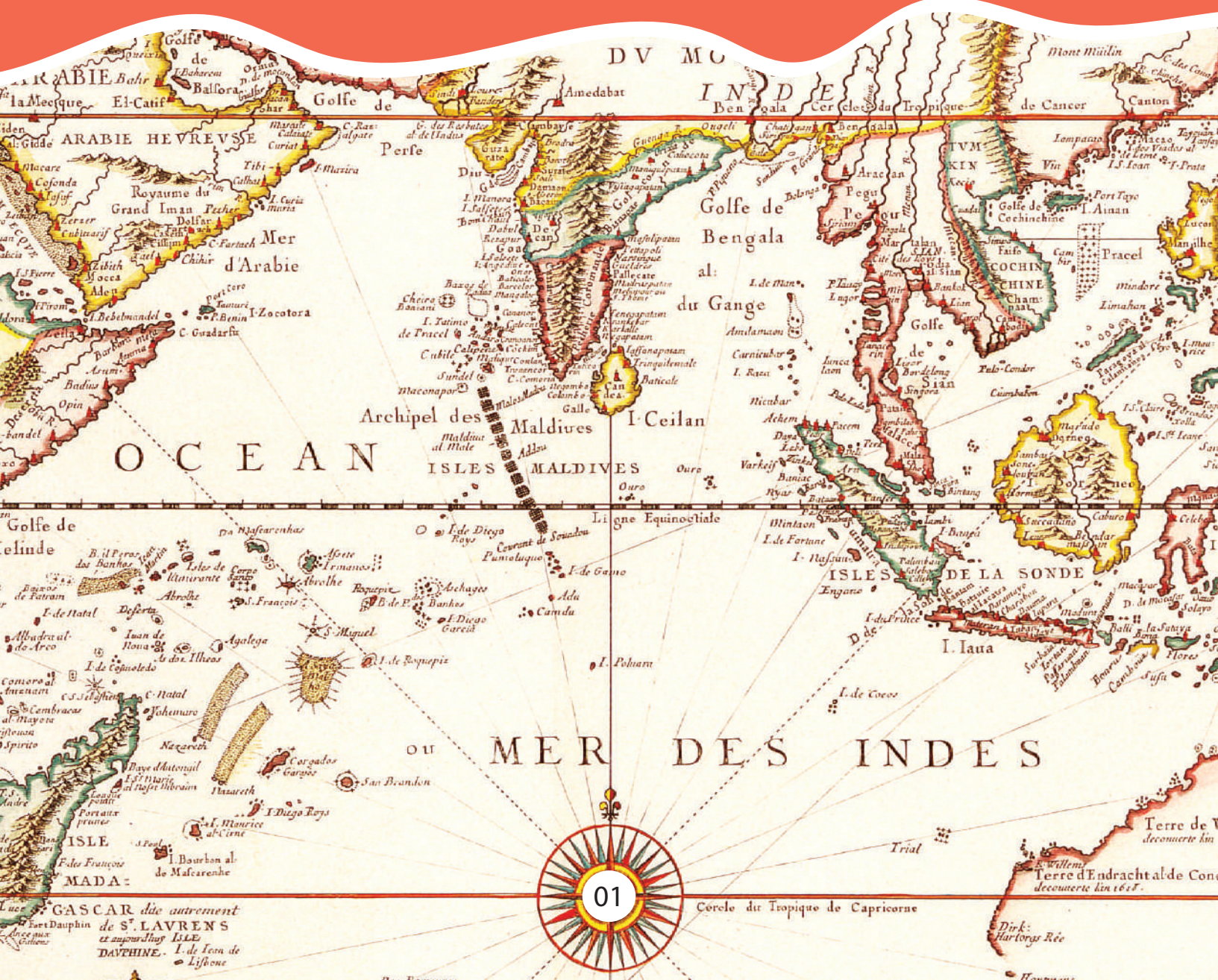


Chapter One

THE LOCATION OF SRI LANKA

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Sri Lanka, historically known as Ceylon, is a South Asian Island. It is in a region of the Indian Ocean, South of the Bay of Bengal and Southeast of the Arabian Sea.



1.1 THE LOCATION OF SRI LANKA

Why is the location of Sri Lanka important?

Since Sri Lanka is located near the equator, it possesses a variety of agricultural and trade benefits. Also, it is located in the center of the silk route. Thus it was famous as the “Pearl of the Indian ocean”.

There were several names which were used to introduce Sri Lanka by other nations Those are,

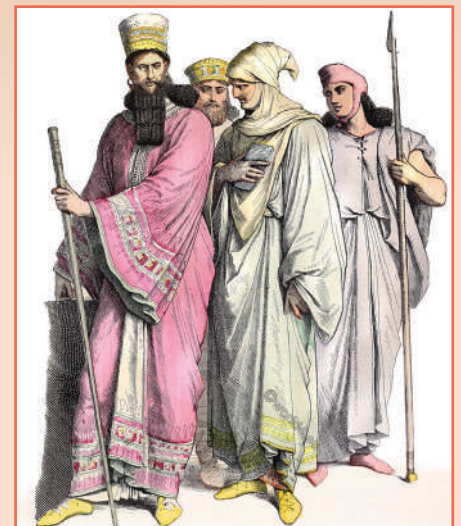
- Greek - Taprobane
- Indians - Thambapanni
- Arabians - Serendib
- Portugese - Ceilao
- British - Ceylon



Portugese



Arabians



Greek

Our country is located near the Equator, which is a in a very important place in the Indian Ocean. The zone near the Equator is known as the Tropical Zone where the climate is very favourable for living beings.

Sri Lanka is separated from India by the narrow strip of sea known as the Palk Strait.



Let us learn more facts about our motherland.

Sri Lanka is a small island in the Indian ocean. Our nearest neighbour is India, it is the largest country in South Asia. Thus, from the past, India has greatly influenced our native society in many ways. Not only India, but many other Arabian traders and merchants have come to Sri Lanka in order to obtain valuables like tusks, gems, pearls, cinnamon, etc. and sold them in other countries. Some of them have stayed here permanently.





Cinnamon



Tusks



Gems



Pearls

In addition to that, in the recent past, three European countries, Portugal, Holland (The Netherlands) and Great Britain invaded and ruled our country for 443 years. Their impact on us was immense. All these nations have introduced new ideas and practices to our country. Therefore, the Sri Lankan society has changed a great deal. Now, it is a collection of many ethnic groups with numerous differences features.