆ **Match them as you think is suitable with the different age groups and professions.**
- ◆ **Report your findings to the class.**

Activity 2.27 Pair work

■ *Speaking / Writing*

Though different kinds of fashionable clothing is worn in Sri Lanka, the saree or the National costume is still considered a fashionable dress.

Prepare a short speech based on the following guide lines.

- When it is worn (consider both formal and informal)
- How it ranges from simple to grand
- The countries where it is popular
- How it gives us identity as Asians around the globe

Activity 2.28 Group work

■ *Speaking*

Have a class debate on the topic

Should we wear traditional clothes?

Should we wear ‘modern’ clothes?

Activity 2.29 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Study the words given in box A and B

A	clothes	saree, long-sleeved shirt, short-sleeved shirt, skirt, sarong, blouse, frock, etc.
B	parts of the body	legs, knees, ankles, neck, head, arms, elbows, wrists, etc.

Study the following sentences.

- e.g. (1) The saree covers the lower part of the body upto the ankles.
(2) The long-sleeved shirt covers the arm upto the wrist.

Now write 5 similar sentences.

Activity 2.30 Pair work

■ Speaking / Writing

Match the pictures with the descriptions given below. Write in your writing book.

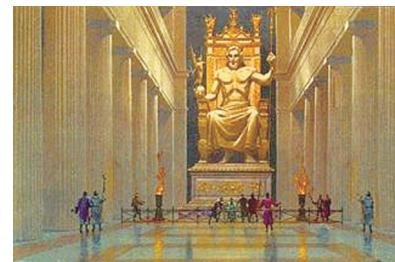
(1)

- a) The huge figure of Zeus the king of the gods stood in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia in Greece. The statue was 40 feet high and touched the lofty temple ceiling.



(2)

- b) The Great wall of China was built to protect China's Northern border in the 3rd century BC. It consists of a network of walls and towers. It stretches to about 2400 km.



(3)

Activity 2.31 Pair work

■ Writing

**Now write a few sentences about each picture. Write in your writing book.
You may start this way.**

e.g. A visitor to ----- will visit-----

Activity 2.32 Pair work

■ **Reading**

Cleopatra

William Shakespeare, the playwright wrote 37 plays. They are categorized as comedies, tragedies and histories. A comedy is a play (story) that has a happy ending and a tragedy is a play (story) that has a sad ending. Sometimes it is not easy to decide the category; some histories are tragedies like the plays Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra.

Cleopatra the empress of Egypt is considered one of the most beautiful women who ever lived. She was not only beautiful, she was intelligent too. The former rulers of Rome, Caesar and Mark Antony were in love with her.

The people in Rome were curious about Cleopatra. They wanted to know, why their beloved rulers fell in love with this foreign woman.



Enorbabus, who had seen Cleopatra sailing in her barge on the Nile described her. The poetry of Enorbabus makes Cleopatra even more beautiful in the minds of people.

■ ***Enrichment***

Read and enjoy this poem.

CLEOPATRA IN HER BARGE

The barge she sat in, like a burnished throne,
Burn'd on the water, the poop was beaten gold
Purple the sails, and so perfumed, that
The winds were love - sick with them, the oars were silver,
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and made
The water which they beat to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes. For her own person,
It beggared all description, she did lie
In her pavilion - cloth - of gold - of tissue -
O'er picturing that Venus, where we see
The fancy out work nature, on each side her
Stood pretty - dimpled boys, like smiling cupids,
With diverse - colourd fans, whose wind did seem
To glow the delicate cheeks which they did cool,
And what they undid did.

(Antony and Cleopatra, Act 2- ii)

burnished	- shiny, polished
poop	- raised deck at the back end of a ship or boat
amorous	- showing / feeling a sense of love
Venus	- goddess of love
dimpled	- small hollow in cheek or chin
pavilion	- a temporary building that is meant to be more beautiful than useful.
diverse	- very different from each other and of various kinds.
glow	- to produce a dull, steady light .

Activity 2.33 Pair work

■ **Reading / Writing**

- (1) **Read the first three lines and fill in the blanks with the following words. Write in your writing book.**

(Cleopatra, poop, sails, barge or boat)

- (i) ----- sat in the barge.
(ii) The----- was like a burnished throne.
(iii) The ----- of the barge was beaten gold.
(iv) The ----- of the barge were purple and perfumed.

- (2) **Read lines 4,5, and 6 and underline the correct word which is indicated by the highlighted word.**

- (a) The winds were in love with **them** (sails,gold)
(b) **Which** to the tune of flutes kept stroke (oars, barge)
(c) The water which **they** beat to follow faster.(wind, oars)
Read the same lines and fill in the blanks.
(d) The oars were ----- the water.
The oars kept ----- to the music of -----
The oars made ----- , on the water

- (3) What word tells you that all description was made poor because Cleopatra was so very beautiful ?

- (4) Where did Cleopatra lie ?

- (5) What did she wear ?

- (6) Who is a cupid ?

- (7) Read the next few lines and give a description of the boys who are on either side of her.

- (8) Whom were they fanning ?

- (9) Why did they fan her ?

- (10) What happened to Cleopatra's cheeks then ?

Activity 2.34 Pair work

■ **Writing**

Now write a short description of Cleopatra.

Activity 2.35 Group work

■ **Writing**

Find out a poem which describes a beautiful / good woman in your own literature and write the story about her.

Activity 2.36

■ **Reading**

Jawaharlal Nehru is a name that will never be forgotten by India or the world. He is remembered for his contribution to his motherland ; he along with Mahatma Gandhi, and Subash Chandra Bose led the fight for independence. We will understand his greatness more when we remember that he 'mothered' his daughter, Indira. Nehru's wife died very early of tuberculosis, when Indira was still a small child. He makes a very moving reference to his wife, about her death, - that 'all that remains now is a small casket which contains her ashes.' From then on, Nehru was both father and mother to his daughter. Indira was only a little girl when Nehru was put into prison. Even there, he did not neglect his daughter. He wrote 'Letters to a Daughter' to educate her and bring her up well.

The life and conduct of Nehru shows us that you cannot be a "Father of the Nation" - if you neglect your own duties as a father.

1. Why does the writer say that the name Jawaharlal Nehru will not be forgotten?
2. What do you understand by the last paragraph? Explain.
3. Learn the meanings of the underlined words and write a sentence on each one.
4. Write a short account about a great person that you like.